

PRESIDENT' S REPORT

2004 was an eventful year for the Atlantic Council of Canada. A number of highly successful activities were presented for the benefit of the membership. However, there were also some disappointments which led to a reduction in our income early in the year. I am thankful that with the hard work of a number of our directors and executive members, and with the generous donations from our foundation, corporate, and individual members and directors we weathered the financial difficulties.

Annual Mid-winter Dinner

On January 20, we enjoyed a successful mid-winter dinner at which Brigadier General Marc Lessard, Commander Land Forces Canadian Army was the guest speaker. He began his talk with a look at what had been happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina since the signing of the Dayton Accord in December 1995. He then discussed Afghanistan, giving a general overview of the situation in that country, before focusing on the role of the Canadian forces in Kabul. It made us more aware of the important, but dangerous work our Armed Forces are involved in, which was reinforced a week later by the tragic death of Cpl. Jamie Murphy and the injuries to three of his colleagues.

Roundtables

At a Roundtable on Thursday, Feb. 12, Dr. Bruce D. Tefft, a counter-terrorism and intelligence advisor to the New York Police Department, as well as Senior Associate with Orion Scientific Systems and a former counter-terrorism expert for the Directorate of Operations of the CIA, gave a somewhat controversial presentation on Islamic terrorism and the threat to the West. Nevertheless, his presentation raised relevant questions regarding terrorism and the perception of Islam, and led to some lively discussion both at the Roundtable and in the second issue of the *Transatlantic Quarterly*.

On November 1, the ACC hosted another Roundtable with Ted Whiteside, Head of NATO's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Centre. The Combination Room at Trinity College was filled to capacity to hear him describe the scope of the problem and give an overview of NATO operations against terrorism. He concluded that the risks of a WMD attack are real, but improbable, and that given the consequences of such an attack, however remote the possibility, the Alliance must prepare for the unthinkable.

Conferences

Our **Annual Spring Conference** was held on May 19, 2004, in the Ignatieff Theatre, Trinity College. Over fifty secondary school students joined approximately 100 member and non-member participants to listen to presentations on and discuss the topic of "NATO Enlargement: New Security & Economic Opportunities."

ACC Chairman and Former Minister of International Trade, The Honourable Roy MacLaren, delivered the keynote address entitled "A Euro-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement—An Idea Whose Time Has Come?" On the theme, NATO Enlargement and Beyond, BGen (ret'd) Bernd Goetze, ACC Director, and Secretary of the North Atlantic Council and Director of NATO Ministerial and Summit Task Forces, spoke on "NATO in the Age of Uncertainty" and Andrew P. Rasiulus, Director, Military Assistance Programme, DND Canada, described the Military Assistance Training Programme as an Instrument of Defence Diplomacy.

The second panel looked at the Polish Experience after joining NATO. His Excellency Pawel Dobrowolski, Ambassador of Poland, described the situation in Poland five years after joining NATO. While Dr. Walter Perchal expressed concerns that internal tensions are building in Poland as a result of economic liberalization that is producing pronounced “winners and losers”.

The third panel looked at the Transatlantic link. Paul Dubois, Assistant Deputy Minister Europe, Foreign Affairs Canada, discussed Canada’s economic opportunities in the New Europe. Adrian Kendry, Senior Defence Economist, Economics Directorate, NATO Political Affairs and Security Policy Division gave a presentation on the economic dimension of NATO’s eastward enlargement which stimulated considerable discussion. The three panels and the discussion which followed were ably moderated by ACC Directors, LCol James R. Breithaupt, Jesse Fliss, and Dr. Edward P. Neufeld, respectively.

A highlight for the secondary school students was the opportunity to have a discussion with Dr. Bernd Goetze over the lunch time. They asked him many questions on how NATO is organized, and how it works. Dr. Goetze readily responded to their questions and particularly took time to explain to them the process of decision making by consensus.

All the papers presented at the conference have been collected and posted on the Atlantic Council web site.

In September, the ACC co-operated with the Royal Canadian Military Institute and the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies (CISS) on a very successful **joint research symposium** entitled “Robust International Peacekeeping Operations: What roles for NATO and Canada?” hosted by the RCMI on September 22, 2004. Approximately 100 participants, including media representatives, focused on the sub-themes, “The new Strategic Environment”, “Learning by Doing: Canada, NATO, and the United Kingdom”, “Defence, Diplomacy, and Development”, and “Managing Transformation for Robust Peacekeeping.”

Participants particularly enjoyed hearing from and speaking with His Excellency, Jean-Pierre Juneau, Ambassador of Canada to NATO, who spoke on “The search for stability in a dangerous world,” Ambassador Robert Hunter, President, Atlantic Treaty Association and Formerly Ambassador of the United States to NATO, who presented a frank American view, and Gen. (ret’d) Sir John Deverell, Formerly Commander in Chief Allied Forces Northern Europe, who spoke on the United Kingdom Experience.

The conference concluded with a delightful dinner, at which the Hon. William Graham, gave his first speech as Minister of National Defence.

The Transatlantic Quarterly

The first issue of the *Transatlantic Quarterly* appeared in March, under the editorship of Huma Haider, with the second issue appearing in August, and preparation of the third (double) issue well underway by the end of the year. Much positive feedback has been received on the magazine. Readers have found it informative and accessible, providing a valuable contribution to the debate and discussion on international peace and security issues that should be of interest and concern to Canadians.

Youth and Education Activities

It was a good year for youth and education activities. From March 3 to 6, **Carleton University** hosted the **2004 Model NATO simulation** which was attended by 130 undergraduate students from fifteen Canadian universities. The project was headed by Caroline Delany, an ACC intern who was the project manager. Prior to the conference, ACC Director, Vice-Admiral James King (ret'd), former Canadian Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee, met with the students who had been selected to co-chair the six Model NATO committees. He provided them with inside information on how NATO works and gave advice on chairing committees. The students felt that his advice helped them to perform their roles in a professional and accurate manner.

The second annual **Model NATO for Secondary Schools** was held on April 23 and 24, at St. Augustine Secondary School in Brampton, with over 90 students from seven schools from two Boards of Education participating. The fact that almost all of them gave up a Saturday morning to complete the simulation and were still discussing and debating excitedly over the lunch that ended the event indicates how thoroughly they entered into the spirit of the activity. ACC Director, W. Michael Werner-Wojnarowicz, teacher at the host school, was the Project Coordinator., and ACC Director, Jesse Flis, gave the keynote address to start the conference on Friday morning. There is a comprehensive description of the event including comments from the students in the summer issue of the *TAQ* which is also available on the ACC website.

Programme and agenda materials were revised and expanded by Ian Rankine, member of the ACC Education Committee, from materials he had prepared for the one day simulation held in 2003. Following the successful event, the materials were again revised and developed into a very comprehensive **Handbook for Teachers** under his leadership. The Handbook gives guidance and suggestions for simulations from activities which can be done with single classes in a few lessons to mounting a one and a half day simulation with teams from different schools.

In November, President Lindhout, in her capacity as Education Coordinator of the Atlantic Treaty Association, attended the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) sponsored education conference on "Education for Security and Stability" in Bucharest, Romania, and a one day conference on "Challenges and Opportunities in the Black Sea Region" which preceded it. Prior to the event, with input from several members of the ATA Education Advisory Group, she developed an Education Strategy Paper for the ATA. At the Conference, the Advisory Group chaired by President Lindhout, adopted the ATA Education Strategy to be presented to the ATA Council at the Assembly in Rome.

At the Conference, President Lindhout also made a presentation on the draft High School Model NATO Handbook for Teachers. Following the Conference, she revised the Handbook to incorporate suggestions for additional information and clarification made by the conference participants. It was recommended that the Handbook remain in draft form for this year for teachers to try out and provide input based on their experience. The Handbook has grown from the original 20 pages written by Ian Rankine, to 50 pages with enough information to help teachers who have no previous experience with simulations. The revised draft Handbook has now been posted on the ACC web site.

In June, four young ACC members travelled to Istanbul to attend **I-PASS**, the Atlantic student summit, which coincided with the NATO Summit meeting of Heads of State held in Istanbul, June 28-29. They had the opportunity to hear several key people, including Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

50th Assembly of the ATA 2005 in Rome

In December, a small Canadian delegation, including our four staff members who were all members of the Young Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) and whose travel was subsidized by the ATA, travelled to Rome to attend the 50th Assembly of the ATA. At the Council meeting, the ATA awarded the 2006 Assembly to Canada, to be held in Ottawa. This is a significant event for us.

2006 is the 40th anniversary year of the Atlantic Council of Canada, and hosting the international assembly of the ATA will be a great way to celebrate our anniversary. Some inquiries are already underway in Ottawa regarding suitable meeting venues and accommodation. We hope to hold the Assembly during the week of September 25, 2006, when the fall colours in the Ottawa area should be at their best. There is much work to be done in the next eighteen months to put together a large conference and to raise the necessary funding for it. We are looking for volunteers to join us for both the planning and the fundraising activities, and we will be looking for corporate sponsors for different aspects of the assembly.

NATO Briefing Tour

In October, Vice-President Col. John McKenna again led a very successful NATO briefing tour, via Prague, Czech Republic. His more detailed report on the tour will be found later in this report. At this time I wish to thank him for his continual efforts to provide each year's tour participants with an interesting, informative, and enjoyable experience and to congratulate him on his success in achieving these objectives time and again.

Corporate Development

Vice-President Barry Davenport has also provided a detailed report on the Corporate Development activities including the two very successful receptions held this past year. Each reception has attracted the attendance of representatives from corporations that had not previously attended our receptions. I particularly want to express our thanks to Norshield Group and Toron, the corporations that sponsored the spring and fall receptions respectively. In addition, I want to thank Vice-President Davenport and his committee for their efforts to raise corporate donations. Those efforts were absolutely essential to the ACC this past year.

The Young International Internship Program

The Young International Internship Program continued to be a highly successful program in 2004, but it also brought some disappointments. It was disappointing to be awarded only 13 placements in the spring and to be informed that all these placements had to be outside Canada. This had a seriously negative impact on the ACC's financial situation. Since only 20% of the total amount of money for the internship positions can be retained by the ACC for administrative purposes, any reduction in the number of placements reduces the amount of money available to the ACC. In addition, the requirement that all positions be international ones, eliminated the ACC office internship position and that meant that all office staff had to be paid directly from ACC funds, except for that portion of project coordination and administration that could be covered by the 20% allowed for administration.

In December, the ACC was awarded another 5 placements. However, one placement could not be filled in a timely manner because of the high security requirement for the particular position. In addition, these positions are considered an advance on the positions that will be available to

the ACC for 2005-2006

On the positive side, however, the program continues to attract extremely well qualified young Canadians who are very effective in their roles. Several of the 2004-2005 interns have been offered extensions of their contracts by the host organizations and all of them have had exceptional learning experiences. Canada's and the ACC's reputations are extremely high with the host organizations.

It is gratifying to conclude that the Atlantic Council of Canada was able to carry out its mandate in 2004 with a variety of interesting activities, and we look forward to enthusiasm to 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lindhout
President