



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE

JULIE DZEROWICZ

Member of Parliament
Davenport

AUGUST 2024

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Davenport friends and neighbours / amis et voisins de Davenport:

It continues to be the privilege of my life to serve as your Member of Parliament. My top priority is to continue to serve you and to reflect your priorities, ambitions and issues in Ottawa.

I also have the honour to lead on the international stage serving as the Chair of the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association (CANPA). Every NATO country has an association of parliamentarians, and I lead the Canadian team.

This communication will relay why the work I am doing for the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) is so important, some of the priorities we are working on, and Canada's updated security and defence plan.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, is a 32-member transatlantic alliance the main role of which is to stop war from happening. To do this, NATO focuses on three priorities: deterrence and defence, crisis prevention and management, and cooperative security. Article 5 of NATO's governing rules states that an attack on one NATO country is an attack on all NATO countries. For 75 years, these rules have helped NATO deter war, create stability and maintain peace in Europe and North America.

Over the last 10 years, the global threat environment has changed dramatically. There is a rise in authoritarian governments (e.g., Russia, China, Iran, North Korea) and worrisome increased cooperation between them. The international rules-based order is being ignored (e.g., the Russian invasion of Ukraine); there is a weakening of nuclear arms treaties (e.g., containment and spread), and we are seeing the proliferation of disinformation (primarily via social media), which is weakening our democracy and democratic institutions.

The world in which peace could be taken for granted is gone and every NATO country, including Canada, must

prepare their military for large-scale modern conflicts. As a Roman general once said, "If you want peace, prepare for war." Unfortunately, successive Canadian governments have neglected our military capabilities for too long. In 2014, we were spending less than 1% of our GDP on national defence. Now, in 2024 we are spending 1.36% with a path to spend 2% by 2032. We must invest in our security and defense capabilities and urgently rebuild our military to protect Canadian sovereignty and ensure ongoing peace and stability.

Kindly see the other side for information on Canada's new defence policy, Canadian NATO work and priorities, and information on the 70th NATO PA Annual Summit in Montreal.

If you are interested in joining a roundtable this fall to discuss this work in more detail, kindly email me at julie.dzerowicz@parl.gc.ca with **Canada Security & Defence** in the Subject line.

As always, it is an honour and pleasure to serve you Davenport!

My best regards,

Julie Dzerowicz
Member of Parliament, Davenport

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Meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly at the Washington Summit 2024

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATO

- ▶ Canada's 2024 National Defence spending totaling US\$30.5 billion is the seventh highest among the 32 NATO countries.
- ▶ **Canada has committed to increasing its defence spending to 2% of GDP by 2032**, reflecting a dedication to strengthening military capabilities and to the NATO alliance.
- ▶ **Operation Reassurance:** more than 1,100 Canadian military personnel were deployed to Latvia, supporting NATO deterrence and defence efforts. The force is expected to increase to 2,200 military personnel by 2026.
- ▶ **Support for Ukraine: over \$19 billion provided in financial and military assistance since 2022.** Canada has imposed strong sanctions on Russia and co-chairs the Peace Formula Working Group Four on the return of prisoners of war and unlawfully detained civilians, including illegally deported children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Canada signed a 10-year bilateral security agreement to provide long term military and financial support.
- ▶ Canada hosts the regional office of **NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA)** in Halifax and the **NATO Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence** in Montreal.
- ▶ Canada is active in advancing the **UN Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda at NATO**—encouraging gender equality through its military doctrines, programs and operations. Canada is the top financial donor to NATO's WPS office.



1. **Our North, Strong and Free:** A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence
2. **Montreal 2024:** NATO PA 70th Annual Summit
3. Special Report—**Food Security & Conflict**
4. Special Report—**Protecting Cultural Heritage in Conflict**
5. Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association
6. NATO Parliamentary Assembly
7. NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic
8. NATO Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence



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CANADIAN NATO (CANA) PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP

Canada will be hosting the 70th NATO PA Annual Session from November 22 to 25 in Montreal. It is an occasion to address pressing security challenges, and to strengthen our alliances and enhance Canada's role within NATO. Hosting NATO PA is also an excellent opportunity for Canadians to learn more about Canada's vital role within the alliance, increasing public awareness around the changed global threat environment and strengthening support for our international commitments.

High North and Arctic Region Defence: CANA is leading a group of **High North and Arctic region countries** (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, UK, US, and Canada) to ensure that one of NATO's top priorities is to tackle defence and security issues caused by the rapidly melting Arctic, which is warming at a rate four times faster than the Earth. The upcoming **NATO PA Montreal Summit** will have a focus on these issues.

Food Insecurity and Defence: NATO PA is examining the intersection of food insecurity and defence. In 2023, as the **Special Rapporteur for the NATO PA Democracy and Security Committee**, I presented a paper with proposals to ensure that **NATO strategies consider the weaponization of food**, and how food insecurity and conflict are inextricably linked.

Cultural Property Protection: NATO PA is also focused on **protecting cultural property in conflict zones**, an area in which NATO has not yet implemented any policy. In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for the NATO PA Democracy and Security Committee, I presented a paper with **concrete recommendations on how to tackle this significant problem.**

DISINFORMATION

Disinformation is the spread of lies, primarily by foreign actors, to deliberately create confusion and sow divisions among groups. Increasing disinformation is changing our behaviour, including fostering greater distrust in our democratic institutions and of our leaders.

NATO countries that are close to Russia (i.e., Estonia, Poland, Ukraine, Sweden, and Finland) are alert to disinformation and actively mitigating its threat to their societies and democracies. Canada and Canadians are not as aware of the danger, so **I am working with NATO allies and their disinformation experts to strengthen our education efforts and to adopt proven measures here at home.**