



CANADA-NORTH PACIFIC ARCTIC WORKSHOP

VANCOUVER – January 19-20, 2026

DAY ONE Canada-North Pacific Arctic Workshop | 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. PT | (invite-only)

DAY TWO Navigating Emerging Geopolitical Dynamics in the Canadian Arctic and North Pacific
Public Event: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. PT | (light lunch to follow)

Navigating the Emerging Geopolitical Dynamics in the Canadian Arctic and the North Pacific

Arctic security is at an inflection point. Intensifying great-power competition, rapid technological change, and accelerating environmental shifts are converging in ways that elevate risks to Canada's sovereignty, infrastructure, and alliances. While Canada's strategic lens has often focused on the European Arctic, the North Pacific dimension—particularly with Japan and South Korea—remains under-explored and increasingly consequential.

A sharp, near-term challenge is the vulnerability of subsea infrastructure, including the data cables that

underpin military communications, financial flows, and internet connectivity across the North. With projects such as Far North Fibre poised to link Asia, North America, and Europe, resilience against state and "gray-zone" threats is urgent. At the same time, Russia's Arctic militarization and China's dual-use footprint (infrastructure, research, and technology) signal deeper strategic convergence; joint patrols, cyber capabilities, and electronic warfare amplify risks from the seabed to space. Melting ice expands naval access and exposure of critical undersea assets.

Event Program

JANUARY 19, 2026

9:30-9:45 AM **Opening Remarks**

9:45-11:15 AM **Session 1: National Defence and Strategic Partnerships**

Focuses on aligning Arctic and Indo-Pacific defence planning through NORAD modernization, allied interoperability, and deeper cooperation with Japan and South Korea to strengthen deterrence and resilience.



MODERATOR:

Vina Nadjibulla, Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



R. Adm. David Patchell, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific and Joint Task Force Pacific



Alexander Dalziel, Senior Fellow, Macdonald-Laurier Institute



Fujio Ohnishi, Professor, Hokkaido University Arctic Research Center



David Prodger, Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission in Ottawa



RAPPORTEUR:

Nanae Baldauff, Senior (Non-Resident) Associate Fellow, NATO Defense College

11:15-11:30 AM **Coffee Break**

Event Program

11:30-12:45

Session 2: Technology, Surveillance, and Cybersecurity

Explores how space-based sensing, autonomous systems, and cyber-resilient networks can enhance integrated maritime domain awareness while addressing cross-domain vulnerabilities and interoperability challenges.



MODERATOR:

[Jonathan Berkshire Miller](#), Senior Fellow, Macdonald-Laurier Institute



[Michael Byers](#), Outer Space Institute Co-Director; Professor of International Relations, University of British Columbia



[Jennifer Spence](#), Director of the Arctic Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs



[Brent Napier](#), Director, Enforcement Policy & Programs Conservation & Protection, Department of Fisheries and Oceans



[Suon Choi](#), Research Fellow, Korea Institute for Defense Analyses



[Natsuhiko Otsuka](#), Senior Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation



RAPPORTEUR:

[Alexander Dalziel](#), Senior Fellow, Macdonald-Laurier Institute

12:45-1:30

Networking Lunch

Event Program

1:30-3:00

Session 3: Critical Minerals, Energy, Infrastructure, and Climate as a Security Multiplier

Analyzes how climate change, resource access, and critical mineral supply chains intersect with economic security, defence readiness, and industrial cooperation in the Arctic–North Pacific region; Examines vulnerabilities and resilience strategies for Arctic and North Pacific critical infrastructure—particularly subsea cables, ports, and communications networks—amid climate stress and growing grey-zone interference.



MODERATOR:

Christopher Coates, Director of Foreign Policy, National Defence and National Security, Macdonald-Laurier Institute



Elizabeth Wishnick, Adjunct Senior Research Scholar, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University



Sung-Ho Kang, Principal Research Scientist, Division of Polar Climate Research, Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)



Andrew Smith, Project Lead, Canadian Institute for Arctic Security



Jessica Shadian, President and CEO, Arctic360



Patrick Duxbury, Executive Director, Inuit Development Corporation Association



RAPPORTEUR:

Hema Nadarajah, Program Manager, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

3:00-3:15

Coffee Break

Agenda: Canada-North Pacific Arctic Workshop

3:15-4:00	Session 4: Policy Discussion and Strategic collaboration among North Pacific partners Synthesizes cross-cutting insights to identify practical policy pathways and collaborative mechanisms for Canada and its North Pacific partners to navigate the evolving Arctic–Pacific security nexus. Presentations from the three rapporteurs and group discussion
4:00-4:30 PM	Closing Remarks Vina Nadjibulla

JANUARY 20, 2026 – Public Event

10:00-10:10	Opening Remarks
10:10-10:30	Speaker Remarks
	MODERATOR:  Vina Nadjibulla , Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
	 Elizabeth Wishnick , Adjunct Senior Research Scholar, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University
	 Sung-Ho Kang , Principal Research Scientist, Division of Polar Climate Research, Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)
	 Jennifer Spence , Director of the Arctic Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
	 Natsuhiko Otsuka , Senior Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
10:30-11:00	Moderated Discussion
11:10-11:25 AM	Audience Q & A
11:20-11:25 AM	Closing Remarks Vina Nadjibulla