

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.

If you have registered for previous AmbCanada events, the registration process may freeze after you enter your email address. If this happens, please contact info@ambcanada.ca.

Register for in person

Biographies

Register for livestream