

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.

Whither Canada in the 21st Century Chaoscene?

Biography: David Harries is a Canadian citizen who since 1958, for work and sports, has lived in 20 countries and paid one to many visits to another 93. Once an outspoken optimist about Canada, his military and civilian experience, especially since the turn of the century, has left him increasingly pessimistic about the future of his country. As a committed practitioner of Foresight since 1974, ever more time is being spent trying to identify opportunities all Canadians might be offered to enable them to contribute to a nation with a bright and humane future.

Description: The presentation will begin with some context for the title, a comment on Canada's decline since WWII from major international power to national near-powerless, and an unnecessary reminder about the Chaoscene's unfortunate timing. A short-list of events on his journey from enthusiastic optimist to disappointed pessimist will be accompanied by his argument for their inevitability. After a map-based display of the reality of today's Canada – a pre-national state - four pragmatic proposals are offered Canadians that might help them provoke progress towards becoming a sustainable and truly sovereign nation and a more predictable and respected international partner in peace and war.

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



Website: canadiancor.com
YouTube: [Canadian Association for the Club of Rome](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
2025 April 30 Zoom #243

WHITHER CANADA IN THE 21ST CENTURY CHAOSCENE ?

OR

WHETHER CANADA WILL SUCCEED IN THE 21ST CENTURY

David Harries PhD, Peng, ndc

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REASON FOR THE TITLE

CHAOSCENERY

THE YOUNG OPTIMIST

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THE ELDERLY PESSIMIST

REAL CANADA

SO WHAT?

NEW WAYS

REASONS FOR THE TITLE

MEMORY-PERSPECTIVES

HARLAN CLEVELAND. *Nobody in Charge: Essays on the Future of Leadership* (2002)

CONTEXT = PEAK UNPRECEDENTEDNESS > POLYCRISES
>>PERMACRISIS

CONTEXT COMPRESSION

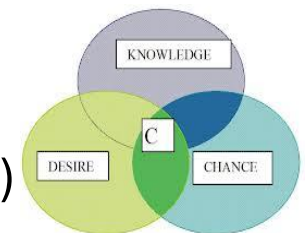
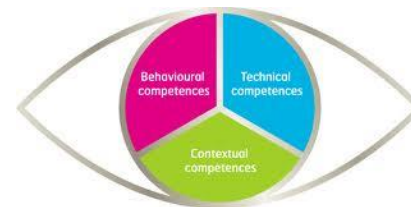
The 'future' (good and bad) is arriving faster and faster as the 'present'. (ACCELERATION)



The present includes more and more 'new' history, a messy combination of what is being exposed from and added to the 'past' and what is being created today. (CONTRADICTION)



'competence' is arguably falling farther behind what is necessary now and will *probably* be sufficient next, and thereafter, to do, *in time*, what is needed and wanted. (UNCOMPETENCE)



CHAOSCENERY

Global geopolitical disorder, Vegemite, Trump 2.0, Plastic straws, PHC 2040 Report debate, **Traders at war**, Go Habs Go, 700 million decade-long obsolete sub repair, Democracy disappearing, Cost of eggs, WEF's Schwab under investigation, **Hegseth's Pentagon**, De-alignment diversity, EU fragmentation, 'Secondary' sanctioning, Event Insecurity, Wildfires, Sudan vs Sudan, **Gang-ruled countries**, HBC gone, The 'artificial country', Sweden to lead EU rearmament, Gaza demolishing, **Criminal coaches**, Fentanyl in rotisserie chicken, Failed Syria, The 'death' of Foreign Aid, 11,000 Google staff see White House plans, Hegseth's Signal stupidities (+), **Billionaires as ascendant power-brokers**, Israel 'at liberty', Fearing going to the US (or getting back), AI unleashed, Tariffing wars, Growth in military spending, DOGE disruption, **Pakistan vs India**, China-superpower, Order of Canada for Trump, Canada's election, Impotent UN, Ukraine FFS, Media wars, **Dynamic displacement desperation**, BRICS++ surging, Weapons-technology unlimited, Atmospheric 'bombs', **G7 insignificance**, Demands for 5% for defence, DEI 'differences', Diverse global de-alignment, Haiti lost, Nuclear renaissance, **ME messes**,

THE YOUNG OPTIMIST

- OUTDOORS - FISHING AND HUNTING AND ROUGH-CAMPING
- TEAM SPORTS
- TRAIN TRAVEL – HALIFAX<>MONTREAL<>TORONTO<>VANCOUVER
- RETURN FROM EXILE - CANADA FROM UK BOARDING SCHOOL
- RCE – SOLDIER/SCHOLAR
- LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES – MILITARY, CIVILIAN, AND LIFE
- PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES – DEFoC, DEVoC, DEoF, SPoCIVA
- ADVENTURE – PARA, DESERT, JUNGLE, SWDLF, ARCTIC, PKO
- MENTORS – BIRCHALL, DENTON, JOHNSON

'TIPPING' POINTS and TIMES

EARLY

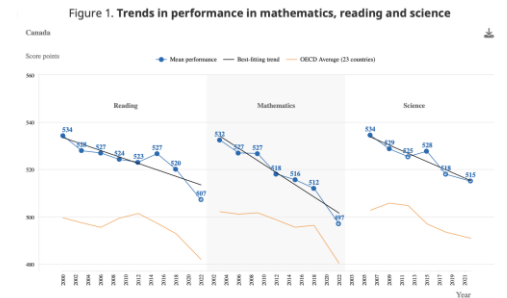
- 1968 - Unification and Integration of DND/CF
- 1969 – “50 percent” Reduction in CF deployed to NATO
- 1973 – Inuit child ‘removal’
- 1970-199x – Rampant DND/CF anti-intellectualism

LATER

- 1977)> 1995 - Shutting-down the Cdn Airborne Regiment
- (2006)> 2015 - Closure of all federal Foresight offices (-PHC)
- (1991)> 1994 - Shutting-down of the National Defence College
- 1987-1989 - Nuclear Submarine Program
- (2022)>‘2024’-CF “Diversity Equality Inclusion”
- ...-present - GOFO ‘Janus’
- Federal officials’ incompetence, delay, denial, deferral, reduction, dishonesty, disdain, fears, selfishness,....
-

THE E L D E R L Y P E S S I M I S T

- Major Power > Middle Power >> Minor Power >>> ~Powerless
- ? A pre-national state ?
- The state of the CF
- The state of Canada's sovereignty
- The state of Canada's international reputation
- Canada's standing in 'global' indices
- The federal election campaign promise-competition
- A four-year wait for 'urgent' surgery...
- Trump 2.0 > 2.1, 2.2,
-



TWO BIGGEST CONCERNS

- **Concern One.** The **WHOLE** country continues to luxuriate in believing that legacy achievements and ‘maybe’ promises will be enough for it to survive as a sovereign, safe and prosperous country in the future.
- **Concern Two.** The Election Campaign proved to me that the Liberals and the Conservatives are ‘comfortable’ ignoring the massive WoG hole the country is in thanks to decades of **Concern One**

BIGGEST QUESTION

....PROVOKED anew by yesterday's recommended G&M article:

The eight fateful issues that Canada's next PM must face

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-the-new-pms-to-do-list/>

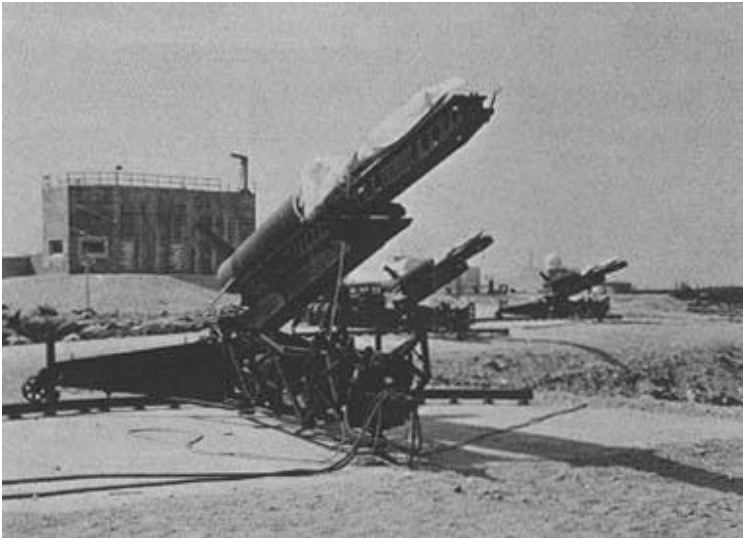
WHICH 'national' issue
is in such appropriate/acceptable shape
that it is NOT between,
in need of significant attention, and/or, *fatefully* urgent?

The **eight**: Trump, Economy&Tariffs, Housing, Climate&Energy*, Immigration, Health Care, Defence, Unity

* A disparate *assembly* of issues

and, Emergency Response Plan, Procurement, Technology, Development, Infrastructure, Arctic Education, Transportation, IP Trade, Crime, Justice, Elections, Sports, Domestic Violence, Opioids, Certification (professions and trades), Indigenous affairs, Foreign Policy,

WHENCE Canada....CHURCHILL



TOWN OF CHURCHILL, MANITOBA, CANADA

AFTER A 100-YEAR FLOOD, THIS RAILROAD WAS UNUSABLE FOR 18 MONTHS.

WATER DAMAGE: 30 WASHED OUT SECTIONS TOTALLING 2 KM.

CHALLENGE: RESTORE RAILWAY ACCESS WITHIN 60 DAYS.

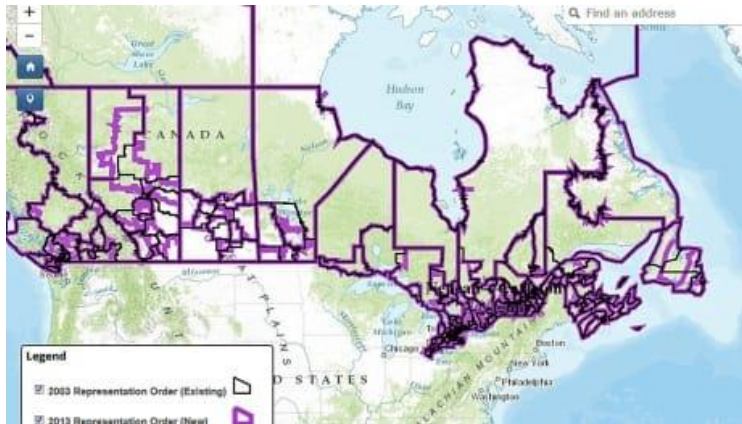
PARADOX

A background image of a construction site with a large excavator and workers. The scene is set in an open, flat area.

NANASIVIK



Canada: A land of distance and 'FENCES'



Canada's Education Systems

This infographic compares the education systems of various Canadian provinces and territories. It shows the progression from pre-elementary to post-secondary education. The systems are categorized by province/territory: QC (Quebec), NL, NT, NU, ON, YT (Northwest Territories), NB, PE, SK (New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan), and AB, BC, MB, NS, NT, NU, ON, QC, PE, NS, NB, NL (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador).

Legend:

- University education
- College education
- Apprenticeship, vocational and technical training
- to the job market
- typical pathway
- alternate pathway

Notes:

- The right to better educational programs and post-secondary education is a right of all Canadians. This right is enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Some provinces have different educational systems. For example, Quebec has a unique system with a 5-year Bachelor's degree.
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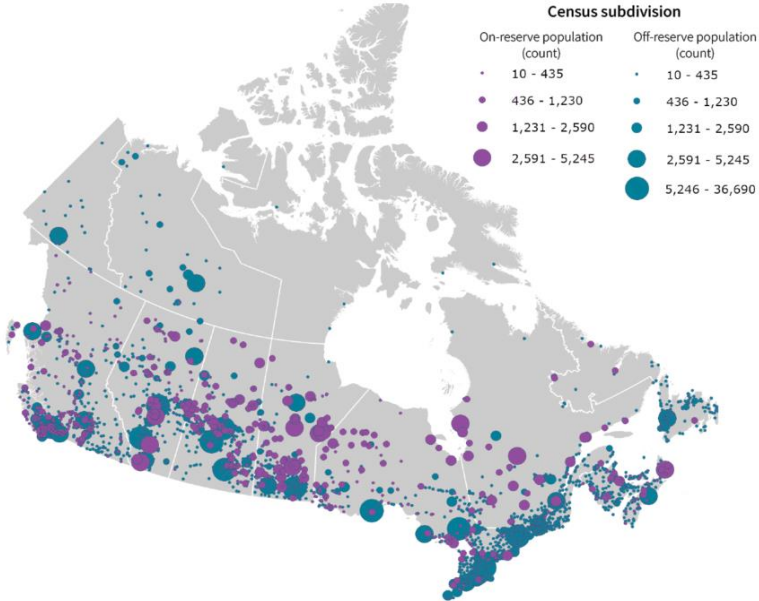
NO Nanasivik

Canada A land of distances and DIFFERENCES

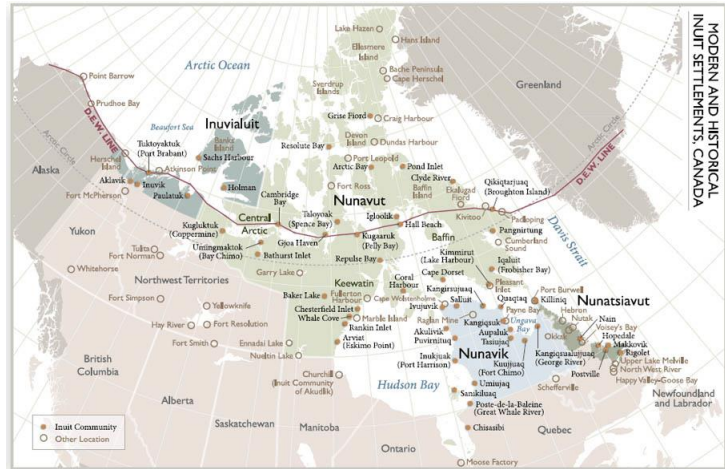


CANADIM

Map 1
Status First Nations population, census subdivisions, Canada, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.



MODERN AND HISTORICAL
INUIT SETTLEMENTS CANADA

Canada's Productivity Challenge: Understanding the Post-Pandemic Slump and How to Overcome It

Slumping since before 2008/09

What's Behind Canada's Productivity Slump?

Canada is Getting Worse at Making Stuff



Productivity in Canada's goods sectors has seen a reversal of fortunes since the pandemic. More goods workers are required just to produce the same amount of output

Construction is Less Productive but Drawing in More Resources



Canada's economic landscape has shifted away from oil and gas and toward construction, moving resources from high productivity to low. Construction productivity is at a 30-year low

Canada Lags the U.S. Across Key Service Industries



Canada's service sector has fallen further behind the U.S., which has made faster gains by embracing new technologies.

Policies to Boost Productivity

Tax Reform to Maintain Competitiveness



Simplify and broaden the corporate tax code, reduce tax rates on investment and maintain Canada's competitive advantage

Concerted Effort to Lift Construction Sector Productivity



Break down jurisdictional barriers to growth, encourage scaling and allow construction to thrive with smarter regulations

Eliminate Barriers to Investment



Reduce regulatory fragmentation, promote labour mobility, increase investor transparency



No Wheat



Left hanging



Seat of the MNA

SO WHAT?

...DO WE DO??

....SINCE 'WE' CAN NOT DO EVERYTHING

.....AND ANY ONE THING WILL DEMAND TIME, EFFORT, MONEY AND DURABLE BUY-IN

BEGIN WITH ACTION 'WITHIN' TO BEST AVOID HAVING TO ASK 'WHETHER CANADA WILL SURVIVE' CHAOS OVER WHICH IT HAS NO CONTROL

1. **UNITY:** *RAPIDLY* REMOVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL 'BARRIERS' TO NATIONAL CAPACITIES AND COMPETENCIES.
2. **SOVEREIGNTY:** 'OCCUPY' THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

ACTION 'NOW'

1. PRODUCE A **FOREIGN POLICY**

2. RESET THE ELECTED HIERARCHY

- Minister of National Interoperability (UNITY)
- Minister of National Education (COMPETENCE in the FUTURE)
- Minister of National Sovereignty (WoG MANDATE)
- Minister of Science and Technology (SUSTAINABLE 'PROSPERITY')
- Minister of National Safety (as CLIMATE CHANGES)

EXAMPLE: *An Already Successful OoTB Initiative*

GESDA

GEVEVA SCIENCE AND DIPLOMACY ANTICIPATOR (2019)

- ...bridge government policy and science.....

“What we are trying to achieve with GESDA is new, and hence, difficult: To link anticipation that looks far ahead, with action that is immediate is a major challenge in itself,”

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/science/swiss-backed-project-aims-to-avert-new-cold-war-in-science/ar-AAPgDzh>