



CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DU CANADA

Annual Report 2017-2018

“The CIC has a proud history of engaging Canadians in international affairs through its extensive national network of branches, research initiatives, conferences, publications and internet-based information. That engagement is more important than ever in today’s highly complex and volatile international environment, one that influences Canada and the well-being of Canadians in ever increasing ways.”

– Hon. William C. Graham, Chair

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Message from the Canadian International Council Board

This was another exciting year of growth and renewal for the Canadian International Council (CIC) led by its President & Research Director, Dr. Mark Sedra. In 2017, the CIC launched two new research programs, unveiled a new interactive website, appointed 25 dynamic research fellows and launched a vibrant new events program. In addition, a new automated membership program replaced the time consuming method of using an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of membership numbers and dues payments.

Concerning our national social media platforms and outreach there was also a marked increase in activity. In March 2018, for example, there were 13,174 unique visits to our website. We also garnered 1,000 followers on Twitter, 4,000 followers on Facebook and 4,600 subscribers to our mailing list. The national office also received, on average, 6 media requests per month and efforts commenced to re-launch the historic 'Behind the Headlines' essay series. Our research fellows were also busy researching, writing and responding to several requests from the Department of National Defence to provide background and briefings on various security related subjects. The CIC's national profile was also raised in November 2017, when Dr. Sedra and CIC Senior Fellow Danielle Stodilka testified to the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence as part of study on Canada's Involvement in NATO.

In April 2018, the Environics Institute for Survey Research, the CIC, Simon Fraser University Public Square and the Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary Research released a report on a national survey that asked questions about how do Canadians as individuals relate to the broader world? What do they see as the top global issues? How do they view Canada's role in world affairs, and what do they think it could be? The study was a 10-year follow up to the ground-breaking Canada's World Survey 2008 with research based on a national public opinion survey conducted by telephone with a representative sample of 1,501 Canadians (18 years and older), between October 23 and November 26, 2017.

In 2017-2018, a vibrant national conference and speaker program was also launched. A typical example was the 'North Korean Nuclear Challenge conference' held at the University of Toronto, Trinity College in February 2018. This single-day event was jointly funded by Global Affairs Canada, the CIC and the Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History. The conference gathered together policy makers, academics, diplomats, analysts and government officials to examine the evolving nuclear crisis in North Korea.

In April 2018, the national office also held its inaugural Borden Dinner, part of a series that features high-level speakers addressing pressing global issues. The invitation-only event is

named after the CIC's inaugural President and Canada's eighth Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden. The inaugural dinner featured Mr. Ray Tanguay, the Automotive Advisor to the Governments of Canada and Ontario and the former Chairman of Toyota Canada Inc. Mr. Tanguay discussed the future of the Canadian auto industry against the backdrop of increasingly turbulent negotiations over the future of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Also in April, our national office hosted the Right Honourable Douglas Alexander for the inaugural Big Issue Lecture "Has the Wave Broken? Populism's rise and the transatlantic relationship." David Common of the CBC served as moderator for the event. Drawing upon his experiences as a former UK Europe Minister, Trade Investment and Foreign Affairs Minister, and U.K. Governor of the World Bank, Douglas examined the complexities which surrounded the Brexit vote in the UK, the rise of populism across the West, and the impact of the changing nature of politics on the transatlantic relationship.



The Right Honourable Douglas Alexander gives the inaugural Big Issue Lecture "Has the Wave Broken? Populism's rise and the transatlantic relationship."

Given the attendance at these national events and also many local branch events, it is clear that the demand among Canadians for incisive, non-partisan analysis of key international issues and challenges continues. We have tried to meet that demand by expanding our capacity and programming and focussing our attention on the issues that matter most to Canadians.

As always, the work of the CIC rests on the solid foundation of our diverse, cross-country branch network, comprising over 1,300 members and 15 branches from coast to coast. It is this connection to grass roots communities through our branches that makes the CIC so unique in the think tank field. The CIC brings global issues to Canadians across the country, from Thunder Bay and Montreal to Saskatoon and Victoria. We are a truly national organization committed to strengthening Canada's place in the world by building better informed global citizens at home.

About the Canadian International Council

In 1946, in the foreword of the first edition of the CIC's flagship publication *International Journal*, then president of the CIIA, R. M. Fowler reflected on the continued importance of the organization and its role: "Canada has today an opportunity for leadership in world affairs...But to be able to grasp this opportunity there must be more than action by our political leaders. They must be supported by the informed and thoughtful public opinion of Canadians generally." Canada faces a similar opportunity for leadership today and, as it has done over nine decades, the CIC will support this ambition through its non-partisan research and public engagement activities.

Indeed, today the CIC is Canada's foreign relations council. It is an independent, non-partisan membership organization and think tank dedicated to advancing constructive dialogue on Canada's place in the world and providing an incubator for innovative ideas on how to address the world's most pressing problems.

The non-profit CIC integrates the voices of a diverse and multidisciplinary group of societal actors from academia, business, civil society, government and the media, and endeavours to inform and develop the capacity of the country's next generation of foreign policy leaders.

Founded in 1928 as the Canadian Institute of International Affairs (CIIA) and renamed the CIC in 2006, the organization uses its deep historical roots, cross-country network and active research program to identify Canadian foreign policy priorities and explore them across academic disciplines, political party lines and economic sectors. The national office of the CIC, located in Toronto, runs the council's research program, disseminating an array of publications and featuring original and in-depth analysis on its interactive website. The CIC is rooted to the conviction that the application of evidence-based research to complex policy issues is an essential foundation of effective foreign policy.

However, the CIC is not a conventional think tank. Its research arm is complemented by a network of 15 branches from across Canada. The branches incorporate the voices and feedback of citizens; engage local communities with programs that involve speakers, seminars, round table discussions and conferences; and organize study groups that generate citizen dialogue and involvement in international affairs. In this way, the CIC reflects the ideas and interests of a broad constituency of Canadians who believe that a country's foreign policy is not an esoteric concern of experts, but directly affects the lives and prosperity of its citizens.

Good policy is also developed by talking to people who have their fingers on the pulse of the world. To that end, the CIC regularly convenes corporate, government, academic and media leaders to discuss and debate international developments and their implications for Canadian foreign policy. High-level meetings, off-the-record briefings, workshops and special events bring together multiple sectors and communities to amplify the Canadian voice. With the connection between Canada's domestic and foreign policy clear the CIC seeks to generate research, thought and discussion on the most challenging issues shaping our future, from developing an effective climate-change policy to managing our increasingly complex relationship with the United States.

Our Mission

An independent, non-partisan membership organization and think tank, the mission of the CIC is to nurture awareness and understanding of critical international affairs challenges and to advance constructive discourse and debate on how to address them. The CIC owes no allegiance to any government or political party and does not take institutional positions on policy issues. The council provides an open forum where a diversity of viewpoints can be expressed.

What we do

Convening events across Canada that inform and engage a wide range of actors — including government officials, business leaders, civil society representatives, academics, journalists and concerned citizens — on pressing international affairs issues;

Maintaining a rigorous research program that produces accessible and policy-relevant material analyzing priority areas of Canadian foreign policy;

Providing ongoing analysis and a diverse array of viewpoints on current world events and Canadian foreign policy decisions on its website, thecic.org;

Publishing the International Journal, Canada's premier international affairs academic journal, and Behind the Headlines, one of the country's oldest foreign policy paper series; and

Offering learning and professional development opportunities for future Canadian foreign policy leaders.

The Canadian International Council Branch Network

One of Canada's oldest and most respected think tanks, the CIC is not only dedicated to nurturing dialogue on Canadian foreign policy domestically, but also in projecting a Canadian perspective on to the international stage. In our rapidly changing world, this effort to promote greater understanding and foster meaningful debate on critical challenges is more important than ever. More information about our many branches can be found on the CIC website here:

<https://thecic.org/branches/>

Our CIC branches are located in the following communities:

Calgary Branch

Edmonton Branch

Halifax Branch

Hamilton Branch

Montreal Branch

National Capital (Ottawa)

Nipissing District Branch

Saskatoon Branch

South Saskatchewan (Regina) Branch

Thunder Bay Branch

Toronto Branch

Vancouver Branch

Victoria Branch

Waterloo Branch

Winnipeg Branch



Selected Branch Events from 2017-2018

Throughout the year, CIC branches across the country hold dozens of different events in their respective communities. Traditional lunch and dinner speaker events are always popular along with less formal 'politics in the pub' nights. Rounding out the program are conferences, networking nights and film screenings. The CIC also prides itself on collaborating with other organizations, especially universities, to ensure our members have the best opportunities to hear from a wide range of speakers about contemporary issues affecting Canada and the world.

Below is a small sample of some of the speaker events that branches carried out during the reporting period:

CIC Edmonton: Lessons from the 19th Congress of China's Communist Party

CIC Edmonton: Arctic Futures, Global Interests

CIC Halifax: The other three amigos: international negotiations - Cuba, Mexico and the U.S.

CIC Halifax: Turkey, Today and Tomorrow

CIC Halifax: North Korea and the Nuclear Threat

CIC National Capital Branch (Ottawa):
Mexico, Canada, NAFTA and Beyond

CIC National Capital Branch (Ottawa):
From Books to Blogs to Software: An Evening with Practitioners Working at the Forefront of Conflict, Security and Citizen Action

CIC National Capital Branch (Ottawa):
Putin's Russia: Inside or Outside the International Order?

CIC Nipissing District Branch: The New Threat Set: Science, Diplomacy, and International Policy in the Age of Globalization



On May 10, 2018, the National Capital Branch hosted Peter Boehm, Deputy Minister for the G7 Summit and Personal Representative of the Prime Minister.

CIC Nipissing District Branch: The Holocaust to Syria, Stories of Real Lives in the 20th Century

CIC Regina: Keeping up with the Kurds – the drive towards self-determination in a war torn Middle East

CIC Saskatoon: Canada's Immigration and Refugee Goals

CIC Saskatoon: Real and Imagined Security Threats in an Uncertain World

CIC Vancouver: Welcome to Vancouver: A Discussion on LGBTQ2+ Refugees

CIC Vancouver: Canada and International Trade - NAFTA and the TPP - Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

CIC Vancouver: The Fragility of States: South Sudan and Troubled East Africa

CIC Victoria: Back to the Future: can the Franco-German motor revive Europe after the elections of 2017?

CIC Victoria: NATO: Current Challenges...Future Prospects

CIC Victoria: North Korea: The Nuclear Question and Beyond

CIC Winnipeg: Building and Keeping the Peace: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue

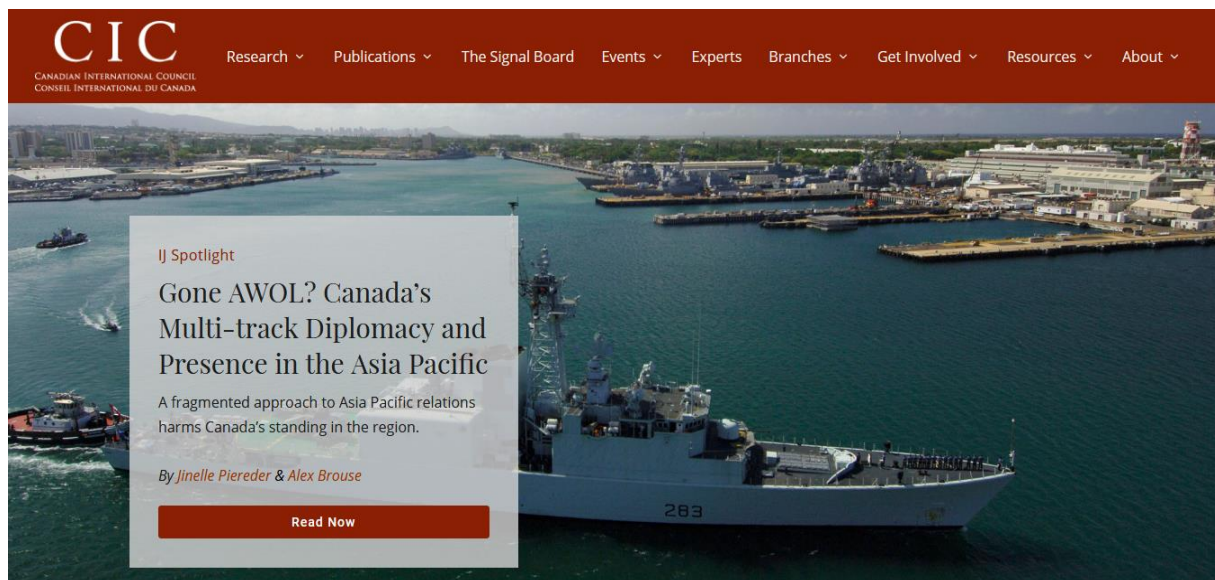


Canada's Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen discusses why immigration matters to Canada at CIC Saskatoon's March 2018 conference on Canada's Immigration and Refugee goals.

Our Website

The CIC website has become a popular location for Canadians interested in learning more about Canada's place in the world. A key feature on the website is a link to our many experts who make up the fellowship program.

The CIC's fellowship program attracts established researchers and foreign policy professionals, as well as Canada's most promising young minds, providing them with the opportunity to help guide Canada on pressing foreign policy issues. Open to academic, public policy, business, media and other professionals with international expertise, the CIC awards a limited number of fellowships across Canada each year, creating an interdisciplinary team of experts, each focused on a particular issue area. Working both independently and collectively, CIC fellows devote six to 12 months to working on a specific research project initiative, with the goal of creating new insights and policy-relevant findings.



The International Journal

Founded in 1946, the International Journal (IJ) is Canada's leading academic forum for discussion of foreign policy and international affairs. Published in conjunction with the Bill Graham centre for Contemporary International History, it combines brief, policy-relevant articles with longer, peer-reviewed, scholarly assessments of interest to foreign policy makers, analysts and academics in Canada and around the world. The IJ is cross-disciplinary, combining the insights of political science and history with economics and other fields to advance research and dialogue on issues of global significance.

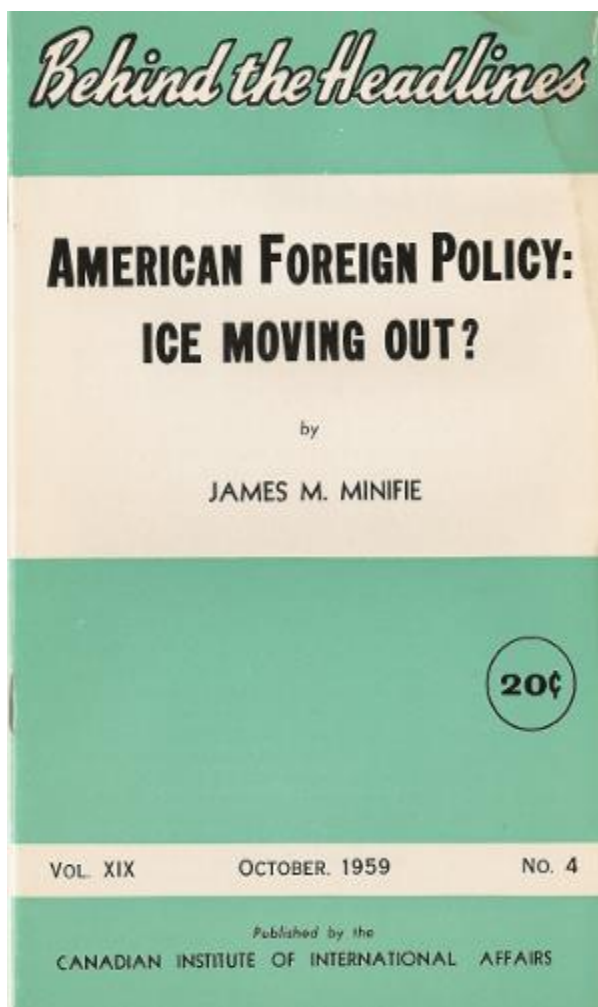
The April 2018 issue contained the following articles:

- AWOL: Canada's defence policy and presence in the Asia Pacific by David Dewitt, Mary Young, Alex Brouse and Jinelle Piereder
- Seeing ASEAN as a platform for spreading liberalism by Ki-Hyun Bae
- The Mulroney government and humanitarian intervention in the former Yugoslavia by Misha Boutilier
- Since you left: United Nations peace support, private military and security companies, and Canada by Christopher Spearin
- Reframing Canada's Great War: Liberalism, sovereignty, and the British Empire c. 1860s–1919 by Graeme Thompson
- The International Relations of Police Power in Settler Colonialism: The "civilizing" mission of Canada's Mounties by Colleen Bell and Kendra Schreiner
- Reason over passion: Pierre Trudeau, human rights, and Canadian foreign policy by Asa McKercher
- Why Canada needs a global education strategy by Roland Paris and Margaret Biggs
- Opening a new ocean: Arctic Ocean fisheries regime as a (potential) turning point for Canada's Arctic policy by Mathieu Landriault



Behind the Headlines

In 2017, efforts began to re-launch Behind the Headlines. The first issue was published in 1940 as a pamphlet series focused on contemporary Canadian foreign policy. Later, Behind the Headlines evolved first into a quarterly current affairs magazine, and then into its current form as a policy paper series. The various iterations of Behind the Headlines shared a focus on international affairs and Canada's place in the world, as well as an overriding goal of producing material accessible to a wide audience from academics and policy professionals to journalists and informed citizens.



2017, for example, was not the first year that Canadian diplomats have had to adapt to a president-led radical departure in American foreign policy and a good deal can often be learned from how Canada previously handled these changes of direction and tempo.

In the October 1959 issue of Behind the Headlines, CBC Washington Correspondent James M. Minifie examined the driving forces of President Eisenhower's "Peace with Justice" détente foreign policy and its implications for Canada.

"American foreign policy," he said in his opening paragraph, "is making one of those historic changes of direction and tempo so bewildering to professional diplomats, so stirring to the foreigner and ultimately to the American public, too."

The article can be downloaded here:
<https://thecic.org/publications/publication-archive/>

Research

The CIC produces rigorous and policy-relevant research on critical international issues. Each of our two research programs takes an interdisciplinary approach to inform and invigorate Canadian foreign policy.

Global Populism, Protectionism and Polarisation

Whether it is Brexit or the election of Donald Trump as president of the United States, 2016 saw some seismic populist shifts that threaten to undercut the post-World War II liberal international order. This reaction to globalization, rapid technological change and liberal internationalism, has far-reaching



consequences, including the unravelling of the global trade regime, the weakening of collective security structures, the de-legitimization of global governance norms and institutions, and the awakening of new forms of ultra-nationalism and sectarianism. For Canada, the gradual withdrawal of the United States from its traditional global leadership role under the Trump administration is both unsettling and threatening. However, as the Liberal government demonstrated with its spring 2017 international policy statement, it can also present opportunities for renewed Canadian leadership and the strengthening of partnerships with state and non-state actors across the world.

This research stream will dissect and analyze the global populist movement, zeroing in on the challenges it poses for international order and its specific impacts on Canada. Some believe that the populist wave has already peaked and the electoral defeats of populist parties in France and the Netherlands in 2017 show that the liberal centre may have turned the tide. Others see more ominous signs on the horizon, including a more isolationist United States paralyzed by internal political divisions, a weakened and politically fragmented European Union, rising economic protectionism, growing tensions in East Asia and a further destabilized Middle East. There is no question, however, that the coming years will be uncertain and politically volatile.

This interdisciplinary project will seek to identify policy options for Canada to contain this volatility and any harmful effects it may have, while identifying opportunities that the shifting global political order may present.

Real & Imagined Security Threats in an Uncertain World

We are inundated by images of global threats in the mass media, whether it is terrorism, transnational organized crime, mass migration, pandemic disease, cyberwar or climate change. While fear has always been an effective tool of political elites to consolidate power, technological innovation



(notably the rise of social media) has made this tool even more effective. The populist movements that swept many countries in recent years, from Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines to Donald Trump in the United States, deftly employed social media to advance their fear-based political agendas.

In spite of the “culture of fear” that seems to dominate the Western media and political landscape most evidence shows that we live in the safest period in human history. From 1945 to 2014, the death rate from conflict declined from 22 per 100,000 to 1.4, and the incidence of extreme poverty — often a driver of conflict — has declined by almost 75 percent since 1990. It is instructive to look at the issue of terrorism, one of the focal points of attention for the security establishments and mass media in the West and beyond. Looking specifically at the United States, between 2001 and 2014, 3,412 Americans were killed in acts of terrorism, almost 3,000 of whom were in the 9/11 attacks alone. In Canada, between 2010 and 2015, seven Canadians were killed in domestic terrorist incidents. In both Canada and the United States, an average citizen is more likely to be killed in a car crash or get hit by lightning than die in a terrorist incident. This is not intended to dismiss the threat terrorism poses, but to demonstrate that the perception of threat and resources invested to address it far outstrip the actual danger it poses.

These statistics raise significant questions about how we assess international threats and tailor responses to them. For instance, there is a tendency to prioritize and inflate direct or proximate

threats, specifically those perceived to be particularly “spectacular” in character, such as terrorism or the impacts of different forms of transnational organized crime. By contrast, more distant and creeping threats, such as climate change and pandemic disease, tend to receive less attention. This multidisciplinary research stream will explore the politics of fear and the actors that drive it. It will also develop a threat matrix that will identify and evaluate the real and imagined international threats that confront Canada. This will inform a broader discussion on how Canada should better assess and communicate threats to the public and tailor effective responses to them.

Supporters

Thank you to those who gave generously to the CIC in 2017-2018. Fund-raising, as always, is one of our major challenges! Your support has gone a long way to ensure the CIC continues to provide a national platform for engaged citizens.

We are also grateful for the financial support received from individual members, which is invaluable in making our case to corporations and governments.

\$100,000 +

Power Corporation

\$10,000 +

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\$5,000+

\$1,000+

\$500+

\$250+

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