CIC

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DU CANADA

Victoria Branch | Section Victoria

2024 Annual Report

(Covering the period 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024)

In January, we were delighted to host Richard (Dick) Fadden here in Victoria. Dick was the National Security Advisor to Prime Minister Harper and then Prime Minister Trudeau from January 2015 to March 2016. He had previously served as the Deputy Minister of National Defence and the Director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. Photo: On the left, Dick Fadden with CIC Victoria branch president Chris Kilford.

CIC Victoria 2024 Annual Report
covering the period 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

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Message from the Branch President

Dear CIC Victoria Branch members, 21 August 2024

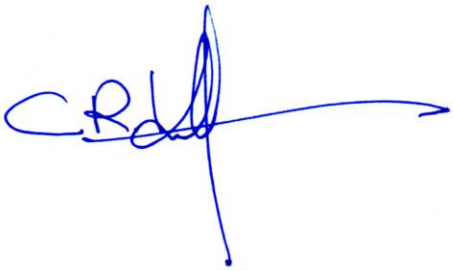
With our Annual Branch Meeting (ABM) set for Monday, 9 September (by Zoom), I am honoured to provide you with our Annual Report covering the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

I'm also proud to say that during this period, your branch conducted or co-hosted 28 events attended by almost 2,500 participants. Our events also featured terrific speakers from around the world and closer to home. None of this would have been possible without the efforts of your Executive Committee (ExCom), and the support of folks at each venue.

Our in-person events also helped immensely in keeping-up our membership numbers. This is very important as the more members we have, the more money there is to support our many activities. For example, with every new member that joins CIC Victoria, or renews their membership, we receive 50% of the membership fee, with the other 50% supporting CIC National activities such as the online magazine Open Canada, social media platforms and membership management. I would also like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all our members who donated to the CIC last year, and to the 12 CIC Victoria members who donated $500 or more by joining the CIC's Century Circle. The names of all our donors are listed later in the Annual Report.

In closing, your ExCom is committed to bringing here the best possible speakers on a wide range of important international issues. We will also continue our efforts to build a more diverse and inclusive branch, and work hard to support young Canadians, especially students, to ready them for the future. Indeed, we are looking forward to supporting student-run Model United Nations conferences at Vancouver Island University and the University of Victoria. At the ABM we will also propose that our student scholarship with the University of Victoria increase from $1500 to $2000 this year.

Thank you for being a part of the CIC and CIC Victoria journey.



Chris Kilford, CD, PhD
President
Victoria Branch
Canadian International Council

CIC National News

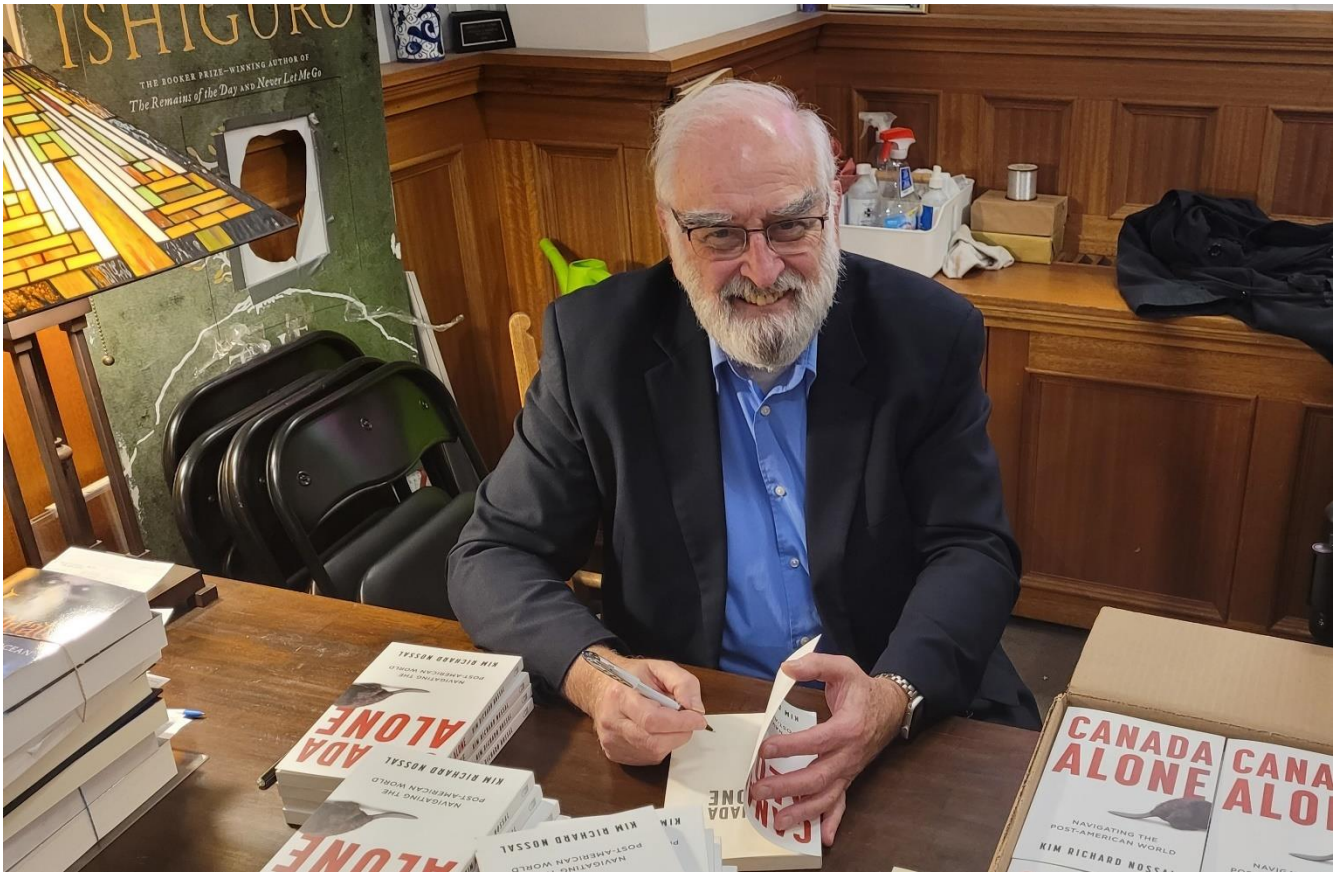


Photo: This year we were delighted to host Kim Nossal in Victoria for two events, supported with funding from the CIC National Speaker Program. Kim spoke about his new book 'Canada Alone'.

At the national level, CIC continues to be led by our National Co-chairs, John English & Nicolas Rouleau. Both focused a great deal of their efforts on fundraising to support national activities and they were very fortunate to recently receive $125,000 in funding from the Hal Jackman Foundation. Also, a new CIC Advisory Council was recently formed, which is led by the Rt. Hon Joe Clark. The Advisory Council is there to provide advice and assist the CIC with fundraising. Because fundraising has gone very well this year, with the addition of some 30 major donors, who have each donated at least $5000 to the CIC, the national level is now able to begin the hiring process for a new CIC Executive Director this fall.

As many of you will know, CIC's former Chair, the Honourable Bill Graham, passed away in August 2022. To honour his legacy, a CIC fundraising dinner was held in Toronto on 27 March 2023 and this coming October the 2nd annual Bill Graham Lecture dinner will be held at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto. The dinner will be held in conjunction with the CIC-run Couchiching Conference on 8-9 October. Further details will be published by the national office.

Across the country there are 18 CIC branches, plus a national office branch for members overseas or living far away from a branch. CIC also has a small virtual national office with one full-time person, a part-time communications & events person and modest contracted support for IT and accounting services. Everyone else who belongs to CIC is a volunteer. In total, CIC branches across the country held some 150 in-person and virtual events between June 2023 and June 2024.

As far as our national membership numbers, there are just over 1,400 CIC members across the country and our new national membership program (Member365) is working very well. In addition, when members log-in to their private Member365 accounts, they have direct and full access to CIC's International Journal. The International Journal (IJ) is Canada's pre-eminent journal of global policy analysis, and it combines brief, policy-relevant articles with longer, peer-reviewed, scholarly assessments of interest to foreign policymakers, analysts and academics in Canada and around the world. Member365 also has numerous features that were not available before such as automatic credit card membership fee withdrawal should one choose, much better tax receipting for donations and an opportunity to choose communications in English or French.

As for CIC's online foreign policy magazine Open Canada, lots of new articles are published every month. The magazine is supported by private donations (small & large) and the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage, which this year provided CIC with $43,000 in funding and an additional $5,000 to translate articles into French for the French side of Open Canada.

CIC Victoria – Looking Back

Locally, and as mentioned, we were very busy in 2023-2024, holding or co-hosting 28 events. Further information about all of them, and our events in general, is captured in Annex A.

Our branch membership also grew from 520 members this time last year to 532 members today, including 68 student and 11 young professional members. Our branch is the largest in Canada and having so many members created an incredible amount of energy and momentum, not to mention funding through membership fees and donations to support our many program activities.

For our in-person events, speakers continued to receive modest honouriums in recognition of their time and effort. In general, honouriums were mostly in the $100 range. Indeed, many received $100 gift cards from Munro's bookstore, but thanks to their generous discount, only costs the branch $80. We also paid for some of our speakers to travel to CIC Victoria from Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. When we host speakers from further afield it can often cost the branch between $750-$1500, and we could not do this without your support.

In September 2023, the winner of our $2000 Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) diversity scholarship was Steven Peng. Steven, a graduate of Mount Douglas High School is originally from China and while in high school was involved with the Model United Nations Club. He is currently attending the University of Victoria School of Business. Also, last fall, and for the very first time, the University of Victoria awarded our $1500 CIC Victoria scholarship to an academically outstanding undergraduate student. The winner was Emily Goodman and for this fall we are proposing to raise the scholarship to

$2000. In addition, Emily was instrumental in running the February 2024 University of Victoria Model United Nations Conference.

As mentioned, memberships, general donations, and donations to the Century Circle, allowed CIC Victoria to support many local activities and programs. The Century Circle, an initiative at the national level, was instituted in 2020 to recognize those donating $500 or more to the CIC. More information about the Century Circle can be found by clicking here and the 2024-2025 Century Circle campaign will launch later this year.

Our 2023-2024 Century Circle members were…

John Anderson	Anna Biolik	Ian Clark	Marjorie Clark
Brian Keir	Chris Kilford	Jeremy Kinsman	Marc Lortie
Patricia Lortie	Don Macnamara	Margot Moore	Hugh Stephens

And thank you to our many other donors in 2023-2024…

Robin Adair	Frank Arnold	Victoria Bonilla	Susan & Colin Boyer
Alan Breakspear	John Bryden & Britta Gundersen-Bryden	Michael Clark	Margaret Cornish
Jo Cuttiford	Diana Dewar	Jan Drent	Warren Franklin
Liz Hamblett	Jinny Hambly	Jonathan Heston	Patricia & Byron Hill
Dorothy Jackson	Leonard Jenks	Barry Kelsey	Norman Leslie
Chris Lovelace	Pat & Ian Mayhill	Judy & Murray McFadden	Murray Ramsbottom
Virginia Watson-Rouslin & William Rouslin	Tyler Russell	Pat Schibli	Paula Skippon
Peter Sosnkowski	David Stinson	David Stocks	Pamela and Ron Taylor
Cameron Turner	Doug & Catherine West	Cidnee & Henk Wind	Frank Wuhrer
Valerie York	Beth Young		

Student Engagement

Supporting our CIC student members, and the wider student community on Vancouver Island, is one of the most rewarding activities we do as a branch. Indeed, in 2023-2024 we co-hosted one student-directed event at Royal Roads University (RRU) focused on the Indo-Pacific, led by Dr. Jim Boutilier. The event was full of many Canadian and international students, complemented by a small number of CIC members who helped lead roundtable discussions that followed Dr. Boutilier's presentation. Many of the students had either recently arrived in Canada or were visiting so it made for some great interactions and learning all-round.

We also supported Vancouver Island University's (VIU) Model United Nations (UN) conference last November and the University of Victoria (UVic) Model United Nations conference in February 2024. Member-at-Large Paul Seguna also worked closely with the student editors of the UVic student-run political affairs magazine *On Politics,* offering advice and sourcing expert second readers from our membership to help ready select student papers for publication. As previously mentioned, our $2000 student scholarship with the ICA was awarded to Steven Peng (photo) this year and Emily Goodman was the recipient of our $1500 scholarship with the University of Victoria.

CIC Victoria also continued to work closely with the UVic Centre for Global Studies (CFGS) and the UVic Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives (CAPI). Both hold a wide range of events each year and many in conjunction with the CIC. For more information, please visit their websites here: CFGS and here CAPI.

Photo: We were very proud to support the University of Victoria Model United Nations Conference in February 2024. Dr. David Malone was the keynote speaker and in the photo are members of the conference student leadership team.

Table 1 below outlines our planned expenditures in support of student focused activities in 2024-2025.

Table 1 – Planned CIC Victoria Student Focused Expenditures 2024-2025

Activity	Amount	Remarks
UVic Model UN Club Annual Conference	$1,500	A one or two-day conference attracting, on average, 100 students who represent various UN member countries while debating key international security subjects. Our donation goes to the general conference operating fund to pay for lunches, conference supplies, best delegate recognition and the conference website
VIU Model UN Club Annual Conference	$750	A one-day conference attracting, on average, 75 students. Our donation goes to the general conference operating fund to pay for lunches, conference supplies and best delegate recognition
UVic Canadians Going Global	$750	An event bringing CIC members and UVic students together at UVic. During the event, a panel of CIC experts discuss their career experiences and take questions followed by a networking opportunity with light refreshments and finger foods
100 Complimentary Student Memberships at $20 each	$2,000	To encourage students to join CIC Victoria, we offer one-year complimentary memberships. Our aim is to introduce students to CIC and CIC Victoria, with a view that they will continue as un-sponsored members afterwards. In certain cases, such as the executive members of the UVic Model UN Club, and UVic Undergraduates of Political Science Club, their memberships are sponsored by CIC Victoria for the duration of their time on the two executives, which may be more than one year
10 Complimentary Young Professional Memberships at $45 each	$450	To encourage young professionals (YP), especially from the Indigenous, Black and People of Colour community (IBPOC), to join CIC Victoria, we offer 10 one-year complimentary memberships. Our aim is to introduce YP to CIC and CIC Victoria, especially from the IBPOC community, with a view that they will continue as un-sponsored members afterwards
Student conference attendance (conference fees and other support)	$1,250	This amount allows us to sponsor student attendance at local conferences (in-person) or national conferences via Zoom. Another good example of student in-person events is our RRU student roundtables, normally held twice a year, where we contribute towards refreshments and finger foods
Diversity Scholarship Fund	$2,300	Partnering with the ICA, we support a newcomer student to Canada who is leaving high school to attend either Camosun College or UVic. $300 of the amount allocated is for ICA's administration of the scholarship
UVic Scholarship Fund	$2,000	In partnership with the Political Science Department, we support an academically outstanding undergraduate student entering third or fourth year in the Department of Political Science, taking courses in Canadian foreign policy, international relations, and/or global affairs at UVic
Total	$11,000	

Branch social media

When it comes to social media, we rely on Facebook to promote and report on our events. Currently, we have 644 Facebook followers, up from 613 followers last year. However, because many of our members do not have Facebook accounts, we use e-mail announcements as our primary means of contacting members about our events. If you are a Facebook user, please consider following us as we often post advance notifications about our events and add post-event photos and links to articles we think will be of interest. We also have a CIC Victoria branch information page on the CIC National website with general information about us, including annual reports going back to 2017.

Finances

Our branch financial situation remains very good, giving us great flexibility not only to support the many student focused activities listed in Table 1, but also continuing to engage the best speakers we can find on the international issues of the day.

For example, when we invite speakers living in Vancouver to Victoria, we often use Harbour Air. If a speaker is coming from Toronto or Seattle we also pay for their accommodation and transport costs, which includes an economy airline seat. As mentioned earlier, bringing speakers to Victoria from afar can cost up to $1500 for flights and accommodation, but it is well worth doing so for us to hear from a variety of different voices.

One issue we are facing, which will come as no surprise, is the rising cost of food for events we hold at the Union Club and Sticky Wicket Pub. Staff wages at our venues are also increasing – and we have looked at other venues but could not come up with anything better than we now have in terms of quality and ambiance. So, we are constantly evaluating if we need to increase event ticket prices and please do not be too surprised if we raise prices. It is worth noting here that national CIC membership dues have not increased since 2010.

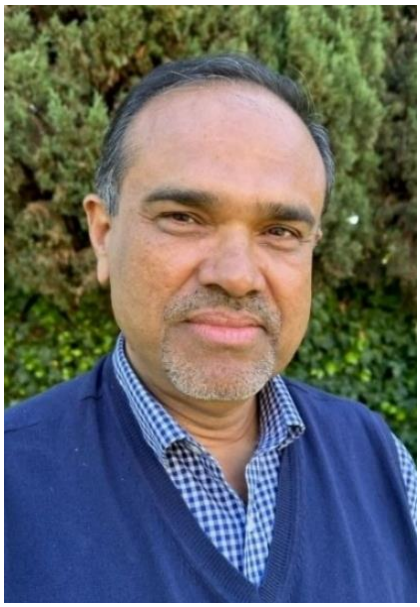
On the financial front, Roger Love is our treasurer and Table 2, on the next page, provides an overview of the last fiscal year budget and our planned budget for 2024-2025. Everything we do financially is overseen by the national office and NVSconnect accounting.

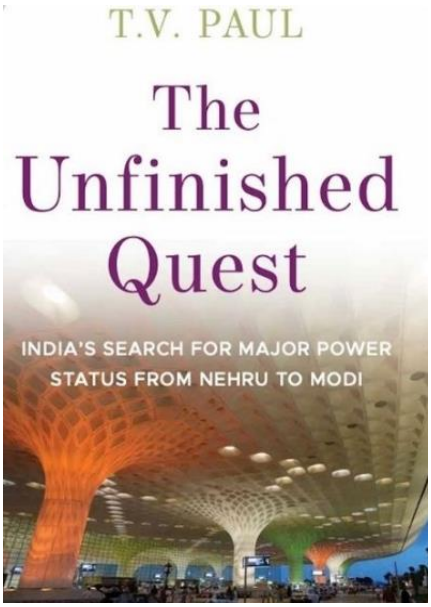
Table 2 – CIC Victoria Final Accounts for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Planned Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

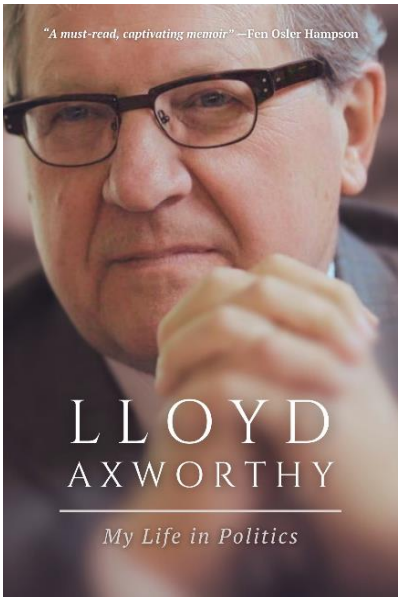
CIC Victoria	2023-2024 Planned	2023-2024 Final	2023-2025 Planned
INCOME			
Membership Fees	**$15,000**	**$16,353**	**$15,500**
Donations by Members	**$4,000**	**$5,188**	**$4,500**
Luncheon Meeting Revenue	**$33,600**	**$47,985**	**$41,450**
Politics-in-the-Pub Revenue	**$11,340**	**$17,733**	**$20,000**
GIC Investment Income ($30K with RBC)	**$400**	**$1,061**	**$1,000**
Total Income	**$64,340**	**$88,409**	**$82,450**
EXPENSES			
Luncheon meetings operating costs*	**$34,328**	**$53,119**	**$45,000**
Politics-in-the-Pub Operating Costs*	**$13,320**	**$20,362**	**$22,000**
Student & YP Expenses (see Table 1)	**$10,250**	**$7,057**	**$11,000**
Speakers Travel/Lodging Expenses	**$6,000**	**$4,141**	**$6,500**
Speaker honourariums / appreciation	**$1,750**	**$1,597**	**$1,500**
Administrative Expenses	**$150**	**$51**	**$150**
Bank Charges	**$80**	**$97**	**$100**
Members Name Badges	**$500**	**$832**	**$750**
Total Expenses	**$66,378**	**$87,257**	**$87,000**
Net Surplus or Deficit (-)	**-$2,038**	**+$1152**	**-$4,550**
Bank balance: end Fiscal Year (FY)	**$41,495**	**$44,076**	**$39,526**
Notes: * Event expenses are higher than revenue because event speakers and volunteers do not pay for meals. Membership fees are also used to subsidize events as a membership benefit via lower event ticket prices. Revenue for FY 24-25 is anticipated as: $61,450 events $20,000 dues and donations $1,000 GIC interest This will be offset by: $67,000 event costs $8,000 speaker related costs $11,000 for student support costs $1,000 for admin/bank/name tag expenses Expected deficit for FY 24-25 is: $4,550			(We are planning on a deficit like last year – although we ended up with a surplus in the end. Our intent is to keep the branch bank balance to $40K to give us enough operating cash on-hand and a reserve of $30K in GICs)

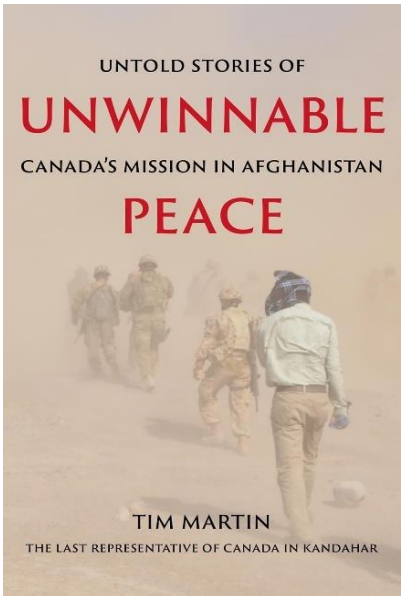
Our Upcoming Program Preview

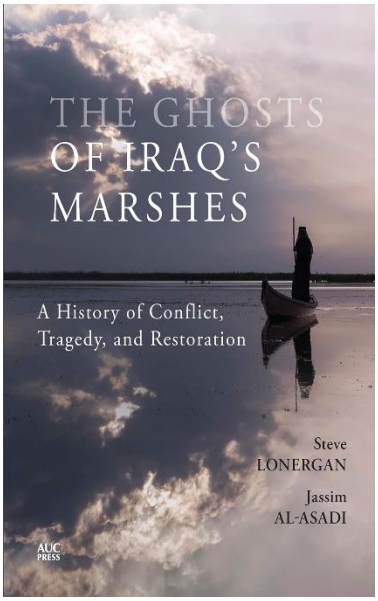
Below are just a few of the speakers we are expecting here in Victoria during the fall. Registration details will be sent out via an email to members at least two weeks ahead of each event. Professor T.V. Paul, coming from McGill University, will be speaking at the Union Club on 25 September.











Final Words…

As your branch president, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Branch ExCom for their hard work over the past year. And my thanks also to Behram Dadachanji, Mallin Jaing, Adrian Norfolk, and Brenda Schoepp who are departing the ExCom this year. Biographies of the current and new members standing for the ExCom can be found at the end of this report. I would also like to thank everyone for being a part of the CIC and CIC Victoria. We are looking forward to another exciting period of events, meeting and working with students and interacting with new Canadians. I also encourage everyone to bring a guest (or two) to our events when space permits and get them involved with CIC Victoria as well. The more the merrier as the saying goes. Indeed, there's nothing better than sitting down to hear from speakers first-hand, and then having the chance to discuss the issues of the day with your table mates.

In addition, if you are interested in joining the ExCom in the future or would like to get involved in other ways, please let us know. We are always interested in hearing from members with expertise in international affairs who are willing to speak at our events, participate in panel events, or work individually with our student members. We also value your feedback, and questions about our activities and upcoming events can be sent to our branch secretary at this address: cic.victoria.sec@gmail.com

Photo: In January 2024, CIC Victoria members gathered at the Union Club to hear from Richard (Dick) Fadden. At our lunch event, Dick focused on the intricate web of foreign, defence, and security issues that are continuing to shape Canada's position on the world stage. It was a full house at the Union Club with 200 members and guests in attendance.

Annex A – CIC Victoria Events and Event Overview 2023-2024

Notes:

The 2023-2024 event program was built around holding 8 lunch events (January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November) and 10 Politics-in-the Pub events (January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November and December). The aim was to hold lunches on the third Wednesday of each month and Politics-in-the-Pub events on the first Tuesday of each month. However, this scheduling plan was not always possible, mainly due to speaker availability so events were sometimes held on different days. In addition, we added events as opportunities arose.

In the table below there are several abbreviations: SW PiP – Sticky Wicket Pub Politics-in-the-Pub; UC lunch – Union Club lunch; Tapestry – Tapestry at Victoria Harbour event location; UVic CFGS – University of Victoria Centre for Global Studies; UVic CAPI – University of Victoria Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, RRU – Royal Roads University.

Date	Location & Speaker	Topic	Attendance
5 Sep	SW PiP – Dr. Jeff Kucharski	European energy security amid a world in crisis	60
20 Sep	UC lunch – Ambassador Jeremy Kinsman	Will Russia ever be a normal country?	156
28 Sep	UVic CFGS – Judy Jackson	Central America: The Migrant Crisis – Where can we live in peace?	80
3 Oct	SW PiP – Dr. Adebisi Alade	Growing Democracy in Africa: Cash Politics and the 2023 Cashless Elections in Nigeria	60
12 Oct	UC lunch – Dr. Paul Meyer	Reforming Global Affairs Canada	72
19 Oct	UC lunch – UK Consul General Tom Codrington	The United Kingdom and Canada – Strengthening our strategic ties	122
7 Nov	SW PiP – Hugh Stephens	In Defence of Copyright	60
27 Nov	SW PiP – Dr. Kim Nossal	Canada Alone: Navigating the Post-American World	90
28 Nov	UC lunch – Dr. Kim Nossal	Canada Alone: Navigating the Post-American World	136
5 Dec	SW PiP – Dr. Reeta Tremblay	Canada-India relations: Why have they gone so suddenly wrong?	60
9 Jan	SW PiP (1) – David Pike	Navigating Disruption - The New Dynamics of Energy	90
22 Jan	SW PiP (2) – David Pike	Navigating Disruption - The New Dynamics of Energy	60
26 Jan	UC lunch – Dick Fadden	Ensuring Canada's National Security – Why 'Business as Usual' Isn't Good Enough	200

6 Feb	SW PiP – Ambassador Nick Coghlan	A Nation at War…What is Happening in Sudan?	60
28 Feb	UC lunch – Dr. Pedro Márquez	Canada-Mexico Relations, Challenges and Opportunities for 2024	155
5 Mar	SW PiP – Dr. Phil Calvert	Supervising a Peace that Never Was: Vietnam and the ICC	60
8 Mar	Tapestry – Karen Christie	Six Continents over Five Decades: An Intrepid Woman's Memoir	75
21 Mar	UC lunch – Haroon Siddiqui	My Name is not Harry	106
22 Mar	UVic CFGS – Haroon Siddiqui	My Name is not Harry	50
4 Apr	Zoom – Dr. Nguyen Khac Giang	Researching ASEAN (Indo-Pacific) Themes	10
10 Apr	UC lunch – Japanese Ambassador Kanji Yamanouchi	Canada-Japan Relations in a Changing Indo-Pacific Region	105
15 Apr	UC lunch – George Takach	Cold War 2.0 AI in the New Battle between China, Russia, and America	90
15 Apr	SW PiP – George Takach	Cold War 2.0 AI in the New Battle between China, Russia, and America	60
25 Apr	UVic CAPI – Conference	Human Security in South-east Asia	50
13 May	RRU MGM – Dr. Jim Boutilier	Canada and the Indo-Pacific	80
21 May	SW PiP – Dr. Sai Soe and Wae Win Khaing	Decoding Myanmar: Legacy, Conflict, and the Road to Reform	60
29 May	UC lunch – Dr. Jim Boutilier	Canada's Defence Policy Update…too little, too late?	96
11 Jun	SW PiP – Dr. Chris Kilford	Decoding Türkiye: Inside, Outside and the War in Ukraine	105

Annex B – CIC Victoria Proposed Executive Committee 2024-2025

President: Chris Kilford

Chris is a member of the national board of the Canadian International Council (CIC) and the Vice-Chair CIC Branches & Membership, the volunteer co-editor of CIC's online foreign policy magazine Open Canada, and president of the CIC Victoria branch. He holds a PhD in history (2009) from Queen's University with a focus on civil-military relations in the developing world. His dissertation was published in 2010 by the Canadian Defence Academy Press under the title, *The Other Cold War – Canadian Military Assistance to the Developing World 1945-1975*.

In addition, Chris is a Fellow with the Queen's Centre for International and Defence Policy, a sessional professor with the Canadian Forces College teaching courses focused on Canadian foreign and defence policy.

Chris enjoyed a 36-year career in the Canadian Armed Forces and is a graduate of the Advanced Military Studies Course and the year-long National Security Program (equivalency granted). He commanded 4th Air Defence Regiment from 1999-2001, followed by positions including Acting Director Future Security Analysis and Military Liaison Officer to the Senate Committee on National Security and Defence.

From July 2009 until July 2010, he deployed to Canada's Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan as the Deputy Military Attaché (Lieutenant Colonel). On his return to Canada, he commenced Turkish language training before heading to Canada's Embassy in Ankara, Türkiye as the Canadian Defence Attaché (Acting Colonel) with cross accreditation to Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkmenistan from July 2011 until July 2014. Chris retired from the CAF in September 2014.

Since retiring from the military, Chris has become a recognized expert on Canadian and Middle Eastern political issues. His book chapters, articles and opinion pieces on Canadian defence and foreign policy, and Turkish and Middle Eastern matters, have appeared in numerous Canadian and international publications. He has also conducted numerous television, podcast and radio interviews covering similar subjects.

Vice President: Marilyn MacLean Denton

Marilyn MacLean Denton retired in Victoria after 27 years working for the federal government. Among her assignments with Global Affairs Canada were five years as Trade Commissioner for Vancouver Island, Senior Trade Commissioner for Pakistan and Afghanistan, and International Education Marketing officer Asia Pacific branch. She also worked in the private sector on various contracts and was one of two founding staff for the Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States of America, the Fulbright Scholarship Program. In retirement, she is active with St. Matthias Anglican Church, is the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria Associates newsletter editor, and on the Board of Directors for Rogers Court (a 24-unit low-income seniors' housing). She is an avid gardener and plays music with a recorder group.

Branch Secretary: Jennifer Button

Jennifer is an independent justice and governance consultant, following a 28-year career as legal counsel with the British Columbia Ministry of Justice. During her tenure at the Ministry of Justice, Jennifer provided legal and policy advice particularly on constitutional law, but also environmental law, gender issues, human rights law, judicial independence, rule of law, and intellectual property. She has also volunteered with the Canadian Bar Association (chiefly, the International Law section), the American Bar Association-UNDP International Legal Resource Center (ILRC) in Washington, and Lawyers Rights Watch Canada, among other organizations. Her international work includes working as a Visiting Professional with the International Criminal Court in The Hague, providing advice as a gender expert to UNDP Belarus, conducting training on principles of constitutional law for the judges and senior staff of the Supreme Court of Somaliland, and writing reports for the Commonwealth Secretariat and Canada's Department of National Defence.

Branch Treasurer: Roger Love

Roger was a career banker, most recently in Asian risk management; following retirement he worked for the financial institutions' regulator, OSFI, and – in Victoria – for the Provincial Ministry of Finance. Roger is now definitely retired, but active with the outdoor hobbies for which he now has time.

Branch Membership: Paula Skippon (New)

Paula was a Canadian federal public servant for 32 years, working at senior executive levels in both central agencies and line departments. Six years were also spent on international exchange with the Department of Defence in Canberra, Australia. Since retiring to Victoria in 2002, Paula has been engaged in a variety of volunteer activities, including liaison between the RUSI Board of Directors and the University of Victoria on the Military Oral History program, and serving as Chair of the Board of Governors of the Corps of Commissionaires. Paula was also the CIC Victoria branch secretary from 2013-2022.

Members at Large

Jim Boutilier

Dr. James Boutilier was the former Special Advisor (Policy) at Canada's Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters in Esquimalt, British Columbia and retired in 2020. He was responsible for advising the Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific on matters of defence and foreign policy and maritime security in the Asia Pacific region. Prior to his appointment at MARPAC, Dr. Boutilier spent twenty-four years on staff at the Royal Roads Military College in Victoria as Head of the History Department and then as Dean of Arts. Dr. Boutilier's field of expertise is Asia-Pacific defence and security. Some of his recent lectures have focused on the Canadian Navy's role in the Asia-Pacific, the new Asian security architecture, Northeast Asian security issues, and the new naval order in Asia. Dr. Boutilier lectures frequently at the NATO Defense College, the Canadian Forces College, the Australian Defence College, and the National Defense University of the Philippines.

Alan Breakspear

Alan was a federal public servant for 30 years, working in various departments and agencies, mainly in intelligence, and provided consulting services for several years thereafter. He moved to Victoria in 2007, where he maintains an interest in intelligence studies and is active in several professional associations.

Phil Calvert

Philip is a Senior Fellow with the China Institute of the University of Alberta, a Senior Research Associate with the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives at the University of Victoria, and an Honorary Research Associate at Vancouver Island University. He served in Beijing as a Trade Commissioner (1984-87), Economic Counsellor (1994-1997) and Minister & Deputy Head of Mission (2004-2008). In Global Affairs Canada he served as Director General for North Asia, Deputy Chief Negotiator for Canada during China's accession to the WTO and as Director of the Technical Barriers to Trade Division. Most recently he spent 2012-2016 as Canada's ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos.

Hon. Mary Collins, PC

Mary has worked in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. She was the Member of Parliament for Capilano-Howe Sound from 1984-93 and served as Associate Minister of National Defence, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and Minister of Health. She has been involved in projects to support women in political life in Vietnam, Ukraine and Mongolia and spent five years living in Russia working on health policy.

Gina Connor (New)

Gina Connor was a member of the Canadian Armed Forces for over 36 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University, a Common Law degree from the University of New Brunswick and a Masters of Law in Information Technology and Telecommunications from the University of Strathclyde. She originally enrolled in the Regular Force as a Supply Technician in July of 1985. In November of 2003, she became a Legal Officer with the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

During her career, she was deployed on several missions abroad. From June to December of 1995, she deployed on Operation Sharp Guard onboard NCSM Ville de Quebec in the Adriatic Sea off the coast of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. She was also the Legal Advisor to the Commander of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team during Operation Athena from February to August of 2007 in Kandahar, Afghanistan; Legal Advisor to a Special Assistance Visit in 2009 during Operation Athena in Kandahar, Afghanistan and was the Task Force Legal Advisor from June 2013 to March of 2014 for Operation Attention and a member of the team closing the Canadian Armed Forces mission in Kabul, Afghanistan. She was awarded the Chief of Defence Staff commendation and the Commander of Canadian Joint Operations Command commendation for her 2007 and 2013-14 deployments respectively.

Gina has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario and instructs and lectures on a variety of subjects including Intelligence, Laws of Armed Conflict, Protection

of Vulnerable Populations, Youth at Risk, Human Security, Conflict Related Sexual Violence, Women, Peace and Security and Child Soldiers. She also completed the Veteran Trainer to Eradicate the Use of Child Soldiers program (VTECS) with the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative in 2018.

Her passion has been and continues to be the protection of fundamental human rights and capacity building in relation to the rule of law. She is currently the Senior Legal and Policy Consultant for North Star International Consultants and is also teaching International Humanitarian Law at the University of Victoria Law School.

Heather Currie

Heather has been a member of the Canadian International Council (CIC) since 2018 and has volunteered for several CIC projects, the most recent supporting the Foreign Policy By Canadians effort. She has twenty-four years of experience in the non-profit, public, and private sectors and in 2019, earned a BA (history) with Distinction from the University of Victoria with a focus on the Middle East. Her most recent publication appeared in Afkar: The Undergraduate Journal of Middle East Studies (2020) which focused on the Partition of Palestine in 1947-1948. While completing her BA, and with the support of the Royal United Services Institute – Vancouver Island, Heather also conducted an oral history project, which involved interviewing former members of the Canadian Armed Forces about their roles as former military attachés in various countries. Heather is also enrolled in the MA War Studies program at the Royal Military College and is the Research Program Manager for *Borders in Globalization* at the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria.

Ross Fetterly (New)

Ross Fetterly retired in 2017 from the Canadian Forces after a 34-year career as the Royal Canadian Air Force's director of air comptrollership and business management. He previously served as the military personnel command comptroller, and in other senior positions with the Department of National Defence Assistant Deputy Minister (Finance). Prior to the pandemic, he developed and taught a defence resource management course and a business planning course internationally for the Department of National Defence internationally for senior military officers and defence executives in developing countries. An adjunct teaching professor at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) department of management and economics, he teaches courses in finance, defence decision-making, defence resource management, and government procurement at RMC in the Master of Public Administration program and undergraduate business program. His PhD fields of study included defence economics, defence policy and defence cost analysis.

Emily Goodman (New)

Emily is a student at the University of Victoria majoring in Political Science with a minor in Applied Ethics. During her time at UVic she has been actively involved in the school community working at the First Peoples House, collaborating with other students to initiate the re-commencement of the Model United Nations Club, and serving as the Secretary-General during the February 2024 VicMUN conference.

Francesca Guetchev

Francesca Guetchev is a dedicated Analyst and Special Projects security professional at MOSAIC, a leading firm in the private security, intelligence, and investigative risk and crisis management industry. With a keen interest in international security and geopolitics, Francesca is passionate and deeply committed to fostering meaningful dialogue to advance both Canadian foreign policy and international affairs. Holding a MA in Conflict Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science, Francesca specialized in the privatization of security and international law, with an emphasis on physical and cyber battle spaces, as well as the evolving nature of conflict. Prior to this, she completed her BA in political science at the University of Victoria. Before transitioning into the private sector, Francesca cultivated valuable experience in the public sector while working for National Defence Canada, Executive Operations for various Deputy Ministers, and a Cabinet Minister. Her diverse career also includes positions in oil and gas and aviation. In addition to her professional endeavors, Francesca devotes her time to a non-profit organization focused on combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery, demonstrating her commitment to making a positive impact in the world.

Jonathan Manthorpe

Jonathan Manthorpe has worked for 40 years as a foreign correspondent and international affairs commentator for Canadian newspapers. He has been based in Europe, Africa and Asia and is the author of *Forbidden Nation: A History of Taiwan* (2008), *Claws of the Panda* (2018) and *Restoring Democracy in an Age of Populists and Pestilence* (2020). Jonathan has also been involved in special projects for governments and international organizations, including work for the United Nations, the World Bank, the Asia Development Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, and various NGOs. He is currently working on his memoirs and a fourth book.

Tan Trung Nguyen Quoc (New)

Trung has a PhD in Public International Law. He is an expert in Vietnamese human rights and security legal frameworks while also focusing on several elements of international law, including interventions and sanctions. Trung has worked and researched at the University of Victoria, the Hague Academy of International Law, and others.

Paul Seguna

Lieutenant Commander (Retired) Seguna served in the Canadian Armed Forces, in both the Regular and Reserve components, for over 42 years and retired in 2017. During his career, he served at sea with the Atlantic and Pacific fleets, as the Flag Lieutenant (Aide de Camp) to the Commander Maritime Forces Pacific and later as the Public Affairs Officer for Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt. Paul transferred to the Public Affairs Branch in 1992, serving in a variety of positions, including overseas with UN and NATO missions in Rwanda, Kosovo and Bosnia and in his last four years of service he was posted to NATO's Allied Maritime Command Headquarters in London, UK. Paul also holds a BA in history from Dalhousie University and he has had a lifelong interest in art, especially aviation and marine themes. He is a

founding member of the Canadian Aerospace Artists Association with his artwork having been on exhibit in aviation and military museums and used in aviation history books.

Reeta Tremblay

Reeta Tremblay is Professor Emerita of Comparative Politics and Global South at the University of Victoria. During her career, she has held several administrative positions including Vice President Academic and Provost at the University of Victoria; Vice President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Pro Tem) at Memorial University in Newfoundland; Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Memorial; and, Chair, department of Political Science at Concordia University, Montreal. She is Past President of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA), Canadian Asian Studies (CASA), and the Canadian Council of Area Studies of Learned Societies. Reeta also holds an MA and PhD. in Political Science from the University of Chicago and an MPhil degree from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. She has authored or co-authored several books, articles, and reviews. Her work is widely reviewed and cited – in particular, her writings on Kashmir and India-Pakistan relations, a subject on which she is widely considered the leading North American expert.

Reeta's selected recent publications include: "Unpacking the Equity Myth: Diversity and Leadership Deficit" (2023); "The Political Economy of Natural Resource Funds" (2021 with Eyene Okpanachi); "Religion and Politics in Jammu and Kashmir" (2020) "India: Federalism, Nationalism, and the Marginalized – Covid India" (2020); "Kashmir Elections: A Precursor to 'No More Two Flags, Two Constitutions" (2019); "Modi's Foreign Policy"; "Contested Governance, Competing Nationalisms, and Disenchanted Publics: Kashmir beyond Intractability?" (2017); "Kashmir's Contentious Politics: The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same" (2015). She also has contributed policy commentaries on Kashmir and South Asian regional politics to South Asia Monitor (New Delhi-based think tank, Society for Policy Studies) and to Kashmir Connected (UK). In 2015, she was recognized as one of the top 40 prominent Indo-Canadians and was profiled in The Indian Diaspora' A-List.

Anna Tsurkan (New)

Currently a project manager at a local Instructional Design and eLearning Development company, Anna Tsurkan has always had several streams in her career: research and analysis, public service and election administration as well as full-cycle recruitment and teaching. She grew up in Russia, where she obtained all her degrees, including a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Institute of the U.S.A. and Canada of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Here in Canada, as an independent scholar, Anna occasionally writes and gives presentations on a broad range of security and political topics mostly connected with Canada-Russia relations.

Chris Weicker

Colonel (retired) Chris Weicker is a native of Victoria, British Columbia. He attended the University of Victoria where he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science in 1982. At the same time, he was an officer in the local Communication Reserve unit and a father of two children. In 1983, he transferred to the Regular Force, serving in Army and communication units in Canada and Germany.

His last posting was as Canada's Defence Attaché in Beijing, China. He has a combined military service of more than 36 years.

On retirement in 2013, he and his wife, Major (retired) Evamarie Weicker, completed a Bachelor of Arts in Pacific and Asian Studies with a focus on Chinese language, history, geography and culture at the University of Victoria. He continued to study Chinese history by completing a Master of History at the University of Victoria. His thesis was on the secret history of young Chinese Canadians who volunteered for very dangerous duties behind enemy lines during the last few years of the Second World War. In April 2023, he completed a two-year German language and culture proficiency certificate.

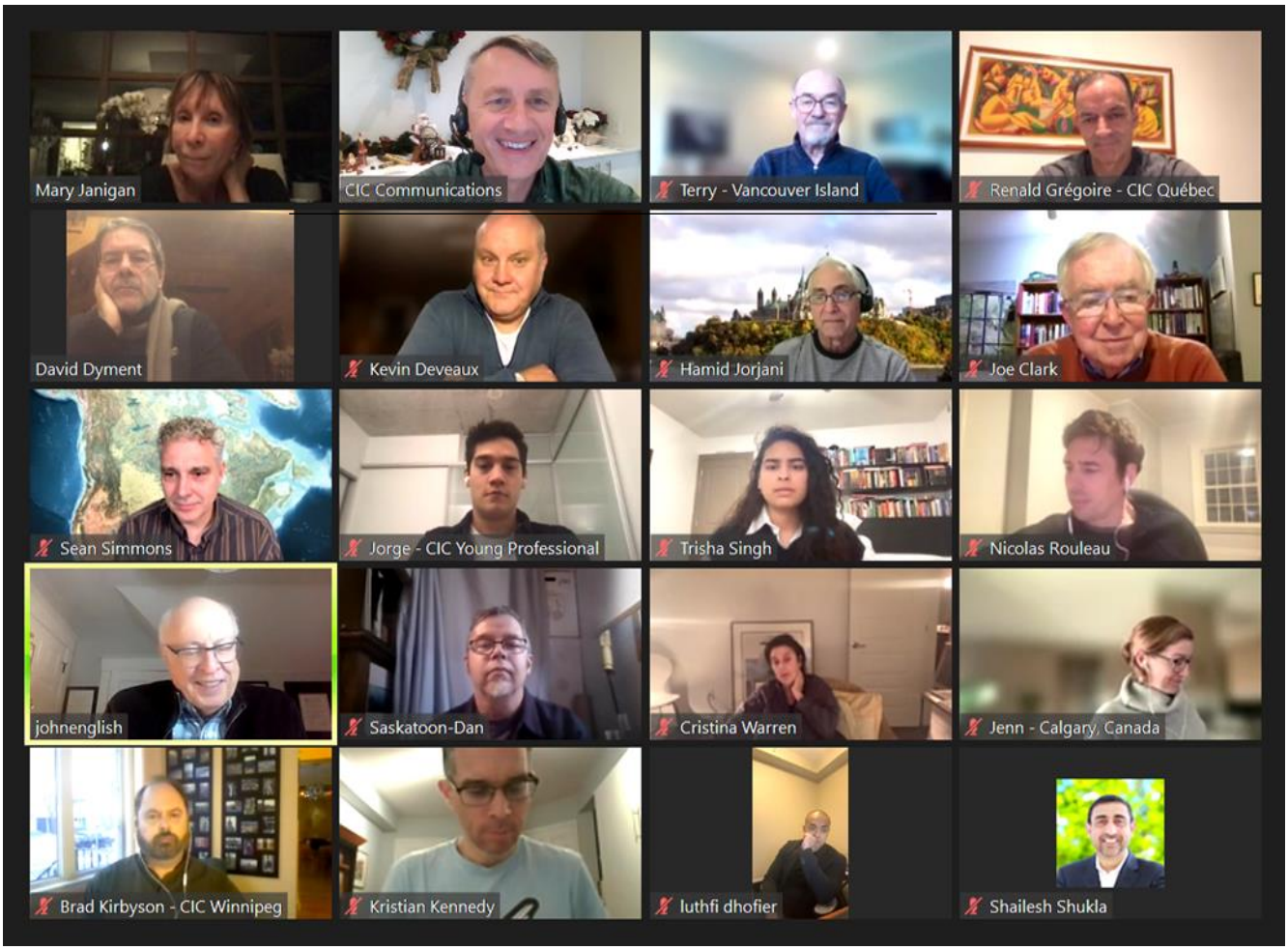


Photo: CIC National Board members and CIC branch presidents from across Canada, check-in with national co-Chairs John English and Nicolas Rouleau in early December. Also on the Zoom call, the new Chair of the CIC National Advisory Committee, former Prime Minister the Rt. Hon Joe Clark.