

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The nature of economic competition between major powers, particularly the United States and China, is rapidly evolving, with technology, trade, and supply chains emerging as central arenas of geopolitical rivalry. As the global economic system moves toward selective decoupling and a more strategic management of interdependence, this symposium will explore pathways for Canada to strengthen its economic security and resilience. It will bring together **APF Canada's four 2025–2026 John H. McArthur Research Fellows** and leading policy experts, scholars, and practitioners for a focused discussion on the risks and opportunities shaping the future of trade and investment between Canada and the Indo-Pacific.

This symposium is generously funded by the **John H. McArthur Research Fellowship** established by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada in 2021 to honour the legacy of the late Dr. John H. McArthur — a distinguished Canadian, former Chair of APF Canada's Board of Directors, and Dean Emeritus of Harvard Business School.

MAY 6, 2026

8:30AM-1:00PM

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada is an independent, not-for-profit organization focused on Canada's relations with Asia. Our mission is to be Canada's catalyst for engagement with Asia and Asia's bridge to Canada.

APF Canada is dedicated to strengthening ties between Canada and Asia through its research, education, and convening activities, such as our Indo-Pacific Initiative programming, the Canada-in-Asia Conference series, our Women's Business Missions to Asia, and the APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership project fostering sustainable inclusive growth and poverty reduction. APF Canada also works with business, government, and academic stakeholders to provide Asia Competency training for Canadian organizations and students.

Our research provides high-quality, relevant, and timely information, insights, and perspectives on Canada-Asia relations for Canadians and stakeholders across the Asia Pacific. Our research work also includes regular Insights, Dispatches, Reports & Policy Briefs, Strategic Reflections, Case Studies, Explainers, and a weekly Asia Watch tracking the latest news on Asia that matters to Canada.



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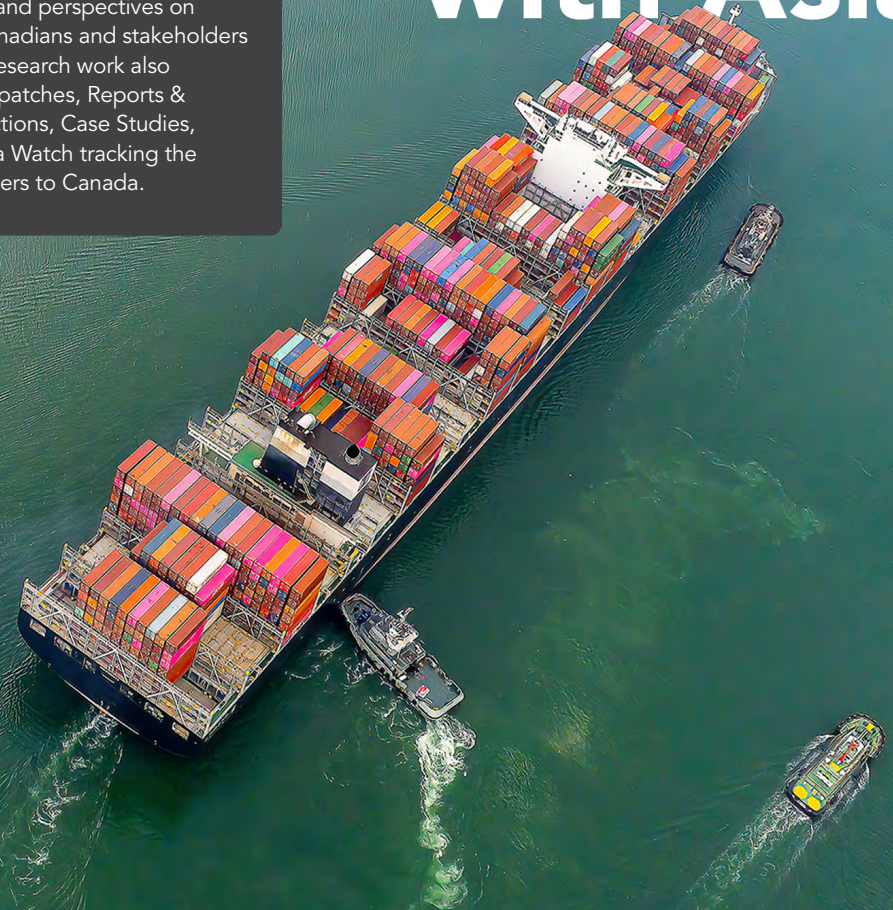
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TORONTO

ECONOMIC SECURITY:

The Future of Canadian Trade and Investment with Asia



SPEAKERS



Ari Van Assche
Professor, Department of International Business, HEC Montréal; APF Canada John H. McArthur Research Fellow



Dan Ciuriak
Director and Principal, Ciuriak Consulting Inc.; APF Canada Distinguished Fellow



Ann Fitz-Gerald
Director, Balsillie School of International Affairs



Danielle Goldfarb
Advisor and expert on the digital economy, real-time data, geopolitics, trade, and public policy; APF Canada John H. McArthur Research Fellow



Constantine Karayannopoulos
Former Chief Executive Officer, Neo Performance Materials



Lizzi C. Lee
Fellow on Chinese Economy, Center for China Analysis, Asia Society Policy Institute



Phillip Lipsky
Director, Asian Institute, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy



Pascale Massot
Associate Professor, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa; APF Canada John H. McArthur Research Fellow



Vina Nadjibulla
Vice-President Research & Strategy, APF Canada



Jeff Nankivell
President & CEO, APF Canada



Kati Suominen
Founder and CEO, Nextrade Group; APF Canada John H. McArthur Research Fellow

AGENDA

8:30AM-8:45AM

Registration

Continental breakfast

8:50AM-9:00AM

Welcoming Remarks

9:00AM-9:50AM

Keynote and Moderated Discussion

MODERATOR:

Vina Nadjibulla

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Lizzi C. Lee: *China's Economic and Technological Strategy: Implications for Global Supply Chains and Middle Powers Like Canada*

10AM-11:30AM

Panel 1

This first panel examines how Canada can enhance its economic resilience and competitiveness in response to evolving geopolitical, technological, and regulatory dynamics in the Indo-Pacific. Moving beyond trade opportunities alone, the discussion will focus on how Canada can strengthen its trade diversification strategy — both domestically and with partners — to navigate technological disruption, regulatory fragmentation, and the ongoing reconfiguration of global trade.

MODERATOR:

Vina Nadjibulla

SPEAKERS:

Danielle Goldfarb: *How is AI reshaping trade and what does this mean for Canada?*

Kati Suominen: *Governing trade in AI: Digital trade rules for the Agentic AI era in the Indo-Pacific*

Dan Ciuriak: *How Canada must adapt its domestic economy to compete in a more fragmented, tech-driven global system*

Ari Van Assche: *Strengthening Canada's trade diversification strategy in an era of strategic interdependence*

11:30-11:45AM

Health Break

11:45AM-12:50PM

Panel 2

This second panel examines how shifting security dynamics, supply-chain vulnerabilities, and new strategic dependencies in the Indo-Pacific are reshaping Canada's economic and geopolitical positioning. Panellists will explore where Canada must diversify, de-risk, or deepen engagement to safeguard long-term national and economic security.

MODERATOR:

Ann Fitz-Gerald

SPEAKERS:

Pascale Massot: *Tensions and opportunities surrounding Western de-risking policies in global critical minerals supply chains*

Constantine Karayannopoulos: *Key ingredients for successful rare earth supply chains: Implications for Canada's critical minerals strategy 2.0*

Phillip Lipsky: *Japan's approach to managing strategic dependencies and strengthening supply chain resilience, lessons for Canada*

12:50PM

Closing Remarks

1:00PM

Networking Lunch

