

UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

OF

NANAIMO AND NORTH ISLAND

c/o Vancouver Island Military Museum
100 Cameron Road, Nanaimo, BC V9R 0C8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring to all USINNI Members. The finer weather is upon us with everyone scurrying around to get the required spring cleanup and outside garden work done. I do however hope that this month will be a little wetter, or else we may find ourselves in a not so desirable position later this summer.

I am pleased to announce that again this month we have an impressive key note speaker for our Luncheon. Dr.



Canadian
Armed Forces Day
June 2, 2019

James A. Boutilier, Special Advisor, Maritime Forces Pacific Head-

quarters, will present an information session on the Strategic situation with respect to China's ever growing dominance in the Pacific Ocean. A timely subject for sure.

In June we have planned a visit to 19 Wing Comox. The visit has been confirmed with only minor details remaining to be settled. We will be visiting all three Squadrons, Long Range Patrol, Search & Rescue

Continued on page 3...

MILITARY & SECURITY MUSINGS: CANADA'S ILLUSIONAL NATIONAL DEFENCE

NANAIMO, 19 April 2019... in our Confluence Series, which ran for ten months from March 2015 on into 2016, a fairly gloomy picture of our dimming prospects here in the 21st Century was painted for you. That gloominess hasn't been lifted in the interim. Power is shifting quite dramatically away from Europe and North America to new emerging quarters of the globe. A Western Olympus grew to its dominance over the course of just four centuries; its erosion is occurring much more quickly, with a chunk of it already in

our rearview mirror.

This is no time to be weak. The weak... morally, politically, militarily & economically ...will be the first to be gobbled up by the new global predators. The threats to our national security are very real. Those threats are growing by the day and the Government in Ottawa is seemingly sound asleep at the switch. Our tried and true traditional global alliances are much weaker today that they were short years ago. Our three bordering oceans no longer buffer us from threats "out there." Over the course of some sixty

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odd years, successive Progressive Conservative, Liberal and Conservative Governments have dithered over our defence needs. Spending on defence isn't popular with the voters, and, getting elected or re-elected is the cardinal *raison d'être* of and for any politician. National Defence was of little import to Pierre Trudeau and it has been sliding down the attention scale with almost every Prime Minister since. Whatever the claims of the current Prime Minister or his Defence Minister, ***Canada is not strong; we're not ready & we're not engaged.***

The current government in Ottawa may well be the least competent one on defence issues this Century. In fairness though, a chip off his father's block, Justin Trudeau has simply stumbled along in the tracks in the snow left for him by Chretien, Martin and Harper; Tweedledum's & Tweedle-dee's all four! Each said or did whatever seemed most likely to be popular with the voter of the day, even if some of it was little short of stupidity. On National Defence, each either just procrastinated or provided too little, too late and too short in quality. Our men and women in uniform will get killed needlessly that way. Our Country may not survive that kind of negligence.

Today, we are flying fighter aircraft that have now been in service for some thirty years. We're going to extend that usage by augmenting the squadrons with similar aircraft declared obsolescent by the Australians. With a little duct tape, that may see us through to the 2030s! Masters at dithering, we've yet to declare ourselves on a real replacement for the CF 18 fighter/bomber. Hmm!

The Navy meanwhile, having scaled down from the Iroquois or Tribal Class Destroyers and scaling down now from Halifax or City Class Frigates, is proceeding with a new fleet built around our version of the British Type 26 Frigate. Dis-

placing just 6000 tons, one can but hope these will really fill the omnibus anti-air, anti-missile, anti-submarine, mine sweeping, escort & surveillance roles expected of a modern deep-water navy. What they won't do, is fill those roles in the Arctic. The frigates only work in open water. When seaworthy, our submarines run ever so quiet and ever so efficiently, but they too don't work anywhere around Arctic ice, especially not under Arctic ice! Hmm!

For the Army, things are equally tough. Intended in time of war to field five divisions, the Army simply doesn't have the numbers required. The Field Army, built around a core of some twenty thousand motorized or mechanized soldiers, could deploy three all-arms brigade groups. In a real

war, blotting paper-like, they will be chewed up in the first thirty grim days of any real fighting. Then, we'll have to call for "timeout!" Hmm!

So, the larger problem is that with or without adequate ships, aircraft and weaponry, we simply don't have the numbers needed to fight the next war. The quality of the people in the existing Forces is not the issue. They're first rate, but the numbers just aren't there. So, where do we start to fix sixty years of malaise and inattention?

In the short term, DND needs to set itself a brand-new goal and a new imaginative challenge for a new Government in October. Make no mistake; we're in a life and death game of "catch-up." So, let's solve the personnel problem right up front. The first goal will be to fully fund and then fill every single existing establishment position for Canada's Armed Forces, that is

for both the Regular and the Ready Reserve Forces.

The staffing ceiling, now set at about 99,000 all-in, will have to be bumped to at least 150,000 all-

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Continued on page 3...

President's Message Continued from page 1

and Maintenance. We will lunch at a still to be confirmed location on the Base. We will confirm transportation and timings as soon as they are available. In order to obtain access to the Base, all visitors must have currently valid, government issued photo ID. Your BC driver's license or Canadian passport will fill the requirement perfectly. Please be sure to have either with you if you intend to participate in the visit.

Long range plans for the summer include our usual outdoor Summer BBQ in August. Stay tuned for more info as plans are firmed up.

Looking forward to seeing you all at this month's luncheon/meeting,

Edwin

Once again, the federal budget turns a blind eye to Canada's military needs

Opinion: Were the Liberals ever serious about their big defence plan? They cut defence spending in 2018 and are ignoring it in 2019

By David Krayden, National Post
March 27, 2019

Last week's federal budget offered relatively modest spending with targeted funding after years of spending from a government that seemed to believe the deficit will solve itself. Unfortunately, the Canadian Armed Forces again escaped the finance minister's gaze and for the second consecutive year, national defence is conspicuous by its absence from the budget.

You might recall the fanfare when Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan released the Liberals' defence policy review in 2017: "Strong, Secure, Engaged." It was already more than six months overdue and there was a feeling among defence analysts and most journalists that the Liberals had to deliver a document that suggested serious resolve.

Sajjan promised a whopping 70-per-cent increase in defence spending, pledging to drive funding up to \$32.7 billion from \$18.9 billion. Naval ships, combat-support vehicles and 88 fighter jets would be replaced through "an open and transparent

continued on page 4

... Canada's Illusional National Defence. Continued from page 2

in. With retention of existing well-trained servicemen and women already a significant problem; conditions of service, pay & allowances and retirement & disability benefits will all have to be brought up to a "gold standard" worthy of the very best of our young men and women. With that for a bare beginning, we will then be better placed to make a serious start at re-equipping ourselves to defend Canada and Canadian interests in today's unsettled world. We're unlikely to ever again field the third largest air force and the fourth largest navy in the world, but we can, should and must do better than what we're under-achieving now. A two-thousand-year-old Roman adage still has place in our times: ***only by being prepared for war, can we hope to avoid one.*** Another reality is: ***those who melt their swords down into plows, end up plowing for those who don't!***

Now, what we need to do here in our own Institute is to have every Member share this column with just three other people, asking them to do likewise with three others, and, then on & on, all to get the message out to the sluggish politicians, "***giving 'em hell***" in the process. Original two-page copies are available from the author.



The author of this column is Colonel (Retd) WJ (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of our Institute and Chair of our Military & Security Committee. His views & ideas are his own. That disclaimer doesn't mean he's got it



HMCS Windsor, one of Canada's Victoria-class long range patrol submarines, returns to port in Halifax on June 20, 2018.
Andrew Vaughan/CP

... the federal budget... continued from page 3

competition.”

But there was one large disclaimer. All of this would happen over the next decade, assuming the realities of 2017 would remain constant during that period. How well would any government have done predicting the military needs of 1942 based on the geopolitics of 1932?

In any case, we've yet to see any indication that the Liberals were serious about the plan. They cut defence spending in 2018 and have ignored it in 2019.

Was there an alternative motive to the 2017 defence review? Canada was still in the midst of NAFTA negotiations with an American president who was increasingly critical of our defence contribution, especially as it pertained to NATO. Donald Trump had repeatedly cited Canada as one of the deadbeat members of NATO that refuses to fund its military at two per cent of its GDP — despite

having promised to do so and notwithstanding that we have done so in the past. With Budget 2019, Canada is no closer to meeting that pledge, spending 1.23 per cent of its GDP on national defence.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's desultory approach to defence capital acquisition may well be defined by the fighter jet fiasco that grows more bizarre with every twist and turn of the story. It was the Liberal government of Jean Chrétien that joined the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter development program. It was Stephen Harper's Conservative government that dithered on procuring the aircraft. It is the current Trudeau government that decided to start the whole process again. In the meantime, the Liberals considered buying some interim Super Hornets from Boeing before ultimately deciding to pick up some used Australian

F-18s — just as the Royal Australian Air Force took delivery of its first F-35s.

Perhaps the best speech of this year's just-concluded Manning Networking Conference in Ottawa was delivered by former chief of defence staff Gen. Rick Hillier. Hillier, whose career was defined by integrity and a politics-be-damned leadership style, told the conservative gathering that if Canada “buys a fighter aircraft that is anything but the F-35, we will have lost our minds.”

The last prime minister who consistently funded the Canadian military was Louis St-Laurent. All successive administrations — Liberal and Conservative — have to varying degrees played the shell game with defence spending. While lauding

a capital acquisition project here, they will starve another project over there to pay for it. While promising consistent funding, they will squeeze the military at the first opportunity when a fiscal need emerges elsewhere.

With defence procurement being so hamstrung by petty politics and policy inertia, no amount of government funding can guarantee a combat-capable military if those dollars are not efficiently and effectively

spent. As Hillier said, “Our acquisition process in Canada, in particular for the Department of National Defence, is abhorrent. It is pointless to give the Department of National Defence increased spending if you then tie them in a Gordian knot where they can't actually spend the money.”

Sadly, that's exactly what we're doing.

— *David Krayden is a former Royal Canadian Air Force public affairs officer and legislative assistant on Parliament Hill. He has worked in print, radio and television journalism and is currently the Ottawa bureau chief for The Daily Caller, a Washington-based media outlet.*



A photograph taken out the window of a Canadian Forces CC-150 Polaris tanker shows a CF-18 Hornet fighter jet being refueled in the air over Vancouver on Feb. 18, 2010.

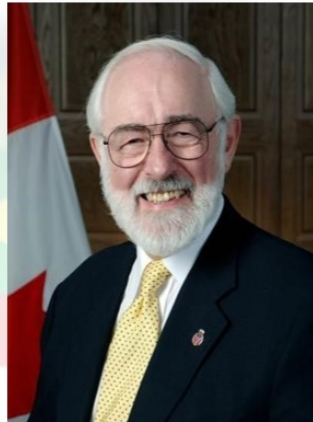
Master Corporal Andrew Collins, 14 Wing Imaging



**UNITED SERVICES
INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO
& NORTH ISLAND**



IS PLEASED TO PRESENT



DR. JAMES A. BOUTILIER
SPECIAL ADVISOR, N39 – INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT
MARITIME FORCES PACIFIC HEADQUARTERS

AS OUR SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
AT OUR MONTHLY LUNCHEON/MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019, 1130 AM

TO BE HELD AT THE
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 257
7727 LANTZVILLE ROAD
LANTZVILLE, BRITISH COLUMBIA

GUESTS ARE VERY WELCOME
PRESENTATION INCLUDES HOT BUFFET LUNCH
\$25.00 PER PERSON, BUSINESS ATTIRE

SEATING IS LIMITED.
WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE ADVISE US OF YOUR INTENT TO ATTEND
SO THAT WE MAY PLAN ACCORDINLY.

ejpeeters@shaw.ca or 250-751-2360 or 250-739-3783

This month's Luncheon/Meeting will be held at

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 257

7727 LANTZVILLE ROAD

on

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH, 2019

1130 HOURS

\$25.00 per member/person. Guests welcome.

LUNCHEON MEETING ATTENDANCE

Your telephone contact coordinator will attempt to contact you in the days prior to our monthly luncheon/meeting in order to confirm your attendance. In this manner we can provide attendance numbers to the volunteer kitchen staff at RCL 257 so that they may prepare adequately for our function.

If for some reason she has missed you, please contact her or Edwin at 250-751-2360 or ejpeeters@shaw.ca.

A thru E

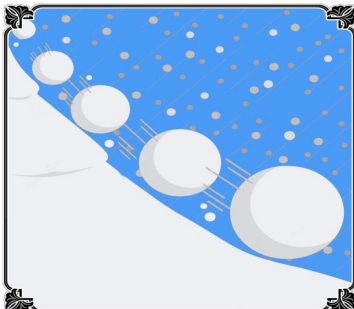
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USINNI SNOWBALL

Congratulations to Pieter de Heer, Sergeant-at-Arms. He was last month's winner of our Luncheon Snowball draw. Remember you can't win unless you attend and are signed into the Snowball Book. Good luck to all.