

Crescent School Model United Nations 2025



A Background Guide for:
Canadian House of Commons
Written by: **Simon Rabinovitch**

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Land Acknowledgement

Crescent School and the staff of CSMUN III acknowledge that we are gathered upon and would like to honour the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We thank them for their stewardship of the land, and we are in solidarity with our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters as we move forward in reconciliation.

Acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples is not only a gesture of respect but also a recognition of the historical and ongoing injustices they face. It is a reminder that the impacts of colonization, displacement, and systemic discrimination continue to reverberate today. We would like to take the opportunity to honour the resilience of Indigenous communities and commit to amplifying their voices in our pursuit of justice and equity.

Equity Disclaimers

In the event that you have concerns about equity, diversity, inclusion, or belonging or are uncomfortable due to the actions of another delegate, chair, co-chair, or staff member of CSMUN III, please reach out to the Equity Team to file your concern. Equity is outlined through the code of conduct listed above. You may reach out through an anonymous form to the equity team, by speaking to your chairs, or by emailing any member of the CSMUN III Secretariat if you feel comfortable. The Equity team can be reached at csmunequity@crescentschool.org

The Equity Form is here to submit any equity concerns (Equity Form). This can be found also in committee rooms.

Equity concerns are taken very seriously at CSMUN III. The equity policy of CSMUN III is strict in accordance with the school's Diversity Statement, and the Crescent School Constitution which includes the Crescent School Declaration of Student Rights, and violations outside of reason will not be tolerated. The School's Constitution was prepared in accordance with, and in support of, the Safe Schools Act and corresponding principles in the Education Act, as well as the Human Rights Code. When an equity is filled, the CSMUN III Equity team will step in and take appropriate steps and actions to remedy the situation. CSMUN III is committed to ensuring that everyone is valued with respect, responsibility, honesty, and compassion. We are committed to pursuing disciplinary action as stated above if needed to facilitate a positive and safe environment.

Tech Policy

Please note that some form of Smart Device is required to participate in the CSMUN III. While we are a paper conference (with the exception of crisis committees), delegates will need to use their computers to write and work during the unmods. Communications with delegates, the dias or other staff can be done either via paper notes or email.

Delegates at CSMUN II are expected to utilize technology responsibly and ethically throughout the conference. While the use of smart devices, computers, and digital tools is necessary for research, writing, and collaboration, delegates are prohibited from utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) systems or automated tools to gain an unfair advantage or manipulate conference proceedings. Pre-writing resolutions outside of unmods and using AI to write resolutions and working papers is also prohibited. Delegates must also refrain from engaging in any illegal activities, including but not limited to hacking, piracy, or distribution of harmful content to anyone in or outside of the conference.

The Canadian House of Commons Committee will be run as a paper committee. Paper notes (which will be provided) will be used as the main means of communication between delegates and dais. Staff are also available by email. Delegates will be strongly discouraged from using their devices during moderated caucuses. If you have any questions about the tech policy and tech logistics of the C.H.O.C committee please feel free to reach out to the director at simonrabinovitch@crescentschool.org.

Letter from the Secretary-General

A Letter from the Secretaries General and Deputy Secretary General of CSMUN III

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

Welcome to the third iteration of the Crescent School Model United Nations conference! Thanks to your support, our inaugural conference in April 2024 was a tremendous success, and CSMUN II built on that momentum with even greater participation and enthusiasm. We are now thrilled to invite you to CSMUN III, taking place on December 13–14, 2025, at Crescent School in Toronto.

Since our last conference, the Crescent MUN team has continued to grow in both size and passion. We've welcomed new members, explored fresh ideas, and remained committed to fostering a vibrant environment where students can engage with global affairs, diplomacy, and debate. We're excited to share this passion with you once again.

CSMUN III will feature a dynamic range of committee simulations, including but not limited to DISEC, WHO, the Canadian House of Commons, and an Ad Hoc, along with a special networking event. Delegates can look forward to rigorous debate, thought-provoking dialogue, and the opportunity to connect with peers from across the region and beyond. Registration for CSMUN III is now open! We encourage all interested delegates and faculty advisors to explore our website for full details and to secure your place at the conference. Please note that registration will close on December 10, 2025.

To stay updated on all things CSMUN, be sure to follow us on Instagram at [@cs.modelun](#). If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to us at modelun@crescentschool.org. Our team is here to support you every step of the way.

Thank you for considering attending CSMUN III. We can't wait to welcome you to Crescent School for what promises to be our most exciting conference yet.

Sincerely,

Deren Terzioglu & Gregory Mavroudis | Secretaries-General of CSMUN III
Joel Green | Deputy Secretary-General of CSMUN III
Crescent School Model United Nations 2025

A letter from Dais

A Letter from the Chair

Dear Esteemed Members of Parliament,

Welcome to the Canadian House of Commons committee and welcome to CSMUN III! It is a privilege to serve as your director. My name is Simon, and I am a senior here at Crescent. And this is my fourth year of Model UN. At Crescent, I serve as the President of Model UN. I am really excited to get back on the dais after serving as the Deputy Secretary General of CSMUN II. After doing Model UN for four years, experiencing a variety of committees (almost exclusively Specialized Agencies), it gives me great excitement to present a committee which I have only wished to be a delegate in.

Canada today sits at a moment of clear transformation. With an active trade war and its evolving negotiations, critical domestic issues from coast to coast to coast, Canada faces tough challenges in its North American homeland. Abroad, shifting diplomatic relationships and deepening commitments to Canada's armed forces, especially to its North Atlantic defence partnership, push the country onto a global stage in crisis. A bit about myself, while born and raised in Toronto, my family is from Montreal, and as a result, I visit quite often. Outside of MUN, I love to cook, learn about history. I am an avid Billy Joel fan and love watching good movies. I've had a deep passion for politics and international relations since I was young, and it led me perfectly to MUN

If I gave two pieces of advice, it would be first, the better your preparation is, the better outcome and experience you will have. Second is please lean into the special committee mechanics found in the background guide. It is there to enhance our committee, and you never know maybe stir up fun drama worthy of television. But above all the dais hopes that this committee will give you new perspectives, and ideas on tackling the challenges of today whose solutions will define our future of tomorrow.

If you need any help prior to the conference, please feel free to reach out via email at simonrabinovitch@crescentschool.org

I look forward to meeting you all this December.

Best wishes,

Simon Rabinovitch | Chair of CSMUN III: Canadian House of Commons
President of Crescent School Model United Nations

A letter from Dais

A Letter from the Chair

Dear Esteemed Members of Parliament,

Welcome to Crescent School for the III annual CSMUN!!! We're so happy to have you all, and thank you for choosing the Canadian House of Commons committee. My name is Tomás Grogan and I will be serving as one of the chairs of this committee for the weekend. I am a grade 12 here at Crescent School, and I'm so excited to be attending my first session of CSMUN. As far as experience goes... well as coach Taylor once in Friday Night Lights "Eyes Closed, Full Heart, Can't Lose". While I lack much experience in model UN, I've always prided myself on knowing as much as possible about current events, politics, and world affairs. It started when I was just nine years old, I began to read the "Globe and Mail" and "Toronto Star" newspapers that were dropped off at my 5th grade classroom each morning. From there it grew, and within a few months I got the job of dropping papers at other classrooms. Eventually, me and another student who I met through delivering papers founded our own publication, the school's first newspaper. The story eventually got us an interview with CBC radio Canada, which, as anyone who knows me will be unsurprised to hear, I forgot about and missed. I left the school in grade 8 after being voted "most likely to be Prime Minister" bound for Crescent. I was excited to join the model UN club I had heard about, and I did, In grades 9, 10, 11 and now 12. Unfortunately, I never made it past a month as other commitments always got in the way. That is, until now. I'm so excited for my long awaited debut in my first conference, and this is the perfect committee for it. One of the first things you'll learn about me is my deep love for this beautiful country of ours. I sit now at my desk surrounded by 3 Canadian flags of various sizes and posters of our breathtaking national parks. Next to me is my bookshelf, full of Canadian authors, below, a box of records from world-class Canadian musicians. I truly believe, without a doubt, this is the greatest country on earth. From its untouched forests, some of the largest in the world, to the bustling towns, full of the kindest down to earth people you can meet, this is my land. But it has its problems and with your collaboration and intellect, you can make this great country even better.

"Goodbye Jim & Jackie, goodbye John & May
We hate to see you leaving, bound for the USA

I know the times are changing, factories closing down
But if you stay and help us, we can turn these things around

But if you don't believe your country should come before yourself
Ya can better serve your country, by living somewhere else"

- Stompin Tom Connors

Here's to the greatest country on earth!

Tomás Grogan | Chair of CSMUN III: Canadian House of Commons

Part 1

Introduction to the House of Commons



The House of Commons, West Block, Ottawa.

At the founding of Confederation, the Canadian legislative branch, known as Parliament, was established in 1867 through the *British North America Act* which created the two chambers, the House of Commons and the Senate. Modelled after the Westminster system of the United Kingdom, the House of Commons is the elected lower house of parliament, with its members being directly elected by Canadians, and the Senate is the upper house which is appointed. The House of Commons meet in Ottawa, currently sitting in West Block during the Centre Block renovations in the famous green chamber.

The House of Commons is composed of government and opposition. The electoral party which wins the plurality of seats in the House forms the government of Canada, with its leader becoming Prime Minister, and appointing their cabinet. The largest opposition party formed the official opposition party. The government is only able to exercise its authority with the confidence of a majority of Parliament. The Speaker of the House presides over the chamber, enforcing procedure in a non-partisan manner. Elections are mandated every 5 years, and MPs do not have term limits.

The House of Commons first met On November 6th, 1867, with 181 seats distributed amongst the provinces. 157 years later, the house is made up of 338 seats. Currently there

are 169 Liberal MPs (government), 144 Conservative MPs (Official opposition), 22 MPs of the Bloc Québécois, 7 NDP MPs, and 1 MP from the Green Party.

As Members of Parliament, delegates will represent MPs from coast to coast. As a government MP, you are held responsible for various ministries running the country. As an opposition MP, you are responsible for holding the government accountable for its actions. Parliamentarians represents both their party's and constituents' views, while debating the challenges related to the Canadian economy and national security. Together, they must find solutions that will benefit all who call Canada home!

To ensure no confusion, **the House of Commons will be set on November 17th, 2025** following the passage of the Budget 2025.

Given the frequency of shuffles between positions in the Canadian House of Commons, **the position and party placement** as Members of Parliament in the C.H.O.C is **based on the positions prior to November 3rd, 2025**

Your Dias recognizes that this Background Guide is very long. NOTE: content ends at page 29.

Part 2

Topic A: Building One Canadian Economy

In a challenging global economic environment, stirred by the debate between protectionism and globalization, the Canadian economy stands at a crossroads. The Canadian economy has long benefited from globalization and international trade, which made its economy dependent on others, particularly the United States. Canada stands as the 10th largest economy globally, leading the world in natural resources production, energy, and 91% of the world's maple syrup.

The idea of building one Canadian Economy is not new. With interprovincial trade barriers, and a longtime failure in cooperation to build major infrastructure projects, it has led Canada to be separated into 13 economies instead of one. Canadians are feeling the burden, lacking confidence in their economy. From recent polls conducted, 59% of Canadians think the economy is poor, 45% believe the economy will decline in future, compared to only 34% believing the economy is good or very good. This raises the question of why?

The following paragraphs will explain the issues plaguing Canadians, including both on a macro, and microeconomic level.

The State of the Canadian Economy

The current state of the Canadian economy only looks good on the dollars which it is printed on. The reality for Canadians is anything from optimal. On a macroeconomic level, Canada's growth domestic product stood at \$2.341 trillion, which grew in the third quarter of 2025 by 2.6%, which was higher than predicted. However, caused by a drop in imports and increase in exports, it revealed that consumer spending is decreasing. Further, the current inflation rate stands at 2.2% and the prime interest rate of the Bank of Canada stands at 4.445%. Beneath these numbers lies a picture of over 1.5 million Canadians who are unemployed, with the employment rate standing at 6.9%. While in October, 67,000 people got employed, the jobs market puts pressure on Canadian families' pocket books. The consumer price index in 2024 is 160.9 points, with prices on average increasing by 2.2% from last year. Finally the federal debt currently stands at \$1.236 trillion, the equivalent of 42.1% of GDP, and an increase in the deficit by \$64.3. Canada is further in a cost of living crisis with housing and rent prices pricing Canadian's out of the market, and inflation rising higher than prices, while corporate profits increase as prices on everyday goods increase.

Current Issues

While the Canadian economy is plagued with a diverse range of issues caused by many complex factors, at the heart of building one Canadian economy is three key issues. Tackling the costs of tariffs imposed by the United States of America and seeking new trade partnerships. Decreasing internal trade barriers, and building new (and long-overdue) major infrastructure projects.

Tariffs imposed by the United States and Global Trade Partnerships

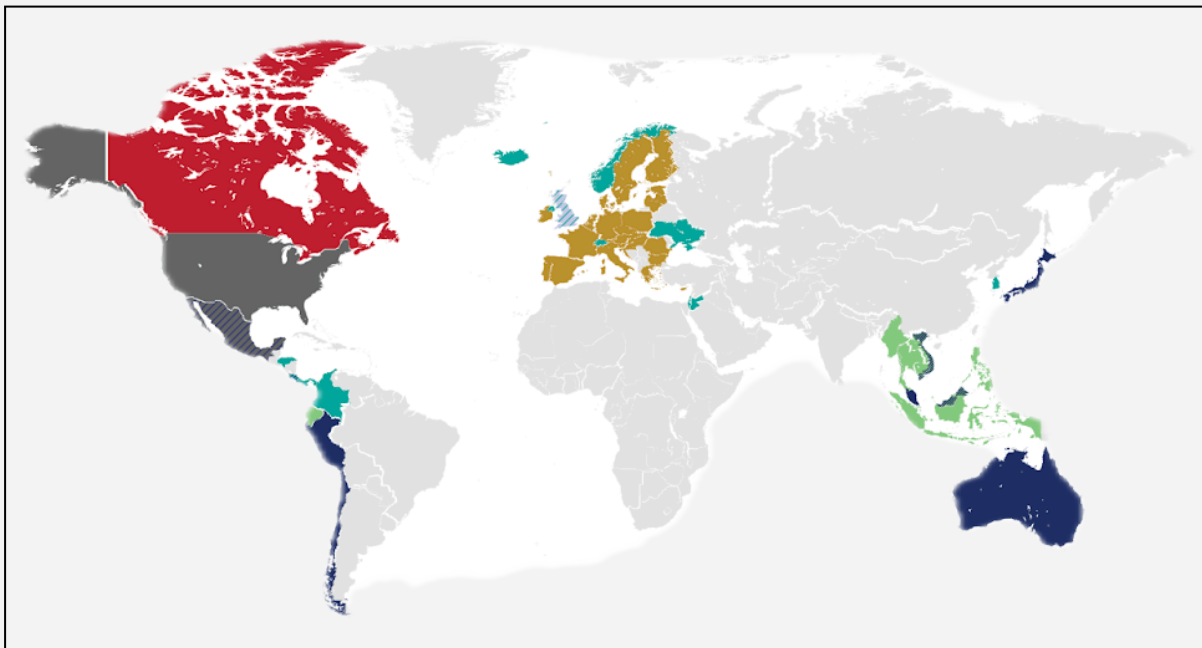
The United States is Canada's largest trading partner, and Canada is the U.S' second-largest trading partner. In 2024, the total trade relationship was estimated at \$924.4 billion CAD with \$377 billion imported from the US, and \$547.4 billion exported from Canada. The current trade deficit between the two is \$65 billion CAD. The United States accounts for 77% of Canada's exports, and 50% of its imports. As President Kennedy said in his 1961 address "Geography has made us neighbours... Economics has made us partners." Almost \$3.6 billion dollars cross the border each day, and the two economies are dependent on each other in many industries for production chain success. Canada's main exports to the US are energy (mineral fuels, and oil), vehicles (including cars), critical minerals (including copper, steel, aluminum, and potash), machinery, and consumer commodities. The United States relies on Canada for 69% of its lumber imports, 60% of its crude oil imports and \$40 billion worth of agricultural exports. Oppositely Canada's main imports from the United States are vehicles, machinery, energy, and electronics, and consumer goods.

Canada has long maintained economic ties with the United States, leading to economic integration between nations in specific sectors such as energy and the automotive industry. This interdependence along with partnership led to cooperation between the two nations via trade agreements. First the Canada-US Automotive Products Agreement removed auto tariffs in 1965. This was succeeded by the Canada-US Free Trade agreement in 1989, which was then succeeded by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994 with Canada, the US, and Mexico, renegotiated into the CUSMA in 2018, taking effect in 2020.

However the trade relationship has fundamentally changed since the reelection of President Donald Trump in 2024. In response to border issues surrounding the opioid/fentanyl crisis and immigration crossing, the United States invoked its International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) via executive order imposing a 25% ad valorem tariff to goods not exempt by CUSMA. It was raised to 35% in August. Canada views these tariffs as wholly unjustified. This led to an exports drop of 15% in Q1 of 2025, with 29,400 jobs being lost in the manufacturing sector where the aluminum, steel, and automotive sectors have received specific tariffs imposed. In response the Canadian government has opened a \$1billion fund for relieving these industries, with Ontario spending \$5 billion on tariff related support through its Protect Ontario Financing Program. Most provincial

governments have responded with various relief measures, and the federal government also tightened tariff quotas for steel from 50% for non-free trade agreement partners to 20%, and is promoting a policy of Buy Canadian.

The reality of the shake up of the global economic system is that Canada must diversify its trade relationships. Canada currently has 15 free trade agreements (FTA) in force with 51 countries including with its European Union (second-largest trading partner), and for the Trans-Pacific, among others. This year, during and following foreign visits to Asia and the Middle East, the Carney government announced a new trade agreement with Indonesia, reducing 95% of current tariff and non-tariff barriers. Canada also received a pledge of \$70 billion in investments as a part of an investment-protection pact. Canada is also launching trade negotiations with the UAE, along with Ecuador, India, the Philippines, and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The contents of these future agreements would be ratified by the executive branch, but must be approved by parliament through implementing necessary legislation. It gives parliament a say in the contents of the deal, and expresses Canadians' needs.



Map of Canada's free trade agreement, Global Affairs Canada

Internal Trade Barriers

Internal interprovincial trade barriers are rooted in the separation of provincial and federal responsibilities laid out in the constitution act of 1867 which allowed provinces to implement protectionist measures. The government of Canada divides these barriers as: geographical, prohibitive laws or requirements which restrict internal trade (ex. alcohol), sector-specific, and administrative barriers. With \$500 billion worth of goods and services moving across Canada internally, trade barriers including mobility of labour cost \$200 billion, which could be boosting the GDP equivalent to \$5,100 per capita. Recognizing the benefits in cutting barriers, Canada first signed the Agreement on Internal Trade in 1995, and the Canadian Free Trade Agreement in 2017. Yet, in response to the threats posed by American tariffs, the federal and provincial governments were called to remove all tariffs. In 2023, the average price increase of goods sold inter-provincially was 26.9%, and 41.0% for goods purchased by suppliers. Ontario has been the fastest in removing barriers, with agreements between all other provinces. They are followed by Nova Scotia, Manitoba and PEI. Oppositely, Newfoundland and Labrador and PEI are amongst the last in terms of number of agreements.

In response, the House passed Bill C-5, (the) One Canadian Economy Act, all federal exceptions to free trade were removed, with recognition of comparable provincial trade regulations. What remains to be seen is the effect on the economy and mitigation of risks to long protected sectors of provincial economies.

Major Infrastructure Projects

Canada has a storied history of building major infrastructure projects, notably the Trans-Canada Railway in 1885, and the St. Lawrence seaway in 1959. However Canada faces bureaucratic challenges, and lengthy approvals before a shovel goes into the ground. This has been criticized by opposition parties, particularly the conservatives. In another response to President Trump's tariffs, and to correct the domestic issues of affordability, particularly housing, the Carney government launched the Major Projects Office. The office is responsible for advancing projects through a streamlined process. In September 2025 it announced the first group of major projects representing \$60 billion in investment. A further \$56 billion and 68,000 new jobs were announced in budget 2025 this November. Canada now has a framework to try and achieve feats not seen in a century. The question is what to build, and how.

Case Study I: Building New Pipelines in B.C. and Alberta



Premier David Eby of B.C (left) and Premier Danielle Smith of Alberta (right)

Canada's energy market is the sixth largest globally. Canada has the 3rd largest oil reserves, and accounted for 10.3% in 2023. Alberta, which has the misfortune of being landlocked, produces 91% of total Canadian oil exports, 93% going to the United States. Alberta, has always sought to expand their trading capacity through pipeline expansion which can reach to either British Columbia, or Eastern Canada, and expand to foreign markets.

In a time when the need to address climate change is prevalent, the United Conservative government in Alberta has fought for against Ottawa's policies, including the carbon tax, anti-pipeline law and accompanying red tape, and B.C. tanker ban. Fast-forward to 2025 following the election of Prime Minister Carney who sought to invest in major foreign projects including possible pipeline and LNG expansion led to tension between David Eby's NDP government in BC, and Danielle Smith's conservative Alberta government who seeks a new pipeline to the northwest BC coast. With continuing tension, and Alberta separatism on the rise, the federal government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Alberta outlining conditions required for a new pipeline to be built. Critics, including Premier Eby argue that it undermines the constitutional system by allowing provinces to overstep jurisdiction, while putting at risk indigenous rights and environmental laws. This begs parliament to answer how these disputes should be solved, and rights, while recognizing the economic need?

As Members of Parliament, you will need to decide the direction Canada should take to ensure the viability and growth of our economy. Whether seeking to forge new relationships, fund major projects, cut internal trade barriers, MPs must navigate both party politics with their constituent and national needs. Where do your elbows stand? The puck is on your stick to choose the path to the goal.

Part 3

Topic B: Rebuilding Canada's Military

The Canadian Armed Forces has been suffering in silence from a multitude of conduct, financial and managerial problems and is badly in need of change. The grievances of auditors representatives and whistleblowers have fallen on deaf ears. An apathetic public and consequently apathetic government have deprived the forces the attention they require to fix their long simmering issues. This is not a recent development, the truth is, the CAF have been abandoned and are now teetering on the edge of crisis. At long last, the catalyst for the change CAF so badly needs seems to have arrived. The United States has been pressuring Canada and our NATO allies to finally fulfill the 2% of GDP defence spending target. A target which has since increased at the Hague summit earlier this year to 5% by 2035. The time to act is now, to avoid falling further from this goal and to stay in the world's good graces. We can no longer stand by, ignoring the men and women who keep our country safe.

History of the Canadian Armed Forces

Prior to confederation, defence for the colonies fell to their colonial powers; the French royal army or British army augmented by local recruits. The land also has a long history of local militias being raised with the support of colonial powers to defend regions. These local militias played a big role in the war of 1812 fighting alongside the Canadian British army regiments and fencibles. Canadian militias gained even more legitimacy in 1855. In the previous year of 1854 the British pulled most of its garrison stationed in Canada to help with the Crimean war leaving Canada underdefended and an easy snack for the hungry borders of its southern neighbor. A fact understood by the government of the province of Canada who rushed to pass the militia act of 1855.

The modern Canadian armed forces can trace their roots to this legislation. The act created an active defence force of 5,000 men, later upped to 10,000 the following year. This was Canada's first active permanent military force. On confederation Canada continued to grow its ground forces using the militias as its core. In its early years it primarily engaged with metis and fenian raids and rebellions. During this time they were still supported by several Anglo-Canadian regiments. That was until 1871 when, due to a reduced risk of US aggression the vast majority of British troops finally left Canadian soil placing its defence solely in dominion hands. This led to the split of the militia into separate active and reservist divisions known as the PAM and NPAM.

In late 1899 and early 1900 Canada was pressured into following the British army into the Boer war, sending a volunteer force of over 2000 men. They gained a reputation of being brave and fierce fighters despite old and faulty equipment and British complaints that they were undignified, inexperienced and incompetent. They won numerous Canadian victories; one of these men, Sir Samuel Hugues would go on to serve the minister of defence supercharging the growth of the military and making many political enemies along the way. He had strong and controversial views but was a strong believer that Canadians were far better warriors than the British and thought they should be treated as such creating many domestic supporting organizations leading up to world war 1.

At the outbreak of world war one Hugues founded the Canadian Expeditionary Forces to fight in Europe. During this war Canada made a name for itself on the world stage 47 years after confederation. Altho relatively small in numbers Canadian troops were highly revered by allies and highly feared by enemies. These troops did more for Canada's international reputation than diplomats ever could. Their service in the world wars was highly revered and appreciated. Canada was given acres of land in Vimy ridge France for their service and still receives thousands of tulips each year from the Netherlands for its liberation in world war two.

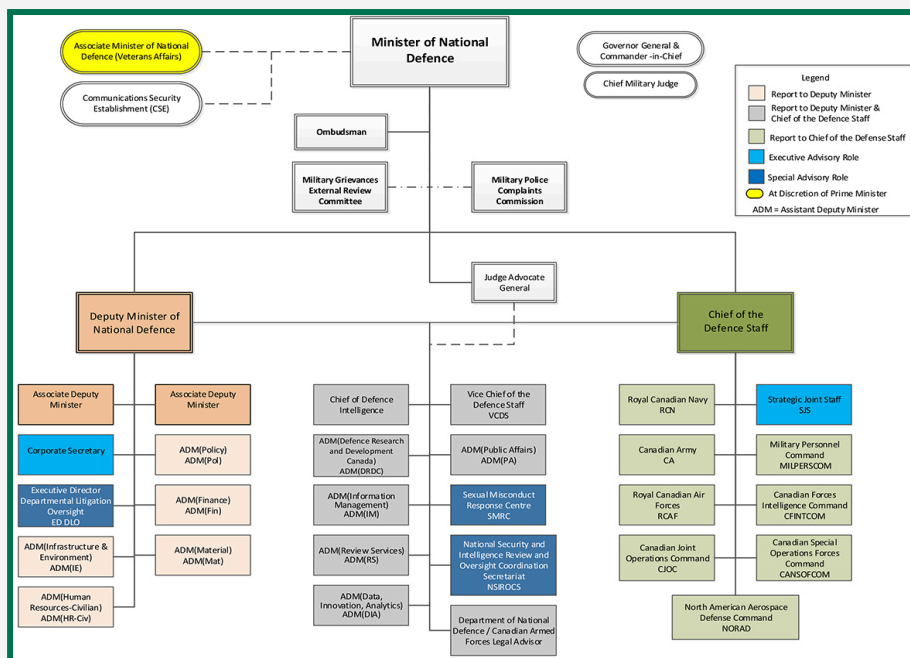
Following the war Canada maintained a large and modern military through the 1950s. Even in peacetime the armed forces ballooned to the greatest size in history, at the dawn of the Cold War. Canada was fully committed to NATO and also became deeply involved in UN peacekeeping. In 1968 the three services were unified into the Canadian Forces, a decision that is still debated. Critics argue that unification disrupted branch identities and harmed morale while supporters claim that it created efficiencies and improved coordination. Any way you slice it, this was the beginning of the cost cutting of the next few decades.

The party came to an end in the mid to late 1960s as a new era of financial pressure and political hostility toward defence was ushered in. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was committed to shrinking government spending and viewed defence as an area where significant cuts could be made at little or no political cost. Under his government, Canada's military budget fell dramatically. The army's presence in Europe and around the world was scaled back, several naval programs were cancelled or postponed, and the air force saw cuts in squadrons and modernization plans. Trudeau prioritized domestic stability as a greater risk than external threats amid the civil unrest south of the border. His priorities relegated UN and NATO missions as low priority and weakened the CAF's long term readiness and international reputation.

The situation did not improve in the 1980s. PM Brian Mulroney campaigned on strengthening the military and undoing Trudeau's reforms but inherited a weak economy and high deficits. Mulroney attempted to follow through with his promises but amid several scandals he only made symbolic changes. Eventually he was able to fully strengthen the Canadian presence in west Germany. Another wave of attention was cast on the military when an incident with an American ice breaker raised fears of Canada's ability to defend its arctic claims. This spurred procurement efforts, such as the plan to purchase nuclear submarines, but these initiatives quickly collapsed under financial and political pressure. Eventually with the end of the cold war his government brought on a new age of military cuts furthering the decline of the Canadian Armed Forces.

At the time the collapse of the Soviet Union seemed to justify these cuts. Successive governments assumed and welcomed that the world was entering an era of reduced conflict and embraced the "peace dividend". Canada continued to shrink its forces throughout the 1990s. The lack of investment throughout this period created the structural problems that plague the CAF today. The forces also went through several controversies such as the Somalia affair resulting in further reduction of international aid deployments. When Canada entered the Afghanistan mission in the early 2000s its incapacities were made painfully clear. The military discovered that many of its vehicles, aircraft and logistical systems were decades out of date forcing emergency procurement to fill the gaps.

Structure of the Canadian Armed Forces



DND org chart, courtesy Department of National Defence

WARNING: do not read the following section if you are susceptible to getting bored out of your mind. If so, just take a quick look at the attached chart and be on your merry way. If not, welcome to my Sunday evening creative writing project. With that out of the way, let's get on with the festivities.

The Canadian Armed Forces operate under a command structure established by the National Defence Act of 1985. All military forces fall under the authority of the Chief of the Defence Staff, who is often referred to as the “nation’s top soldier” and is the commander of the CAF. The CDS is responsible for issuing orders to the forces, directing operations, assigning tasks to subordinates, and advising the Government of Canada. The CDS is accountable to the Minister of National Defence. The Minister holds authority over the Department of National Defence and the in turn the CAF and is responsible for defence policy, resources and oversight. The Governor General is Commander in Chief representing his majesty King Charles III, but this role is ceremonial.

The CAF is divided into three “environmental commands,” each responsible for the forces. The Canadian Army commands land combat forces, The Royal Canadian Navy commands maritime forces and, well, you can imagine what the Royal Canadian Air Force does. Each environmental commander reports directly to the CDS and is responsible for the administration and development of their branch, but does not normally control operations.

Operational control of missions is held by separate “operational commands.” The largest of these is Canadian Joint Operations Command, which directs pretty much all CAF missions. The CJOC controls forces, once they are assigned to a mission. It also manages readiness reporting, joint planning and operational coordination between the three environmental commands. Apart from the CJOC there is also the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command. It reports directly to the CDS and commands the cool stuff like Task Forces Special Ops and related support units. Canadian Forces Intelligence Command is responsible for defence intelligence, counter intelligence. It provides support to all commands and reports directly to the CDS.

The CAF also participates in the North American Aerospace Defense Command. NORAD is an initiative in cooperation with the United States and has its own chain of command. It is headquartered in Colorado and is commanded by a United States officer with a Canadian officer as the deputy. NORAD exercises operational control over RCAF aerospace warning and control assets assigned to it and can direct operations affecting Canadian airspace. RCAF can be assigned NORAD duty under which RCAF forces are under the operational command of NORAD rather than CJOC or the RCAF chain of command.

Several additional support organizations operate alongside the environmental and operational commands. The Military Personnel Command is responsible for recruiting, education, career management, training establishments and personnel policies. The Royal Canadian Medical Service and the Canadian Forces Health Services Group manage medical care, force health protection and medical training. The Canadian Forces Military Police Group provides policing and security on military installations. The Assistant Deputy Minister for Materiel (a word which I didn't know existed and definitely doesn't need to exist), a civilian organization within the Department of National Defence, manages procurement and sustainment of equipment. The Assistant Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and Environment oversees bases, and environmental compliance. These civilian organizations are not part of the CAF chain of command but control most procurement and infrastructure decisions, which means military commanders rely on civilian department approval for equipment, construction and major spending.

All of these structures operate within a single legal and administrative framework that merges the uniformed military (the CAF) and the civilian department (DND). The CDS commands the CAF, while the Deputy Minister, a civilian official, manages DND. The Minister of National Defence sits above both and has ultimate authority. This arrangement results in a system where military command, civilian oversight and administrative control are intertwined. While organizationally required, it has led to a logistic nightmare.

Current Issues

The current problems facing the Canadian Armed Forces are complex and numerous. But for simplicity's sake they can be simplified into 3 main issues; conduct, funding, and recruitment.

Conduct

The CAF has a long history of misconduct within its ranks. The scale of the problem is displayed in the Survey on Sexual Misconduct in the Canadian Armed Forces released in 2022. It revealed concerns about levels of sexual misconduct among members.

In the year preceding the survey, 3.5% of regular force members reported being sexually assaulted in the military workplace or in an incident involving military members. Nearly 19% of Regular Force members experienced at least one form of sexual or discriminatory behaviour in the prior year. Additionally, 67% of Regular Force members said they have either witnessed or experienced such behaviours.

Concerningly, only 21% of those who said they were assaulted reported the incident to someone in authority. The CAF has publicly acknowledged that more must be done to align conduct and culture with the organization's values and ethics.

Behavioural issues have also been shown in the existence of extremist and discriminatory incidents within the military. This has been documented by the CAF's internal tracking system. The Hateful Conduct Incident Tracking System has recorded 364 incidents since 2020. Not including multiple incidents of CAF members involved in violent and discriminatory extremist groups. It's clear the CAF has a conduct problem, maybe with the new interest in reform some attention can be paid to making in a more inclusive institution

Funding

Decades of deficient investment have left the CAF struggling to maintain equipment and support services. According to the 2024–25 Departmental Results Report, maritime fleets had a serviceability rate of 59.6%, under the 60% target, while the land fleet's serviceability reached only 51%, well below the 70% target. This situation is even more serious for the RCAF, with only 42.3% of their fleet deemed serviceable. This is all the result of aging equipment and maintenance delays brought on by insufficient funding.

These readiness issues show how the CAF routinely struggles to keep equipment operational. Analysts say that maintenance backlogs and funding gaps are to blame. In this system, fleets reach the end of their lifecycles faster than they otherwise would be, all while new equipment is few and far between.

Funding issues have also affected support systems for service members and their families. A 2025 audit by the Auditor General found that military housing managed by the Canadian Forces Housing Agency is both insufficient in quantity and condition. As of spring 2025, only 205 housing units are available while 3,706 households remain on the waiting list. It went on to say that the CAF requires between 5,200 and 7,200 additional residential units to meet its operational needs. Even including planned construction, there's a gap of at least 3,800 units. Some existing units inspected by the Auditor General were found to lack

drinkable water or adequate sanitation. Others suffered from structural problems. All of this has had a direct impact on the morale of service members, leading to retention problems.

This is all before we address the behemoth sized elephant in the room; the NATO commitments. To explain this, let's begin at the start. Canada was a founding member of NATO in 1949. Since then, Canada has played a recurring role in the Alliance contributing personnel, participating in collective defence and peacekeeping, especially with its contributions in West Germany. Operations in the Gulf War and Afghanistan made it clear that Canada and other allies weren't capable of defending themselves or the alliance should it be necessary.

In response, in 1999, NATO launched the Defence Capabilities Initiative, which, as the U.S. Congressional Research Service noted in a 2007 report, was meant "to prepare the alliance to meet emerging security challenges that may require a variety of types of missions, both within and beyond NATO territory." The thinking, according to the initiative, was that NATO "must ensure that its troops have the appropriate equipment, supplies, transport, communications, and training." That gave birth in November 2002 to the Prague Capabilities Commitment, where NATO leaders agreed to set down a budget benchmark for member states. Attempts by the US to make such a figure mandatory failed, thankfully for Canada.

In 2006 leaders made an oral pledge to set the number at 2% of GDP. After the 2014 annexation of Crimea, the goal was introduced At the NATO summit that year. It was said that all countries below it "must move towards it" over the next decade. At the time, Canada was spending only 0.9 percent of its GDP on defence. Ever since, has consistently fallen short. Defence spending rose to about 1.4% in 2017, and was at 1.38% in 2023, before reaching a 1.37% of GDP in 2024–25. In July 2024, the government pledged to hit this target by 2034, a promise with no weight given their previous delinquency

Canada's underwhelming investment has drawn criticism within the Alliance. By 2025, the overall NATO defence spending hit record highs. By now, 22 of NATO's member states have met or exceeded the 2% of GDP target, pushing collective Alliance spending past 1.3 trillion USD. Among those who met the target were some of NATO's largest European members, including nations that had previously struggled to reach 2%.

The pressure has only intensified in this year, as several NATO members under rising geopolitical tensions expressed willingness to go beyond the 2% benchmark. This culminated in this year's NATO summit in The Hague, where allies committed to raising the benchmark to 5% by 2035. Only one year after the previous Canadian government committed to reach 2%

U.S. President Donald J. Trump, whose own expansionist statements have sparked fears over the state of global peace, has only added fuel to the fire. Recent statements have reignited debate about NATO burden-sharing. Trump has publicly criticized allies in NATO, including Canada for failing to meet spending commitments. Suggesting that the United States should no longer guarantee defence support "if they don't pay." at a time when

Canada has gone far to please the president to relieve economic pressure, this is another sticking point fuelling US tariffs

It's inarguable that Canada needs to hit the 2% targets as soon as possible, but it won't be cheap by any means.

Recruitment Levels

This section is a bit of a misnomer CAF is not just in a recruitment crisis but rather a recruitment to retention ratio crisis. They have faced ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining personnel in recent years. Between 2022 and 2025, nearly 192,000 people applied to join the CAF, but only around 15,000 completed the process and were successfully enrolled. This led to the CAF falling short of its planned intake by roughly 19,700 recruits over that period, with many applicants withdrawing or failing to complete the recruitment process. This longer term trend is in conflict with recent numbers. In the fiscal year 2024–25, the CAF enlisted 6,706 new members into the Regular Force, exceeding its target of 6,496. This, however, can be attributed to a rise in Canadian patriotism following hostile comments from the US.

Poor application success numbers indicate persistent issues in the recruitment process. Structural challenges, including long delays in training, insufficient access to equipment and facilities, and backlogs in security screening, have been cited as factors. With larger reform, now is the time to simplify the recruitment pipeline.

Although the decline in recruitment follows trends of other western countries, Canada's poor retention does not. Attrition rates have been 8% 9% which actually beats out the private sector and the forces of many allies, however it doesn't represent the high avoidable or "unhealthy" attrition in the CAF. Many service members cite frustration with outdated equipment and inadequate infrastructure as contributing to their decision to leave. For instance, the CAF's barracks and training facilities are widely seen as substandard, and the delays in procuring modern equipment has eroded confidence in the military's ability to meet operational demands. Due to these factors which we have already touched on in detail, is leading to a rise in the attrition rate in recent years. If Canada wants to grow its military, its going to have to increase recruiting and make strides to curb the attrition rate.

Recent Developments

Recently under the new Prime Minister, Mark Carney, Canada embarked on finally tackling the CAF funding problems that have been avoided by Ottawa for so long. The government committed to accelerate defence spending to meet the 2%-of-GDP benchmark for NATO during the 2025–26 fiscal year. A plan costing Canada over 9 billion by next year. The administration has also made a pledge to hit, and have made strides towards 5% of GDP in defence by 2035. This is in accordance with the new NATO benchmarks. This 5-percent pledge represents one of the most dramatic shifts in Canadian defence policy since the 60s, reflecting a growing understanding in Ottawa of the importance of a strong CAF.

To translate these ambitions into action, the 2025 federal budget committed roughly C\$62.7 billion for defence in 2025–2026, forming part of a broader multi-year investment plan en route to the 2035 goals. The government also established the Defence Investment Agency. A new agency dedicated to streamlining military procurement. The DIA's creation is an important response to spare this flood of funding from the inefficiencies that undercut CAF initiatives in the past

In August 2025 the government announced it had identified two qualified suppliers for the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project. Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems of Germany and Hanwha Ocean of South Korea. The two firms are engaged in negotiations with the Canadian government to decide which will build a new fleet of arctic-capable submarines. This has been an essential step to protect Canada's sovereignty and surveillance capacities. The plan predicts delivery of the first submarine before 2035.

Canada is also revisiting its prior procurement decisions. An existing plan to acquire 88 U.S.-made F-35 Lightning II jets have come under renewed scrutiny recently. This has been in the wake of straining relations between the two countries. The acquisition is now under review, in light of rising costs, and fears over supply chain issues.

Because of this, Canada has reopened talks with the Swedish aerospace company Saab about the possibility of using its Saab JAS 39 Gripen jets instead. Saab has offered to assemble and maintain Gripen aircraft in Canada, a plan that promises the creation of thousands of domestic jobs, and the possibility of Canada becoming a destination for European military industry and technology. These are similar to the projections of the potential impact of the Avro Arrow on the Canadian economy prior to its cancellation.

All of these recent developments have been a very positive step to rebuilding the Canadian military but there is still much to be decided. Canada has several procurement decisions it's going to have to make, weighing many factors to pick what's best for the nation. Additionally much of the future of the military is uncertain in terms of how it plans to meet its optimistic pledges and how it can pay for it all. This is all on the table this weekend.

Guiding Questions:

1. Is your member of parliament in government or opposition? What views are important to your party, as an MP, and your constituents and how will your views align with these stakeholders (personal, party, and constituent)?
2. How would you collaborate and compromise across political divisions and party lines to produce an outcome that would satisfy the Canadian public, and lead to a brighter future for Canada
3. How will the House push for the decrease internal trade barriers? What are the risks of removing barriers for provincial industries and what strategies can be made to mitigate it?
4. What path should Canada take in becoming an energy superpower, and what actions are necessary to unlock its energy potential?
5. What should Canada prioritize in new or updated trading partnerships? What conditions should Canada look towards and give to incentivise investment and agreements?
6. How should the federal government manage disputes between provinces for major infrastructure projects while respecting individual provincial and indigenous rights
 - a. Should Indigenous consent be overlooked in matters of national interest?
7. How should major infrastructure projects be held accountable for project timeline, and what actions can be taken to speed up project completion?
8. Is Canada's approach to defence spending "too much too fast"?
9. How will Canada pay for the massive budget deficit in the future while maintaining defence spending increases?
10. What military procurement offers should Canada take, which should they negotiate?
11. How should this increase in spending be distributed among the CAF's many problems?
12. Are CAF reforms really necessary enough to justify the high cost to taxpayers?

Part 4

Committee Mechanics

From Your Dias:

Hello again,

Since we are a specialized committee, committee mechanics are used to elevate your delegate experience, make the committee more lively, and make it more in line with Canadian Parliamentary Procedure. Please note that the majority of special mechanics are changes to names, or enhancements of Model UN procedure.

If you're a little confused by all this jargon, don't worry! We recognize that the Canadian Parliamentary format is different from traditional UN committees. We are here to support you and will go into more detail. If you have any questions, feel free to send an email to simonrabinovitch@crescentschool.org.

1. Speeches, and Names:

In the C.HOC, all speeches are directed and addressed to the Chair (Speaker of the House) not to another member.

In addition, when called to speak by the Chair, members of the house are addressed by either their Government position, or riding they represent (ex. Rt. Hon Prime Minister, or Member for Don-Valley West)

2. Simple Majority Votes (Voice Vote)

Simple majority votes are known as Voice Votes. The Speaker will ask "All those in favour of the motion will please say 'yea'." Members will respond orally and raise their placard. Similarly the Speaker will ask "All those opposed will please say 'nay'." Votes will be tallied and results announced

3. Decorum and Heckling

The Dias expects that general decorum and parliamentary language is used and respected at all times to make everyone's experience memorable and equitable.

In saying that per parliamentary practice, clapping during, before and after speeches, banging on desks, and mild heckling and humor is allowed during debate. Further members are allowed to criticize and debate other members/parties policies or past governing actions. It cannot be directed personally to other members.

Members should use judgement when/if these practices are disruptive. The chair will stop members if practices become disruptive to debate. Rights of Reply may also be granted.

4. Question Period

The Government is liable to answer questions from MPs in the House of Commons and the Opposition is liable to hold the Government to account. MPs have the opportunity to question Government Ministers about the functioning of their department or other affairs relating to their position.

The Speaker will call on the Leader of the Official Opposition, who is permitted to ask up to 8 questions, followed by the leader of the second largest recognized opposition party, who may ask up to 4 questions. The opposition leaders are encouraged to allow other members of their party to question the government

In the C.HOC, political parties that have 12 members or more in parliament are recognized in the house and enjoy special privileges. For the purposes of fairness, one member from all unrecognized opposition parties (ie. NDP and Green) will be able to ask 1 question. Question Period may only happen once a day, for a maximum of 45 minutes.

5. Writing Bills

In the House of Commons, delegates will write and present bills passing them into laws instead of UN resolutions. A template will be provided during the first committee session for you to use while drafting bills throughout the conference.

6. Presenting Bills

Presenting a Bill in Parliament is similar to presenting in the United Nations, the only difference is the name. In the First Reading, sponsors of the bill will present the bill to the house (Presentation). Following this, the bill will move into the Second Reading where all MPs can ask questions, and debate the bill (this is Q&A, subsequent mods, 2 for/against, and amendments).

7. Voting Procedure (Recorded Divisions)

In the C.HOC, bills are voted by recorded votes taken by the Chair of members. The Speaker will ask “All those in favour of the motion will please rise,” and “All those opposed will please” Bills in the house will require a 2/3rds majority to pass.

Members (in favor/or against) will rise at their desks. In a line, the Chair of the House will record the MP’s vote by saying the Member’s name. Once the member’s name is called, they will sit down.

8. Crossing the Floor (Switching Parties)

For the purposes of this committee to ensure fairness among delegates, crossing the floor is prohibited.

Part 5

Character Matrix

Given the frequency of shuffles between positions in the Canadian House of Commons, the following are your position and party placement as Members of Parliament in the C.H.O.C.

The Government: Liberal Party of Canada

Rt. Hon. Mark J. Carney - Nepean

Mark Carney is the 24th ***Prime Minister of Canada***, and the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. He represents the Ontario riding of Nepean, elected as Prime Minister and MP in March and April respectively in 2025. Prior to politics, he was a longtime investment banker going on to serve as the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the only non-British person to serve as Governor of the Bank of England.

Hon. François-Philippe Champagne - Saint-Maurie-Champlain

Francois-Phillippe Champagne is the ***Minister of Finance and National Revenue*** since March, 2025. The longstanding MP for Saint-Maurie-Champlain, Quebec since 2015, he has served many ministerial positions under the Trudeau government, including Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry. A lawyer by trade, he worked in Europe as legal counsel for various engineering firms before returning to Canada.

Hon. Anita Anand - Oakville East

Anita Anand is the ***Minister of Foreign Affairs*** appointed to the position in May of 2025 after serving as the Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry at the beginning of the Carney government in March. Representing the Ontario riding of Oakville East since 2019 she served in notable ministerial positions including as the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, National Defence, and Treasury throughout the Trudeau government. Prior to politics she was a lawyer, and professor at various universities including Yale, and University of Toronto.

Hon. Rebecca Atly - Northwest Territories

Rebecca Atly serves as the ***Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relationship*** since May 2025. She represents the Northwest Territories elected in April, 2025 after a storied career in municipal politics in Yellowknife. Atly served as mayor from 2018 until her election as a Member of Parliament. She is seen as a keen voice for the Canadian North.

Hon. Tim Hogson – Markham–Thornhill

Tim Hogson is the ***Minister of Energy and Natural Resources*** appointed in May 2025. Elected in April of 2025, he represents the Ontario riding of Markham–Thornhill. Hogson served in the Canadian armed forces as a reserve officer before entering business. Prior to politics he worked for Goldman Sachs serving as CEO of Goldman Sachs Canada from 2005 to 2010. He also worked as a special advisor at the Bank of Canada under Mark Carney, and was the chair of Hydro One.

Hon. Julie Dabrusin – Toronto–Danforth

Julie Dabrusin is the ***Minister of Environment and Climate Change*** since May, 2025. She represents the Ontario riding of Toronto–Danforth being first elected as an MP in 2025, and previously served in numerous parliamentary secretariats. Prior to politics, Dabrusin was a lawyer in Toronto. Following her legal career she shifted to supporting the Danforth community launching the Second Harvest Danforth Hunger quaud, and Friends of Withrow Park supporting local food banks and farmers.

Hon. Steven MacKinnon – Gatineau

Steven MacKinnon is the ***Minister of Transport*** and ***Leader of the Government in the House of Commons*** since September and May, 2025 respectively. The latter position he held previously on two separate occasions. Representing the Quebec riding of Gatineau since 2015, he served as a minister in various positions, and as Chief Government Whip during the Trudeau government. Prior to becoming an MP he worked in business and public affairs, including serving as a senior advisor to former Prime Minister Paul Martin, and Premier Frank McKenna.

Hon. Mélanie Joly – Ahuntsic–Cartierville

Mélanie Joly is the ***Minister of Industry*** since May, 2025, and previously served as the Minister of Foreign affairs under both the Carney and Trudeau governments between 2021 and 2025. She represents the Quebec riding of Ahuntsic–Cartierville since 2015 and holding various ministerial positions including Economic Development, and Canadian Heritage prior to her work in the foreign ministry. Prior to politics, Joly practiced law being mentored by former premier Lucien Bouchard. In 2013, she advised Justin Trudeau during his liberal leadership campaign during a brief municipal career running for mayor of Montreal.

Hon. Dominic LeBlanc – Beauséjour

Dominic LeBlanc is ***President of the King's Privy Council for Canada, Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs, Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy*** serving since March 2025. A longtime member of parliament for his New Brunswick riding of Beauséjour since 2000, he has served in various positions including being the longstanding Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs since 2018 in the Trudeau government. Prior to being a parliamentarian he was he was a lawyer in New Brunswick, and served as a Special Advisor to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

Hon. David J. McGuinty – Ottawa South

David McGuinty is the ***Minister of National Defence***, since May 2025, previously serving as Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness in the Carney government. He has represented his Ontario riding of Ottawa South since 2004, and was the Chair of the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians from 2017 until 2024. He is a longtime Liberal and is an environmental lawyer.

Hon. Evan Solomon '87 – Toronto Centre

Evan Solomon is the ***Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation*** appointed in 2025 following his election as the MP for Toronto Centre in Ontario . He also is the Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. Prior to his career in politics, Solomon was a gifted journalist hosting the CBC's Power and Polics from 2009 until 2015 before moving to CTV 's Question Period. Prior to joining politics he worked for GZERO media group while continuing to serve as a political correspondent for CTV.

Fun Fact: Solomon is a Crescent Alumni graduate class of 1987. He has received Crescent's highest honour, inducted to its Wall of honour in 2004.

Hon. Gregor Robertson – Vancouver Fraserview-South Burnaby

Gregor Robertson is the ***Minister of Housing and Infrastructure*** appointed following his election to parlement in May 2025. He represents the British Columbia Riding of VancouverFraserview-South Burnaby. Prior to entering federal politics he was a member of the New Democratic Party in the BC legislature as a MLA from 2005 to 2008 where he worked on Climate Chnage issues. He then was the Mayor of Vancouver from 2008 to 2018.

Hon. Stephen Fuhr – Kelowna

Stephen Fuhr is the ***Secretary of State for Defence Procurment*** since May 2025 following his election as the Member of Parliment for Kelowna in British Columbia. He prviously served as a MP from 2015 to 2019 where he served as the Charmen of the Standing Committee on National Defence. Prior to joining politics, he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force achiving the rank of Major piloting CF-18 Hornet. Following his military career he worked in civil aviation.

Rob Oliphant – Don Valley West

Rob Oliphant is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Don Valley West in Ontario, being first elected in 2008–2011, and re-elected in 2015 onwards. He has served as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which he has held since 2019. Prior to his career in federal politics he worked as an accountant before becoming a Minister in the United Church of Canada.

Charles Sousa – Mississauga-Lakeshore

Charles Sousa is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Mississauga-Lakeshore first elected in 2022. He serves as the chair of the parliamentary Standing Committee on National Defence. He also previously served as the Ontario Minister of Finance from 2013 to 2018 under Kathleen Wynne. Prior to entering politics, he worked in business working for RBC. He also was previously a member of the various Chambers of Commerce including in Canada, the United States, Toronto, and Internationally

Viviane Lapointe – Sudbury

Viviane Lapointe is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Sudbury in Ontario first elected in 2021. She is a member on the Standing committee on National Defence, and previously served on committees on natural resources and industry and technology. Prior to entering politics, she worked for the provincial department of Northern Development and Mines.

Bruce Fanjoy – Carleton

Bruce Fanjoy is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Carleton in Ontario, elected in April of 2025 after unseating Conservative Leader Pierre Polivivre. He serves on the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. Prior to politics, he worked in marketing.

Hon. Ahmed Hussen – York South-Weston-Etobicoke

Ahmed Hussen is the ***Member of Parliament*** for York South-Weston-Etobicoke in Ontario, first elected in 2015. Hussen currently chairs the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, and is a member of the Liaison Committee. A former minister, he held positions including as Minister of International Development among others during the Trudeau government, from 2017 until March 2025. Prior to politics he had a lengthy career in public service working for Premier Dolton McGuinty, the RCMP, and leading various youth and community groups.

H.M Official Opposition – Conservative Party of Canada

Hon. Pierre Polivevre – Battle River–Crowfoot

Pierre Polivevre is the **Leader of the Official Opposition** and leader of the Conservative Party which he has held since 2022. He currently represents the Alberta riding of Battle River–Crowfoot, elected in August of 2025 after representing the Ontario riding of Carleton from 2004 to 2025. As a career politician, he has held many positions as a parliamentary secretary, a shadow minister in opposition, and was the Minister of Employment and Social Development in the 2015 Haper government. Prior to a career in elected office, he supported the Reform Party and Candian Alience and founded a political communications and research company.

Melissa Lantsman – Thornhill

Melissa Lanstman is the **Deputy Leader of the Opposition** since 2022, representing the Ontario riding of Thornhill since 2021. Prior to being deputy, she served as shadow minister of transport, and was Vice Chair of the Transport, Infrastructure and Communities committee. She is a current member on the special committee for Canada-China Relations. Prior to elected office she worked in communications, serving as the director of communications to various politicians, before going corporate including at CIBC, and Enterprice Canada.

Hon. Andrew Scheer – Regina–Qu’Appelle

Andrew Sheer is **House Leader of the Official Opposition** since 2022, representing the Saskatwan riding of Regina–Qu’Appelle since 2004. Sheer was priviously the Leader of the opposition from 2017 to 2020 before his defeat to Justin Trudeau. He also served as the Speaker of the House of Commons from 2011 to 2015. He currently sits on the Board of Internal Economy. Prior to politics, he worked in insurance.

Hon. Tim Uppal – Edmonton Gateway

Tim Uppal is the **Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party** appointed in 2022. He represents the Alberta riding of Edmonton Gateway elected in 2019, and previously served as an MP from 2008 to 2015, where he was the Minister for Democratic reforms in the Haper government. Throughout his time in office, he has served on many committees, most recently Canadian heritage. Prior to politics, he worked in radio before becoming a mortgage manager at TD and a community leader founding the South Edmonton Youth Group, and Edmonton Police Community Advisory council.

Shelby Kramp–Neuman – Hastings–Lennox and Addington–Tyendinaga

Shelby Kramp–Neuman is a **MP and Shadow Minister for Canada-US Trade** She was first elected in 2021 to represent her Ontario riding of Hastings–Lennox and Addington– Tyendinaga. She is a member of the Standing Commitee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. Prior to federal politics, she served as a municipal councilor, and worked as a financial advisor for Sun life, and a teacher.

James Bezan – Selkirk–Interlake–Eastman

James Bezan is a ***MP and Shadow Minister for National Defence*** since 2022. He represents the Manitoba riding of Selkirk–Interlake–Eastman first elected in 2004. He also serves as vice chair of the Standing Committee on National Defence. He was previously the deputy opposition whip. Prior to politics, he worked in the cattle industry starting his own farm and served as CEO of the Manitoba Cattle Producer's Association.

Raquel Dancho – Kildonan–St Paul

Raquel Dancho is a ***MP and Shadow Minister*** for Industry since 2025. She represents the Manitoba riding of Kildonan–St Paul, first elected in 2019. Dancho serves as the vice chair on the Standing Committee on Industry and Technology. Prior to this portfolio in the shadow cabinet she served as Shadow Minister for Public Safety, and Diversity, Inclusion, and Youth. Prior to federal politics, she worked for the provincial government in Manitoba.

Philip Lawrence – Northumberland–Clarke

Philip Lawrence is a ***MP and Shadow Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy, and Inter-Provincial Trade***. He represents Northumberland–Clarke in Ontario, first elected in 2019. He sits on the standing committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities and previously sat on the Finance and Canadian Heritage committees. Prior to politics, Lawrence practiced tax and corporate law.

Kelly Block – Carlton Trail–Eagle Creek

Kelly Block is a ***MP and Shadow Minister for Government Transformation***, Public Works and Procurement. She represents the Saskatchewan riding of Carlton Trail–Eagle Creek first elected in 2008, and is a member of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates. Prior to federal politics she was the Mayor of Waldheim, Saskatchewan from 2003 until 2008. She also served as the regional caucus chair of the Saskatchewan conservatives.

Frank Caputo – Kamloops—Thompson—Nicola

Frank Caputo is a ***MP and Shadow Minister for Public Safety***. He represents Kamloops—Thompson—Nicola in British Columbia, first elected in 2021. He serves as the vice chair of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security. Prior to politics, Caputo was a Crown prosecutor.

Chris d'Entremont – Acadie–Annapolis

Chris d'Entremont is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Acadie–Annapolis in Nova Scotia, first elected in 2019. He served as Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons from 2021 to 2025. He has served on many committees including most recently on the Fisheries and Oceans committee. Prior to federal politics, he was in Nova Scotia politics as a House Assembly member from 2003 until 2013. He served in various ministerial roles, including as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Acadian Affairs. D'Entremont considers himself a Red Tory.

Pierre Paul-Hus – Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles

Pierre Paul-Hus is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles Quebec, first elected in 2015. He previously sat as a member of various committees including Government Operations and Estimates, and as vice-chair of the Public Safety and National Security committee. Before politics, Paul-Hus owned PRESITGE Media group, and served in the Canadian Army for 22 as a Lieutenant-colonel. He conducted operations for NATO and in Cyprus for the UN.

Hon. Michelle Rempel Garner – Calgary Nose Hill

Michelle Rempel Garner is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Calgary Nose Hill, Alberta, first elected in 2011. She currently serves as vice chair of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration. Rempel Garner previously served as Minister of Western Economic Diversification from 2013 to 2015 under the Harper government. She also was in the shadow opposition cabinet in the health and natural resources file. Prior to politics, she worked at the University of Calgary in a business director role supporting research funding.

Racheal Thomas – Lethbridge

Racheal Thomas is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Lethbridge in Alberta. She was first elected in 2015 and serves as vice chair of the standing committee on Canadian Heritage, and is a longstanding committee member since 2021. She previously sat on various committees including natural resources. Prior to politics she worked as a youth consultant, and humanitarian working with Mexican orphans and healthcare in Africa.

Scott Anderson – Vernon—Lake Country—Monashee

Scott Anderson is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Vernon—Lake Country—Monashee in British Columbia, first elected in 2025. He currently sits on the Standing Committee on National Defence. Prior to federal politics, he served as the interim leader of the BC Conservative party from 2017 to 2019. He was also a city councilor from 2014 to 2022, and a retired army captain.

Cheryl Gallant – Algonquin—Renfrew—Pembroke

Cheryl Gallant is the **Member of Parliament** for Algonquin—Renfrew—Pembroke in Ontario, first elected in 2000. She sits on the Standing Committee on National Defence, and previously was a member of the Industry, Science and Technology Committee. Prior to politics, she worked as an insurance executive in her family's practice, however is a biochemist. She also served on various municipal committees in Pembroke.

Opposition (w/ status) – Bloc Québécois

Yves-François Blanchet – Beloeil—Chambley

Yves-François Blanchet is the **Leader of the Bloc Québécois** who has served as leader since 2019 leading his parties revival. He represents the Quebec riding of Beloeil—Chambley, first elected in 2019 and previously sat on the committee on the Covid-19 Pandemic. Prior to his career in federal politics, he was a teacher, and founded a local music management firm. He then turned to Quebec provincial politics where he served for four years, two as the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks in the Parti Québécois Marois government.

Louis Plamondon – Bécancour—Nicolet—Saurel—Alnôbak

Louis Plamondon is the **Member of Parliament** for Bécancour—Nicolet—Saurel—Alnôbak in Quebec. He was first elected in 1984 as a conservative, leaving to become a founding member of the Bloc Québécois. Plamondon is the current Deaana of the House as its longest serving member, holding the record for the longest continuous service in Canadian history. He currently serves as the vice-chair of the Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament, and previously served as interim leader of the Bloc on three occasions. Prior to politics, he was a math teacher and restaurateur.

Gabriel Ste-Marie – Joliette—Manawan

Gabriel Ste-Marie is the **Member of Parliament** for Joliette—Manawan in Quebec first elected in 2015. He serves as the vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Industry and Technology, and serves as the Bloc's industries and technologies critic. He previously was the Bloc critic for finance. Prior to politics, Ste-Marie was an economics professor at CEGEP in Lanaudière.

Mario Simard – La Pointe-de-l'Île

Mario Simard is the **Member of Parliament** for La Pointe-de-l'Île in Quebec, elected in 2019. He serves as the vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and is the Bloc's critic for Intergovernmental affairs and Natural resources. He previously sat on the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration. Prior to elected office he was a lecturer at the Université du Québec, and a political attaché.

Alexis Brunelle-Duceppe – Lac-Saint-Jean

Alexis Brunelle-Duceppe is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Lac-Saint-Jean Quebec. He was first elected in 2019. He is the Bloc's critic for foreign affairs, international development, and immigration, also serving as vice chair of various committees including Citizenship and Immigration, and Foreign Affairs. Prior to politics, he worked in the forestry industry

Claude DeBellFeuille – Beauharnois-Salaberry-Soulanges-Huntingdon

Claude DeBellFeuille is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Beauharnois-Salaberry-Soulanges-Huntingdon elected in 2019. She previously served as an MP for her riding between 2006 and 2011. She serves as the vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security and is the Bloc's critic for public safety. Prior to politics, she was a social worker managing social service networks, and was chief of staff at the Quebec Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Opposition (without status) – New Democratic Party

Don Davies – Vancouver Kingsway

Don Davies is the ***Interim leader of the New Democratic Party***, serving since May 2025 following the defeat of Jagmeet Singh. He represents the British Columbia riding of Vancouver Kingsway which he has held since his election in 2008. He previously sat on the Finance and Health committees, and served as shadow minister of international trade when in official opposition. Prior to politics, Davies was a lawyer and the director of legal services for Teamsters Canada.

Heather McPherson – Edmonton Strathcona

Heather McPherson is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Edmonton Strathcona in Alberta, which she has held since 2019. She previously served as the NDP's foreign affairs critic since 2021. McPerson previously sat as a member of the joint interparliamentary council and was the NDP whip from 2024 to 2025. Prior to politics, she worked in international development while being an advocate for environmental oversight in mining

Alexandre Boulerice – Rosmont-La Petite-Patrie

Alexandre Boulerice is the ***Member of Parliament*** for Rosmont-La Petite-Patrie, Quebec, first being elected in 2011. He is the NDP's current critic for portfolios including environment and climate change, foreign affairs, and Quebec. A longtime MP, he previously served as Shadow minister for labour in official opposition, and sat on the Official Languages committee. Prior to politics was a journalist for TVA and president of his local CUPE.

Opposition (without status) – Green Party of Canada

Elizabeth May – Saanich–Gulf Islands

Elizabeth May is the ***Leader of the Green Party*** and MP for her British Columbia Riding of Saanich–Gulf Islands since 2011. She has been leader of the Green party since 2022, and served previously as leader from 2006 to 2019. May was the first Green elected in Canada holding the best electoral record for her party. She previously sat on the committee for the Covid-19 Pandemic and Electoral Reform. Prior to elected office she was an environmental activist, and lawyer. She was a senior policy advisor to the Mulroney government involved in negotiating the Montreal Protocol.

Part 6

Position Papers

For the CSMUN II: The Canadian House of Commons, position papers are mandatory. Submitting a position paper would give the dais a better outlook on your character's motivations for their actions in committee, it will be required to be eligible for awards. If you decide to write a position paper for this committee, do not exceed 1 page in length. This way, we can get a glimpse at your character, the research you have conducted, and the type of delegate you will be in the debate. To learn more about position paper writing, formatting, and submission, please check out the position paper guidelines. We strongly encourage delegates to read through the guidelines carefully as this page will describe content recommendations, formatting requirements, and details on citations. If you have any questions about position paper writing, feel free to contact the dais through simonrabinovitch@crescentschool.org, or the secretariat at modelun@crescentschool.org.

Part 7

Closing Remarks

Whether it is military readiness for possible NATO action in Europe, or advancing Canada's economy at home all while having a family feud between provinces, Canada stands at an inflection point in our shared history. The benefit of a committee is the ability to make creative solutions which could (you never know) be policy in 5 to 15 years time. Plus, as someone who never has represented Canada as a delegate, the opportunity to talk about it is unique because it is our home and we live in its reality.

If you have made it this far into the background guide, I must commend you because I can say with certainty that many delegates will probably not make the effort to read this monstrosity of 56 pages. Besides the point, I hope delegates will take away from this committee a newfound perspective for others in this country and the challenges they face. But above all I hope this committee is fun, and provides an amazing experience, with friendship, learning and laughter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at simonrabinovitch@crescentschool.org.

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