



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Mar 1, 2016

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html

Wednesday Lunches The 15 Field Officers Mess serves a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies. We are now pushing the 3rd Wed lunch each month as the Van Arty Association lunch and encouraging members to attend. Come meet some old friends and help with the Yearbook project.

RUSI Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference. RUSI Vancouver is proud to be the host and anchoring sponsor of the 2016 Strategic Studies Conference in the Alice MacKay Conference room at the Central Branch of the Vancouver Public Library on April 8 and 9. With "Global Flashpoints" as its theme, the Conference promises to inform and stimulate with speakers and panel discussions that cover a range of topics, all of which currently make today's headlines. Commencing with a panel discussion on Friday evening, April 8, a full day of presentations follows on Saturday, April 9, ending with an address by the Hon Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence. The Strategic Studies Conference is the RUSI Vancouver signature event in our annual calendar. We welcome everyone with an interest in international affairs to attend. Registration details can be found on the conference notice at the end of this newsletter. Cam Cathcart, President, RUSI Vancouver.

Whiskey Tasting - Friday - March 4th 1800 - 2300 hrs



The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders welcome you to attend our annual Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music. *See poster at the end of the newsletter*.

World War 2 - 1940

John Thompson Strategic analyst quotes from his book "Spirit Over Steel"

Mar 2nd: The 12th German Army moves into Bulgaria.

Mar 4th: 500 British commandos land on the Loeften Islands and depart with 215 POWs and 300 Norwegian volunteers; the latter causes harsh reprisals from the Germans. Hitler tries to convince Prince Paul of Yugoslavia to join the Tripartite Pact, but his Highness returns home in an undecided mood. General Wilson is finding that the Greek General Staff is friendly but

uncooperative on many key issues – such as disengaging from the Italians and reorienting towards a defence against a German attack.

Mar 6th: Churchill issues his Battle of the Atlantic Directive, outlining new measures and resources to be combined to battle the U-Boats. The Germans execute 18 Dutch Resistance members for organizing strikes in February.

Mar 7th: The U-Boat ace, Gunther Prien, and his veteran U47 are sunk by the RN destroyers HMS Wolverine and HMS Verity.

Russian Troops 'Lose' Field Gun After Holiday Salute

By News from Elsewhere.....as found by BBC Monitoring 24 February 2016



The ZiS-3 field gun has been withdrawn from active service but is still used for gun salutes and military shows. Image copyright Studiya Krylya RossiiImage

Russian soldiers have been left red-faced after losing a large artillery piece in the middle of the city of Volgograd, it's reported. Surprised locals called the police after finding the

weapon - a World War Two-era ZiS-3 76mm mobile field gun - blocking the pavement of a major thoroughfare near the centre on Tuesday evening, the LifeNews TV channel reports.

It turns out the gun went AWOL as it was being towed back to the barracks in a column of military vehicles from the city's Volga embankment, where it had been used in a gun salute to mark the Defender of the Fatherland Day - an annual official holiday celebrating the armed forces. One eyewitness reports seeing it uncouple itself from a turning lorry and trundle backwards onto the roadside, coming to rest only 1m (3ft) from a parked car. "Only a bit more, and it would have ended up in the front passenger seat," he says. It's not clear whether the troops noticed the loss, as the witness says they "carried on as if nothing had happened". A military spokesman, however, insists the servicemen did spot the gun's departure, but were unable to stop as they were in an "organised column". The errant weapon has since been safely returned to the barracks. Military prosecutors are investigating a possible breach of "laws on road safety and weapons security", LifeNews says.

US Considers New Laws on Drones

Civilian rigs drone with handgun, another with a flamethrower

Feb 28, 2016 | David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen



A YouTube video of a drone-mounted handgun firing rounds into the Connecticut woods — and a companion video of a flying flamethrower lighting up a spit-roasting Thanksgiving turkey — have reignited efforts by some U.S. legislators to make it a crime to weaponize an unmanned aerial vehicle, the **Associated Press** writes. While the Federal Aviation

Administration mulls regulations on drones, a number of states have established their own rules

— though most of them focus on drone-mounted cameras as threats to privacy and security. Connecticut would be one of the first to restrict how drone owners can modify their craft into potentially dangerous weapons. "I am a huge Second Amendment supporter and it would make me very happy because I don't see any, any civilian purpose for a flying gun," said Clinton police Sgt. Jeremiah Dunn, whose department investigated the video.

The "Flying Gun" video, posted last summer by Central Connecticut State University student Austin Haughwout, drew the attention of the FAA as well. No charges have been filed but the FAA said last week it was still investigating. Dunn said his department was instructed by the local state's attorney's office that no Connecticut laws appear to have been violated in the first video and that the incident occurred on wooded private property, where a firearm could be legally discharged. Dunn said no local ordinances were violated, either. The teen's father contends a new state law is unnecessary, arguing that his son did nothing wrong. "This is a solution looking for a problem that doesn't exist," said Bret Haughwout. Since that first video, Austin Haughwout posted a second one on YouTube in November of a drone he outfitted with a flamethrower to "cook" a turkey on a spit in the woods. Bret Haughwout said his son, a sophomore studying mechanical engineering, hasn't hurt anyone with his drones and is just a hobbyist interested in how machines work. He said the drone that fired a handgun was "not at all an effective weapon" and "couldn't hit the broad side of a barn."

Last year, Connecticut lawmakers considered a proposal on weaponized drones and other restrictions, but it died in the state House of Representatives due to inaction, weeks before Haughwout's first video went online. "Clearly what happened in Connecticut renewed our interest," said Rep Christie Carpino, R-Cromwell, co-chair of the General Assembly's Program Review and Investigations Committee. Her panel conducted a comprehensive study of the drone issue in 2014 and proposed wide-ranging legislation last year and "many members of the committee were disappointed it didn't make to the House floor last year," Carpino said. Public hearings are planned for Monday and Tuesday on two separate bills that would restrict the use of drones. One bill would make it a class C felony, punishable by one to 10 years in prison, to use a drone to release tear gas or other substances, or control a deadly weapon or explosive device. The other bill would create a similar crime plus impose limits on how law enforcement and state agencies can use drones.

If Connecticut's legislation passes, it would be one of the first laws that attempts to stop people from turning drones into flying weapons. Last year, Nevada passed a comprehensive bill that prohibited the weaponization of unmanned aircraft systems. It also prevents people from using them from within a certain distance of airports and critical facilities without permission. Other states, such as Arkansas and Mississippi, have focused on preventing peeping toms from using the technology to spy on potential victims. New Hampshire prohibits drones from being used for hunting, fishing or trapping while Michigan passed laws barring people from using a drone to hunt game but also to harass hunters, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Rep William Tong, D-Stamford, co-chairman of the Judiciary Committee, called Haughwout's videos scary. "I don't know what he's thinking about, but that's just reckless on its face," Tong

said. "I get and I understand that kids do crazy things, but that also raises a question about how we ought to regulate these machines as they get ever more sophisticated, because they do have the potential to cause damage or infringe on the rights of others."

Honeywell Developing Virtual Reality Vehicle Windshield for DARPA

By Jen Judson, Defense News February 17, 2016



WASHINGTON — Honeywell is developing an augmented and virtual reality windshield to enhance situational awareness in future ground vehicles for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The company is testing a wrap-around windshield that provides contextual awareness through lower-resolution images combined with a binocular eye display that provides more precise images as part of DARPA's Ground X-Vehicle Technologies

program, Doug Harris, Honeywell's advanced technology manager in crew interface systems, told Defense News. Honeywell is taking its "near-to-eye" and display technologies developed through military and commercial avionics flight decks, such as for the Boeing 777 commercial airliner, and applying them toward the DARPA vehicle program. The company has designed a wide-angle, high definition view of the outside, "potentially allowing the operator to track optimal routes over difficult terrain, review infrared and terrain classification views, and see allies and adversaries," according to a company statement. The DARPA program as a whole is exploring new vehicle technologies to shift the paradigm between survivability, agility and mobility for a next-generation of military vehicles. The struggle now in vehicle development is designing a vehicle that is fast and agile but equally protective. Adding protection usually means adding weight and reducing speed.

DARPA also wants to provide vehicle operators and crew with better situational awareness and that is where Honeywell comes in. With that comes challenges Honeywell hopes to overcome through the project. "The ability to put very high resolution images up on a big wrap-around window and then be able to process all that data," Harris said, "that is a big computational problem, and when you talk about computation that adds up to power, which means a heavier vehicle." Honeywell is also looking into camera and sensor technology that can provide an external view. In order to reduce the cost, the company is trying to minimize the number of cameras used in an array on the vehicle, Harris said. The company is using some of the lessons it learned from work on another DARPA program called the Sandblaster to get to a solution. Sandblaster attempted to tackle the degraded visual environment problem rotary-wing pilots have, especially when landing helicopters in dust.

Honeywell is also working to increase how efficiently information is processed. It's easy to add a server for more processing power except when that adds to the weight of a vehicle, which

isn't an option, Harris explained. Focusing on human factors is also important, Harris said. "That was one of the things we thought was really strong about our proposal to DARPA was the human factors content that we have in our program. We have a very strong human factors core team here and we've received comments from DARPA that that was one of the things that was a factor in their selection of us to move forward with this," Harris said. "You don't want your operator throwing up inside of the vehicle." Honeywell is not alone in developing 360-degree situational awareness systems to be worn inside a vehicle where visibility of the outside is limited. BAE Systems has a capability that allows soldiers wearing a helmet-mounted monocle to "see through" their armored vehicle. The company used its advanced jet fighter technology from the Eurofighter Typhoon helmet to develop the Battleview 360 system that consists of a monocle and touch-screen display. The monocle has the ability to see a video-feed — both visual and infrared — from the vehicle's cameras and relevant symbology.

Honeywell's near-eye-display is a binocular solution, which according to Harris, "provides significant benefits in the ability of the user to adapt to it, to avoid motion sickness." Harris said the company is also researching and developing a solution "that we think is pretty unique and special" related to vestibulo-ocular reflex, which is the reflex eyes have to focus on things even while the head is moving around. The augmented and virtual reality windshield technology does call into question whether there would be a need for windows in future vehicles at all and Honeywell is looking at both possibilities. Harris said there are differing opinions on the matter. During NASA's Project Mercury space program that started in the late 1950s, when the Mercury capsule was first designed, a window was not included and the astronauts essentially "revolted," Harris described. "There's a school of thought where we've got to have a window for the operator, but there's also a school of thought that if you don't have a window you can use materials that are much more rugged and protect the individual versus glass or something," he added. "We are looking at both options there." The first phase of the program — for which Honeywell received \$1.4 million — ends June 30, Harris said, and the company will deliver technology that will be demonstrated for DARPA and the military services. DARPA will decide whether to kick off phase two and fund Honeywell to develop technology further following that effort. The second phase would include a full demonstration at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, using a test vehicle, Harris noted.

Canada's CF-18s Did Us Proud

Let's take a moment to recognize the fine work done by our pilots and their ground crews.

23 Feb 2016
National Post Editorial

On Monday, Canada's combat mission in the Middle East officially ended. Sort of. Both the current and former federal governments have played somewhat fast and loose with the definition of combat. Suffice it to say that, on Feb. 22, the Royal Canadian Air Force's mandate to drop bombs on Islamic State of Iraq & the Levant (ISIL) targets in Iraq and Syria was rescinded (air strikes had actually stopped the week before). Our six CF-18s will soon return to Canada, along with the hundreds of men and women who were deployed to Kuwait to keep those jets armed, operational and in the air. A new mission, with much greater emphasis on training local forces on the ground, is now beginning, and should be fully in place by the spring.

We can debate the merits of the mission ad nauseam. We can criticize Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for making a hasty election promise his government needed months to deliver on (and only when the flights were approaching an end anyway), or former prime minister Stephen Harper for consistently failing to match his small military commitments to his oversized rhetoric. But there has been enough of that already. Instead, let's simply take a moment to acknowledge the fine work done by our CF-18 pilots and their ground crews. What they did mattered.



According to figures released by National Defence and analyzed by Postmedia's David Pugliese, Canadian jets dropped 606 bombs on ISIL forces during their 15- month air war. This was a small fraction of the overall allied bombing figure — 32,000 bombs dropped in total. Only five Canadian missions, totalling 27 bombs, involved targets in Syria, despite the controversy aroused by the decision to extend the bombing mission to that country. In Iraq, however, the Canadian bombing runs were indeed a valued and significant contribution to the allied effort. Canadian jets destroyed 267

enemy fighting positions, sapping ISIL's strength and protecting the lives of local allied forces on the ground. Thirty ISIL bomb-making factories were destroyed. Canadian jets destroyed enemy vehicles, hampering their logistical operations, and provided direct support to friendly forces on the ground as ISIL was driven out of occupied towns and cities. Despite reports suggesting Canada's actions inflicted collateral damage, the military was not able to confirm any report that Canadian airstrikes resulted in the death of innocent civilians. Zero collateral damage. That itself is worth celebrating.

The hard work by the Canadian Forces has not ended, of course. Trainers remain on the ground, and will soon be joined by many more. They, too, are providing excellent service, and materially contributing to the war against ISIL. They will face real danger during their mission. Some may not return. Canadians should keep them in their thoughts. The government may insist the current mission is non- combat, but for the Canadian soldiers on the front lines, close enough to be killed deliberately by the enemy, by friendly fire or simply by stray shots in the chaos of a battle, that's a distinction without a difference. In the air, as well, our reconnaissance and refuelling operations will continue to support the allied air campaign against ISIL. The US requested that they stay, and the Trudeau government consented. In their specialized way, these pilots, too, will be contributing to the war against ISIL, and also deserve our thanks. As the bombing component of Canada's contribution comes to an end, its achievements remain a source of national pride. The pilots returning home probably wish they'd stayed longer and could have done more. Many Canadians feel the same. But all should agree that, for as long as they stayed, they made us proud, and have our thanks for their service.

Military Reserves Running 19 Per Cent Under Strength

Murray Brewster OTTAWA — The Canadian Press Jan. 26, 2016

The bottom appears to have fallen out of the country's military reserves. The latest government figures, contained in federal departmental performance reports for the last budget year, show a shortfall of 5,293 part-time soldiers, sailors and aircrew. The numbers also show the military's medical branch has 367 unfilled positions — both uniformed and civilian. The department noted there's a national shortage of health-care professionals and military system is backstopped by its contract with the private company Calian. National Defence says 35 of these vacancies are in the mental-health section, which was the subject of an intense recruiting campaign following a string of suicides by combat veterans in late 2013 and early 2014. Gary Walbourne, the military ombudsman, sounded exasperated upon hearing the figures, saying his office repeatedly pushed the previous Conservative government on the issue of health care for both full-time and part-time members. "This comes down to desire. If you have the desire to fix the problem, you'll fix it," Walbourne said in an interview. "We don't need any more studies or any more reports. Enough is enough. It comes to a leadership issue and someone has to decide that this is going to get fixed."

The country's top military commander, Gen. Jonathan Vance, has made caring for the troops one of his signature efforts. The records did note that military health-care system easily met its performance targets for wait times and treatment. The departmental report, tabled as Parliament returned this week, also raises the flag about the army's non-combat vehicles, which have a serviceability rate of just 60 per cent — something National Defence insists does not affect its ability to operate and defend the country. Spokeswoman Maj. Giselle Holland said efforts are underway to improve the serviceability rate through upgrading and enhancement, among other things. Last summer, the former Harper government issued a tender for logistics trucks — a program a decade in the making that had become a political and fiscal football. Originally proposed as an "urgent" procurement in 2006, the Conservatives tried and failed twice to buy replacements for 1980s vintage vehicles used to haul troops, equipment and artillery.

It is the decline in reservists, however, that is among the most startling aspects of the report, which shows the army has taken the biggest hit. The air force has remained relatively stable; there was a slight drop in navy ranks. Defence officials blame the diminished reservist ranks — 21,707, all told — on a higher-than-expected departure rate and challenges in meeting recruiting quotas. Retired colonel John Selkirk of the group Reserves 2000, which lobbies on behalf of part-time soldiers, says the problem has been building for years and reflects a slashing of the training budget by the Conservatives, a change in how reservist trades are selected and a dysfunctional recruiting system that leans towards signing up full-time members. "Is it any wonder the militia is under strength? Not at all," Selkirk said. Many reservists are young people who use their service as part-time income for school and the absence of large summer training exercises has meant they've had to go elsewhere to find work, he said. Poor treatment of reservists, particularly when it comes to health care, has been repeatedly pointed out by Walbourne. National Defence has been reluctant to track the health of part-timers; they have a tough time getting access to military doctors and typically must wait more than a year for

severance and pension payments. "The compensation and benefits package wrapped around reservists is convoluted, complex and archaic," Walbourne said. Evan Koronewski, a spokesman for National Defence, said the chief of defence staff is working to strengthen the reserves by improving recruiting and retention and that advertising will raise awareness of career opportunities in the military.

Who is it?



Last Week: This picture was taken in the 1920s, near Kamloops and shows unidentified members of the BC Hussars (5th BC Light Horse), in the field.

This Week: This week we return to things, rather than people, although the latter do figure prominently in the photo, and one might be familiar to those veterans (as in "aged geezers", as most reading this are veterans in the Veterans Affairs sense).



The object of our desire is the auto, as it is of a type not seen in Kerrisdale or other areas of breeding and culture. We'd like to know the make, and something of its service history (note the blackout light, of an alien type). If possible, we'd also like to know if the chaps in the photo, all cheerful Canucks, and related Allied chappies, were later arrested for drunk-driving (or "drink-driving" for those of a British origin). Those were certainly the days of "Have one more for the ditch!"

Bonus points are given for identifying the type and vintage of the liquid in the bottles. Winners may always visit the museum of the 15th Field Regiment (RCA) to pick up their prize: an authentic Canadian Army Manual of Training (CAMT) of your choice from our huge box of surplus pamphlets. Answers, as always, may be sent to whomever you trust most: the editor (Maj Mugford), or the author (Pvt Redmond, who may be contacted at johnd. redmond@telus.net). As always, you can email the

editor for a picture you can zoom in on Bob.mugford@outlook.com

From the 'Punitentary'

What is the worst thing about ancient orators? They tend to Babylon.

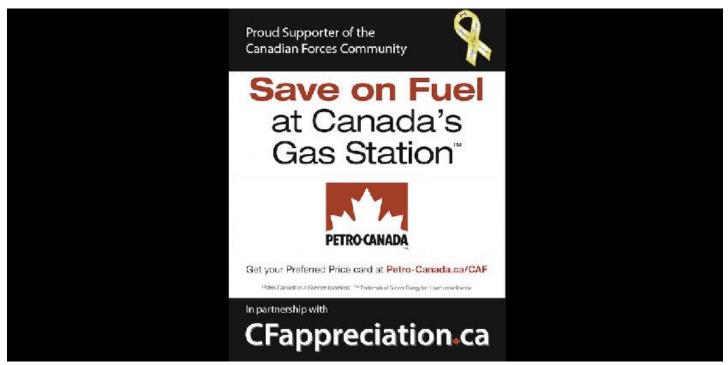
Murphy's other Laws

No matter how well you perform your job, a superior will seek to modify the results.

Quotable Quotes

A person with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds. Mark Twain

Breaking News: Petro Canada CF Gas Incentive



Canada's Gas Station, Petro-Canada, is now offering a sizeable discount to the military community at pumps coast to coast. CF Community members can now save three cents off a litre per 100 litres every month.

"I think it's a terrific program. The fact that they're willing to offer this discount at every single pump that they have across Canada is very generous, and it is making a difference in the lives of the Canadian Forces community. It's putting money back into their pockets and as Canada's petroleum station they are leaders in offering such an incredible discount on a national basis and not restricting it in any way. Every single CFOne card holder at every single Petro-Canada pump is eligible," said Raewen Pappas, Partnership Development Coordinator for Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services. To qualify, military community members need a CFOne card to receive the Preferred Price card. If a member already has a CFOne Card they can complete registration on the Petro Canada website. A link to the website is available on CF Appreciation's website. Cards will be received within ten business days.

The military community is also eligible for the Petro-Points Card and upon applying automatically receives 10,000 points, equivalent to a car wash. The Petro-Points Card and the Preferred Price card can be swiped at the pump for savings at any location across the country and at North Atlantic Petroleum locations in Newfoundland and Labrador. The savings are not restricted to any specific type of petroleum; customers can fill up on either diesel or regular petroleum. Every month Petro-Canada will automatically top off the card back to 100 litres. Unused fuel savings do not accumulate in the following months. The program is a first of its kind exclusive to the military community. "As a Canadian company we are fiercely proud of our position in the Canadian marketplace and we see ourselves as a leader there. One of our big

goals is to connect to Canadian families and Canadian fabric from coast to coast and support at the community level wherever we can...we're very, very proud of the program. We're proud of the fact that we as Canada's gas station are able to connect with what is obviously an important part of the Canadian fabric, and we're proud to support Canadian Armed Forces initiative," said Mel Broten, vice president, sales, service, and operations for Suncor.

Pappas estimates that with 150,000 CFOne Cards the total amount of savings for the military community can be close to \$900,000. "It's much appreciated, and I know it's making a difference in the lives of the military because we hear from them every day about how thankful and excited they are to have a national company recognize the sacrifices they make on a daily basis. It's really heartwarming," noted Pappas. Prior to launching the program nationwide, the company held a pilot program in Kingston for three months to see if there was sufficient interest. Broten was inspired to start the program after witnessing the support American companies give to their servicemen and women. "It struck me then that we are the Canadian company with kind of the number one position here, and I thought we should be stepping into that space in Canada," explained Broten.

To apply for a CFOne card or find the link to Petro Canada's Preferred Points card program visit CF Appreciation website

To obtain a Preferred Points card visit their website.

Last Call!!!!

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA &

The 78th Fraser's Highlanders Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders welcome you to attend our annual Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by the Officers of the Mess, or \$25.00 if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!

Dress is business casual. kilts, and highland dress, of course, are welcome.

DATE: Friday – March 4th, 2016

TIME: 1800 hrs - 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

2025 West 11th Ave Van, BC V6J 2C7

DO NOT MISS OUT! TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

Major James Barrett Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78th Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.

BC Regiment Association



invites you to the

St. Patrick's Day Party

Where: BC Regiment Drill Hall

620 Beatty St, Vancouver

When: Sunday March 13, 2016

Time: 13:00hr - 17:00hr

(Meet & Greet 13:00hr,

Lunch 13:45hr)

Cost: \$20 RSVP by March 6

RSVP: Sandra Young 604-543-0368 or

sandymay@shaw.ca

Prize for St. Patrick's Day best dressed Lunch: Irish Stew, Salad, Buns & Dessert

Door prize giveaways

Lucky Draw prize raffles: \$20 arm's length or 3 tickets for \$5

50/50

Come down for the St. Patrick's Day Parade 11:00-12:30hr Howe & Georgia Streets and then come warm up with some hot stew, catch up with some friends and listen to the BC Regiment Association Irish Pipes & Drums.

Mark Your Calendar

2016 RUSI VANCOUVER STRATEGIC STUDIES CONFERENCE

APRIL 8 & 9, 2016

Alice Mackay Room, Vancouver Public Library - 350 West Georgia,

Conference Theme-GLOBAL FLASHPOINTS

Featuring speakers and panels on the future of NATO, Middle East militarism, China and the West Pacific, the Arctic, and Canada and International Security.

Opening Remarks: The Hon. Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of BC

Keynote Speaker: Hon. Harjit Sajjan, PC,OMM,MSM,CD, Minister of National Defence

Conference fee: \$45 Regular; \$30 Students. (includes light refreshments and Saturday lunch)

Register at:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-vancouver-strategic-studies-conference-tickets-21259706354

Contacts: Keith Maxwell (kdmaxwell@gmail.com) or Cam Cathcart (https://doi.org/10.100)

The following support the 2016 Strategic Studies Conference:













