



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Andrew Leslie

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Canada-US Relations)

Born into a multi-generational military family, Andrew enjoyed a decorated 35 year career with the Canadian Armed Forces. His career has included a variety of command and staff positions in numerous overseas postings with the UN and NATO. In addition to his extensive military experience in Canada, involving disaster relief in floods and the 1998 Quebec ice storm, Andrew has served on international missions included leading troops in Germany, Cyprus, the former Yugoslavia, and, most recently, Afghanistan. In 2006, he became Chief of the Land Staff/Army Commander- a position he held until 2010, during which time he was responsible for 57,000 military and public service personnel, their equipment, military training and related infrastructure. In 2011 he was appointed the Chief of Transformation until his retirement.

General Leslie's service has been recognized on numerous occasions; among his Canadian distinctions, he was appointed Commander of the Order of Military Merit in 2005 and was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross. Internationally, he was appointed a Commander of the U.S. Legion of Merit in 2007 and was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland in 2010.

After a successful career in the Canadian military, Andrew retired in 2011, and worked as a senior vice president of, CGI Group Inc., a Canadian information technology corporation. In 2013, he founded his own consulting firm specializing in leadership and strategy. His professional experience is complemented by several academic degrees and courses focusing on economics, history, leadership, strategy, tactics, equipment acquisition and management. He attended the University of Ottawa for his Bachelor's degree in Economics, the Royal Military College for his MA, as well as professional development at the Harvard Business School in Management.

After leaving the military, Mr. Leslie continued to be an active member of his local and Canadian military communities; he was a member of the advisory committee of the Prince of Wales Charities in Canada; he was the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association and a board member of Opera Lyra Ottawa.

Mr. Leslie was elected as Member of Parliament for the Liberal Party of Canada representing Orléans in October 2015. He was the co-chair of the Liberal Party of Canada for the International Advisory Committee, focusing on foreign affairs, defence, veterans, international trade, international aid, security, immigration and cyber security. In his first term, Mr. Leslie held the role of Chief Government Whip and is now the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs with special responsibilities for Canada-US relations.



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David Perry

Senior Analyst

Canadian Global Affairs Institute

David Perry is the Senior Analyst with the Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute. He was previously the Senior Security and Defence Analyst of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute, where he authored multiple publications related to defence budgeting, transformation and procurement, including Putting the 'Armed' back into the Canadian Armed Forces and The Growing Gap Between Defence Ends and Means. He is currently a doctoral candidate in political science at Carleton University where his research examines the link between defence budgeting and defence procurement. Prior to beginning doctoral studies, he was the Deputy Director of Dalhousie University's Centre for Foreign Policy Studies. His research has been published in Defence Studies, Comparative Strategy, International Journal, and Journal of Military and Strategic Studies and he is a regular columnist for the Canadian Naval Review. He often provides comment for Canadian and international media on defence and security issues.