



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007

2007 was an eventful year. There was a high level of activity which was both challenging and energizing. There were moments of great excitement and there were disappointments, but generally speaking, the ACC made great strides both financially and in terms of programs.

PEOPLE

There were a lot of comings and goings in 2007. The most important perhaps was a change of Chairmen. At our Annual meeting in June 2007, Dr. Eric Jackman became our Immediate Past Chairman, and the Honourable Bill Graham, became our Chairman. Although we collectively expressed our thanks to Dr. Jackman at the Tribute Dinner on April 9, 2008, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him once again for all his work. He took the ACC very much to heart, and was unfailing in his support of our activities, both financially and in terms of time and effort. I am very grateful for his encouragement and support during the difficult times in 2005 and 2006. He was always there when I needed his advice, and I am delighted that he is continuing to be actively involved with the ACC as Immediate Past Chairman. The ACC is, in fact, greatly blessed by having several past chairmen who remain our greatest supporters. Edward Crawford was a generous donor in 2007 to support the ATA Assembly, and the Hon. Donald Macdonald continued to support us in word and deed. The Hon. Roy MacLaren did us the tremendous favour of recruiting our new Chairman, the Hon. Bill Graham, who took office at last year's AGM.

I cannot begin to express my pleasure in working with the Hon. Bill Graham. He is truly dedicated to the Atlantic Council of Canada and its work on behalf of NATO and Canada's role in NATO. He has challenged me to think broadly about our activities and supported me every step of the way. I don't think we could have hosted the ATA Assembly as successfully as we did without his efforts and encouragement. I hope he will stay with us for a long time

STAFFING

Anna Little left the ACC office in January to start a new career, however, she continues to be active on the Executive Committee

With the end of the DFAIT internship, at the end of the Government's fiscal year in March 2007, we lost income that enabled us to pay administrative staff. However, thanks to the efforts Vice-President McKenna and one of our members, we were very fortunate last year to enter into an internship agreement with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation which allows us to pay two interns per year for six month consecutive periods. We are grateful for this excellent cooperation with TCHC which enabled us to have Sandy Samuels as Administrative Assistant from March to mid-September, and Abdul Rahman Karim from mid-September until mid-March 2008. In addition to administrative work, Abdul also worked on research and analysis.

After some years without, we were fortunate to have a Department of National Defence Security and Defence Forum Fellow again for the 2007-2008 year. Luisa Sargsyan started at the beginning of July and will continue until the end of June 2008. She has contributed greatly to the work of the ACC with her research, writing, and computer skills. We have supported the application of several potential SDF Fellows for 2008-2009, and hope that one of them will be successful.

We received an internship sponsorship from Scotiabank, which enabled us to have Lana Polyakov with us for four months from mid-August to mid-December to provide her exceptional organizational skills to help us organize the ATA Assembly.

We also had our first international intern, Marlene Bukowski, from Germany, who had to do a work term abroad as part of her degree requirements. She was with us for four months, from March through June, and then came back for a week in October-November to help us with the ATA Assembly.

Finally, in addition to these funded internships, we had the wonderful services of a volunteer intern, Pawel Osiej from the beginning of March to the end of August, when he left to start an internship in the office of the Atlantic Treaty Association in Brussels, Belgium. He also came to Ottawa with the ATA Secretariat, and provided extra help with the Assembly.

ADMINISTRATION

With the help of these internships, we were able to keep the office open and well staffed to provide services to our members, answer queries from the public, and organize various events throughout the year. When the office was housed at Trinity College, we were required to close the office during Trinity's Christmas vacation time as no services were provided during that time. We have decided to maintain that break between Christmas and New Year, but on any other workday, you will find someone in the office.

In January 2007, our accounts for the 2005-2006 Young Professionals Internships were audited by an independent auditor. It was an extremely time-consuming process, but at the end of it, the auditor reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade that our books were found to be in good order.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Conferences

On 24 January 2007, the Atlantic Council of Canada presented its **Winter Seminar** on the theme of "**Canada – NATO & Global Terrorism**". Participants had an opportunity to socialize over breakfast and meet some of the speakers. Vice-President, Col. (ret'd) John C. McKenna was the moderator, and ACC Chairman, Col. Dr. Eric Jackman welcomed the participants to what proved to be a most interesting, informative, and thought-provoking session. Dr. **Steven J. Stein**, CEO, Multi Health Systems, spoke on the psychological make-up terrorists. **John Thompson**, President of the Mackenzie Institute, brought the problem home to Canada with his presentation entitled "The Jihad in Canada", in which he identified groups and individuals active in Canada. Col. (ret'd) **Brian S. MacDonald**, Senior Defence Analyst, Conference of Defence Associations, spoke on "Funding Terrorism in Afghanistan". **Susan Pond**, Head, Partnership for Peace Programme, NATO Headquarters, spoke on the activities that NATO has undertaken and plans to undertake. **James Townsend, Jr.**, Program Director, International Security, Atlantic Council of the United States addressed the question "Does Homeland Security in North America start in the Hindu Kush?" The program ended with a lively discussion.

The highlight of the year was the **53rd Annual Assembly** of the Atlantic Treaty Association, which the ACC organized and hosted in Ottawa from October 31 to November 2. By all reports, it was a great success. The speakers were outstanding and the Assembly was well attended, especially by youth. The theme was "**NATO and Global Partners: a Comprehensive Approach to Rebuilding Afghanistan and Other Challenges**". The Young Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) delegates met earlier on the opening day to listen to Ajmal Pashtoonyar, Youth Outreach Officer of the Afghanistan Task Force from DFAIT. Speakers at the opening ceremonies were ACC Chairman, the Hon. Bill Graham, ATA President, Amb. Robert Hunter, NATO Deputy Secretary General H.E. Claudio Bisogniero, Ms Colleen Sword, Assistant Deputy Minister, DFAIT, representing the Hon Maxime Bernier, and the Minister of Defence of Albania, the Hon. Fatmir Mediu. Words of greeting were delivered by H.E. Amb. Davor Božinović, Croatian Ambassador to NATO, and the Minister of Defence of Macedonia, the Hon. Lazar Elenovski. Closing speakers were Canada's Minister of Health, the Hon. Tony Clement, and Gary Robbins, representing the US State Department. A reception followed to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the NATO-Russia Council and to honour the life a past President of the ATA, Ambassador Ü. Halûk Bayülken.

The second day of the Assembly was opened by H.E. Omar Samad, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Canada. Other speakers were Jonathan Parish, Senior Policy Advisor of NATO Policy and Planning, Francesc

Vendrell, EU Special Representative for Afghanistan, Gen. Klaus Naumann, Former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Prof. Sean Maloney, Royal Military College of Canada, LGen. Andrew B. Leslie, CD, Chief of the Land Staff, Prof. Sean Kay, Chair of International Studies, Ohio Wesleyan University, Tommy Steiner, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Forum of Israel, Commander (Ret'd) USCG Graig Corl of the Center for Naval Analyses in Virginia, Sergey Alexeevich Ryabkhov, Director of the Department of European Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia, and the Hon. Lazar Elenovski, Minister of Defence of Macedonia. The second day also included a working lunch where each table was turned into a discussion group with a list of questions to be considered. The answers were recorded and summarized and shared with NATO, DFAIT, and DND. The day concluded with a reception hosted by the Ambassadors of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia, and attended by the Hon. Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence of Canada.

The final day of the Assembly began with a Transatlantic Forum in which delegates of several National Associations shared information about their activities. Speakers on that final day were H.E. Davor Božinović, Croatian Ambassador to NATO, Lushan Sun, Counsellor of the Embassy of China in Canada, followed by Rapporteur, Col. (Ret'd) Brian MacDonald. Speakers at the closing ceremonies were the Hon. Sali Berisha, Prime Minister of Albania, Laurie Hawn, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence, Canada; Amb. Wayne Neill, Political Advisor of NATO Allied Command Transformation, and H.E. Traian Basescu, President of Romania, whose speech was delivered by H.E. Elena Stefoi, Ambassador of Romania to Canada.

The day concluded with an excursion in the Ottawa area, starting with lunch in the West Block of the Parliament Building, followed by a tour, a sightseeing drive through Ottawa, a visit to the Aviation Museum, and concluding with dinner in the revolving restaurant on the top floor of the Marriott hotel with its wonderful 360 degree aerial view of the national capital.

The first two days of the Assembly were recorded by CPAC, and broadcast several times. The videos can be viewed on the CPAC website <http://www.cpac.ca> click on *Video-on-Demand* and enter *Atlantic* in the search box to see seven videos of the Assembly.

Roundtables and Other Speakers

On 6 February 2007, The Head of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Centre (WMDC) in NATO HQ, **Ted Whiteside**, spoke about the challenges facing NATO and Canada in the 21st Century. His presentation focused on the importance of NATO activities in Afghanistan and against Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

Sgt. Peter Moon, Public Affairs Ranger for 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces, Base Borden, spoke following the Board of Directors Meeting held on April 18, 2007. He spoke on the role of the Canadian Rangers in Canada's most northern regions, and described his experience participating in his most recent Arctic Sovereignty Patrol.

At the Annual General Meeting on June 28, **Nelofer Pazira**, journalist, author of "A Bed of Red Flowers: In Search of My Afghanistan", producer of documentaries, and star of the movie "Kandahar", spoke about Afghanistan, its history and culture, the importance of the NATO mission for the rebuilding of Afghanistan, and her own experiences in returning to Afghanistan to produce the documentary "Kandahar".

First Annual Atlantic Council of Canada Tribute Dinner

The Atlantic Council of Canada celebrated its first Annual Tribute Dinner on 1 March 2007. Approximately forty guests braved one of the worst snowstorms of the winter to attend the dinner at Seeley Hall, Trinity College, Toronto, to honour the recipient of the Atlantic Council's first Award for Exceptional Contribution to International Peace and Security, **Christopher Alexander**, UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan and former Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan. In addition to the certificate presented to Chris Alexander by ACC Chairman, Col. Dr. Frederic L.R. Jackman, the award also includes a donation made in the recipient's name to the SARAHIM School for disabled children in Kabul.

Mr. Alexander accepted the award with deep gratitude, and addressed the audience about the past and current situation in Afghanistan. He emphasized the very important role of Canada and its allies in that country and explained why it is important to help the Afghan people to stabilize and rebuild their country. He also gave the audience an impressive insight into his personal experiences while working in the region.

Fundraising Reception

On Monday, June 4, ACC Chairman, Col. Dr. Eric Jackman and Mrs. Sarah Jackman generously hosted a fundraising reception at their house. In addition to promoting awareness about the ACC and its activities, some much needed funds were raised for the 53rd Annual Assembly.

The 2nd Annual Atlantic Council of Canada Golf Tournament

ACC golfers spent a most enjoyable day on June 12, at the Glen Eagle Golf Club. Chief of the Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier and NHL Hall of Famer, Brad Park, playing in the same foursome, questioned each other at length about hockey and Afghanistan respectively. The experience may have been partly responsible for Gen. Hillier's trip to Afghanistan with the Stanley Cup and a group of former NHL players.

More participants arrived to attend the dinner, at which General Hillier spoke at length about the importance of Canada's mission in Afghanistan and gave specific examples of work done by the Canadian contingent. He also stressed the importance of reconnecting with the Canadian public, making sure that Canadians are informed about the day-to-day activities of the service men and women representing their interests all over the globe.

NHL Hall of Famers, Brad Park and Gerry Cheevers followed General Hillier. Brad Park asked General Hillier to consider managing the Toronto Maple Leafs, and Gerry Cheevers suggested that if the General ran the Leafs like he did the CF, the Leafs' Stanley Cup drought would surely be over. I want to express my appreciation to Linda Lynch for her efforts in publicizing the Golf Tournament and persuading Gerry Cheevers and Brad Park to participate.

Youth Activities

YATA Seminars and Conferences

In July, Pawel Osiej and Nicola Gershon were delegated to attend the Danish Atlantic Youth Seminar, hosted by the Danish Atlantic Treaty Association (DATA) in Aalborg, Denmark. DATA has been running this highly popular seminar which brings together between forty and fifty participants from NATO Member and Partner countries and Russia for over twenty years.

In October the Comitato Atlantico Italiano in conjunction with the ATA held an Atlantic Forum in Palermo, Sicily, for young researchers, analysts, and journalists from 36 countries on "New Perspectives of Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Asia." Abdul Rahman Karim was delegated by the ACC to attend this conference.

Essay Contest

In August-September, the ACC held an essay contest on the topic "*International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Mission in Afghanistan: Any more troops?*" with some guidelines on issues to be considered in addressing the topic. Winners were **Brandon Deuville**, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, **Matthew MacDonald**, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, and **Rowan Porta**, University of Victoria, BC. The three students were awarded accommodation and a travel subsidy to attend the 53rd ATA General Assembly.

Publications

ACC did not publish the *Transatlantic Quarterly* last year, as it was not possible to raise the necessary funds and advertising for this purpose while at the same time raising funds for the General Assembly. Instead,

ACC published three issues of a much-expanded **Newsletter** which was distributed electronically to all members and to many others such as NATO, DFAIT, and DND officials, ATA which excerpted large parts of the *ACC Newsletter* for its own newsletter, and past participants in ACC events.

On the initiative of Luisa Sargsyan, ACC also introduced a news digest, ***In Focus***, for which Luisa has done most of the research and writing to this point. Five issues were produced and distributed electronically in 2007, each with a special focus on a timely topic of the day.

President's Travel

In 2007, in addition to representing the ACC at various ATA meetings, I also made a special effort to raise the profile of the ACC by meeting with NATO and government officials, and officials in ministers' offices personally to gain their support for the ACC and the ATA Assembly.

In February, I travelled to Brussels to meet with ATA officials, officials of the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, and the Canadian Delegation to NATO, to discuss our proposal for the 53rd Annual Assembly. At the time, the Deputy Assistant Secretary General of NATO PDD verbally promised 50,000 Euros to support the Assembly. However, in October, only two weeks before the Assembly, we received an official letter reducing that commitment to 30,000 Euros.

Also in connection with the Assembly, I made six trips to Ottawa to meet with officials in the offices of Minister O'Connor, Minister MacKay, and Minister Bernier, and with DFAIT staff. I also had numerous meetings with others such as the Ambassadors of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Macedonia, Chair of the NATO Parliamentary Committee, Mr. Leon Benoit, MP, staff at the conference venues in preparation for the Assembly and the receptions and excursion, and officials of potential corporate sponsors.

In April, as Vice President of the Atlantic Treaty Association, I attended the ATA Bureau meeting in Washington, DC, and meetings at several Washington "think-tanks".

In May, I travelled to Brussels to attend the ATA Bureau Meeting, and to represent the ACC at the Spring Meeting of the ATA Council. The Fall Bureau and Council meetings were held in Ottawa in conjunction with the ATA Assembly.

In addition, I had the opportunity to participate in a Civic Leaders' tour of NORAD/USNORTHCOM installations, hosted by NORAD/USNORTHCOM Commander, General Gene Renuart. It was an amazing trip full of travel and briefings and opportunities to see AWACS, C-17, F-15, and F-22 airplanes, ABMs, and their rockets up close, and watch NORAD tracking stations in action.

CONCLUSION

2007 was a very busy year for the ACC with much productive activity and positive results which have gained high national and international profile for the organization. I look forward to building on this base in 2008 under the leadership of our Chairman, the Hon. Bill Graham, and I challenge every member of the ACC to join me in this effort. You can do your bit by recruiting new members, attending our conferences, roundtables, Golf Tournament, and other events, making donations, and contacting potential sponsors and donors. I will be pleased to follow up any contact with information material and sponsorship details.

organizing lectures, conferences and seminars and providing analysis and commentary, to inform Canadians of the value of the transatlantic relationship and foster dialogue.