



PARLIAMENT  
OF AUSTRALIA

**Report of the Parliamentary Delegation  
to  
Canada  
and the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the  
NATO Parliamentary Assembly**

Ottawa and Montreal 20 – 28 November 2024

February 2025



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# Members of the Delegation

## Leader of the Delegation

- Senator Louise Pratt

## Delegates

- Mr Julian Leeser MP

## Delegation Secretary

- Ms Jenny Adams

## Introduction

In November 2024 a delegation to Canada, including for the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Montreal, was undertaken by Senator Louise Pratt and Mr Julian Leeser MP.

Australia and Canada have a mature and wide-ranging relationship, underpinned by familiarity, shared values and institutional ties as a Five Eyes partner. Shared priorities include strengthening the multilateral system, taking greater action on climate change, advancing gender equality and achieving meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. The visit to Canada enabled the delegation to undertake a series of meetings with Canadian government departments and non-government entities with interests including data mapping, genomics, gender equality, housing pressures and issues in the Middle East.

The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) was held in Montreal, Canada from 22-25 November 2024. 260 parliamentarians attended from approximately 30 nations.

The NATO PA is primarily a forum for parliamentarians of NATO member nations as well as Regional Partners and Parliamentary Observer delegations. The Australian delegation has observer status, and while delegates are welcome to participate in discussions, it has no voting or other membership rights.

The NATO PA sessions focus on presentations to, and reports of, the five committees, along with a plenary session and other activities.

The five Committees are:

- Committee on Democracy and Security
- Defence and Security Committee
- Economics and Security Committee
- Political Committee
- Science and Technology Committee.

The Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group and the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council also presented reports.

The committees each adopt reports and policy recommendations on a range of issues which are then presented to the Assembly as a whole for endorsement. Once they are endorsed, they become the NATO PA's main policy documents.

The 2024 NATO PA adopted five resolutions and 16 reports. (A list of these can be found at Appendix C).

## Ottawa Bilateral Visit

### Wednesday 20 November

#### *Canadian Senate Standing Committee on National Finance*

Senator Pratt spoke as an individual at a public hearing into the committee's inquiry to examine the practice of including non-financial matters in bills implementing provisions of budgets and economic statements.

#### *Australia-New Zealand Parliamentary Friendship Group*

Mr Leeser attended the Annual General Meeting.

### Thursday 21 November

#### *Tour of House of Commons*

The delegation undertook a guided tour of West Block, which is the temporary home for the House of Commons while Centre Block is closed for renovation.

#### *Tour of Senate Chamber*

The delegation also had a guided tour of the Senate of Canada building which is the temporary home of the Senate while Centre Block is closed for renovation. This building was formally Ottawa's Union Station before becoming the Government Conference Centre and then the Senate Chamber.

#### *Briefing with High Commissioner*

The delegation met with the Australian High Commissioner to Canada, the Hon Scott Ryan, at the Australian High Commission in Ottawa. Mr Ryan has been High Commissioner since 2021. The High Commissioner discussed differences in the political systems between the two countries. There was also discussion about the impacts on trade due to Canada's relationship with the United States and the use of tariffs in Canada.

On Thursday afternoon, the delegation split to undertake separate sessions, organised by the High Commission, according to the member's interests.

Senator Pratt met with representatives from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada; and The Equality Fund.

*Meeting with Marie-Hélène Légaré, Director General, Science Policy Branch, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada*

Senator Pratt met with Ms Légaré, and discussed how Canada and Australia were working with and learning from each other in various fields.

The Digital Atlas in Australia, which brings together curated and trusted national datasets and is managed by Geoscience Australia is an area of interest for the Canadian Government. It is wanting to develop a Canada wide data base including having Indigenous input particularly in terms of how data is collected. There is a push towards citizen science whereby research is conducted with participation from the general public, amateur or nonprofessional researchers or participants in science, social science and other disciplines. The Canadian government is looking to this for activities such as counting butterflies or Canadian Geese and then incorporating that data into an equivalent of the Digital Atlas.

There was discussion on Genomics. Canada is using this particularly in the area of agriculture rather than health as it is in Australia. The Canadian Government is currently developing a Genomic Strategy. This will focus on commercialisation including the use of genetically modified (GM) products, such as canola, for use as biofuel, particularly in Europe where GM food is not generally used. Australia has adopted some Canadian and American technologies in products such as wheat and canola. The use of artificial intelligence is also being considered.

*Meeting with Beatriz González Manchón. Co-Vice President Global Programs and Hilary Clauson, Senior policy advisor, The Equality Fund*

In 2019 the fund received CAD300m from the Federal Government. This ensures that the Fund does not have to worry about short term funding cycles. The money is invested so that it works 'twice'. That is, it is invested in companies that produce goods and services, and engage with women, girls and non-binary people. These companies have to have policies for gender equality such as parental leave and equal pay. The funds are invested globally including in the Asia Pacific region. The Fund also does grant funding. Grants are provided to individual organisations including grass roots organisations. The Fund also works with philanthropic organisations which assist with grant funding and also administrative costs.

*Mr Leeser met with representatives from Global Affairs Canada and IAEA Technical Working Group on Nuclear Infrastructure Development*

*Meeting with Kevin Lunianga, Deputy Special Envoy from Global Affairs Canada*

This meeting focused on preserving Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism.

There has been a rise in antisemitic incidents since October 7, in Australia and Canada. Both countries have appointed Special Envoys to advise on policy measures addressing antisemitism.

The discussions focused on the comparable incidents in Australia and Canada to that time and highlighted the Canadian Special Envoy's work in producing a handbook to guide government departments on implementing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

*Meeting with Mr Ian Grant, Chair of the IAEA Technical Working Group on Nuclear Infrastructure Development and Former Deputy Director General of the Canadian Authority for Nuclear Regulation.*

The purpose of the meeting was to examine the civil nuclear regulatory architecture in Canada and its potential applicability to Australia, should Australia pursue the development of a civil nuclear industry.

#### Joint Meetings

*Meeting with Senator Claude Carignan, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance*

The delegation met with Senator Carignan and discussed the role of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance and its similarities with the Australian Parliament's Senate Committee on Finance and Public Administration and the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit. The Standing Senate Committee on National Finance has the mandate to examine matters relating to federal estimates including the public accounts, reports of the Auditor General and government finance. The committee examines legislation related to the government's financial cycle. The committee also reviews budget implementation and economic statement bills.

There was also discussion about the differences between the Canadian politics and the differences between the Senate in Canada and the Senate in Australia.

*Meeting with Tim Sargent, Director of the Domestic Policy Program, Macdonald-Laurier Institute*

The Macdonald-Laurier Institute is a national public policy think tank based in Ottawa. It is independent and non-partisan. It is named after two long serving Prime Ministers, Sir John A. Macdonald, the first Prime Minister of Canada who was a Conservative and English speaking and Sir Wilfrid Laurier who was a Liberal and French speaking. The Institute conducts research identifying and analysing current and emerging economic and public policy issues, including research into defence and security, foreign policy, immigration, economic and fiscal policy, regulatory policy, regional development, social policy and aboriginal affairs.

The discussion with Mr Sargant focused on issues relating to housing which are similar across both countries. These issues include:

- the decline in housing affordability particularly for young people
- increased demand for housing
- the use of government levers and their impact on affordability
- insufficient infrastructure to support increased housing
- lack of productivity in the construction industry
- inconsistent regulations across all levels of government.

#### *Dinner with the High Commissioner*

High Commissioner, The Hon Scott Ryan, hosted the delegation for dinner.

#### Friday 22 November

#### *Meeting with Rob Annan, President and CEO and Naveed Aziz, Vice-President Research and innovation, Genome Canada*

Genome Canada is a non-profit organisation that is funded by the Government of Canada. Genome Canada provides large-scale investments that develop new technologies, connect the public sector with private industry, and create solutions to problems of national interest, such as health, sustainable resources, the environment, and energy. It also funds research on the ethical, environmental, economic, legal and social aspects of genomics, including genetic privacy and genetic discrimination, as well as public acceptance of genetically modified organisms.

There are many similarities with Australia both being large countries with small populations, with regional and remote areas and a federated system of government.

Approximately 50 per cent of funding goes to health with the other 50 per cent going to agriculture and natural resources.

Genome Canada and Australian Genomics are negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding. The issues that will be covered are Indigenous Health, health economics of genomics (both cost and value) and the economic potential of genomic data.

#### *Meeting with Shimon Fogel, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs*

The delegation met with Mr Fogel to discuss issues common to both countries. These include violent protests, destruction of property and antisemitism more generally. The rise of Islamophobia was also discussed.

# NATO Parliamentary Assembly

The meetings of the five committees often took place in parallel. This meant that Australia could only be represented at one or two of the committee meetings at any given time. The delegation members did, however, attend sessions of each of the committees over the course of the Assembly. This report provides a summary of the delegation's activities, rather than seeking to cover the full range of activities undertaken by the Annual Session of the NATO PA. (Official summaries are available on the [NATO PA website](#)).

## Economics and Security Committee

*Critical Dual-use Technologies: Commercial, Regulatory, Societal and National Security Challenges Draft General Report*

Faik Oztrak (Türkiye) on behalf of Harriet Baldwin (United Kingdom), Rapporteur

The report highlighted the impact of dual-use technologies on both the commercial and the military sectors. It stressed that nations capable of effectively integrating these into defence systems will not only achieve battlefield superiority but also generate significant economic advantages. China is emerging as a global hub for technological innovation, outpacing Russia and challenging the most advanced Western nations. Furthermore, Beijing has supplied Russia with a range of dual-use technologies. Authoritarian regimes such as Iran and North Korea are increasingly incorporating advanced technologies into their military and security frameworks. The report suggested that Allies should prioritise maintaining a technological edge to succeed in the strategic competition with authoritarian states. There is a need for innovative and ambitious public policies to galvanise technological development.

*Building a Values-based Transatlantic Economic and Strategic Partnership with the Indo-Pacific Draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations*

Neal Patrick Dunn (United States), Rapporteur

The draft report emphasised that while NATO remains a regionally focused alliance, the interconnection of security between Europe and the Indo-Pacific is increasingly evident. China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific, coupled with its open support to Russia and its aggression in Ukraine, pose a direct threat to Euro-Atlantic security. China is closely observing the war in Ukraine and deriving critical lessons which could inform its approach to Taiwan. The report recognised NATO's regional partners' contributions to supporting Ukraine, including military aid, humanitarian

assistance, and the enforcement of tight sanctions on Russia. NATO Allies need to deepen economic and security cooperation with Indo-Pacific partners as strengthening democratic governance in the region will be vital in countering the challenges posed by Russia and China.

*Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy: Security and Economic Dimensions Presentation by Jeremy Paltiel*

Dr Paltiel, Senior Fellow at the Institute for Peace and Diplomacy discussed Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy, which was announced in November 2022 amidst escalating U.S.-China strategic competition. While Canada has long-standing interests in the region, the new strategy intensified engagement with the region, driven, in part, by concerns about China's ambitions and rising influence in the region. The speaker noted that Canada's strategy is premised on two assumptions: the Indo-Pacific's growing economic importance and China's increasingly disruptive global ambitions.

Dr Paltiel highlighted Canada's engagement in ASEAN and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Canada's aim is to counter Chinese influence where it judges this to be harmful but also to uphold the rule of law and international norms more generally. It has worked to improve interoperability with Japanese military forces, engage in AUKUS's second pillar, forge submarine procurement partnerships with South Korea, and cultivate closer ties with the Philippines and Australia to improve the security outlook in the South China Sea. Dr Paltiel also noted that Canada's vision of the Indo-Pacific was focused on fostering cooperation and did not fully factor in regional threats to security. China's rise and its more aggressive posture has exposed contradictions in this approach and there have been spillover impacts on its broader geopolitical posture.

Questions focused on whether Indo-Pacific countries might prefer minilateral agreements over a stronger NATO presence, noting that greater NATO engagement in the region might exacerbate regional tensions. China is the leading trading partner for many countries in the region, but Western countries play a significant role in fostering regional stability. Mr Leeser asked about Canada-India relations. Dr Paltiel replied that the relationship can improve over time, but India is likely to continue pursuing a hedging strategy, which will limit its cooperation with the West.

## **Political Committee**

*NATO @ 75 Rising to the Challenges of a Contested and Unpredictable World  
Draft General Report and Presentation on NATO's Next Chapter by Ambassador  
Alexander Vershbow,*

Tomas Valasek (Slovakia), General Rapporteur

Ambassador Vershbow, Distinguished Fellow at the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security and Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council presented the draft general report,

highlighting the Alliance's need to adapt to an increasingly unstable world marked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. He reaffirmed NATO's commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and NATO membership, warning that anything less risks repeating past aggressions; and mentioned new strategies for addressing terrorism and engaging with the Southern neighbourhood.

Ambassador Vershbow outlined the opportunities and challenges facing NATO as it navigates a critical juncture marked by its 75th anniversary and significant political changes. He emphasised NATO's strengthened collective defence and deterrence over the past decade but highlighted the war in Ukraine as a continuing test of allied resolve, particularly as the continuation of U.S. aid cannot be taken for granted. Vershbow called for proactive European engagement to secure a robust and balanced NATO future.

The session then discussed the increasing unrest in the Middle East and how the October 7, 2023 attacks shattered the understood paradigm in the region. Israel had concluded normalisation agreements with the four Arab states, and more were expected. There were questions about the diplomatic path forward and the need to examine new channels of diplomacy.

## **Committee on Democracy and Security**

### *Breaking the Silence and Fighting for Dignity: Combatting Conflict-related Sexual Violence*

#### Presentation

Jacqueline O'Neill, Canada's Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security

Ms O'Neill outlined the rationale behind the adoption of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, highlighting how diversity and inclusion contribute to better peace outcomes. After providing an overview of NATO's integration of the WPS agenda, she emphasised the importance of treating gender considerations as a strategic capability issue that can help NATO fulfil its core tasks. Greater inclusion of women can enhance deterrence and defence by bolstering the Alliance's capabilities, improve crisis prevention and management through better situational awareness and more effective response efforts, and foster cooperative security by expanding collaboration and interoperability with like-minded partners. She urged Allied parliamentarians to help operationalise the WPS agenda by encouraging their governments to report on its implementation to national parliaments, by advocating for NATO to become an institutional leader on women's representation, and by promoting greater engagement with men on these issues.

There was discussion and questions about the importance of the chain of command, education of soldiers on law of war, enhancing the capabilities of national courts to hold perpetrators accountable, the use of civil society organisations working the field, information sharing (emphasising the need for locally-led and culturally-sensitive

approaches), allocating more resources to government institutions and women-led civil society organisations, ensuring greater female representation in combat positions within national armed forces

Senator Pratt asked about what assistance was available for victims and survivors including the LGBTQI+ community and those with disabilities. She also thanked NATO for its work in the Pacific

### *Combatting Conflict-related Sexual Violence*

Draft General Report

Julie Dzerowicz (Canada), Acting General Rapporteur

Ms Dzerowicz reported a rise in conflict-related sexual violence worldwide. Sexual violence in conflict not only undermines human security but also perpetuates cycles of instability. She warned against the increasing use of sexual violence as a weapon of war by armed actors to achieve strategic or operational goals. In Ukraine, Russian armed forces have committed systematic and widespread sexual violence to break the resistance of the Ukrainian people. Ms Dzerowicz highlighted the profound suffering of victims and survivors. She called on NATO and the Allies to help uphold respect for international law, integrate prevention efforts into Allied military doctrine and practice, end impunity for perpetrators, and promote broader gender equality to address the root causes of such violence.

### *Breaking the Silence and Fighting for Dignity: Combatting Conflict-related Sexual Violence*

Draft Resolution

Julie Dzerowicz (Canada), Acting General Rapporteur, presented by Patricia Lattanzio (Canada)

The draft resolution included several key recommendations. It invited NATO and the Allies to strengthen and fully implement existing policies aimed at ending conflict-related sexual violence. It called on Allied countries to ensure that their armed forces are adequately trained and equipped to protect civilians from sexual violence. The resolution also underscored the need to provide comprehensive support to victims and survivors, while continuing to advance on broader gender equality issues to address the root causes of conflict-related sexual violence. At the international level, it urged Allied nations to leverage their influence to condemn the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, to foster respect for international law and promote accountability through concerted action.

## **Science and Technology Committee**

### *Strengthening Cooperation in Science, Technology and Global Security*

François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry of Canada

## Presentation

Minister Champagne opened his address by recognising that national and economic security go hand in hand with competition around innovation and technology. Leveraging technology requires a focus on adoption, infrastructure, and trust. This requires collaboration amongst Allies and partners as well as a steadfast commitment to democratic values. The Minister shared pertinent examples from Canada such as the Canadian AI Safety Institute, its close collaboration with Allies on quantum, or the DIANA North American regional office in Halifax, Canada. These examples illustrate the ways in which democracies can effectively collaborate to face this current geopolitical environment.

There was discussion and questions about research security in light of geopolitical competition, Canada's experiences in commercialising prototypes and Western components within Russian weapon systems. Minister Champagne responded by noting Canada's safeguards against publicly funded research projects with unfriendly countries, the necessity of building industrial capacities collaboratively, and the need for a more thorough analysis of supply chains. There were also questions about the private sector's dominance when it comes to technological investments, the roles of universities and industries in government-related research and the trilateral Icebreaker Collaboration Effort (ICE Pact). Minister Champagne underlined the importance of defence industrial pacts with the private sector, the need to ramp up the required infrastructure for commercialising and scaling innovative solutions, and the ICE Pact's exemplary character when it comes to collaboration amongst Allies. Mr Leeson inquired about the role of small modular nuclear reactors for AI data centres and energy independence. Minister Champagne noted the relevance of civilian nuclear programmes and the potential of such reactors for energy production close to manufacturing sites.

## Defence and Security Committee

### *Russia's War and Allied Support for Ukraine*

Draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Defence and Security Cooperation

Rick Larsen (United States), Rapporteur  
Ambassador William B. Taylor, Vice-President, Russia and Europe at the United Institute of Peace (USIP) Guest Speaker

Mr. Larsen updated the Committee on recent developments in Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, including the Kursk incursion and the deployment of North Korea, reportedly readying to bolster Russia's ranks in the fight. Key to his presentation was to underscore the vital interests to all Allies to sustain support for Ukraine to deter further Russian aggression and to defend their shared values. He concluded by

highlighting the report's key recommendations, which included providing Ukraine with a full-range of battlefield-vital advanced weapons systems (particularly air defence systems, armoured vehicles, artillery and ammunition), increasing financial support, and strengthening NATO-Ukraine cooperation.

Ambassador Taylor said that Ukraine will need diplomatic guarantees before entering any negotiations. NATO membership is the best guarantee, but this will not be possible until there is an end to the fighting. He suggested that Allies consider a form of de facto NATO membership for Ukraine by allowing Ukraine to participate in the North Atlantic Council and the Military Committee. Ambassador Taylor also underlined the reasons for NATO Allies and partners to sustain their political, military, and economic support for Ukraine as it maintains its self-defence against invading Russian forces. These include common security and political interests to the future of the Euro-Atlantic, and support of the shared values Allies hold as they negotiate an era of heightened great power competition with authoritarian powers seeking to undermine the rules-based international order.

## Panel Discussions

### *Strengthening Democratic Resilience after a Super Election Year: Autocracies vs Democracy*

Moderator: David Salvo, Managing Director, Alliance for Securing Democracy and Maligned Autocratic Influence, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

- Laura Thornton, Senior Director of Global Democracy Programs, Mc Cain Institute
- Kathleen McInnes, Senior Fellow, International Security Program and Director, Smart Women, Smart Power Initiative, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- George S Takach, Senior Fellow, Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History, University of Toronto

There was a general acceptance during the discussion that democracy is declining. There has been a move to authoritarian governments even when then is not what the electorate intended. Elections are held fairly but then parties are getting in and exploiting popular and cultural views and becoming authoritarian. Authoritarian parties use words like faith, democracy and patriotism to attract people. The traditional left/right divides are not as clear.

In democracies, leadership needs to be able to take criticism and they need to focus on facts but still win the 'hearts and minds'. They need to diversify the messengers and messages and need to engage with everyday people.

Inequality, particularly economic inequality, leads to distrust as governments fail to deliver services and do not assist the population. Autocrats say that they can deliver. One in five 25-30 year olds think that autocrats have better solutions to their problems. Autocrats win because democracies make mistakes and then do not acknowledge the mistakes in an authentic way.

Disinformation and misinformation are creating problems worldwide. Social media companies need to clean up their platforms and be more diligent about checking what is being uploaded. Democracies need to engage with social media in a positive way to get the message to a larger audience, particularly young people.

The panel thought that NATO's role was a bit uncertain in this area. On the one hand it is a military institution but on the other it is an alliance of democracies. The NATO PA should encourage government to go back to the basics of democracy and a rules based international order.

### *Meeting the China Challenge*

Moderator: Anessa Kimball, Professor of International Relations, Université Laval

- Vona Nadjibulla, Vice-President, Research and Strategy Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
- Paul Evans, Professor Emeritus, School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, University of British Columbia
- Colonel (Retired) Robert E. Hamilton, Head of Eurasia Research, Foreign Policy Research Institute

How can NATO manage the challenge from China when dealing with Russia? NATO's task is to work with Indo-Pacific nations while dealing with Russia. The issues cannot be separated.

China is watching the war in Ukraine to see NATO's tolerance to issues that arise and to see how far NATO can be pushed. There is an axis between North Korea, Russia and Iran to destroy international order. China is an enabler and manipulates rather than destroys international order.

China is interested in the war in Ukraine being drawn out as it bleeds resources from Europe and the United States. China does not want Russia to lose. There is a diplomatic and economic partnership between the two leaders.

NATO needs to go softer on the Belt and Roads Initiative. Less developed countries do not currently care about climate change, civil rights and poor pay but they will eventually.

Concerns were raised about the relationship between Russia and North Korea. This was particularly true about the war in Ukraine but also for its potential impact on South Korea.

How does China perceive the NATO move into South Asia and the Pacific?

Some countries, such as Japan, are suggesting that Asia is not ready for an alliance for defence. The United States has set up bilaterals with many countries to discuss this. Korea, Japan, India, Australia and New Zealand are sympathetic too but not advocates of joint defence.

Asian nations are ready for collective action on cyber threats.

Why do Indo-Pacific nations need to collaborate?

Japan and South Korea have focus on the United States and Europe. They share information and technology. China is the only country that is a global challenge. They have stakes in ports, undersea cables and cyber industries.

Mr Leeser agreed that the Belts and Road initiative is not a military tool, but China can destabilise countries by cutting utilities etc. The response was that China had not seized any assets that it had not paid for but has extended payment terms to countries.

### *Helping Ukraine Win: Russia's War and the Future of Euro-Atlantic Security*

Moderator: Anessa Kimball, Professor of International Relations, Université Laval

- Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
- Ambassador William B Taylor, Vice-President, Russia and Europe, United States Institute of Peace
- Yann Breault, Assistant Professor, Royal Military College Saint-Jean

Mr Stefanchuk gave a very moving but practical presentation.

The premise of the presentation was 'why is the moment now for NATO to step up'?

This war is between democracy and dictatorship and the governance of our countries. If Ukraine wins, then democracies are strong. If Russia wins then democracy will look weak and the axis of evil between Russia, China, North Korea and Iran will be strengthened. Now is the time for brave decisions.

Ukraine wants lasting comprehensive peace but not at any cost. Ukraine must remain independent and will not come to the table unless this is guaranteed.

Ukraine is scared about the fatigue of soldiers on the frontline and is looking to build brigades from Western Europe. It needs more weapons and for restrictions on their use to be removed. It would also like other countries to close their airspace around Ukraine. Ukraine wants to become a member of NATO.

The meeting discussed how Russia can be beaten. It is important for NATO to be unified in its support for Ukraine. It is necessary to provide more arms and to isolate Russia economically and financially. Ukraine should be invited to join NATO as soon as possible acknowledging that this will not happen while the war is still going.

Mr Stefanchuk thanked NATO and other countries for their ongoing support.

### *Combatting Disinformation: Rising Up to the Challenge*

Moderator: Aengus Bridgman, Assistant Professor (Research) McGill University

- Marie-Doha Besancenot, Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, NATO
- Saara Jantunen-Paju, Senior Specialist, Office of the Prime Minister of Finland
- Simon Thibault, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Montréal

The discussion centred around the use of social media and state run media to circulate disinformation. Examples included how Russian media was reporting on the war in Ukraine and how extremist groups were able to spread their messages across a broad range of people some of whom were very vulnerable to the radicalised messages both political and non-political.

Senator Pratt asked how do we shine a light on ourselves to gain confidence that we will not be accused of censorship and also that the information we receive is from people that we trust? The Moderator that we need to consider who created the content and also that there are tools to assist.

## Conclusion

The delegation's bilateral visit to Canada and attendance at the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly were successful in strengthening ties between Australia and some key global partners. It also emphasised the importance Australia places on its relationship to NATO. Australian parliamentarians have been attending the NATO PA since 2009 and at this meeting the delegation received strong support for its assistance to Ukraine since that Russian invasion and interest in Australia's role in the Indo-Pacific. The NATO PA enabled numerous informal contacts between the members of the Australian delegation and those from Parliaments across the world. The benefit of this cannot be overstated.

The delegation's meetings in Ottawa covered a wide range of topics which demonstrated the close relationship between the two countries. For Australia, Canada is a key relationship in North America and a valued partner in the Indo-Pacific. The meetings highlighted the similarities between the countries in relation to both domestic issues and international events. Opportunities for further economic links are likely.

The delegation would like to thank the Australian High Commission in Ottawa for its high level of support for the visit. The effort was much appreciated.

The delegation would also like to acknowledge the work undertaken by the NATO PA Secretariat in planning and overseeing the NATO PA Annual Session in Montreal.

Mr Julian Leeson MP  
Delegate

February 2025

## Appendix A: Ottawa program, 20-22 November 2024

### Wednesday 20 November

19:10 – 20:45 Senator Pratt appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance

### Thursday 21 November

09:15 – 09:45 Tour of the House of Commons

10:00 - 10:30 Tour of the Senate Chamber

11:00 – 11:45 Briefing with Scott Ryan, Australian High Commissioner to Canada  
Venue: Australian High Commission

#### *Senator Pratt*

13:00 - 13:45 Meeting with **Marie-Hélène Légaré, Director General, Science Policy Branch, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada**  
Venue: 235 Queen Street, Ottawa

14:00 - 14:45 Meeting with **Beatriz González Manchón, Co-Vice President Global Programs and Hilary Clauson, Senior policy advisor, The Equality Fund**  
Venue: Australian High Commission

#### *Mr Leeser*

13:00 - 13:45 Meeting with **Kevin Lunianga, Deputy Director – Human Rights, Freedoms & Inclusion (Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism), Global Affairs Canada**  
Venue: Australian High Commission

14:00 - 14:45 Meeting with **Mr Ian Grant**  
Venue: Australian High Commission

#### *Joint meetings*

15:15 – 16:00 Meeting with **Senator Claude Carignan, Chair of the Standing Committee on National Finance**  
Venue: East Block, Ottawa

16:30 – 17:15 Meeting with **Tim Sargent, Director Domestic Policy Program, Macdonald-Laurier Institute**  
Venue: 323 Chapel Street, Ottawa

18:30 – 20:30 Dinner with High Commissioner

Friday 22 November

- 9:00 – 9:45 Meeting with **Rob Annan, President and CEO, and Naveed Azis, Vice President Research and Innovation, Genome Canada**  
Venue: 150 Metcalf Street, Ottawa
- 10:30 – 11:15 Meeting with **Shimon Fogel, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs**  
Venue: 81 Metcalf Street, Ottawa
- 11:30 – 13:00 Lunch with High Commissioner
- 14:17 Depart Ottawa Railway Station for Montreal Railway Station
- 16:15 Arrive Montreal Railway Station

# Appendix B: Complete program for NATO Parliamentary Assembly

22 - 25 November 2025

## Panel Discussions

Panel 1: Strengthening Democratic Resilience after a Super Election Year:  
Autocracies vs Democracy

Panel 2: Forming the Armed Forces of the Future

Panel 3: Meeting the China Challenge

Panel 4: NATO and Strategic Competition in the Arctic

Panel 5: Combatting Disinformation: Rising up to the Challenge

Panel 6: Helping Ukraine Win: Russia's War and the Future of Euro-Atlantic  
Security

## **Political Committee**

Opening Remarks by Opening remarks by Brendan F. BOYLE (United States),  
Chairperson

### **Upended Assumptions, Shifting Paradigms: Navigating the Post 7 October Middle-East Presentation**

Lucy KURTZER-ELLENBOGEN, Director, Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Egypt and the Levant, United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

### **NATO @ 75 Rising to the Challenges of a Contested and Unpredictable World**

Draft General Report

Tomas VALASEK (Slovakia), General Rapporteur; and Presentation on NATO's Next Chapter by Ambassador Alexander VERSHBOW, Distinguished Fellow, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security and Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council

### **NATO's Partners at Risk**

Draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Relations

Ana-Maria CATAUTA (Romania), Rapporteur, presented by Cheryl GALLANT (Canada), PCTR Chairperson; and Presentation on Georgia after the October 2024 Elections: Quo Vadis? by Laura THORNTON, Senior Director, Global Democracy Programs, McCain Institute.

### **NATO Partnerships on NATO and the Global South**

Draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Relations

Audronius AZUBALIS (Lithuania), Rapporteur

### **Ukraine: Progress in Reforms on the Way to NATO Membership**

Draft Report of the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council

Yehor CHERNIEV (Ukraine), UNIC Rapporteur

### **NATO after the Washington Summit: Future proofing the Alliance and Supporting Ukraine until Victory**

Consideration of draft resolution

Tomas VALASEK (Slovakia), General Rapporteur

## **Science and Technology Committee**

Opening remarks by Agnes VADAI (Hungary), Chairperson

### **China's Challenge to NATO's Technological Edge: The Role of Semiconductors**

Draft General Report

Njall Trausti FRIDBERTSSON (Iceland), General Rapporteur, presented by Agnes VADAI (Hungary), Chairperson

### **A Double-Edged Sword: Why NATO Must Embrace the Promises and Avoid the Perils of Synthetic Biology**

Draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Technology Trends and Security

Joe WEINGARTEN (Germany), Rapporteur, presented by Agnes VADAI (Hungary), Chairperson

### **Strengthening Cooperation in Science, Technology and Global Security**

François-Philippe CHAMPAGNE, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry of Canada

### **NATO and Artificial Intelligence: Navigating the Challenges and Opportunities**

Draft Special Report

Sven CLEMENT (Luxembourg), Special Rapporteur

### **Harnessing the Opportunities of Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain**

Draft Resolution

Sven CLEMENT (Luxembourg), Special Rapporteur

## **Committee on Democracy and Security**

Opening remarks by Javier MAROTO (Spain), Acting Chairperson

### **Strengthening Allied Resilience: Canada's Approach to Emergency Preparedness in an Era of Evolving Threats**

Presentation

Harjit S. SAJJAN, Minister of Emergency Preparedness of Canada

### **History and Identity Under Attack: Protecting Cultural Heritage in Conflict**

Revised Draft Special Report

Julie DZEROWICZ (Canada), Special Rapporteur

### **Turning the Tide: Addressing the Impact of Water Insecurity on Allied Security**

Revised Draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Resilience and Civil Security

Merle SPELLERBERG (Germany), Rapporteur, presented by Javier MAROTO (Spain)

### **Panel discussion on "Women, Peace and Security"**

Presentation

Jacqueline O'NEILL, Canada's Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security

### **Combatting Conflict-related Sexual Violence**

Julie DZEROWICZ (Canada), Acting General Rapporteur

### **Breaking the Silence and Fighting for Dignity: Combatting Conflict-related Sexual Violence**

Draft Resolution

Julie DZEROWICZ (Canada), Acting General Rapporteur, presented by Patricia LATTANZIO (Canada)

## **Economics and Security Committee**

Opening remarks by Faik OZTRAK (Türkiye), Chairperson

### **Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy: Security and Economic Dimensions**

Presentation

Jeremy PALTIEL, Senior Fellow, The Institute for Peace & Diplomacy

### **Critical Dual-use Technologies: Commercial, Regulatory, Societal and National Security Challenges**

Draft General Report

Faik OZTRAK (Türkiye) on behalf of Harriet BALDWIN (United Kingdom), Rapporteur

### **The State of Russia's Wartime Economy**

Draft report of the Sub-Committee on Transition and Development

Tamas HARANGOZO (Hungary), Rapporteur

### **Building a Values-based Transatlantic Economic and Strategic Partnership with the Indo-Pacific**

Draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations

Neal Patrick DUNN (United States), Rapporteur

### **Galvanising Technological Advance to Support Allied Prosperity and Security**

Draft resolution

Faik OZTRAK (Türkiye), on behalf of Harriett Baldwin (United Kingdom), Rapporteur

## **Defence and Security Committee**

Opening remarks by Sir Alec SHEL BROOKE (UK), Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee

### **Canada's Contribution to Allied Security and Views on the Evolution of NATO's Northern Flank**

Presentation

Lieutenant-General Lise BOURGON, Commander, Chief Military Personnel, Canadian Armed Force

### **NATO's Evolving Air and Missile Defence Posture**

Draft General Report

Utku CAKIROZER (Türkiye), General Rapporteur

### **Russia's War and Allied Support for Ukraine**

Draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Defence and Security Cooperation

Rick LARSEN (United States), Rapporteur

### **Western Balkans: Renewed Security Challenges on NATO's Doorstep**

Draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Future Security and Defence Capabilities

Lord Mark LANCASTER (United Kingdom), Rapporteur

### **Strengthening NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence**

Draft Resolution

Utku CAKIROZER (Türkiye), General Rapporteur

**Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group**

**Russia's Destabilising Role in NATO's Southern Neighbourhood**

Report

Theo FRANCKEN (Belgium), Rapporteur

**Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council**

**Ukraine: Progress in Reforms on the Way to NATO Membership**

Draft report

Yehor CHERNIEV (Ukraine), Rapporteur

## Plenary Sitting

1. Indigenous Blessing
2. Address by the Honourable Raymonde Gagne, Speaker of the Senate of Canada
3. Address by the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
4. Address by Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
5. Video message from Mark Rutte, NATO Secretary General
6. Address by Ambassador Boris Ruge, Acting Deputy Secretary General of NATO, followed by a question and answer exchange
7. 2024 “Women for Peace and Security” award ceremony for Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence, United States
8. Debate and Vote on the draft Committee Resolutions
9. Election of Officers of the Assembly
10. Presentation by Wolfgang Hellmich, Treasurer of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and vote on the 2025 Draft Budget

## Appendix C: Resolutions and reports adopted at the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

### Resolutions adopted

- Resolution 491 - Breaking the Silence and Fighting for Dignity: Combatting conflict-related sexual violence
- Resolution 492 - Strengthening NATO's integrated air and missile defence
- Resolution 493 - Galvanising technological advance to support Allied prosperity and security
- Resolution 494 - NATO after the Washington Summit: Future-proofing the Alliance and supporting Ukraine until victory
- Resolution 495 - Harnessing the opportunities of responsible Artificial Intelligence use in the military domain.

### Reports Adopted

- Western Balkans: Renewed Security Challenges on NATO's Doorstep
- A Double-Edged Sword: Why NATO Must Embrace the Promises and Avoid the Perils of Synthetic Biology
- Turning the Tide: Addressing the Impact of Water Insecurity on Allied Security
- Combatting Conflict-related Sexual Violence
- NATO and Artificial Intelligence: Navigating the Challenges and Opportunities
- China's Challenge to NATO's Technological Edge: The Role of Semiconductors
- NATO and the Global South
- NATO's Partners at Risk
- History and Identity Under Attack: Protecting Cultural Heritage in Conflict
- The State of Russia's Wartime Economy
- NATO's evolving Air and Missile Defence Posture
- Building a Values-based Transatlantic Economic and Strategic Partnership with the Indo-Pacific
- Russia's War and Allied Support for Ukraine
- NATO @ 75 Rising to the Challenges of a Contested and Unpredictable World
- Critical Dual-use Technologies: Commercial, Regulatory, Societal and National Security Challenges
- Ukraine: Progress in Reforms on the Way to NATO Membership