

## **AmbCanada–CIPS Conference**

### ***Realities and Illusions of Canadian Foreign Policy***

**University of Ottawa, June 18, 2026**

This conference will bring together former Canadian Heads of Mission, academic experts, and think tank analysts to discuss critical issues facing Canada and the world. The event will be open to the public, with options to attend in person (space is limited) or via livestream. The conference recording will be posted subsequently on the AmbCanada and CIPS websites.

**Date:** Thursday 18 June 2026  
**Time:** 12:00–17:00 EDT  
**Venue:** University of Ottawa Faculty of Social Sciences Building, Room 4007  
**Address:** 120 University Private  
**Cost:** \$50 per person (**advance registration required**, links at bottom)

#### **PROGRAMME**

- 12:00**      **Informal lunch** (sandwiches included with registration)
- 13:00**      **Welcome and Scene Setting**  
Alexandra Gheciu, Director, Centre for International Policy Studies, uOttawa  
Michael Small, President, Canadian Ambassadors Alumni Association
- 13:15**      **Realities and Illusions of Canadian Security**  
Moderator: Gordon Venner, former Associate Deputy Minister of National Defence  
Panellists: Stefanie Beck, former Deputy Minister of National Defence  
Thomas Juneau, Professor, Public and International Affairs, uOttawa  
Jonathan Berkshire Miller, Senior Fellow, MacDonald Laurier Institute
- 14:30**      **Realities and Illusions of Canadian Prosperity**  
Moderator: George Haynal, former Canadian Consul General, New York  
Panellists: Drew Fagan, Professor, Munk School, University of Toronto  
Patrick Leblond, Associate Professor, Public and International Affairs, uOttawa  
Nathalie Dubé, former Director General, Global Affairs Canada
- 15:45**      **Canadian Foreign Policy in an Era of Revolutionary Technologies**  
Moderator: Jennifer Irish, Principal, Pendulum Geopolitical Advisory  
Panellists: Ann Fitz-Gerald, Director, Balsillie School of International Affairs  
Rafal Rohozinski, CEO, SecDev  
Vass Bednar, Managing Director, Canadian Shield Institute
- 16:45**      **Concluding Reflections**  
Kerry Buck, former Canadian Ambassador to NATO
- 17:00**      **Reception and Cash Bar**

Registration deadline for in-person attendance is **June 8**. If capacity is reached earlier, a waiting list will be established. Directions for parking and a map of the building will be provided after registration.

[Register for in person](#)

[Biographies](#)

[Register for livestream](#)