



2026 Annual Report

Covering the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026



CIC Victoria 2026 Annual Report

covering the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

Table of Contents

Message from the Branch President	Page 3
CIC National News	Page 4
CIC Victoria – Looking Back	Page 5
Our Century Circle Members and Donors	Page 6
Student Engagement	Page 7
Branch Social Media	Page 9
Finances	Page 9
Closing Remarks	Page 11

Annexes

Annex A – CIC Victoria Events Overview CIC Fiscal Year 2025-2026	Page 12
Annex B – CIC Victoria Proposed Executive Committee CIC Fiscal Year 2026-2027	Page 14

List of Tables

Table 1 – Planned CIC Victoria Student Focused Expenditures from 30 June 2026 to 1 July 2027	Page 8
Table 2 – CIC Victoria Final Accounts for CIC Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and Planned Budget for CIC Fiscal Year 2026-2027	Page 10

Message from the Branch President

Dear CIC Victoria Branch members,

20 August 2026

With our Annual Branch Meeting (ABM) set for Tuesday, 8 September (on Zoom), I am delighted to provide you with our Annual Report covering the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

I'm also pleased to say that during this period, your branch conducted or co-hosted 30 events featuring terrific speakers from across Canada and closer to home. None of this would have been possible without the efforts of the Executive Committee (ExCom), and the support of folks at each venue such as the Union Club, the Sticky Wicket, the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University.

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, national conferences and events 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 21 CIC Victoria members who donated \$500 or more by joining the CIC's [Century Circle](#). The names of all our donors are listed on pages 6 and 7.

In closing, your ExCom is committed to bringing you the best possible speakers to Victoria on a wide range of important international issues that impact Canada directly or indirectly. We will also continue to build a more diverse and inclusive branch, while focusing on mentoring and developing young Canadians, especially students, to ready them for whatever the future has in store.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Kilford', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right and a vertical line dropping down from the end of the signature.

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

CIC National News



Photo: CIC Couchiching West. On 10 April, Victoria hosted the national CIC Couchiching West conference at the University of Victoria. Panel 1, *Canada's Influence Capital: Mobilizing Canada for Leadership Abroad* included (left to right): Lauren Dobell, Shelly D'Mello, CIC national Executive Director Melanie Walker, Jonathan Manthorpe, Cynthia Milton and Mike St. Louis. Photo courtesy of: Mike St. Louis.

At the national level, CIC continues to be led by our National Co-chairs, John English & Nicolas Rouleau along with our national Executive Director, Melanie Walker. The co-chairs focused a great deal of their efforts on fundraising to support our overall mission, which is to provide a platform for all Canadians to engage in global affairs and help shape Canada's place in the world. Next year will be our 99th anniversary and Melanie will be focused on fundraising so we can expand our branch network, research

efforts and other activities – all with an eye to our 100th anniversary in 2028. In addition, we have our CIC Advisory Council, led by the Rt. Hon Joe Clark, which is there to provide advice and also assist the CIC with fundraising.

As many of you know, CIC's former Chair, the Honourable Bill Graham, passed away in August 2022. To honour his legacy, a third CIC fundraising dinner was held in Toronto on 12 March 2026. The special guest and speaker was Professor Geoffrey Hinton, one of the world's most influential voices in artificial intelligence. His remarks explored the rapidly shifting technological landscape and its implications for international security, governance and society. You can hear what he had to say by clicking here: [Geoffrey Hinton](#).

Today, and across the country, there are 20 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 our executive director, a full-time operations & events officer, interns 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 175 in-person and virtual events between July 2025 and June 2026. In addition, plans are underway to have a new CIC branch in Peterborough this fall.

As far as our national membership numbers, we have just over 1,850 members across the country. Our national membership program (Member365) is also 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. There's a French side of [Open Canada](#) as well.

CIC Victoria – Looking Back

Locally, and as mentioned, we were very busy in 2025-2026, holding or co-hosting 30 events, including, the day-long [CIC Couchiching West foreign policy conference](#) at the University of Victoria, nine Union Club lunches, 11 Politics in the Pub evenings at the Sticky Wicket and more. Further information about all of these events is captured in Annex A. In addition, to streamline our event registration process we moved away from e-transfers to registration via Member365, our national membership and events program. We are still getting used to using Member365 but it has made the administration of events unquestionably easier for our admin team.

Our branch membership also grew from 582 members this time last year to 720 members today, including 85 student and 14 young professional members. Our branch is also 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 activities.

For our in-person events, speakers continued to receive modest honourariums in recognition of their time and effort. 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 often costs us between \$750-\$2,500 and we could not do this without your support.

In September 2025, the winner of our \$2,000 Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) diversity scholarship was Peyton Yip, originally from Jiangxi Province, China. Peyton co-founded the BIPOC Awareness Club at Esquimalt High School to deter racism, combat discrimination, amplify minority voices, and highlight the diverse student body. As well, she collaboratively planned and hosted the School District 61 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Forum which invited minority students across School District 61 to come together to discuss what the district can do better. Peyton's intent is to attend the University of Victoria and study marine biology.

Also, last fall, the University of Victoria (UVic) Political Science Department awarded our \$2,000 CIC Victoria scholarship to an academically outstanding undergraduate student. The winner was Grace Muir. Grace is entering her final year of an honour's political science degree at the UVic, specializing in international politics with a minor in history. Grace has also been actively involved on campus throughout her time at UVic and currently serves as President of the UVic Undergraduates of Political Science (UPS) Course Union and Vice-President of the UVic Young NATO club, and has held several roles on the UVic Model United Nations (MUN) Club executive board.

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 2026-2027 Century Circle campaign will launch later this year.

Our 2025-2026 Century Circle members were...

John Anderson	Anna Biolik	Ian Clark	Marjorie Clark
Margaret Cornish	Sara Hradecky	Brian Keir	Alison Kilford
Chris Kilford	Jeremy Kinsman	Marc Lortie	Patricia Lortie
Don Macnamara	David Malone	Paulette Marsollier	Anne McKee
David Moore	Denis Prager	Alan Siaroff	Jenny Speir

And thank you to our many other donors in 2025-2026...

Ikhlass Bedoui	Terri Loucks	Wyatt Rowland
Susan Boyer	Eric Lovett	Keith Schaefer
Karin Buss	Athena Madan	Paula Skippon
Edward John Camilleri	Pat Mayhill	Margaret Smith
Maureen Coates	Barb Meredith	Peter Sosnkowski
Diana Dewar	Nigel Myers	Elizabeth Stevenson
Bonnie de Moissac	Carol Navickas	David Stinson
Caroline Ehmann	Peter Nesbitt	Valerie Stirling
Russell Getz	Catherine Osler	Ronald Taylor
Elizabeth Goldsworthy	Geoffrey Owen	Cameron Turner
Jinny Hambly	Wayne Phillips	Virginia Watson Rouslin
Krishnapriya Jayasree	Catherine Preston	Cidnee Wind
Catherine Lang	Murray Ramsbottom	Kathleen Anne Wood
Kathleen Leonard	Marsha Ross	Beth Young
Norman Leslie	Mary Rose Ruggles	

CIC Victoria has also continued working 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 often in conjunction with the CIC. For more information, please visit their websites here: [CFGS](#) and here [CAPI](#).

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 2025-2026 we supported Vancouver Island University's (VIU) Model United Nations (UN) conference last November and UVic's Model UN conference in March 2026. As previously mentioned, our \$2,000 student scholarship with the ICA was awarded to Peyton Lip this year and Grace Muir was the recipient of our \$2,000 UVic scholarship. With regards to the ICA scholarship, we were advised that this year, due to funding cutbacks at the ICA, that the various scholarship programs they have administered in the past, has come to an end, which includes our scholarship. As a result, the funding associated with this scholarship has been redistributed across our other student programs.

Table 1, on the next page, outlines all of our planned expenditures in support of student focused activities for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

**Table 1 – Planned CIC Victoria Student Focused Expenditures
from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027**

Activity	Amount	Remarks
UVic Model UN Club Annual Conference	\$2,500	A one-day conference attracting, on average, 100 students who represent various UN member countries while debating key international peace and security topics. Our donation goes to the general conference operating fund to pay for meals, supplies, delegate recognition and the conference website. Left over funds will be used to help pay for delegate fees for select students attending national Model UN conferences.
VIU Model UN Club Annual Conference	\$1,500	A one-day conference attracting, on average, 75 students. Our donation goes to the general conference operating fund to pay for meals, supplies and delegate recognition.
Victoria International High Schools Model UN Conference	\$1,000	Victoria International High Schools Model United Nations (VIHSMUN) is a new event hosted by the VIHSMUN Society. The three-day conference will bring together high-school delegates to focus on international peace and security topics.
UVic Political Science Scholarship	\$2,000	In partnership with the Political Science Department, for academic year 2027-2028 we will 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.
100 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, executive members of UVic foreign policy focused clubs are sponsored by CIC Victoria for the duration of their time on the respective executive team, which may be more than one year.
10 Young Professional Memberships at \$50 each	\$500	To encourage young professionals (YP), especially from the Indigenous, Black and People of Colour community (IBPOC), to join CIC Victoria, we offer 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 / meeting support and attendance	\$7,500	This amount allows us to support other student led conferences, or CIC on-campus speaker events, including, but not limited to: • The UVic Young NATO club • The UVic Conference of Defence Associations student ambassador • Royal Roads University (RRU) student focused events • UVic student career nights and mentoring programs • Student attendance at local conferences/events such as the annual UVic/RRU/Senate of Canada Victoria Forum • CIC on-campus speaker events
Total	\$17,000	

Branch social media

When it comes to social media, we rely on [Facebook](#) to promote and report on our events and we now have well over 700 followers. 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 that 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 to not only 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 further afield, 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 \$2,500 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. As you will suspect, we are constantly evaluating if we need to increase event ticket prices and please do not be too surprised if we have to raise prices. When we do, and as a member benefit, we will use membership monies to subsidize event tickets as much as possible. In addition, we also subsidize student ticket prices for our events, charging a much lower price to encourage their participation. It's also worth noting that national CIC membership dues have not increased since 2010 but we are expecting the national office to increase membership dues on 1 January 2027 to account for the rising costs of doing just about everything.

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 CIC Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Last year, we planned for a \$6,500 deficit, in-part to prudently increase our spending on student-focused activities and reduce our bank balance, which is considerable compared to other branches. However, we actually ended up with a surplus, due to increased membership dues and donations. As a result, we are expanding our student focused programming even further this year.

Finally, everything we do financially is strictly overseen by the CIC national office and NVSconnect accounting.

**Table 2 – CIC Victoria Final Accounts for CIC Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and
Planned Budget for CIC Fiscal Year 2026-2027**

CIC Victoria	2025-2026 Planned	2025-2026 Final	2026-2027 Planned
INCOME			
Membership Fees	\$18,000	\$23,162	\$25,000
Donations by Members	\$6,500	\$7,600	\$7,000
Luncheon Meeting Revenue	\$45,500	\$60,130*	\$51,500*
Politics-in-the-Pub Revenue	\$22,500	\$26,429*	\$29,000*
Other event revenue	\$0	\$180	\$0
National Speaker Program contribution	\$1,500	\$0	\$0
GIC Investment Income (\$25K at RBC)	\$1,000	\$1,148	\$1,000
Total Income	\$95,000	\$118,649	\$113,500
EXPENSES			
Luncheon meetings operating costs	\$49,000	\$65,016*	\$56,500*
Politics-in-the-Pub operating Costs	\$24,300	\$29,992*	\$31,500*
Student & YP Expenses (see Table 1)	\$12,750	\$10,780	\$17,000
Speakers Travel/Lodging Expenses	\$10,000	\$5,720	\$10,000
Speaker recognition / honorariums	\$2,000	\$1,161	\$1,500
Other event operating costs	\$1,500	\$3,892**	\$1,500
Executive committee support / travel	\$500	\$0	\$250
Administrative Expenses	\$300	\$172	\$500
Bank Charges	\$150	\$144	\$150
Members Name Badges	\$1,000	\$881	\$0***
Total Expenses	\$101,500	\$117,757	\$118,900
Net Surplus or Deficit	-\$6,500	+\$892	-\$5,400
Bank balance: Fiscal Year end	\$38,013	\$45,963	\$40,563
Notes: * We subsidize ticket prices as a membership benefit, especially for students ** This was mostly in support of the UVic/CIC Couchiching West foreign policy conference *** Members now order and pay for their name tags directly with Coastal Productions The fiscal year 2026-2027 budget is an estimate of revenue and expenses that may require year-in adjustments, which are overseen by the ExCom. Lunch and PiP cost estimates include a 2.2% credit card handling fee and a .20 cent/ticket charge.			

Closing remarks...

As your branch president, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Branch ExCom for their hard work over the past year. As you can appreciate, running a branch of our size is no easy feat and a great deal of administration takes place behind the scenes. My great thanks also to Alan Breakspear, Jennifer Button, Mary Collins, Kaya Dupuis, Emily Goodman, Francesca Guetchev and Anna Tsurkan who are departing the ExCom this year.

Looking to the future, biographies of the members standing for the 2026-2027 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 family. We are looking forward to another exciting run of events and more!

If you are interested in joining the ExCom in the future, or would like to get involved in other ways, please let us know. In addition, we are always interested in hearing from our members with expertise in international affairs who are willing to speak at our events or participate in panel events.

We also value your feedback, and questions about our activities and upcoming events can be sent to our branch secretary at victoria@thecic.org or to me directly at: president.victoria@thecic.org



Photo: The University of Victoria 2026 Model United Nations conference leadership team.

Annex A – CIC Victoria Event Overview CIC Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The CIC Fiscal Year 2025-2026 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. Indeed, we ended-up holding 9 lunch events (adding one in June), and 11 Politics in the Pub events, in addition to Zoom and other in-person events at several locations.

In the table below there are several abbreviations: SW PiP – Sticky Wicket Pub Politics in the Pub; UC lunch – Union Club lunch; ICA – Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria; Chartwell – Chartwell Senior Residence; VIU – Vancouver Island University; and RRU – Royal Roads University.

Date	Location & Speaker(s)	Topic	#
27 Aug	UVic Victoria Forum Panel – Alan Siaroff, Reeta Tremblay and Jonathan Manthorpe	Is the global tide turning away from liberal democracy?	100
2 Sep	SW PiP – Reeta Tremblay	Canada-India relations	100
17 Sep	UC lunch – Wenran Jiang (Edmonton)	Canada-China relations	156
8 Oct	SW PiP – Robert Baines (Toronto)	Canada-NATO relations	110
10 Oct	ICA – Gary Smith (documentary) (Toronto)	Shining Light: A Vietnamese Canadian Legacy	60
22 Oct	UC lunch – Marc Lortie	France – the nation drifts into turmoil	151
4 Nov	SW PiP – John Pyric	The hunt for critical minerals	110
5 Nov	RRU – Pedro Marquez	Canada and Mexico trade	80
13 Nov	Chartwell – Chris Kilford	Navigating the geopolitical minefield	80
14 Nov	VIU Model UN – Alvaro Rodriguez	VIU Model UN conference	120
18 Nov	UVic student career night	Global career focus	75
25 Nov	Zoom – Erin Hunt	The Ottawa Landmines Treaty	30
28 Nov	UC lunch – Madelaine Drohan (Ottawa)	Benjamin Franklin's failure to annex Canada	175
9 Dec	SW PiP – Nick Coghlan	The Sudan civil-war	110
6 Jan	SW PiP – Chris Kilford	The US National Security Strategy	110
7 Jan	SW PiP – Chris Kilford	The US National Security Strategy	60
14 Jan	Zoom – Abbas Qaidari (Prince George)	The crisis in Iran	185
21 Jan	UC lunch – Mike St. Louis	Canada-US military relations	200
26 Jan	SW PiP – Chris Ragan (Montreal)	The state of Canada's economy	120
27 Jan	SW PiP – Chris Ragan (Montreal)	The state of Canada's economy	120
18 Feb	UC lunch – Jody Thomas	Canada's national security	200
3 Mar	SW PiP – Charlotte Char	Women and politics in Canada	110
28 Feb	UVic Model UN – Alvaro Rodriguez	UVic Model UN conference	80
18 Mar	UC lunch – Graeme Menzies (Vancouver)	Trading Fate	143
8 Apr	UC lunch – Richard Stursberg (Toronto)	Can Canada Survive?	153

Date	Location & Speaker(s)	Topic	#
10 Apr	CIC Couchiching West conference at UVic	Mobilizing Canada: Power, Partnerships, and the New Global Order	167
12 May	UC lunch – Hal Klepak (Montreal)	Canada-Cuba relations	112
12 May	SW PiP – Hal Klepak (Montreal)	Canada-Cuba relations	120
19 May	RRU – Chris Kilford	Navigating the geopolitical minefield	80
11 Jun	Chartwell – Chris Kilford	Canada and the Changing World Order	65
17 Jun	UC lunch – George Takach (Toronto)	Inspired By Taiwan	106
17 Jun	SW PiP – George Takach (Toronto)	Inspired By Taiwan	120



Photo (left to right): CIC student members, Ayesha Azeem, Kaya Dupuis, and Summer Smith with former Ambassador David Malone at a CIC event in November 2024. David, a great supporter of CIC Victoria, passed away in November 2025.

Annex B – CIC Victoria Proposed Executive Committee CIC Fiscal Year 2026-2027

President: Chris Kilford

Chris is a member of the CIC national board and the Vice-Chair CIC Branches & Membership, the former 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 and a sessional professor with the Canadian Forces College and Royal Roads University teaching Canadian foreign and defence policy and geopolitical courses.

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: Susan Thomas

Most recently, having completed two years as President of the Victoria Women's Newcomers' Club, Susan Thomas has worked with Victoria's Union Club to organize and oversee monthly luncheons and a host of other community activities. She has been a member of CIC Victoria since arriving in the city and is excited to be able to assist with CIC programs going forward.

With a Master's Degree in Community Development and Social Policy and a Master's Thesis on the United Nations Charter on the Rights of the Child, Susan worked for Health and Welfare Canada as a consultant for family violence issues, liaising with provincial governments, and emerging front-line services for victims of violence. As the CEO of the Canadian Council on Children and Youth, she led a team that organized the first national interdisciplinary conference on Child Sexual Abuse, created training teams for the national youth serving organizations, and worked with the National Film Board to create educational materials to inform Canadians about the changing dynamics of violence within families. Canada was a leader in social policy regarding family violence; Susan was privileged to present at international conferences in Germany and the United States about our initiatives.

Political action on critical issues has always been a focus that included time working on Parliament Hill, organizing conferences, serving on local boards where advocacy has been key. That focus translated well into a 20 plus year career in teaching English, History, Geography and Art. During that period, Susan was also a field instructor for the Drake University Department of Education in Des Moines, Iowa, so that she could bring evolving and innovative teaching back to her Ontario colleagues.

Branch Assistant Secretary: 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.

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: Ann Wilson

Ann Wilson retired after a 25-year career as legal counsel with the British Columbia Ministry of Attorney General. Ann advised the provincial government on Crown land and resource matters as well as transportation infrastructure development. Her expertise included diverse areas of law including real property, contracts, ski area and resort development, insurance, environmental, aboriginal, resource, park and administrative law and the law governing competitive public processes.

Since retiring, Ann has served on the board of several organizations as secretary, corporate secretary, membership director, vice-president and president. She has been instrumental in dealing with governance issues and writing new bylaws for those organizations.

Branch UVic Student Outreach: Debbie Bell

Debbie Bell, with a Master's Degree in Adult Education from the University of British Columbia and over 35 years of experience, has significantly impacted adult education and community development across North America. Her work, which focuses on strategies to support the social, political, and economic inclusion of marginalized communities – predominantly Indigenous, newcomer, and refugee women – has been particularly influential.

As the founding Director of Simon Fraser University's Community Education program, Debbie spearheaded the development of project-based educational programs that harnessed university resources to address real-world issues. Her leadership was instrumental in leading two Canadian International Development Agency funded initiatives in northern Mexico, which provided crucial support to low-income, low-literacy women.

This commitment continued during her tenure as the founding Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPO) Canada now called Mothers Matter Canada until her retirement in September 2023. The program, still operational in 40 communities nationwide, empowers low-income and socially isolated parents with the skills necessary to support their children's success both academically and in life.

Debbie has consistently demonstrated a remarkable ability to turn ideas into action, showcasing her success in designing and leading initiatives for social change. Her track record of bringing innovative ideas to fruition is a testament to her leadership and vision.

Members at Large

Delilah Best

Delilah Best is a fourth-year political science and global development studies student at UVic. Her interests lie in international relations and defence and security, primarily through the lens of North-South dynamics and gender roles in conflict. Her involvement at the University of Victoria focuses on

her role as President of Young NATO UVic, aiming to bring together students and community members to positively engage with topics surrounding defence, security, and NATO.

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.

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.

Corey Levine

Corey Levine is a human rights and peacebuilding policy expert, researcher and writer. She has spent more than 25 years working in conflict areas, including Afghanistan, Bosnia, East Timor, Iraq, Kosovo, Mali, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Ukraine. She has also worked with various non-governmental, bilateral and multilateral organizations, including various UN organizations (DPKO, UNHCR, UN Women, OHCHR), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, CIDA, the UK Stabilization Unit, and Amnesty International.

Corey also taught at the UN University for Peace in Costa Rica, the Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Centre in Ghana, and the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs in Ottawa. Her writing has been published in various academic journals and books as well as with a wide number of media outlets, including CBC Online, the Globe and Mail, The Hill Times, and the Ottawa Citizen. For the last four years she has been working as a volunteer to assist at-risk Afghans to leave and find safety in other countries.

Corey is the recent recipient of the King Charles III Coronation medal and the Wallenberg-Sugihara Civil Courage award for her work in assisting Afghans at-risk.

Brooklyn Giampaolo

Brooklyn Giampaolo is entering her fourth and final year of an Honours Political Science degree at the University of Victoria with a minor in Sociology. Her interests surround the international political economy and foreign policy, as reflected in her honours thesis. Currently, she is writing on the cobalt mining sector of the Democratic Republic of Congo and is excited to present her findings at UVic's Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) Research Fair.

Brooklyn is an active member of her student community who aims to foster a space for students to connect with professionals, gain experience, and engage in diplomatic conversations. In the past year, she served as an executive member of the UVic Model UN, Young NATO, and the UVic Mining Technologies clubs. Currently, she serves as the President of the UVic Model UN club and is eager to continue sharing her love for diplomacy.

Gilbert Imoesi

Gilbert Imoesi is a fourth-year Honours student at the University of Victoria, completing a double major in Economics and Political Science. In addition, he is the Founder and Convener of The Lyceum, a student-led forum for public debate and inquiry with an African centre of gravity. He also serves as the Undergraduate Representative on UVic's Board of Governors and previously worked in internal audit at Maritime Forces Pacific, where he received an Honorary Logistician Award and Challenge Coin.

Gilbert is a two-time recipient of UVic's Black Leadership Award (2025, 2026).

His research examines leapfrogging as a framework for economic development in sub-Saharan Africa, with a longer-term aim of returning to Nigeria to pursue a career in political and economic reform.

Charles Krusekopf

Charles Krusekopf is a professor in the School of Business and Program Head of the MBA program. He is an academic entrepreneur with a focus on developing new academic programs and opportunities across a range of fields and locations around the globe.

At RRU he helped develop and lead the MBA in Executive Management, the Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Economic Development, the Master of Global Management, the MA and MSc in Environment and Management, the Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Graduate Certificate and dual degree programs with the Management Center Innsbruck and the Munich University of Applied Science.

He is the founder of the American Center for Mongolian Studies and has written and managed more than \$6 million in grant projects from private foundations and government to support fellowships and academic programs such as the annual ACMS Mongolia Field School and research fellowships, Asian Studies development and training opportunities for Indigenous managers.

Grace Muir

Grace is entering her final year of an Honours Political Science degree at the University of Victoria, specializing in international politics with a minor in History. She is particularly interested in security and defence, and is currently writing her honours thesis on Chinese foreign policy.

Grace has been actively involved on campus throughout her time at UVic. She currently serves as President of the UVic Undergraduates of Political Science (UPS) Course Union and Vice-President of the UVic Young NATO club, and has held several roles on the UVic Model United Nations (MUN) Club executive board. Her interest in international policymaking led her to intern with the European Commission in Brussels, and she hopes to continue studying security and defense policy at the graduate level.

Mike St. Louis

Major General Michel-Henri St-Louis (retired) is a highly decorated senior infantry leader of the Royal 22e Régiment, recently retired to civilian life following a career that has shaped Canadian defence policy, international military cooperation, and coalition operations across multiple theatres. His final roles in uniform included serving as Director General for the Planning of the Defence of Canada, where he laid the foundation for future strategic force development and national defence readiness, and as Canadian Defence Attaché to the United States, representing Canada's military interests at the highest diplomatic and intergovernmental levels.

Previously, he held several of the Canadian Army's most consequential leadership positions, including Acting Commander of the Canadian Army and Commander of the Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre, responsible for all Army training, doctrine, and professional military education. Over more than three decades, he has distinguished himself at the tactical, operational, strategic, and geopolitical levels, contributing directly to Canada's military operations at home and abroad.

Mike has also deployed on six major overseas missions, with operational experience spanning Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. Domestically, he has led and supported numerous national operations. He has completed three tours in the United States, strengthening bilateral defence collaboration between Canada and its most important ally.

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* (2019), *Restoring Democracy in an Age of Populists and Pestilence* (2020) and *On Canadian Democracy* (2024). 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.

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.

Alana Taylor

Alana is a relative newcomer to the island, moving in 2020. Retiring a year later, she joined the Victoria Women's Newcomers Club, organizing various club activities along with leading its communications role. For the past year, she has also served as co-president which continues this coming season.

Alana has worked in communications for 35 years. First in broadcast journalism and then moving to corporate communications across a wide spectrum of organizations that included media, retail, financial services and manufacturing. A lifelong history buff and certified news junkie that helps feed her curiosity, she can be found in her spare time golfing, running or playing mahjong.

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's A-List.

Ian Weatherdon

Ian Weatherdon is a former Chief Financial Officer and Board Director with 35 years of domestic and international experience in the oil and gas sector, spanning Toronto, New York, Australia, and London-listed companies as well as a private-equity-backed venture.

His career includes leadership roles across Asia, South America, Europe, and the Middle East before returning to Canada in 2025. In particular, he was the Chief Financial Officer at Gulf Keystone Petroleum Ltd., Sino Gas & Energy Holdings Ltd and Equión Energía Ltd. His expertise includes governance, strategic planning, risk management, capital allocation, financial and regulatory reporting, and strategic finance. Ian has also been instrumental in navigating complex, international companies through geopolitical uncertainty, business transformation and major transactions.

Ian holds the Financial Times Non-Executive Director Diploma, is a Chartered Professional Accountant, and earned a Bachelor of Commerce from the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary. He currently serves as a director of the Uplands Neighbourhood Association.