



*The United States and Canada work seamlessly together at home and abroad to keep our citizens safe. For more than sixty five years, the Canadian Armed Forces have jointly defended North America with their U.S. peers at the bi-national North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).*

## A HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICAN SECURITY

Canada has fought alongside the United States in defense of our common values through World Wars I and II (WWI & WWII), the Cold War, Korea, the Balkans, the Middle East, and Afghanistan. Our individual Special Forces were born together as an integrated bi-national unit, the First Special Service Force (Devil's Brigade) of WWII. In 1958, our military partnership was further integrated when the U.S. and Canada signed the NORAD Agreement to create a defensive air shield over North America during the Cold War. Canadian and U.S. military personnel are dedicated to NORAD's joint mission, headquartered at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado Springs. For more than 65 years, NORAD has stood ready to respond to threats from intercontinental ballistic missiles; terrorism; and other air and missile attacks.

*"As has been made clear by the unique NORAD relationship, Canada has been a steadfast ally for decades and remains our essential security partner in the defense of North America. This unique and steadfast partnership, based on common ideals and interests, continues to gain strength and will serve both the United States and Canada for generations to come."*

- U.S. Air Force General Gregory M. Guillot, Commander NORAD



## GUARDING THE PRESENT

Today, NORAD has three regional headquarters, covering the Alaska region from Anchorage, Canada's region from Manitoba, and the Continental U.S. from Florida. Together, Canadian and American personnel conduct NORAD's primary missions:

- Aerospace warning and control
- Maritime warning



## PROTECTING THE FUTURE

The world has changed since 1958 and NORAD is modernizing to counter new threats. Canada is investing nearly \$40 billion CAD over the next twenty years to modernize the infrastructure and support capabilities that protect North America. This investment will update surveillance and weapons systems and create a science and technology defense program to develop the capabilities of the future. Together with our U.S. counterparts, we will keep North America safe.

# WE HAVE THE WATCH

DEFENSE



# The United States and Canada Arctic Partners in Strength

*The United States and Canada, both Arctic states, share a vital partnership essential for a secure and prosperous North American homeland. As geopolitical competition, economic interests, technological advancements, and melting sea ice increase the Arctic's strategic importance, our collaboration is even more crucial to maintaining peace and stability in the region.*

## A History of Cooperation in the Arctic

The United States is Canada's premier Arctic partner, with shared priorities in security, search and rescue, critical minerals, energy development, scientific research, conservation, and environmental protection. Our collaboration through bilateral arrangements and international forums underscores our commitment to continental defense, sustainable development, and Arctic resilience. Our mutual support for the Arctic Council ensures Arctic governance remains with Arctic states. By working together, the United States and Canada can enhance leadership and promote peaceful engagement in the Arctic.

## A Secure Arctic is a Secure North America

The Arctic is now a critical naval and air domain for national security, especially with increased military activities by Russia and China. As the United States' partner in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) — the world's only binational military command — Canada's Armed Forces play a key role in monitoring and responding to threats in the Arctic and the North American continent. Our defense partnerships through both NORAD and NATO enhance information-sharing and deepen operational and strategic engagement, ensuring continental security.

## Arctic Security with the Icebreaker Collaboration Effort

A prime example of our strong partnership in the Arctic is the Icebreaker Collaboration Effort (ICE Pact) signed in November 2024 by Canada, Finland, and the United States. This landmark and innovative agreement to jointly develop Arctic and polar icebreakers will boost the U.S. and Canadian shipbuilding industry, leverage highly specialized technical expertise, and strengthen Arctic protection by enabling greater U.S. and Allied naval and Coast Guard presence in the region.



## UPDATED CANADIAN DEFENSE POLICY TO ENHANCE ARCTIC SECURITY WITH HISTORIC INVESTMENTS

- Year-round presence with Northern Operational Support Hubs and a satellite ground station
- Modern tactical helicopter capability
- Airborne early warning aircraft for early threat detection
- Improved naval fleet sustainment
- Specialized maritime sensors and expanded submarine fleet for underwater defense on all three coasts





### Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy

Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy, announced in December 2024, broadens Arctic security to include community, research, economic, disinformation, and infrastructure security. The policy aims to strengthen national resilience and defend critical infrastructure against foreign threats. Canada will continue to hold Russia accountable, confront aggression, and, alongside the United States, defend NATO's western flank. Increased defense spending and the addition

of an Arctic ambassador and Canadian consulates in Anchorage and Nuuk will enhance diplomatic engagement among Arctic allies. Together with Canada's updated defense policy, these emphasize Canada's leadership in the Arctic.

### Strategic Arctic Resource Management for Economic Growth

Melting sea ice in the Arctic is opening new shipping routes and access to untapped resources like oil, gas, and minerals. These developments offer economic potential but require careful management to avoid environmental and geopolitical issues. Canada's sustainable resource management policies ensure balanced development and environmental protection. Canada also promotes Indigenous stewardship, supporting Indigenous Guardians in monitoring wildlife, conducting search and rescue missions, and maintaining cultural sites.

A coordinated approach between the United States and Canada promotes responsible Arctic resource management. By collaborating, we can leverage our expertise to harness resources responsibly, secure energy supplies, and foster innovation. This partnership will enhance economic growth, job creation, and strategic interests, benefiting both countries and contributing to global stability.



### RANGERS HELP SECURE THE ARCTIC

Canada engages in the Arctic from a position of strength thanks to the Canadian Armed Forces' presence and capabilities, including the Canadian Rangers. The Rangers are active, well-respected community members who play a critical role in demonstrating Canadian sovereignty over the North and the Arctic.

In Operation Pacer Goose, the Rangers ensured the safe delivery of supplies to the U.S. Pituffik Space Base in Greenland. They are also vital in Arctic search and rescue operations, supporting security and communities in the region.

**Canada is committed to secure and stabilize the Arctic, defend against continental threats, and advance shared priorities. Together, we can build a secure, prosperous, and resilient Arctic future for both nations.**



# CANADA STEPS UP ITS DEFENSE POLICY

Canada has updated its defense policy to ensure that we have the necessary resources and capabilities to adapt to a complex global security environment. We will continue our long history of being a strong NATO Ally and U.S. partner.

In April 2024, the Government of Canada released a new defense policy – *Our North, Strong and Free* – that outlines Canada's plan to defend Canadians and North America in the context of geopolitical turbulence and global uncertainty. Canada will deliver on its vision for defense by:

- **Strengthening the foundations of the Canadian Armed Forces to ensure it is ready, resilient and relevant.**
- **Acquiring new capabilities to defend against new threats to Canada, its allies and partners, including in the Arctic.**



**Canada is committed to reaching its NATO commitment of spending 2% of GDP on defense.** *Our North, Strong and Free* moves us significantly closer to meeting that commitment through strategic investments. Next year, Canada will exceed NATO's guideline to spend at least 20% of its defense budget on major equipment for the Canadian Armed Forces.



## CANADA WILL PROCURE NEW CAPABILITIES AND PLATFORMS TO DEFEND CANADA, PROTECT NORTH AMERICA, AND SUPPORT OUR GLOBAL INTERESTS AND VALUES. THIS INCLUDES:

- Acquiring a more modern, mobile and effective **tactical helicopter capability**.
- Acquiring **specialized maritime sensors** to track and evaluate underwater threats.
- Acquiring **airborne early warning and control aircraft**.
- Establishing **northern operational support hubs** throughout the **Arctic**.
- Building a new **satellite ground station** in the **Arctic**.
- Making further contributions to **integrated air and missile defense**.
- Acquiring **long-range missile** capabilities for the Army.
- Scaling up the production of **artillery ammunition**.
- Enhancing **intelligence** and **cyber operations**.
- Acquiring a comprehensive **worldwide satellite communication** capability.
- Improving the sustainment of our **naval fleets**.



## CANADA WILL EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CAPABILITIES TO DEFEND AGAINST NEW THREATS AGAINST NORTH AMERICA AND AROUND THE WORLD:

- Tank and light armored vehicle fleets.
- Submarine fleet.
- New vehicles adapted to ice, snow, and tundra.
- Ground-based air defenses.
- Suite of surveillance and strike drones, and counter-drone capabilities.
- Long-range air and sea-launched missiles.
- Modern artillery capabilities.



**CANADA IS READY AND EQUIPPED TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE STRONG AT HOME, SECURE IN NORTH AMERICA AND ENGAGED GLOBALLY TO MAKE THE WORLD A SAFER AND MORE JUST PLACE FOR CANADIANS AND AMERICANS ALIKE.**

For more information  
on Canada's  
Defense Policy  
please visit:



DEFENSE





Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada

## Securing the Canada-U.S. Border

### Actions and Outcomes to Date

#### Canada-U.S. shared objective

A safe, secure border that facilitates trade and travel, while preventing illegal migration and threats to the security of both countries, including fentanyl and other drugs



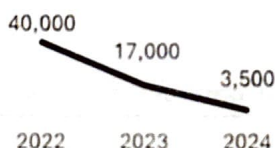
#### Key Facts

Illegal movement from Canada to the U.S. has rapidly declined\*

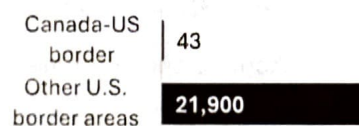
↓89%



Irregular asylum claims in Canada have rapidly declined



Northern border represents small fraction of seized fentanyl



Pounds of CBP-seized fentanyl  
October 2023 to September 2024

\* Figures are on a per month basis

#### Targets, actions and outcomes

**Target: Eliminate sources of illegal migration from Canada to the U.S.**



Actions and outcomes:

- ✓ **89% reduction** in illegal southbound movement from peak 2024 levels
- ✓ **77% reduction** in irregular asylum claims in Canada (2024 v. same period in 2023)
- ✓ **Reduced visa fraud** through tightened processing measures and 600% increase in visa investigations
- ✓ **Security screening** of 100% of asylum seekers and high-risk visitors
- ✓ **Increased removals** of failed asylum claimants (targeting 25% increase next year)



---

## **Target: Eliminate illegal border crossings through real-time surveillance of border areas**

Actions and outcomes:

- ✓ **Investments in border surveillance equipment and capacity** (drones, towers, Black Hawk helicopters, K-9 teams), including military support for intelligence analysis and logistics
- ✓ **Increased federal border personnel** complemented by an additional 350+ personnel and support from provinces and territories
- ✓ **Freed up Canadian and U.S. border officers** to focus on high-risk activity by closing immigration processing loophole (flagpoling) – up to 8000 labour days saved



---

## **Target: Strike at organized crime and drug smuggling networks through joint Canada-U.S. action**

Actions and outcomes:

- ✓ **Establishing Canada-U.S. enforcement Strike Force**; immediate actions include joint intelligence mapping (February 2025), establishment of shared targets, and collaboration on specific operations



---

## **Target: Detect and disrupt the fentanyl trade with more technology, tools and intelligence**

Actions and outcomes:

- ✓ **Executive Direction** to Canadian intelligence agencies to immediately redirect resources to focus on transnational criminal organizations
- ✓ **Investments in detection capacity**: X-ray devices, radiation portal monitors, chemical analyzers, postal detector dog teams
- ✓ **More support for law enforcement investigations through 25% increase in lab analysis capacity**, increased collaboration with U.S. DEA in areas such as training and information sharing, and new drug enforcement hubs modelled after the U.S.
- ✓ **Hitting back at illegal fentanyl production by increasing control and oversight of precursor chemicals**, and more rapid security-agency informed response to identify and schedule emerging precursor chemicals



- ✓ **More tools to follow the money** through enhanced anti-money laundering authorities and financial investigations, new border financial crimes centre, and new North American operational alert on money laundering indicators
- ✓ **Lab busts:** Between 2018 and 2024 Canadian law enforcement disrupted and dismantled 44 lab sites tied to illicit fentanyl; multijurisdictional approach to upcoming disruption and prosecution



---

## **Target: Reinforce a “one border, one team” approach through more cross-border information and intelligence sharing**

Actions and outcomes:

- ✓ **Joint enforcement activities** underway with U.S. through Integrated Border Enforcement Teams, joint management tables, U.S. Border Enforcement Security Task Force, and joint threat assessments / operations
- ✓ **Investments in joint intelligence capacity** to disrupt transnational organized crime and illegal drug and firearms trafficking
- ✓ **Enhanced information sharing** (e.g., information on high-risk child sex offenders) and joint training; new strategic level mechanism to reinforce direction for full collaboration



---

## **Target: Keep people safe through joint emergency readiness and perimeter security cooperation, especially during fire season**

Actions and outcomes:

- ✓ **Establishing a FEMA/PS Joint Emergency Management Council** for "NORAD-like" partnership in emergency management
- ✓ **Providing mutual assistance when needed most** (e.g., fighting Los Angeles fires)
- ✓ **Conducting joint emergency response exercises**