

Welcome to this week's presentation & conversation hosted by the **Canadian Association for the Club of Rome**, a Club dedicated to intelligent debate & action on global issues.



The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker & do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of CACOR.

## Whence and Whither Canada's Sovereignty?

**Description:** The abysmal state of Canada's national security was fully exposed for the first time in an Ottawa speech in November 2022. This 'inflexion point' was sharpened in 2023 by a host of events confirming the sorry state of Canada's will, ways and means to protect its sovereignty. The presentation shows major reasons for the situation, and the consequences in place and foreseeable. It will argue that, without major, unprecedented changes to government and DND/CF narratives, the future for Canada's sovereignty can only worsen. Suggestions of changes are offered.

**Biography:** Dr. David Harries, a nuclear engineer, former senior military officer, consultant on personal and corporate security, and advisor and professor in heavy engineering, national development, humanitarian aid, post-conflict and post-disaster response and recovery, and in executive development in strategic foresight. He is a Principal of the Security and Sustainability Guide, a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, Foresight Lead at [ideaconnector.net](http://ideaconnector.net), and Associate/former Chair (2013-17) of Canadian Pugwash.

The presentation will be followed by a conversation, questions, & observations from the participants.

CACOR acknowledges that we all benefit from sharing the traditional territories of local Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, & Inuit in Canada) and their descendants.



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2024 Sep 11 Zoom #212

# WHENCE & WHITHER CANADA'S SOVEREIGNTY

CACOR 11 September

David Harries *wc,*

Fellow WAAS, Principal SSG, Foresight Practitioner

# *TODAY'S* NARRATIVE

- Premise
- Conclusion
- **Context > Causes & Contra-diction**
- Consequences
- Consequences Threatening
- Action
- Action's Demands
- Choices
- Re-start
- Conclusion

# PREMISE

The ULTIMATE\* RESPONSIBILITY  
of a  
National Government  
is  
National Security

\*‘basic, fundamental’

# CONCLUSION

Canada's National Security  
will continue to decline until  
'the country'

ACTS\*

to prioritize ways and means  
to ensure its sovereignty

\*provision, support, promotion

# CONTEXT

Global Polycrisis

NATO at 32

Canadian Politics

Canadian Public Opinion

‘Official’ Opinion

**INFLEXION YEAR 2022**

2023 ‘full-court’ gloom

DND CMR-lite

CF

MY 9 (of 22) post-1965

# CANADIAN CAUSES of **CONTEXT**

- 1968 - Unification and Integration of DND/CF
- 1969 – “50 percent” Reduction in CF deployed to NATO
- >1980s< - ‘regimental’ promotion-patronage
- 1977-1995 - Shutting-down of the Cdn Airborne Regiment
- 2006-2015 -Closure of all federal Foresight offices (-PHC)
- 199x-1994 - Shut-down of the National Defence College
- 1987-1989 - Aborted Nuclear Submarine Program
- 2022 >>> 2024 - CF “Diversity Equality Inclusion”
- Federal officials’ apathy, incompetence, delay, denial, deferral, reduction, dishonesty, disdain, fears, selfishness,....

# THE GREAT 2024 CONTEXT CONTRA-DICTION

***Former*** GOFOs & DND EXs

some individually and many collectively

-LOUDLY BEMOAN THE STATE OF THE CANADIAN FORCES

and

-PROUDLY STATE THEY KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE TO RECOVER

but

***NEVER REFER TO THE FACT THAT***

***THEY WERE IN COMMAND AND IN CONTROL***

***WHILE THE DECLINE ACCELERATED AND SPREAD***

thereby

***IGNORING THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY***



# CONSEQUENCES *so far*

Professional intellectual disruption: *nothing-military* Military Journal

Military career is no longer desirable

Trust of senior ranks, senior officials and politicians at all-time low

Procurement an uncontrollable, unmitigatable mess (A, N, AF)

RMC future under scrutiny (again, but differently)

International reputation shrinking

No-shows and low-shows at major events

Invisible/Inconsequential in/for the Canadian Arctic/North

Increasingly top-heavy: *Only* uniformed cohort fully staffed=GOFOs

**and....**

# ...and, EXPLOSION in SEMANTICS of GLOOM and DOOM

Undefended\*\*, Unready, Irrelevant\*\*\*, Insignificant\*\*\*  
Underfunded, Unrespected, Ignored\*\*\*, Undermanned,  
Insignificant, Untrusted, Purposeless, Treasonous, Humiliated,  
Disposable, Delusional, Stupid, Incoherent, Freeloader,  
Unsustainable, Chaotic, Apathetic, Contradictory, Despairing\*\*\*\*,  
Scofflaw, Hollowed-out, Favouritism, Post-nation state,....

## **Nonsense:**

\*\*US will defend Canada if Canada does not. \*\*\*Size and location ensure Canada will be relevant and significant and not ignored regardless of what Canada does/does not do. \*\*\*\**not* allies, who 'know' despairing won't change anything.

In opposition? Persistent deployment and Pragmatic Diplomacy

# CONSEQUENCES THREATENING...

INTENSIFYING ALLIANCE DISREPUTE

MORE FREQUENT INTERNATIONAL EXCLUSION

UNPREVENTABLE TERRITORIAL INCURSIONS

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC OBSTACLES

A FATAL PERSONNEL 'DEATH SPIRAL'

WASTEFUL INTERDEPARTMENTAL INCOHERENCE (HOLE OF GOVERNMENT)

CITIZEN APATHY (UNTIL A 'DISASTER')

FISCAL CHAOS

CF 'BREAKDOWN'.....2025 ?

# OR

from an article awaiting clearance

- 1) Canada is, as close as no longer makes any difference, disobeying NATO's Article 3.
- 2) Canada is, as close as makes no difference, sovereignly undefendable.
- 3) Canada is implicitly acknowledged as a LIABILITY in and for NATO.
- 4) Canada offers up more than 50% of its national territory for a 'great game' by the US, Russia and China, with no control over the rules.
- 5) International respect for Canada is close to being irrecoverable.
- 6) The CF-wide personnel crisis began well before the MND's 'death spiral' announcement, when such concerns as showed were implied or expressed in single-service terms.
- Deduction: **Undefendability is Canada's permanent status in the absence of a rapid Revolution in Defence common sense**

# ACTION

## **Cancel**

the impossible, unaffordable, illogical, obsolete, and delusional

## **Stop**

Pretending-by-promise

## **Produce**

A NATIONAL Strategy (calling for a National Military Industrial Policy)

## **Appoint**

Competent officials

# ACTION'S DEMANDS...

... A National Security Council                      usa

... A National Audit Office                              uk

... Interoperable C&C&A                                fra

... A Federal Foresight Office                            US NRO

... A Federal Procurement Corporation                ?

# CHOICES

## **Continue**

Keep digging the hole.

probable

## **Change**

Fix some of what isn't working.

part-possible

## **Re-start**

A 21<sup>st</sup> Century CF

visionary

# RE-START ?

- Navy. **a.** Six US-bought/co-built nuclear submarines armed with missiles (two subs per ocean). **b.** Four San Antonio Class 'landing platform dock' with strengthened hulls to surveil, supply, defend and support development in the North and Arctic. **c.** A meaningful Coast Guard for inland, blue and grey waters. (Scrap AOPS)
- Army: **a.** Infantry. **b.** Engineers. **c.** Land/Rail transport, **d.** JTF2 **e.** Urban armouries (home to militia civil-defence teams), **f.** (skeleton) C&C HQ for crisis/disaster response.
- Air Force: **a** Light, Medium and Heavy Air Transport, **b.** Light, Medium and Heavy Helicopters. **c.** 'Space Command' (all satellites and drones) (No CSA)
- National/Joint: **a.** **CMR** HQ **b.** Medical **c.** Legal, **d.** Procurement, **e.** Communications (other than service-tactical), **f.** Personnel/HR **g.** National Development



# CONCLUSION

Canada's National Security  
will continue to decline until  
'the country'

ACTS\*

to prioritize ways and means  
to ensure its sovereignty

\*provision, support, promotion

# *Invitation*

## **Whence and Whither Canada's Sovereignty?**

is an  
Essay Project

Everyone is welcome to

- Ask questions about what has been presented today

and

- Comment and make suggestions on the theme

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Thanks very much for attending this week's presentation. We thank those who engaged in the conversation for adding to the richness of this weekly event.

**Please share this video with family, friends, and acquaintances.**

We invite attendees who are not yet members to join the club. Please visit <http://canadiancor.com/> (just remember "Canadian COR") to learn more & apply for membership on the home page.

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