



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2009

### NEW INITIATIVES

For several years now, the ACC has been emphasizing the significance of Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty

The Parties will contribute toward the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any and all them.

In 2009, the ACC continued two important projects to put this article into practice. In February, the ACC renewed the agreement with the Canadian Turkish Business Council (CTBC) to provide secretariat services for the CTBC and help it in its mandate to develop stronger business relations between the two NATO members, Canada and Turkey. The relationship has worked out very well.

In the Fall of 2008, we started planning for the NATO Economy Forum, which was held in May 2009. Representatives from six southeastern European countries attended, as well as representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, Export Development Canada, the Ontario Ministry of International Trade and Investment, The Ontario Chamber of Commerce, a representative from the Department of National Defence Canada, who serves on the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) and explained how businesses can access NATO contracts, and Canadian business people. Out of that event has grown a closer relationship with Albania which has provided the impetus to establish a Canada-Albania Business Council. We are in the process of negotiating with them for an arrangement to provide secretariat services to them similar to our arrangement with the Canadian Turkish Business Council.

In connection with the Forum, we launched the *NATO Economy forum Newsletter* with a special focus on Macedonia, including an interview with Ambassador Sasko Nasev.

In September 2009, we were able for the first time in a number of years, to organize a Study Tour to NATO. Immediate Past Chairman, Dr. Eric Jackman, headed the delegation which enjoyed very informative visits to NATO Headquarters, where we were also briefed by Ambassador Rob McRae, Canada's Permanent Representative to NATO, to the AWACs base in Geilenkirchen, Germany, SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) in Mons, and stopped at the Waterloo Monument on the way back. We also met with Deputy Ambassador Jean St. Jacques of the Canadian Delegation to EU. We spent the last two days in Paris, where we met with the Canadian Ambassador to France, Mr. Marc Lortie, and the Canadian Permanent representative to the OECD, Ambassador Paul-Henri Lapointe, which was followed by an excellent briefing by OECD officials at the OECD headquarters.

Another new initiative was the Gala Dinner on November 19, at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel to celebrate NATO's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 100 years of diplomacy in Canada. There was a link again to Article 2, as the Council honoured 5 outstanding Canadian business people, Abdel Badwi, President and CEO, Banker's Petroleum, Jim Balsillie, Co-CEO of Research in Motion, Sonja and the late Tom Bata, Bata Limited, and Peter Munk, Founder of Barrick Gold, and Co-Founder of TriGranit Development Corporation with the ACC's Award in Recognition of Exceptional Contributions to Corporate Social Responsibility and economic Sustainability.

### PEOPLE

It has been my pleasure to work productively with our Chairman, the Hon. Bill Graham. Although he is enormously busy with other activities and is a much-sought-after speaker, he has made time for regular meetings to discuss ACC business, and has attended and hosted or chaired our major events. 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 provided great support to the staff.

### STAFFING

As in other years, there were a lot of comings and goings in 2009, which is to be expected when we work with interns.

The Toronto Community Housing Corporation internships have been very successful. Brian Dickson stayed with us until the end of March 2009 and was then replaced by Abdiasis Mohamed in mid-May. On December 1, 2009, Aida Abdurahman followed Abdi. In addition to administrative work, they also worked on research and analysis, and contributed to our Newsletters.

Elaine Kanasewich was with us as a Security and Defence forum intern from January 2009 until mid-October when she took a position with the Department of National Defence in Ottawa. She contributed greatly to the work of the ACC with her research, and writing, and continued to contribute to the *In Focus* News Digest from Ottawa.

We also had another international intern, Yigit Ozdemir, from France, and originally from Turkey, who had to do a work term abroad as part of his degree requirements. He was with us from April to mid-August.

Scotiabank once again provided sponsorship for an intern, Guillaume Couture, who travelled to Kyiv, Ukraine to assist the Atlantic Council of Ukraine with the logistics for hosting the General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association in Kyiv in October 2009.

In addition to these funded internships, we had the wonderful services of several volunteer interns. In May, Lucy Leiderman, a University of Toronto graduate joined us and stayed until August when she travelled to Sweden to start a graduate studies program at Uppsala University. She was joined by Christopher Birks, a native Torontonion who was home for the summer from his studies at St. Andrews University in Scotland. Lucy and Chris poured through our files to extract information on the history of the Atlantic Council.

Queen's University once again proved to be a good source of interns, with Kyla Cham joining us for the summer, and Jonathan Preece arriving in September. Kyla, who was finishing her third year of undergraduate studies, returned to Queen's in the fall for the first semester, and then travelled to Brussels in early 2010 to be an intern in the office of the Atlantic Treaty Association, the fourth Canadian intern to fill that role. She will continue her studies at Queen's in September 2010. Jonathan, who completed an M.A. at Queen's stayed with us until well into 2010. Kyla's computer skills were most useful, and Jonathan took over the editorship of *In Focus* when Elaine Kanasewich left.

Tetiana Branitska, an undergraduate student at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Kyiv, Ukraine, spent the month of August with us. She was obviously scouting out possibilities in Canada, as she will be returning to Toronto this fall to begin graduate studies at the University of Toronto. Those of us who attended the General Assembly of the ATA in Kyiv, had the pleasure of meeting her again on her home turf.

Dallas Weaver, a fourth year International Studies student at Glendon Campus, York University, came at the beginning of the university year in 2008 to do a one day per week co-op internship as part of her program at Glendon. She developed the background materials for the NATO Economy Forum.

Robert Baines, with an Honours B.A. from Trinity College, University of Toronto, and an M.A. from York University, also joined us at the beginning of the summer and he is still with us, currently on contract to head up our fundraising and our education programs.

In October, Clara Wong, a B.A. graduate from Glendon College, York University, joined us after participating in the ACC's 2009 NATO Study Tour. Clara took over from Kyla as our IT expert, and along with Jonathan Preece, did the technical work on our new website. She continues to be with us one day a week to update our website, while spending the rest of her time on organizing a major conference for the Chinese community in Canada.

Tahera Qurban Ali, a York University graduate who was born in Afghanistan, also joined us in the fall contributing articles on Afghanistan, and presenting at the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association Assembly in Kyiv in October. She continues to research and monitor events in Afghanistan and will contribute more articles in the future.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

With the help of these interns, 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. With the exception of the break between Christmas and New Year, the office was staffed every workday in 2009.

## PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

### Conferences

Our Spring Conference entitled “**NATO at 60—What Choices and Challenges for the Alliance?**” was held at Trinity College on April 21, 2009. Our Chairman, the Hon. Bill Graham’s opening remarks set the scene for the various speakers at the conference. The first panel on “NATO’s Strategic Direction for the Next Decade”, was moderated by ACC Secretary to the Board, Andrew R. Mahut. Speakers were The Hon. Franklin Kramer, Center for Naval Analysis, Alexandria, VA, Ted Whiteside, Secretary of the North Atlantic Council and Director of NATO Ministerial and Summit Task Forces, Brussels, and LGen (Ret’d) J.O. Michel Maisonneuve, RMC Saint-Jean. ACC Vice-President, Maj Ted Opitz, moderated the second panel on “NATO’s ‘Out of Area’ Interests and Canada’s Strategic Response” with speakers David Mulroney, then Deputy Minister of the Afghanistan Task Force, PCO, Ottawa, and MGen David Fraser, then Canadian Forces College, Toronto. The last panel was moderated by ACC Vice-President, Anna Little, and focused on “NATO’s Collaborative Efforts” with speakers Dr. Costanza Musu, University of Ottawa, and Dr. Rob Huebert, University of Calgary. At the end of the day, Jerrod Riley, National Deputy Director, the Navy League of Canada, presented the Robert I. Hendy Award of the Navy League to Dr. Rob Huebert. Col (Ret’d) Brian MacDonald summed up the proceedings at the end of the program.

The Annual Fall Conference was held in Ottawa on November 24, 2009. The theme was “**a New Strategic Concept for NATO.**” In his opening remarks, Chairman, the Hon. Bill Graham, compared the security environment at the time of the development of the current Strategic Concept with the situation today. In his keynote address, His Excellency, Jawed Ludin, Ambassador of Afghanistan, provided a perspective on the situation in Afghanistan, and the importance of NATO and Canada’s role in rebuilding the country. The first panel entitled, “Emerging Issues—A Role for NATO?” was moderated by Dr. Brooke Smith-Windsor, Canada’s Senior National Representative at the NATO Defense College, Rome. Speakers were Jodi Adams, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Toronto, and Stefanie von Hlatky, SDF Post Doctoral Fellow, McGill University. The second panel, “Partnerships with other International Organizations (EU, UN, etc.) and NATO Expansion” was moderated by Shelley Whiting, Director, International Security Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada. Speakers were H.E. Ginte Damusis, Ambassador of Lithuania to Canada, and Dr. Niels Lachmann, Post-doctoral Fellow, Université de Montréal. H.E. Marie Gervais-Vidricaire, Canada’s Representative on the NATO secretary General’s Strategic Concept Panel of Experts, presented a Keynote address on the Panel’s work. H.E. Batu Kutelia, Ambassador of Georgia to Canada presented a view from a NATO Partner Country. The last Panel on “Article 5 and ‘Out of Area’ operations” was moderated and addressed by Dr. Michael Margolian, Director General, Policy Planning, Department of National Defence Canada, with speaker Eric Jardine, PhD Candidate, Carleton University.

I am very pleased that we have been able to publish the proceedings of both these conferences in an attractive booklet format.

### Roundtables and Other Speakers

On January 15, 2009, LGen Charlie Bouchard, Deputy Commander, NORAD gave an update on NORAD activities and Canada’s role in NORAD.

On March 17, we hosted a Roundtable with Mr. Joe Barnes, the Bonner Means Baker Fellow at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

On June 2, 2009, Dr. Brooke Smith-Windsor, Senior Canadian Representative at the NATO Defence College, Rome, talked to us about the role of the College.

On August 31, LCol John Conrad spoke on his experiences in Afghanistan at the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

On October 15, 2009, our own Immediate Past President, Col (Ret’d) Brian MacDonald, gave his impressions of Afghanistan upon his return from an information tour.

### Third Annual Atlantic Council of Canada Tribute Dinner

On April 9, 2009, The Atlantic Council of Canada presented General (Ret’d) Rick Hillier, OMM, MSC, CD, Former Chief of the Defence Staff with the Atlantic Council’s 2009 Award for Exceptional Contribution to International Peace and Security. Part of the Award is a financial contribution made in the name of the recipient to the Sarahim School for Exceptional Children in Kabul, Afghanistan. Lieutenant-Commander, Albert Wong, who has established a charity in Canada to support the school, accepted the cheque.

## Corporate Reception

A number of Corporate representatives and directors attend a reception with General Hillier prior to the Tribute Dinner.

## The 4th Annual Atlantic Council of Canada Golf Tournament

ACC golfers spent an enjoyable day on June 10, at the Glen Eagle Golf Club. Brigadier-General Denis Thompson, OMM, CD, Commander, Joint Task Force-Afghanistan, May 2008 to February 2009, played golf with us and spoke at the dinner. He spoke candidly about the difficulties of the present operations, but was also very encouraging when he spoke of the progress that is being made. The golf tournament was an enjoyable experience for both golfers and non-golfers who attend the dinner. However, the turnout was less than expected.

## Youth Activities

### National Events

On January 22-25, the ACC was one of the Sponsors of the Eighth Annual Model NATO organized by Carleton University in Ottawa. This year's project coordinator was former ACC intern, Brandon Deuille.

On February 10-12, 2009, Elaine Kanasewich attended a briefing organized by the Department of National Defence's Security and Defence Forum's Policy Group. The event featured a number of presentations by experts from DND on current security and defence issues that are central to Canada's security and foreign policy.

### YATA Seminars and Conferences

In April, ACC sponsored Dan Meester, student in the Joint Law and International Affairs Program at Carleton University, to attend the Young Atlanticist Summit "NATO in 2020: What Lies Ahead?" held in Strasbourg, France, in conjunction with the NATO Summit. The event was organized by the Atlantic Treaty Association and the Atlantic Council of the United States, and provided an excellent opportunity for the over 120 students and young international affairs professionals representing 37 countries to observe first-hand the important geo-political events connected with the Summit.

In July, Elaine Kanasewich was 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.

Also in July, the ACC sent intern Robert Baines, and two graduate students, Anita Singh from Dalhousie University, Halifax and Graham Brown from the University of Guelph, who were the winners of the ACC's 2009 Graduate student Essay Contest to attend the International Crisis Management Simulation organized jointly by Queen's University's Centre for International Relations and the University of Mannheim, Germany, and sponsored by the ATA, which this year was held at Queen's University, Kingston.

### Student Outreach and Essay Contests

In addition to the graduate student essay contest, the ACC also sponsored an essay contest for undergraduates, which was won by Erin Fitzgerald, University of Toronto, Tom Shepherd, Glendon College, York University, and Hillson Tse, University of British Columbia. They were sponsored to attend the Fall Conference in Ottawa.

### Publications

The ACC published four 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 newsletters, and past participants in ACC events.

Detailed reports on all the events summarized in this report can be read in our Newsletters which are posted on our website.

Ten issues of the news digest, **In Focus**, were produced and distributed electronically in 2009, each with a special focus on a timely topic of the day. Darya Klepchikova was the editor until February when Elaine Kanasewich took over, and in October, Jonathan Preece became the editor.

Our website was completely redone, and can now be updated in house. This enables us to keep the content current, and provide timely information on upcoming events.

### **President's Travel**

In 2009, 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 its activities.

I have continued to meet with the Ambassadors and Consuls General of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine, to seek their support for activities such as the NATO Economy Forum and ACC's assistance to Ukraine for its hosting of the 2009 ATA Assembly.

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 Kyiv in early October in conjunction with the ATA Assembly.

I traveled to Kyiv immediately following the NATO Tour to Brussels and Paris in order to assist the AC Ukraine with final preparations for the Assembly, and continued to provide assistance throughout, and was a last minute replacement for the scheduled General Rapporteur.

Nine directors, members, and interns represented the ACC at the Assembly in Kyiv.

### **CONCLUSION**

2009 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. We are continuing to build on this base in 2010 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 and bringing guests to our conferences, roundtables, and other events, making donations, and contacting potential sponsors and donors.

Our next major events are the NATO Tour, Sept. 25-Oct. 2, the Gala Dinner celebrating the Centennial of the Canadian Navy, at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel on November 6, and the Fall Conference in Ottawa on November 18.

Robert Baines and I will be pleased to follow up any contacts for sponsorship with information material and sponsorship details. Our priorities for fundraising are staffing, youth and education activities, and assistance to the Atlantic Council of Albania, hosts of this year's ATA Assembly.