



INDO-PACIFIC INITIATIVE

APF Canada's Inaugural Indo-Pacific Forum



ASIA PACIFIC
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DU CANADA

INDO-PACIFIC FORUM

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada will host the inaugural Indo-Pacific Forum in Ottawa on October 1–2, 2025. Organized as part of the Foundation's Indo-Pacific Initiative funded by the Government of Canada, this high-level forum will bring together Canadian and Indo-Pacific policymakers, business leaders, academic experts, and civil society representatives to take stock of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy three years after its launch.

As Canada reviews its foreign policy priorities in 2025, the strategic imperative to diversify not only trade and economic but also political and security partnerships has become more pressing. Recent turmoil in Canada's relationship with the United States has underscored the need to deepen engagement with key partners across the Indo-Pacific. The Forum will offer a timely venue to assess progress, identify opportunities, and generate new momentum for Canadian engagement in the region.

The Forum will feature interactive roundtables and a public panel discussion on key themes including regional security, economic resilience, critical minerals and supply chains, energy co-operation and innovation, and people-to-people ties and development co-operation. It will also

serve as a platform for APF Canada's eight [Indo-Pacific Research Fellows](#), who will present research findings alongside senior and visiting fellows, providing evidence-based insights to inform both policymaking and public dialogue.

As a platform for strategic dialogue, the Forum will focus on actionable outcomes—identifying priority areas for Canadian engagement and helping to align domestic capacity with regional demand.

The Indo-Pacific Forum is envisioned as an annual signature event in Ottawa. By establishing this Forum as a premier venue for policy dialogue, APF Canada seeks to institutionalize a cross-sectoral conversation on Canada's long-term positioning in the Indo-Pacific.

A short public summary report will be released following the event, along with video highlights and podcast recordings to expand the Forum's reach. As Canada prepares for high-level regional engagements in the fall—including Prime Minister Mark Carney's participation in the ASEAN and APEC Summits—the Forum will help frame a more strategic, coherent, and sustained approach to the Indo-Pacific.

FORMAT

- **October 1:** Public-facing plenary and reception with opening remarks and a panel discussion.
- **October 2:** Closed-door, policy-focused roundtables convening APF Canada's Indo-Pacific Research Fellows, Canadian and U.S. experts, and stakeholders from government, academia, and civil society.

CORE QUESTIONS

Across the pillars of security, economy, and innovation, discussions will focus on three guiding questions:

1. What were the original objectives of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy?
2. What has been achieved in the first three years?
3. How must Canada adapt these objectives in light of recent shifts in U.S. leadership, the global trade order, and geopolitical realignment?

The goal is to deliver actionable recommendations to guide Canada's next phase of Indo-Pacific engagement.

AGENDA

OCTOBER 1,
2025

PUBLIC EVENT

5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

Public Plenary and Reception

Networking Reception

Welcome Remarks



Jeff Nankivell, President and CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

Panel Discussion

Unpacking Shifting Security and Geopolitical Dynamics in the Indo-Pacific

SPEAKERS:



Victor Cha, President, Geopolitics and Foreign Policy, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); Distinguished University Professor, Georgetown University



General Wayne Eyre, Senior Fellow, University of Ottawa; Canada's Former Chief of the Defence Staff



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

OCTOBER 2,
2025

POLICY FORUM (CLOSED-DOOR ROUNDTABLES)

8:30 – 9:00 A.M.

Registration & Coffee

9:00 – 9:30 A.M.

Welcome Remarks



Jeff Nankivell, President and CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



Weldon Epp, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indo-Pacific, Global Affairs Canada

Each Session below will have a moderator and 4 lead discussants plus a rapporteur.

9:30 – 10:45 A.M. **Roundtable 1 – Peace & Security**

- Assessing Canada's security objectives in the Indo-Pacific Strategy.
- Achievements and limitations over the past three years.
- Shifting regional dynamics under the new U.S. administration.
- Recommendations for strengthening deterrence, resilience, and partnerships.

DISCUSSANTS:



Brent Napier, Director, Enforcement Policy & Programs, Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Jonathan Berkshire Miller, Senior Fellow, Macdonald-Laurier Institute



Vincent Rigby, Slater Family Professor of Practice, McGill University



Nanae Baldauff, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Indo-Pacific Research Fellow, Japan; Senior (non-resident) Associate Fellow, NATO Defense College



Suon Choi, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Indo-Pacific Research Fellow, South Korea; Korea Institute for Defense Analyses



Ty Curran, Deputy Director General, International Security, Department of National Defence



MODERATOR:

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

**RAPPORTEUR:**

Stephanie Carvin, Associate Professor of International Relations, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University

10:45 – 11:00 A.M. Networking Break

**11:00 A.M. –
12:15 P.M.**

Roundtable 2 – Trade, Economic Resilience & Supply Chains

- Evaluating Canada's trade and supply chain goals in the Indo-Pacific Strategy.
- Achievements to date and new challenges, including U.S. tariff policies and shifting regional trade pacts.
- Policy options to advance diversification and strengthen economic resilience.

DISCUSSANTS:

Sara Wilshaw, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, International Trade and Chief Trade Commissioner of Canada



Karthik Nachiappan, Research Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore; Senior Fellow (Non-resident), Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



Jessica Shadian, President & CEO, Arctic360



Don McLain Gill, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Indo-Pacific Research Fellow, Philippines; Lecturer, Department of International Studies, De La Salle University



Gaphel Kongtsa, Director of International Policy, Canadian Chamber of Commerce

MODERATOR:

Patrick Leblond, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa; Senior Fellow (Non-resident), Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

**RAPPORTEUR:**

Ari Van Assche, CériUM Chair in Asian and Indo-Pacific Studies; Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada John H. McArthur Research Fellow

12:15 – 1:00 P.M. **Networking Lunch**

1:00 – 2:15 P.M. **Roundtable 3 – Energy Security, Technology & Innovation**

- Reviewing Strategy objectives in energy, technology, and innovation.
- Canada's progress in critical minerals, clean energy, AI, and emerging tech.
- Adapting to global shifts in innovation and industrial policy.
- Future priorities for collaboration and safeguarding economic security.

DISCUSSANTS:



Rachel McCormick, Director General, Natural Resources Canada



Nadir Patel, Senior Strategic Advisor, Norton Rose Fulbright; Chancellor, Wilfred Laurier University; former Canadian High Commissioner to India



Tuvshinzaya Gantulga, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Indo-Pacific Research Fellow, Mongolia; Principal Advisor, Rio Tinto



Yujen Kuo, Director and Professor at the Institute of China and Asia-Pacific Studies of National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan; Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Indo-Pacific Research Fellow, Taiwan



MODERATOR:

Jeff Nankivell, President & CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



RAPPORTEUR:

Motria Savaryn-Roy, Director of Geopolitical Economics, Sun Life

2:15 – 2:30 P.M. **Networking Break**

2:30 – 3:45 P.M. **Roundtable 4 – Development, Education, Civil Society Collaboration**

- Review development programming, education and research collaboration, and people to people ties.
- Review of changing landscape on development assistance and U.S. role in the region.
- Future priorities for Canada's programming, funding, and partnerships in the region.



DISCUSSANTS:

Sanjay Ruparelia, Jarislowsky Democracy Chair; Professor of Politics, Toronto Metropolitan University; Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Senior Fellow



Rhonda Lenton, President and Vice-Chancellor, York University



Bart Édes, Professor of Practice, McGill University; Distinguished Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



Aries A. Arugay, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Indo-Pacific Research Fellow, Philippines; Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Philippines Diliman



Rohinton Medhora, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation; Professor of Practice, McGill University



MODERATOR:

Victor V. Ramraj, Professor and Director of the Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria



RAPPORTEUR:

Ann Fitz-Gerald, Director, Balsillie School of International Affairs, University of Waterloo

3:45-4:30 P.M.

Review of Recommendations

- Summary of key insights and policy recommendations from each roundtable
- Presentations from all rapporteurs
- Draft recommendations

4:30-4:45 P.M

Closing Remarks

SPEAKERS



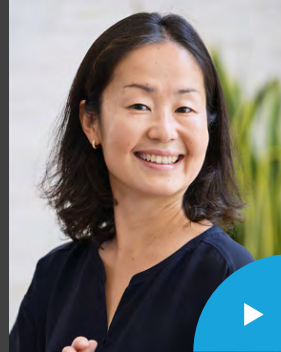
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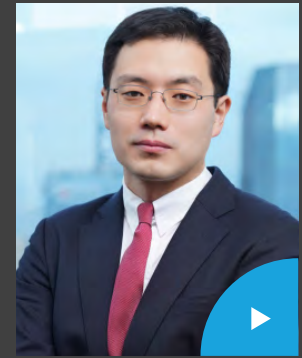
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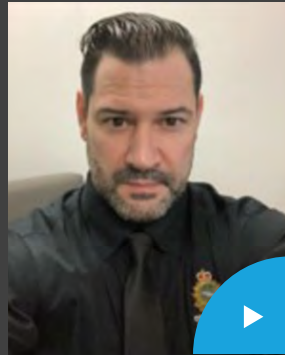
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Sara Wilshaw

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The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF 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 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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