

Alberta Aerospace & Defence Summit

9797 Jasper Ave Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N9, Canada

May 3 - Sunday

Aerospace & Defence Industry Site Tours

May 3 - Sunday

09:00AM - 03:30PM

Edmonton

Experience Alberta's aerospace and defence innovation firsthand during a full day of exclusive industry tours! Visit leading education and innovation centers, explore state-of-the-art maintenance and manufacturing facilities, and connect with defence organizations that excel in expansion and collaboration. Priority will be given to defence contractors and sponsors, but spots are limited, and a waitlist will be available. Don't miss this opportunity to witness Alberta's aerospace and defence capabilities up close!

Networking Reception

May 3 - Sunday

06:00PM - 09:00PM

Edmonton
Convention Center
(Salon 12)

Connect with industry leaders, innovators, and partners in a relaxed evening setting. The Networking Reception offers a perfect opportunity to build relationships, exchange ideas, and foster new collaborations across the aerospace and defence sectors.

May 4 - Monday

Private Breakfast Event

May 4 - Monday

07:30AM - 08:45AM

Salon 3

Inspiring Leadership, Inspiring Progress.

This event offers a unique opportunity to hear from a select group of leaders about the latest trends, initiatives, and innovations shaping aviation, aerospace, and defense. Our theme, Women Transforming the Future, highlights the vision and impact of women driving progress across these industries.

Michele Evans



Assistant Deputy Minister

Prairies Economic Development Canada, Alberta Region

Michele Evans provides leadership to PrairiesCan, the federal government’s regional economic development agency in Alberta. Michele has been a public servant for nearly 20 years, holding senior leadership positions with the

Government of Alberta in sectors like immigration, workforce, tourism, economic development and health.

Before entering public service, Michele worked in the private sector in the pharmaceutical industry.

Michele holds a Masters of Health Science from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Saskatchewan.

Callie Lissinna



Callie Lissinna co-founded Wyvern, the first company to sell hyperspectral imagery from space. She graduated from the Y Combinator startup accelerator with her co-founders in 2022 and from Creative Destruction Lab (Toronto, space stream) in 2019. She has held various roles in business operations, leadership, engineering, and sales, and has helped the company raise over \$24MM in funding to date. Previously she managed the AlbertaSat student satellite program at the University of Alberta. This included leading in-orbit operations of Ex-Alta 1—the first satellite ever made in Alberta—for the last 12 of its 18 months in orbit. Callie holds a BSc. Mechanical Engineering with a mathematics minor from the University of Alberta. In the evenings she teaches dance classes to kids and teens.

Dr. Susan Skone

Associate VP (Research) at UCalgary, co-leading the SD Tech MIF in Alberta, holding significant funding from the Canadian Space Agency, running a start up company under the prestigious NATO DIANA accelerator program, serving in the Royal Canadian Navy

Morning Coffee & Tea

**May 4 -
Monday**

08:00AM - 09:00AM

Start the day with fresh coffee, tea, muffins, and biscuits while networking and getting ready for the sessions ahead.

09:00AM - 09:30AM

MLA Justin Wright



Justin Wright serves as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Cypress-Medicine Hat in Alberta.

With over 20 years of experience in entrepreneurship, business management, and public service, he has established himself as a multifaceted leader.

As the founder of Fryer Tuck's Food Truck Inc., Wright successfully scaled the business to eight locations in just 18 months. After his election as MLA for Cypress Medicine Hat in spring of 2023 he handed the running to his business partners. He was recently appointed Parliamentary Secretary of Rural Health-South, Chief Caucus Whip and also serves as the Alberta Government Military Liaison. Wright is actively involved in his constituency, supporting healthcare funding, education, and flood/drought protection projects, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to community mentorship through board service and coaching youth hockey.

09:30AM - 09:45AM

Hall D

Discover how Alberta is aligning its aviation, aerospace, and defence sectors around a shared vision. By breaking down silos and strengthening collaboration, the Provincial Council is helping build one unified industry voice to support growth, resilience, and long-term success across the province.

Kendra Kincade



Alberta AAD Chair | Air Traffic Controller | Director, Writer, Producer, Only Up | Founder, Elevate Aviation

With 26 years as an air traffic controller, Kendra founded Elevate Aviation, creating national programs that empower women and underrepresented groups, and produced Only Up, a documentary sharing resilience and hope. As Chair of the Alberta AAD she champions investment, collaboration, and workforce development across the sector. Recognized nationally and internationally with awards including the King Charles III Coronation Medal and the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, she leads with a commitment to building opportunity for the next generation.

09:45AM - 10:30AM

Hall D

Continuing the conversation: Discover how Alberta is bringing its aviation, aerospace, and defence sectors together. From breaking down silos to creating a unified industry voice, this dynamic group of speakers offer a high-level look at the province's shared vision and the opportunities it creates for everyone in the sector. Be inspired by what's next for Alberta's industry.

Max Schramm



Max Schramm is an accomplished aerospace executive with over 15 years of experience in leading strategy, operations, and commercial growth within the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) sector.

As the President and CEO of Lufthansa Technik Canada, he has successfully founded and scaled a high-growth Canadian subsidiary, overseeing all aspects of strategy, governance, operations, finance, and culture. Max has been instrumental in securing over CAD 243M in investments, establishing Lufthansa Technik's largest North American engine test cell and repair facility, and building a high-performing team of over 180 employees across three Canadian locations with a quarterly growth rate of 30 highly qualified jobs. His leadership is characterized by a strong focus on creating a people-first culture grounded in transparency, fairness, and trust.

Max's career trajectory includes pivotal roles such as Director of Sales Canada and Sales Manager Component Services at Lufthansa Technik AG, where he managed significant MRO contracts and drove commercial turnaround strategies. His academic credentials include an MBA in International Project Management from the University of Applied Sciences Wildau and a Bachelor of Arts in Logistics and Supply Chain Management from the European University of Applied Sciences. Max is multilingual, proficient in German, English, and French, and brings a wealth of expertise in public-private partnerships, corporate governance, and global stakeholder alignment. Passionate about innovation and sustainability in the aviation industry, Max continues to inspire resilience and lasting impact through his authentic, hands-on leadership approach.

Myron Keehn



President and Chief Executive Officer, Edmonton Airports

Myron's 30 years of experience working in the private and public sectors in North and South America, Asia, and Europe help him to see and implement new and effective approaches to airport developments and operations.

In Myron's 17 years at Edmonton Airports, he has driven the development of YEG's Airport City Sustainability Campus - an ecosystem of companies driving innovation in e-commerce, cargo/logistics, advanced manufacturing, and pharma. His vision and tenacity have attracted over \$1.2B USD of private investment to YEG. Myron's mission is to recast the roles that airports play, evolving beyond utilities into economic engines for cities, regions and countries.

Prior to YEG, Myron built a career focusing on how to drive economic potential of private and government-owned assets to maximize returns for countries by driving national investment and commercial plans.

Myron is an active Director on governing boards across a range of sectors including real estate, healthcare, private industry, and philanthropy.

LCol Tristan McKee



Lieutenant-Colonel Tristan McKee was born in Whitby, Ontario, and graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston in 2003 with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering (Software). He completed the Canadian Forces pilot training program, flying the Slingsby Firefly, CT-156 Harvard II, and CT-155 Hawk. He earned his pilot wings in 2004.

In 2005, he was posted to Cold Lake, Alberta, where he completed Fighter Lead-in Training at 419 Squadron and subsequently the CF-18 Operational Training Unit at 410 Squadron. Upon graduating from the Fighter Pilot Course, he was posted to 425 Squadron in Bagotville, Quebec, where he served for three years and achieved Section Lead qualification.

In 2010, LCol McKee returned to 419 Squadron in Cold Lake as an Instructor Pilot on the CT-155 Hawk for the Fighter Lead-in Training program, earning an A Category Canadian Forces instructional rating. In 2013, he was posted to 410 Squadron as an Instructor Pilot on the CF-18 Hornet at the Operational Training Unit.

Promoted to Major in 2014, he joined 409 Squadron as Training Officer. In 2015, he was posted to 401 Squadron as part of the initial cadre establishing the newly formed unit, serving as Operations Officer for two years.

In 2017, LCol McKee was posted to NORAD Headquarters in Colorado Springs as an Aerospace Defense Planner, contributing to NORAD's CONPLAN 3310-21 for the air defense of North America. In 2021, he joined the Commander's Action Group, working directly for General VanHerck, Commander of NORAD and USNORTHCOM, as a strategic engagement lead.

After completing the Joint Command and Staff Program (Course 49) in Toronto in 2023, he earned a Master of Defence Studies degree and returned to Cold Lake as Commanding Officer of 4 Operational Support Squadron. He has since assumed his current role as Commanding Officer of 401 Squadron.

LCol McKee deployed twice to Operation IMPACT in Iraq, in 2014 and 2015. During his first rotation, he served as Fighter Detachment Flight Safety Officer, and during his second, as Fighter Detachment Operations Officer. He accumulated over 200 combat flight hours over Iraq and Syria.

Coffee Break - Recharge Lounge

**May 4 -
Monday**

10:30AM - 11:00AM

Fidelity Manufacturing	
<p>Fidelity is a trusted manufacturing partner across the global aerospace, defense, and energy sectors. With one of the most advanced manufacturing facilities in Western Canada, our work always reaches the highest standard — no matter the challenge.</p>	

DND: Defence Industrial Strategy

May 4 - Monday

11:00AM - 12:00PM

Salon 4

<p>Panel and Q&A</p>

Cybersecurity in Energy & Critical Infrastructure

May 4 - Monday

11:00AM - 12:00PM

CYBER

<p>Energy systems are no longer protected assets but contested operational domains; cybersecurity must therefore be embedded into grid design, operational technology, and crisis response—not layered on after deployment. The future of energy security depends on convergence between cyber defence, physical resilience, and real-time operational visibility.</p> <p>Grid and pipeline security SCADA & OT protection Trusted supply chains & digital infrastructure.</p>
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B2B Meetings

May 4 - Monday

11:00AM - 04:00PM

Hall D

Arcfield

ARCFIELD | CANADA

Arcfield was created to serve a single purpose: to solve the most complex and demanding national security and space-related challenges. Every day, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our government partners across all markets to take on our nation's most imminent threats. This work isn't for everyone, but that's why we do it.

Lunch Break

May 4 -
Monday

12:00PM - 01:15PM

Executive Flight Centre

Executive
Flight
Centre

Executive Flight Centre (EFC) is a Canadian aviation service provider that has operated for over 40 years, specializing in aviation fuel, Fixed Base Operator (FBO) services, and airport management across Western Canada. Headquartered in Calgary, EFC maintains a regional network of facilities in Alberta and British Columbia, including multiple terminals at the Edmonton International Airport (YEG).

Recharge Lounge

**May 4 -
Monday**

12:00PM - 01:15PM

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Modernizing the Canadian Armed Forces: Building the Force of the Future

May 4 - Monday

01:15PM - 01:45AM

Salon 4

<p>The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) are undergoing a critical modernization to remain agile, interoperable, and ready in an increasingly complex security environment. This session will examine key CAF modernization priorities across air, space, cyber, and defence platforms, including capability renewal, digital transformation, and workforce evolution. Panelists will explore what modernization means in practice—how new technologies, partnerships with industry, and innovative procurement approaches are reshaping Canada’s defence posture—and what opportunities this creates for Alberta’s aviation, aerospace, and defence sectors to support and enable the force of the future.</p>

Maj A.R (Eddie) Brown



Major “Eddie” Brown was born in Shrewsbury, England and joined the British Army in 1987 as a Blacksmith in the Royal Engineers. On completion of his apprenticeship, ‘Sapper Brown’ posted to 21 Engineer Regiment in Germany and as a Combat Engineer fought in the First Gulf War as part of 7 (UK) Armoured Brigade, followed by two deployments to Bosnia as part of the United Nations Protection Force. He passed the Army Pilots Course in 1999 and as a Lynx helicopter pilot had postings to 5 Regiment Army Air Corps (AAC) in Northern Ireland; 1 Regiment AAC in Germany; and 2 (Training) Regiment AAC in the United Kingdom. He amassed 3500 hours of flying on the Lynx primarily on multiple deployments to Iraq, Northern Ireland, Europe, North Africa and Afghanistan. He was promoted through the ranks to Warrant Officer 2, commissioned and took up a post as a Military Advisor to QinetiQ at RAF Boscombe Down. His final posting in the British Army was as Second-in-Command of 671 Squadron AAC at Middle Wallop as an A2 Qualified Helicopter Instructor.

In 2014 he resigned from the British Army, emigrated to Canada and enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces as a pilot in 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron. Remaining there and promoting he saw further deployments both domestic and overseas and held various operational and supervisory flying roles whilst accumulating a further 1500 flying hours on the Griffon Helicopter. Maj Brown took command of 417 Domestic Response Squadron on posting to Cold Lake in 2023.

He has a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physics, a Master's in International Security and Cooperation and is a graduate of the Aerosystems Course at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell with a Master's in Aerosystems. Interests include snowboarding, running ultramarathons and he advocates for academic life-long learning.

Maj Brown is married to Britta and has two children, Kim-Michelle and Thomas.

BGen L.W. Rutland

Brigadier-General, OMM, MSC, MSM, CD

Human Factor – The Weakest Link or First Line of Defence

May 4 - Monday

01:15PM - 02:00PM

CYBER

Humans are not inherently the weakest link—poor system design is. When organizations align training, incentives, and tooling with human behaviour, people become a dynamic detection layer capable of identifying anomalies long before automated systems respond.

Insider risks in utilities and energy companies | Skills shortages & training for cyber defence | Lessons from financial services and utilities.

Integrated Architecture for the Protection of Critical and Defence Infrastructure

May 4 - Monday

02:00PM - 02:45PM

CYBER

Fragmented security tools create systemic blind spots; integrated architecture—linking cyber, physical, intelligence, and operational layers—is now essential for protecting critical and defence infrastructure. Interoperability and shared situational awareness matter more than standalone technological superiority.

Cyberattacks against IT and OT systems | physical incidents and sabotage | information and influence operations | attacks targeting supply chains and personnel.

Cybersecurity in Financial Services

May 4 - Monday

02:45PM - 03:30PM

CYBER

Financial institutions sit at the intersection of economic stability and national security, making them prime targets for sophisticated, state-aligned cyber operations. The next phase of financial cybersecurity will be defined by ecosystem-level defence, not firm-level compliance.

Fintech vulnerabilities | AI fraud detection & compliance | Protecting Alberta's banks and credit unions.

Defending the Aerospace Frontier in a new era of Threats

May 4 - Monday

02:45PM - 03:30PM

Salon 4

As global security dynamics rapidly evolve, NATO and NORAD are adapting to a more complex and contested aerospace domain. This session explores how these cornerstone defence alliances are modernizing to address emerging threats—from hypersonic weapons and space-based risks to cyber warfare and Arctic security. With a focus on aerospace and defence innovation, the discussion will highlight Canada's strategic role, opportunities for industry collaboration, and what evolving NATO and NORAD priorities mean for Alberta's aviation, aerospace, and defence ecosystem. Attendees will gain insight into how allied defence frameworks are shaping the future of aerospace capability, resilience, and deterrence.

Networking & Recharge Lounge

**May 4 -
Monday**

03:30PM - 06:00PM

Fidelity Manufacturing	
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Evening Gala

May 4 - Monday

06:00PM - 11:00PM

Hall D

Michele Evans



Assistant Deputy Minister

Prairies Economic Development Canada, Alberta Region

Michele Evans provides leadership to PrairiesCan, the federal government’s regional economic development agency in Alberta. Michele has been a public servant for nearly 20 years, holding senior leadership positions with the

Government of Alberta in sectors like immigration, workforce, tourism, economic development and health.

Before entering public service, Michele worked in the private sector in the pharmaceutical industry.

Michele holds a Masters of Health Science from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Saskatchewan.

Joseph Schow ECA MLA

Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration of Alberta

Dinner

May 4 - Monday

06:00PM - 11:00PM

Hall D

Art Auction

May 4 - Monday

06:00PM - 11:00PM

Hall D

Artist Ken Letander

Band / DJ

May 4 - Monday

06:00PM - 11:00PM

Hall D

May 5 - Tuesday

Coffee & Tea

08:00AM - 09:00AM

May 5 -
Tuesday

Welcome & Recap

09:00AM - 09:10AM

May 5 - Tuesday

Hall D

Key Note

09:10AM - 09:45AM

May 5 - Tuesday

Hall D

Coffee Break - Recharge Lounge

09:45AM - 10:00AM

May 5 -
Tuesday

Fidelity Manufacturing



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Key Note

10:00AM - 10:45AM

May 5 - Tuesday

Salon 4

Cloud & Data Protection for Alberta Industries

May 5 - Tuesday

10:00AM - 10:45AM

CYBER

Cloud adoption has shifted risk from infrastructure ownership to data governance, identity control, and jurisdictional exposure. For Alberta industries, competitive advantage will come from treating data protection as a strategic asset—balancing innovation, sovereignty, and regulatory alignment across borders.

Trusted supply chains | Multi-cloud compliance frameworks | Sovereignty in data management.

**Technology Partnership to Advance Alberta: Unifying Our
Voices for Arctic Security & Sovereignty**

May 5 - Tuesday

10:45AM - 11:30AM

Salon 4

Innovating in a defence ecosystem: doing more together. Discussion of the various perspectives on innovation and how the ecosystem can work together to do more for Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Jamie Fitzpatrick	
Lockheed Martin, Business Development Lead	
Chris Pogue	
Calian, Inc., President Defence & Space	
JD Roth	
Guardian Chemicals, Managing Director	
James Hogan	

Dr. James Hogan is a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alberta. He holds the George Ford Chair in Materials Engineering and the Engineering Research Chair in Development and Advanced Manufacturing of Next-Generation Materials. He is also the founding Director of the Centre for Applied Research in Defence and Dual-Use Technologies (CARDD-Tech), where he leads national initiatives to advance sovereign innovation in defence, space, aerospace, and energy. Through CARDD-Tech, he has partnered with more than 30 Alberta-based businesses to drive technology development and commercialization.

Dr. Hogan's research focuses on advanced manufacturing of materials designed for high-temperature and oxidation-resistant environments. His work emphasizes laser-material interactions, sintering processes, and microstructural control to link processing pathways with performance. He also develops generative AI approaches for multi-functional materials and structural design, and studies how materials behave in extreme conditions such as high-velocity impact, thermal shock, and aero-ablation. Since 2015, he has trained more than 100 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and published over 100 peer-reviewed papers.

His leadership is positioning Alberta as a national hub for sovereign innovation and future-ready talent development while strengthening collaborations across industry, government, and academia.

Ian Smith



Ian Smith is a key contributor to Canada's defence innovation landscape, building meaningful connections between academic research and national security priorities. As the Director of Business Development in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Engineering and a founding member of the Centre for Applied Research in Defence and Dual Use Technologies (CARDD Tech), Ian is helping position the University of Alberta as a national leader in defence and dual-use technology development.

Through his vision and leadership, Ian has secured over \$28 million in partnerships and manages over \$100 million in active proposals, helping to translate research excellence into real-world defence capability. His work is transforming how universities engage with the defence sector, shifting perceptions and establishing academia as a vital engine for Canada's innovation and security priorities.

Under Ian's leadership, the University of Alberta has become an active contributor to key national programs. He played a central role in the University's successful bid to join NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) and continues to shape engagement with critical programs such as Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security (IDEaS), and numerous industrial collaborations across the dual-use technology sector.

Dedicated to advancing both regional economic growth and national security objectives, Ian Smith has become a key connector within Alberta's growing defence technology landscape. His leadership exemplifies the spirit of collaboration, service, and strategic impact that defines Canada's next generation of defence leaders.

Cybersecurity Trends 2026 – AI & the Future of Business & State Security

May 5 - Tuesday

10:45AM - 11:30AM

CYBER

By 2026, AI will no longer simply accelerate cyberattacks or defence—it will redefine trust itself. Organizations and states that fail to embed AI governance, explainability, and control into security architectures risk losing decision-making authority to opaque systems they do not fully understand.

AI as driver of resilience | Threat intelligence and attack patterns | Sector-specific vulnerabilities: energy grids, pipelines, fintech, healthcare.

Strengthening Defence and Security in Canada: The Risk of The North, Current Landscape and Future Directions

May 5 - Tuesday

11:30AM - 12:15PM

Salon 4

Join us for an in-depth session exploring the current state of defence and security in the Arctic and why Alberta is so critical to the sovereignty of north. This presentation will provide an overview of existing supports and resources, identify gaps and priorities for growth, and highlight the pivotal role Alberta, and Western Canada, plays.

Lunch Break

May 5 -
Tuesday

12:15PM - 01:00PM

University of Calgary



01:00PM - 01:45PM

Hall D

In 2026, AI is evolving from analytical support tools to systems that sense, fuse, prioritize, and act at operational speed. In aviation, aerospace and defence environments, this shift directly impacts mission assurance, targeting cycles, cyber resilience, and human-machine command structures.

This discussion explores how organizations can maintain decision dominance while integrating adaptive AI - balancing autonomy with control, speed with oversight, and innovation with operational accountability.

Cory Janssen	
Co-Founder and CEO at Alta ML	
Martin Dinel	
Chief Information Security Officer at CyberAlberta and Assistant Deputy Minister, Cybersecurity Division at the Ministry of Technology and Innovation	
Valeriy Churkin	
National Security Council of Ukraine	

Space has become a critical domain for economic resilience, national security, and technological leadership. Space superiority—the ability to access, operate in, and protect space-based assets—directly impacts aviation, defence, communications, navigation, and logistics here on Earth. This session will explore why space superiority matters to Canada and Alberta, highlighting how emerging space technologies, in-situ manufacturing, and space logistics are shaping the future of exploration, defence, and industrial capability. Speakers will discuss Alberta’s growing role in advanced aerospace and space-based manufacturing, and how innovation developed locally is contributing to global space infrastructure and next-generation supply chains.

Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of how space capabilities support sovereignty, security, and economic growth—and why space is no longer a distant frontier, but a critical part of our industrial and defence ecosystem.

Chris Robson



Co-Founder and CEO of Wyvern, a Canadian satellite company operating a commercial hyperspectral constellation. Under his leadership, Wyvern has moved hyperspectral imaging from research into real-world deployment, delivering material-level Earth intelligence to commercial, environmental, and security customers worldwide. Chris focuses on building capital-efficient space infrastructure and unlocking new applications in agriculture, climate monitoring, and maritime domain awareness.

Wrap-Up

May 5 - Tuesday

02:30PM - 04:00PM

Hall D

Folowed by Canadian Aircraft Maintenance Competition Awards

Powered by

