

France-Canada Future Leaders Program on defense issues¹

Description:

This program aims to deepen Franco-Canadian strategic exchanges given the challenges that these two allies are currently facing, mainly in Europe and the Arctic, as a result of Russia's revisionist behaviour. In concrete terms, it aims to set up a network of up-and-coming Franco-Canadian personalities who will establish regular contacts. The group (10 people at least) will take part in two stays of around 4/5 days each, one in France (mainly Paris and a naval base in either Brest or Cherbourg) and the other in Canada (Ottawa, Montreal and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu). During these visits, a number of private events will be organized (workshops in restricted groups with certain political, military, diplomatic, academic or industrial leaders) and events open to the public (colloquia, conferences; a hybrid format allowing remote monitoring and re-broadcasting on YouTube preferred). Between the two visits (scheduled for March 2024 and May 2024), two workshops between the participants and one or two guests will be held online, focusing on tensions in the China Sea and the European security architecture (see Ukraine).

Participants' contribution

Participants will be invited to jointly draft 5 strategic notes during the project (1. Security and climate threats in the Arctic; 2. Security architecture in the Arctic; 3. Security architecture in Europe; 4. Multinational industrial and capability cooperation in relation to the challenges of the Arctic and the North Atlantic; 5. Future areas of conflict and tension in the world: focus on the China Sea). *These 5 notes will form the framework of a Franco-Canadian mini-white paper* on security architecture in the Arctic and Europe, on the possibilities for Franco-Canadian military cooperation, particularly in the field of military equipment, and on future challenges and tensions on the international scene. Speakers taking part in the public events will also be invited to submit a policy brief in connection with their presentation, which may be included in the mini-white paper. *The strategy and policy briefs will be published and made available in English and French.*

Main project structures



Potential partners



Ambassade
du Canada
en France

¹ Provisional programme. As events are still being prepared, they are subject to modifications (speakers, nature, location, etc.).

Program of the delegation in France

March 2023²

Monday

12:00 : Arrival of participants and luggage drop-off at the hotel.

16:00: Meeting at the Canadian Embassy in France on the subject of Franco-Canadian cooperation in the Arctic and the Northwest Passage (NWP).

18:00 Public conference on security and political challenges in the Arctic

Location: Embassy or Residence of Canada in France, Paris

Moderator:

- Dr. Maud Quessard, Director of Research at IRSEM.

Speakers:

- Mr. Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Ambassador for Poles and Maritime Issues at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs;
- The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Canadian Ambassador to France and Special Envoy to the European Union and Europe;
- Dr Camille Escudé, Associate Researcher at the Centre for International Studies (CERI) at Sciences Po Paris;
- Captain Christine Reinboth, Defence Attaché at the Norwegian Embassy in France.

** Partners and specific arrangements:*

Canadian Embassy in France.

Depending on the capacity of the Embassy, the conference will be held in hybrid format and recorded.

20:00 : Reception at the Residence of Canada in Paris.

Tuesday

10:00: Visit to the Defence Innovation Agency on the theme of new military technologies (drones, battlefield digitization, etc.) or to an industrial site.

14:00: Visit to the Ecole Militaire, which brings together all of France's higher military education institutions.

15:15: Private workshop in partnership with the CAPS. Q&A with several researchers from the Strategic Research Institute of the Ecole Militaire (IRSEM, Ministry of the Armed Forces), on the topic of foreign policy and feminist approaches.

17:00 : Public conference on current and future developments in the Transatlantic Security Architecture and relations between NATO, the EU and NORAD.

Venue: Ecole Militaire, Paris

Moderator :

- Dr. Johanna Möhring, Associate Researcher at the Thucydide Centre

Speakers :

- Sylvie Bermann, French Ambassador, Director of the Institute for International and Strategic Relations (IRIS) ;
 - Anne-Marie Descôtes, Secretary General of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs;
- Wendy Gilmour, Deputy Secretary General of NATO;

² The trip is likely to take place during the eleventh week of 2024 (to be confirmed).

- Mrs Alice Rufo, Director General for International Relations and Strategy (DGRIS) at the Ministry of Defence;
- Assistant Professor Chantal Lavallée, Assistant Director of Centre for Security and Crisis Governance (CRITIC) at Royal Military College Saint-Jean

** Partners and specific arrangements:*

ACADEM

The conference will be recorded and available for replay on the IRSEM and IHEDN YouTube channels.

19:00 : Cocktail reception at the Cercle des Officiers de l'Ecole Militaire.

Wednesday

Visit to a naval base and discussion workshops.

Thursday

8:00 : Departure for Paris.

14:00 : Discussions with the Senators of the France-Canada Friendship Group in the Senate on Franco-Canadian strategic relations and defence diplomacy (Arctic, transatlantic security architecture, industrial cooperation).

17:00 : Synthesis and RETEX (feedback) workshop, with a view to drafting a white paper of analysis and recommendations on the future of Canada-France-Europe strategic cooperation.

Friday

12:00 : Participants return.

Program of the delegation in Canada

May 2024³

Monday

12:00 : Participants arrival in Montreal.

19:00 : Group dinner.

Tuesday

8 :00 : Departure for Ottawa.

12 :00 : Visit to Parliament

13:00: Lunch with Marie-France Lalonde, MP, President of the Canada-France Interparliamentary Association.

15 :00 : Workshop at the French Embassy on Franco-Canadian military cooperation

17:00 : Public conference on the topic of future areas of tension and conflict by 2030.

Venue: French Embassy in Canada, Ottawa

Moderator :

- Prof. Srdjan Vucetic, member of the Centre for International Policy Studies at the University of Ottawa.

Speakers :

- The Honourable Bill Blair, MP, Minister of National Defence (to be confirmed);
- Professor Pascale Massot, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa;
- His Excellency Michel Miraillet, Ambassador of France to Canada;
- Her Excellency, Mrs. Trine Jøranli Eskedal, Norwegian Ambassador to Canada

** Partners and specific arrangements :*

French Embassy in Canada, Centre for International Policy Studies (CEPI) of the University of Ottawa.

Depending on the capacity of the Embassy, the conference will be held in hybrid format and will be recorded.

19:00 : Reception at the French Embassy.

Wednesday

9:00 :Visit to the Beechwood National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces and commemoration in front of the AMICITIA monument.

10:30 : Discussions at the Ministry of Defence with members of the political directorate on armaments cooperation.

14h30 : Private workshop at the University of Ottawa on politicization in the armaments sector with Prof. Srdjan Vucetic, member of the Centre for International Policy Studies at the University of Ottawa.

**Partner :*

Centre for International Policy Studies (CEPI) of the University of Ottawa.

17:00 : Return to Montreal.

³ The trip is likely to take place during the eleventh week of 2024 (to be confirmed).

Thursday

9:30 – 17:00: Public study day on the Arctic (threats, opportunities for cooperation, capabilities required, armaments cooperation) with the participation of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT).

Venue: Université de Montréal

Panel on climate change and threats

Moderator :

- Prof. Justin Massie, University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM)

Speakers :

- Prof. Annie Chaloux, Université de Sherbrooke

- Lieutenant-General Alain Pelletier (FAC), Deputy Commander NORAD

- Her Excellency Hanne Fugl Eskjaer, Ambassador of Denmark to Canada

- Bridget Larocque, Director of the Gwich'in Council International

Panel on military cooperation

Moderator :

- Dr. Pauline Pic, Laval University

Speakers :

- Consulate General of the United States in Montreal, Ana Escrogima

- Prof. Bruno Charbonneau, CMRST

- Air Force General Philippe Lavigne, SACT

Panel on the acquisition of equipment

Moderator :

- Dr. Laurent Borzillo, ENAP

Speakers :

- Dr. Nancy Teeple, Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC)

- Lieutenant-General Alain Pelletier (FAC), Deputy Commander NORAD

- Her Excellency Hanne Fugl Eskjaer, Ambassador of Denmark to Canada

- Dr. Timothy Choi

Conference with the guest of honour

Air Force General Philippe Lavigne, SACT

Discussant : Prof. Andrea Charron, University of Manitoba

On each panel, a young up-and-coming personality from the Franco-Canadian group will be invited to speak.

Friday

9:00 : Departure to the Royal Military Collège Saint-Jean

10:00 : Workshop at the Royal Military Collège Saint-Jean on the topic of training, the challenges of the war in Ukraine and troop deployment in Eastern Europe

* *Partner :* Royal Military Collège Saint-Jean

18:00 : Participants return.