

OPINION

Canada's adaptation to evolving NORAD and NATO roles

By NANCY TEEPLE (/AUTHOR/NANCY-TEEPLE) NOVEMBER 18, 2020

[✎ EDIT STORY (HTTPS://WWW.HILLTIMES.COM/WP-ADMIN/POST.PHP?POST=271888&ACTION=EDIT&CLASSIC=EDITOR)]

As peer competitors and other adversaries continue to violate international norms and rules, alliances like NATO and NORAD provide a means to promote and enforce the boundaries of acceptable conduct.



NATO's former headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, are pictured in 2012. Canada needs to strengthen and adapt its defence to the realities of emerging threats and security challenges to effectively meet its alliance commitments, writes Nancy Teeple. *Flickr photograph by UD/Frode Overland Andersen*

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On Nov. 9, in a call to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, U.S. president-elect Joe Biden reaffirmed the close bonds between Canada and the U.S., citing the North American partnership and deepening collaboration to address regional and global challenges—including strengthening NATO. Indeed, not only do NATO and NORAD remain viable and workable alliances today, they are imperative; and Canada's role has been and should continue to be engaged, but Canada needs to strengthen and adapt its defence to the realities of emerging threats and security challenges to effectively meet its alliance commitments.

Canadians should remain confident in the sustained historical record of the efficacy of our alliances as collective bodies intended to preserve and promote peace and stability through defence and deterrence. They comprise a North Atlantic community reflecting the universal norms and values of liberty, democracy, rule of law, human rights, and freedoms. Canada was one of the eight founding members of NATO in 1949 and remains a valued binational partner in NORAD.

Born out of the post-Second World War and early Cold War strategic context, NATO and NORAD provide the foundation for defence co-operation and security that we continue to enjoy today. These institutions adapted and demonstrated their enduring relevance as the global security environment shifted from bipolar, to unipolar, to multipolar with the rise of peer competitors. Today's threats are more complex; adversaries are varied and operate in non-traditional ways and domains.

The world today is experiencing unprecedented challenges—a global pandemic with severe economic effects, a divided America following an isolationist president, the ending of stability-enhancing arms control regimes, and strategic competition with adversaries that deploy aggression below the threshold of conflict. International relations returned to great power competitions, characterized by a resurgent Russia and a revisionist China seeking to project power globally and regionally manipulating or outright ignoring international norms and legal regimes. Despite this renewed focus for defence and security institutions, the risk posed by rogue nations, such as North Korea and potentially Iran, wielding nuclear weapons threatens regional allies and, possibly, the North American homeland. The threat of international terrorism has not disappeared, and the threat of religious extremism has been augmented by the rise of far-right groups. The international security environment is less predictable and more volatile than we could have anticipated.

The U.S. continues to lead our alliances as one of the world's strongest economies and the most powerful military. Canada remains a key player in both alliances, providing geographical advantage for NORAD and niche capabilities for NATO. NATO and NORAD evolved and adapted to changes in the global threat environment from the Cold War to the present. From its creation in 1949, NATO began as a consensus-based collective defence body focused on deterring military aggression in the Euro-Atlantic region, with an emphasis on Article 5 of the Treaty that an attack against one or more of its members is considered an attack against all members. After the Cold War, NATO evolved and its core tasks expanded to include co-operative security and crisis management, and broadened its scope for intervention from regional to global. Canada played a significant role in these NATO missions, from the Balkans in the 1990s, it expanded its contribution to NATO-ISAF in Afghanistan from Kabul to Kandahar province, it led the 2011 air campaign NATO intervention in Libya, and now leads a battlegroup as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence in Latvia.

NORAD was established in 1958 as a Canada-U.S. binational continental air defence command, in which Canada provided an early warning and defence role as part of deterrence. NORAD evolved through renewals that expanded its mission, most notably in 1981 to include aerospace warning, and in 2006, it added a maritime warning role. In response to peer strategic competitors' innovation in offensive weapons to strike the continent (no defences exist against hypersonic vehicles, advanced cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial systems), North American defence is undergoing modernization, primarily through NORAD and USNORTHCOM, with new deterrence and integrated defence concepts, which has implications for Canada as a close U.S. defence partner and Arctic nation.

As an important NATO and NORAD partner, Canada must revise its Strong, Secure, Engaged defence policy. Since the Wales summit in 2014, when NATO members reaffirmed their commitment to two per cent of GDP spending on defence, Canada has continued to fall short of its commitment. Canada needs to be serious about its contribution, revise its problematic procurement processes

(characterized by delays and cancellations on the whims of political leadership), and increase defence spending and investing in capabilities needed now and into the future. For its own national security interests, and as a continental defence partner, Canada must be serious about upgrades to North American defence, including the Arctic (particularly replacing the aging North Warning System of early-warning radars), potentially requiring a revisit to missile defence participation. Reaching 1.4 per cent of GDP on defence spending by 2024 may no longer be viable for the complex and diverse defence challenges in multiple domains we must be prepared for today. Canada needs to join its U.S. partner in revising its defence and deterrence posture with serious investment in all domains to remain a credible defence partner.

Our alliances are more important than ever in today's unpredictable and volatile international security environment. As peer competitors and other adversaries continue to violate international norms and rules, alliances like NATO and NORAD provide a means to promote and, if necessary, enforce the boundaries of acceptable conduct in international and regional spaces. Canada has a vested national interest in supporting NATO and NORAD to promote shared values and defend the rules-based international order.

Nancy Teeple is an adjunct professor and research associate at the Royal Military College of Canada, a postdoctoral fellow at the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network, and the Fulbright Canada Visiting Chair in Peace and War Studies at Norwich University.

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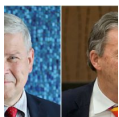
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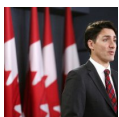
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After 80 years of advice, joint body's work on North American defence as necessary as ever (<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/08/19/after-80-years-of-advice-joint-bodys-work-on-north-american-defence-as-necessary-as-ever/260280>)

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Trudeau unprepared for modern threats (<https://www.hilltimes.com/2019/01/21/trudeau-unprepared-modern-threats/183944>)



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Trudeau confident on NATO commitments, BMD decision, despite unpredictable U.S. administration
(<https://www.hilltimes.com/2017/09/11/trudeau-confident-nato-commitments-bmd-decision-despite-unpredictable-u-s-administration/118293>)

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(<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/18/inevitable-return-to-testy-federal-provincial-relations-will-showcase-discord-with-differing-priorities-say-politicos-and-experts/272263>) "We are seeing the inevitable conversation about crucial policy decisions on resources come to the fore with [where] inevitably you'll see differences," says former Liberal strategist John Delacourt.

MPs, Senators look to fill Centre Block's courtyards in recent reno recommendations
 (<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/18/mps-senators-look-to-fill-centre-block-courtyards-in-recent-reno-recommendations/272212>)

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has, for one, recommended a partial infill be built in Centre Block's eastern courtyard, while the House's working group has endorsed an expansion of the lobbies into its western courtyard.

What can Canadian pollsters learn from mistakes in American presidential polling?
(<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/18/what-can-canadian-pollsters-learn-from-mistakes-in-american-presidential-polling/272254>)

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(<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/18/what-can-canadian-pollsters-learn-from-mistakes-in-american-presidential-polling/272254>) "The methods they are using aren't capturing a certain segment of the population," Abacus Data's David Coletto says of U.S. pollsters.

Access to mental health services for Armed Forces in House Defence committee's sights amid rising suicide numbers
(<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/18/access-to-mental-health-services-for-armed-forces-in-house-defence-committees-sights-amid-rising-suicide-numbers/272237>)

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(<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/18/access-to-mental-health-services-for-armed-forces-in-house-defence-committees-sights-amid-rising-suicide-numbers/272237>) In 2019, 17 regular force members and three reservists died by suicide, which was the highest number since 2014.

No 'consensus' to make televised leaders' debates commission permanent feature, says LeBlanc
(<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/17/no-consensus-to-make-televised-leaders-debates-commission-permanent-feature-says-leblanc/272439>)

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(<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/17/no-consensus-to-make-televised-leaders-debates-commission-permanent-feature-says-leblanc/272439>) The commission, overseen by former governor general David Johnston, recommended establishing a permanent structure.

Watchdog calls out RCMP over 'shocking' backlog of access-to-information requests
(<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/17/watchdog-calls-out-rcmp-over-shocking-backlog-of-access-to-information-requests/272445>)

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(<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/17/watchdog-calls-out-rcmp-over-shocking-backlog-of-access-to-information-requests/272445>) In February 2019, the RCMP had 4,532 active cases, about 92 per cent (or 4,179) of which were past the statutory due date to respond, according to the Office of the Information Commissioner.

House Justice Committee expected to vote on Bloc motion to probe 'political vetting' of judicial

candidates, says Bloc MP Fortin
<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/committee-expected-to-vote-this-month-on-bloc-motion-to-study-political-vetting-of-judicial-candidates-says-bloc-mp-fortin/271896>

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<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/16/justice-committee-expected-to-vote-this-month-on-bloc-motion-to-study-political-vetting-of-judicial-candidates-says-bloc-mp-fortin/271896> Anyone who raises questions about the Liberal government's judicial appointment process is either 'ill informed' or playing 'shameless politics,' says Liberal MP James Maloney.

Military embeds with PHAC to set up 'hub' to guide distribution of COVID-19 vaccine
<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/embeds-with-phac-to-set-up-hub-to-guide-distribution-of-covid-19-vaccine/272279>

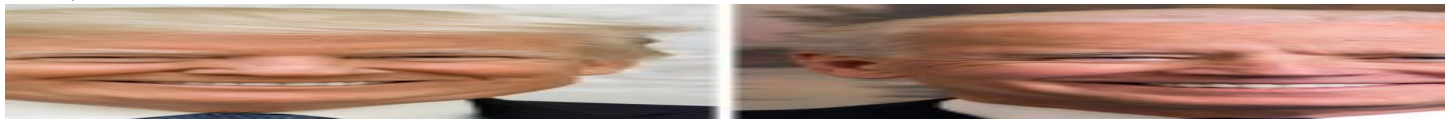
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<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/16/military-embeds-with-phac-to-set-up-hub-to-guide-distribution-of-covid-19-vaccine/272279> Outgoing chief of defence staff, Jonathan Vance, 'has dispatched some of his best planners' to the Public Health Agency of Canada to plan for the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, says defence official Maj. Gen. Trevor Cadie

Drive-in rallies and scrapping platform announcements? What Canadian campaigns can learn from the U.S. election
<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/in-rallies-and-scrapping-the-platform-announcements-what-canadian-campaigns-can-learn-from-the-u-s-election/271946>

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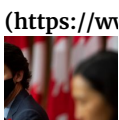
<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/16/drive-in-rallies-and-scrapping-the-platform-announcements-what-canadian-campaigns-can-learn-from-the-u-s-election/271946> 'I can't think of an election where your advanced polls [are] going to be so integral to your ultimate result as the next one,' said John Delacourt.

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<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/15/theyve-been-very-interested-in-our-ideas-what-experts-expect-from-the-liberal-climate-change-bill/271845>



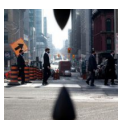
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<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/13/feds-may-face-tough-choices-if-record-spikes-in-new-infections-continue-says-trudeau/271884>



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<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/14/senate-lobbying-dips-amid-pandemic-but-lobbyists-say-its-a-temporary-blip/271948>



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'A national emergency requires a coordinated, national plan': politicos, pollsters, top docs increase calls for coordinated federal-provincial-municipal response to COVID-19 (<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/16/a-national-emergency-requires-a-coordinated-national-plan-politicos-pollsters-and-top-docs-increasing-calls-for-coordinated-response-to-covid-19-following-brutal-week-of-rising-caseloads/271872>)



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Liberal MPs expect Biden to revive 'mature, working relationship' with Canada after four years of 'chaotic' Trump, Sgro slams Trump's lack of concession: 'democracy has spoken' (<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/16/liberal-mps-expecting-biden-administration-to-be-a-working-partnership-compared-to-outgoing-president-trumps-chaotic-regime/271775>)



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All federal parties should support Bloc Québécois' Justice Committee motion to study judicial appointment process (<https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/11/16/all-federal-parties-should-support-bloc-quebecois-justice-committee-motion-to-study-the-judicial-appointment-process/272004>)

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