France Canada

Since 1949, the France–Canada Association has developed Franco-Canadian programmes aimed at fostering knowledge, exchanges, contacts and partnerships between the two countries in the economic, cultural and educational sectors.

FORUM DE DÉFENSE ET DE STRATÉGIE

The Defense and Strategy Forum (FDS) is an association whose aim is to offer exchange platforms (workshops, seminars, etc.) on defense issues and International relations between actors from the transatlantic and European communities.

Both associations are the initiators of the France–Canada Future Leaders Program.

Following three initial editions (2024, 2025, 2026), the France–Canada Association and the Forum de Défense et de Stratégie continue to pool their strengths and networks in order to sustain this programme aimed at strengthening strategic relations between Canada and France, as well as with other members of the Euro-Atlantic community.

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France-Canada

Canada-France

Future Leaders

2027 Defense and diplomacy issues

France–Canada Future Leaders Programme – 2024, 2025 and 2026 Cohorts

Throughout the various activities of the programme, in addition to a number of meetings and discussions with key officials, several conferences and colloquia were organised. These included events held at the Paris Defence and Strategy Forum (on transatlantic security architecture), at the Embassy of France in Canada (on future zones of tension and conflict by 2030), and at ENAP (on the Arctic). These conferences are available on the website of the Forum de Défence et de Stratégie.

Several publications have also been released, whether in the form of strategic briefs for the Réseau d'Analyse Stratégique or as special journal issues, such as the issue of *Revue Défense Nationale* published in March 2025. Additional publications related to the 2026 cohort will be released by winter 2027.

The success of this programme also relies heavily on the involvement of numerous partners in each edition, whose contributions significantly enhance the activities carried out. Given their number, it is not feasible to list all of them within half a page; however, we would like to highlight here the strong commitment and invaluable support provided in particular by the following partners over the past three editions:

Provisional Programme *(to be confirmed)*
Delegation to France
8–12 March 2027

- Participation in the Paris Defence and Strategy Forum 2027
  - 3 roundtables, including one to two organised by the Forum de Défense et de Stratégie (FDS) and the France–Canada Association:

- Visit to the Île Longue submarine naval base
  - Exchange with the leadership of the Strategic Oceanic Force
  - Exchange with CECLANT (Commander-in-Chief for the Atlantic) and his deputies on maritime security issues in the North Atlantic

- Visit to an industrial site
- Exchange with experts from IHEDN/IRSEM on international security issues

- Workshop on leadership and the Franco-Canadian relationship with a former French Prime Minister
- Exchange with Senators who are members of the France–Canada friendship group in the French Senate on Franco-Canadian strategic relations / visit to the Senate

- Exchanges with various departments of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs at CAPS (Centre for Analysis, Planning and Strategy) on diplomacy and strategic foresight
- Exchanges at NATO Headquarters in Brussels with French, Canadian and other NATO Allied representatives

Provisional Programme *(to be confirmed)*
Delegation Canada
3–7 May 2027

- Discussions at the NATO Centre of Excellence on Climate Change and Security (CCASCOE) on the effects of climate change on Northern security, operational planning, and the resilience of strategic infrastructure.
- Exchange with diplomats from Global Affairs Canada on the role of Canadian diplomacy in cooperation with European and Nordic allies, and in promoting a strong and influential Canada in the Arctic.

- Workshop on leadership and the future of the transatlantic relationship with a former Premier of Québec.
- Visit to the House of Commons and discussion with one or more Members of Parliament who are members of the Canada–France Inter-Parliamentary Association.

- Conference on opportunities for industrial cooperation.

- Meeting with the Consul General of France in Québec City (former Ambassador to Estonia) on strengthening Franco-Canadian cooperation and minilateral frameworks within NATO.
- Discussions with French and British defence attachés on allied perceptions of Canada and its role as a middle power.

- Visit to the National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces at Beechwood and a commemoration ceremony at the monument AMICITIA.

- Meeting with the command of the 2nd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (2 CRPG).
- Workshop with officer cadets at the Royal Military College Saint-Jean on training, the challenges of the war in Ukraine, and troop deployments in Eastern Europe.