



Newsletter – October 2025

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Note

During the Yukon territorial election, public posts from the CIAS will be on pause. Expect our external communications to resume in mid-November.

From the Project Lead

Colleagues -

As the Canadian Institute for Arctic Security reaches its one-year mark, I reflect on all the work to date and the support from Northerners, Canadians and our international network. When you call or message and I can help point you in a productive direction – that is the most satisfying part of the job and proves the value of CIAS to a diverse group of people and organizations.

It has been a very active summer – see this month's articles for what we've done to bring Canadian and international attention to our region. Not a casual, stress-free summer for me by any means, but the CIAS has hit important milestones in its development and has done an exceptional job of consistently delivering information, making personal connections, and bringing people to experience the North.

Finally, a very big announcement: Arctic Summit 2026. I am so proud of the partnerships we've been invited into to help host a significant international gathering in the Canadian North, driven by Northern priorities, and profiling security and investment to fellow Canadians and our global allies. See the full announcement below and mark your calendars for February 23-25 in Whitehorse.

-Andrew

CIAS LATITUDE



On August 26, 2025, the CIAS held its inaugural LATITUDE session. LATITUDE is designed as an invitation-only executive roundtable that brings together leaders in the Arctic security space to have open discussion on issues and build key relationships.

Co-Chairs Minister Ranj Pillai (Yukon government) and Grand Chief Math'ieya Alatini (Council of Yukon First Nations) were joined by representatives from the Canadian Armed Forces, intelligence and communications security, private sector and academia.

Listen to Andrew's interview on CBC Yukon which talks about what we accomplished at LATITUDE ([LINK](#)).



Clockwise from top left: Participants visit a large-scale map of the Canadian North, emphasizing specific geographies, cultures and infrastructure. Members of 1CRPG Haines Junction Patrol connect with Nancy Karetak-Lindell, Senator for Nunavut. CIAS coins commemorating the inaugural LATITUDE session. Group discussions at the Da Ku Cultural Centre in Haines Junction, Yukon. (Photos: Yukon government)

Joint Arctic Security Conference

Initiated by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Canada/KAS4Security, and presented in partnership with the CIAS, the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada and the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, this one-day meeting gave exposure to realities of security in the North. With presentations by Yukon First Nations leadership, emerging security challenges with Joint Task Force North, NATO, Asia-Pacific connections to the Arctic, and the energy sector.

With 50 local, national and international guests in-person in Whitehorse, the meeting was an important public conversation to build knowledge of issues in the North and abroad. With the common understanding, all guests can make informed decisions on how to interact in the security domain and utilize new personal connections gained at the conference.

The conference recording can be accessed at this [LINK](#) (note: from about 2h15m to 5h00m, the screen is static with no audio, as that covered an in-person only session and the lunch break).



Left: Grand Chief Math'ieya Alatini, Council of Yukon First Nations; Chief Ruth Massie, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council; Chief Pauline Frost, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; Roberta Joseph, Arctic Athabaskan Council; and Kari Johnston, CEO of Sha Shāw Corporation. Right: Dr. Bernd Althusmann, Head of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Canada (Photos: Yukon government)

Announcement: Arctic Summit 2026

The Canadian Institute for Arctic Security and the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce are very excited to announce "Arctic Summit 2026: Securing Sovereignty and Investment" in Whitehorse, Yukon February 23-25, 2026. This sector-spanning gathering will bring regional, national and international leaders, with distinct and crossover business/security programming to advance the Canadian North as a place ready for contributing to security through investment, economic development and building a stronger security culture in the North.

See the news release from Government of Yukon and the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce ([LINK](#)). Registration will be available on the Arctic Summit webpage ([LINK](#)).

Call for session and trade show proposals

If you or your organization would like to be considered for the Arctic Summit 2026 program (business or security stream, or trade show) please reach out to cias@yukon.ca to discuss your proposal.



Within Arctic Summit 2026, the Canadian Institute for Arctic Security will host "Conference ONE" – the natural follow-up to "Conference ZERO" in March 2025 – expanding Northerners' understanding of Arctic security threats and increasing exposure to the opportunities available that will create a more secure North.

Navy Exercises in the Yukon

In late September, the Canadian Forces Naval Reserves held diving exercises in the waters near Whitehorse, Yukon.

In addition to the professional development and training, the Naval Reserve continued their community outreach in the Yukon to profile their current work on studying the needs and desires for new Canadian Armed Forces presence and infrastructure.

The Reserves findings are set to be delivered to leadership in early 2026, and we will report out on those outcomes when they are publicly available.



Above: Rear Admiral Michael Hopper, Chief of the Naval Reserves, addresses Yukon leaders on the role of the Reserves and ideas for expanding more CAF support into the North.

Below: Naval Reservists aboard a RHIB, departing for dive training in Marsh Lake, Yukon. (Photos: CIAS)



Farewell, Zach!

Following his summer stint at the CIAS, Zachary Zimmermann is now settled in Peterborough to further his studies at Trent University. Zach has already joined the North American and Arctic Defense and Security Network (NAADSN) as a Research Fellow. The future is certainly bright for Zach, and we know he will succeed in developing as a youthful Northern voice in the national and international conversation on security.

Nunavut Arctic Sovereignty and Security Strategy

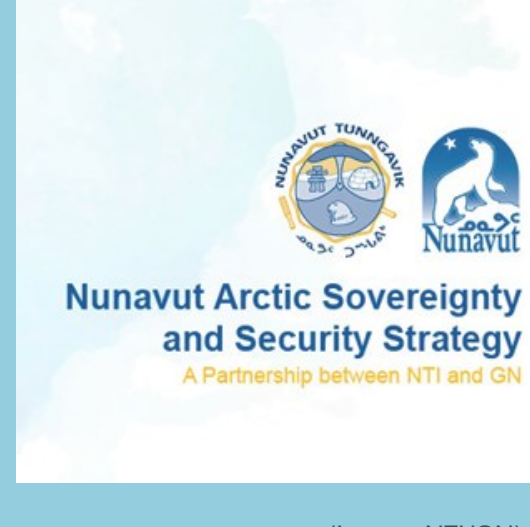
On September 15, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. released the "Nunavut Arctic Sovereignty and Security Strategy". The Strategy is a direct follow-up to the June 2025 Arctic Security and Sovereignty Summit in Iqaluit.

Central to the strategy is the requirement that "we must ensure that sovereignty is not only asserted – but lived, secured and shared in full partnership with those who call this land home." With its release, GN and NTI make it clear that Inuit and Nunavummiut must be at the fore of Arctic decision making in Canada, and to prioritize work in five key areas:

- Strong and resilient communities;
- Nunavut perspectives on Arctic sovereignty and security;
- Nunavut in the circumpolar world;
- Unlocking Nunavut's economic potential; and
- Climate change adaptation and environmental impacts.

Read the full report on the Arctic Security Summit website:

- In English ([LINK](#)) and Inuktitut ([LINK](#))



(Image: NTI/GN)

Commentary

The commentary series is posted every Wednesday morning on the [CIAS website](#). Links to the posts are also available from our LinkedIn and Facebook pages.

We've been fortunate to have regular contributions over the course of the summer – building baseline understanding of the Arctic security landscape and clear examination of the threat vectors.

As part of our ongoing communications strategy development, the CIAS will continue to target social media across the North to get more eyes on the work of our contributors and spread information and ideas in new ways.

Have a look at some of the Institute's recent commentaries:

- [Interview with Yukon Minister Ranj Pillai on the state of security and the future of Northern partnership](#) (Facebook Link)
- [First Nations Partnerships in Defence and Security – Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Kluane Adamek](#)
- [Military Operations and Arctic Infrastructure Development: Looking to Alaska and Australia for Inspiration – Dr. Peter Kikkert and Dr. P. Whitney Lackenbauer](#)

Do you have ideas for written commentary or multimedia information sharing? The CIAS wants to help amplify voices that have the knowledge of the North but may not be heard on other platforms. For more information, start with a look at CIAS's [Written and Multimedia Series Guidelines](#) and get in touch.

Research

The CIAS is on track to publish new reports on Arctic security. Alongside the commentary series and events, the research series is another public-facing pillar of the Institute's work to amplify and present solutions to important issues that matter in the North.

Upcoming work will investigate gaps in defence infrastructure in Canada's North, the risks of foreign interference in elections for territorial and Indigenous government, and the future of the Canadian Rangers. These products will be published on all CIAS platforms.

The CIAS is open to amplifying research from different points of view and backgrounds. Please connect with CIAS to discuss your research ideas. Funding opportunities for research may be available.

CIAS Near You

Upcoming events:

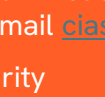
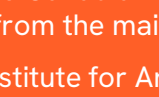
- Arctic Security Working Group (November 4-6; Yellowknife, Northwest Territories)
- Anchorage Security and Defense Dialogue (November 18-20; Anchorage, Alaska)
- Arctic Cooperation Advisory Committee (November 25-26; Iqaluit, Nunavut)
- Annual federal engagements (November 27-28; Ottawa, Ontario)
- Arctic Frontiers (February 2-5; Tromsø, Norway)
- Arctic Summit 2026 (February 23-25; Whitehorse, Yukon)

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Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

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