



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR ARCTIC SECURITY

**Informed by place
Positioned for national impact**

Canada's Arctic is not the frontier - It's the front line

- A rapidly changing world where local livelihoods and communities are impacted by global forces
- Federal commitments in defense infrastructure, radar systems, and new bases in the face of geopolitical uncertainty underscores a need
- Infrastructure alone isn't a strategy
- Arctic security requires insight rooted from within the region, not abstracted from it

Why CIAS exists

- On direction from the Premier of the Yukon, responding to a rapidly changing world and North
- Canada's only Northern-based Arctic security think tank
- Created in the Yukon by those who live and work in the region
- Independent, pragmatic, and trusted across governments, Indigenous governments, communities, academia, and defence
- Designed to inform, convene, and contribute to national security conversations and outcomes

CIAS is where local knowledge becomes national insight.

Location matters

- Being based in Whitehorse, Yukon is not symbolic, its legitimate and strategic
- Project team with deep political and government experience in Canada and around the circumpolar world
- Access to the Western Arctic
- Proximity to Joint Task Force North and Northern communities
- Ties to Yukon University and academic networks
- Access to leaders and officials in Indigenous governments, territorial corner offices, and federal agencies

CIAS isn't outside looking in. It's inside, looking forward.

Spectrums of threat, and of opportunity

- CIAS' mission is to make sure that the people, governments and businesses of the North are prepared for security events or opportunities when they occur
- Threats are coming through, to and in.
 - Through - geopolitical and kinetic
 - To - hybrid warfare and interference
 - In - climate and infrastructure
- Opportunities are abundant in commitments from governments and business

CIAS informs the decisions for the North.

What CIAS delivers

- Convening national, regional and international leaders across the North
- Encouraging a seat at the table, not a spot in the audience
- Academic integration, graduate work, and research network
- Ongoing contributions from practitioners, academics, and community leaders
- A central hub for all Canadians to gather, learn and share

From infrastructure resilience to Arctic sovereignty, the CIAS translates northern realities into policy

What CIAS delivers: Events, Commentary and Research



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR
ARCTIC SECURITY

The Canadian Institute for Arctic Security is a centre for information sharing, networking and knowledge generation on security that is based in the Canadian North.

Events
The CIAS brings people from the Canadian Arctic and North together and attracts the global academic, government, and business leaders and thought leaders to the North.

Commentary
The CIAS produces a regular media series that is distributed on our digital platforms and our subscribers, including news articles and op-eds, infographics, audio and video.

Research
The CIAS works with academic partners and Northern communities to uncover the questions that are relevant in the North.

Deliverables so far

- 3 newsletters to the international Project Network of over 200 professionals, academics and engaged citizens
- Public launch with Conference ZERO in Whitehorse (Mar 2025 – 80 people in the room, 40 online)
- 6 expert commentaries from across the Project Network (Mar-June)
- Presentation to the Arctic Security Working Group
- 2 proposed research programs that include young academics from the North (Jul-Oct)
- Major conference in early 2026 (TBC)

Our credibility is earned

- Our place in the conversation is not assured or assumed
- The deliverables mean little if the North doesn't see it or trust it
- Effort is focussed on being in communities and talking to people
- Learn what the local needs and issues are, and use the CIAS network to answer or advocate
- This is month seven - moving quickly but a long way to go

What's next?

- Independence from government
- Sustainable financing
- Board of Directors
- 5-year plan to scale from pilot to full operation
- Expansion into:
 - Graduate fellowships
 - Major research projects
 - National and regional conferences across the Canadian North

We are building a durable national institute from the ground up.

Commonly asked questions

Isn't Canada already investing in the Arctic?

Yes, on paper and in policy commitments to infrastructure and defence. CIAS complements this with analysis, context, and community connection.

Aren't there already think tanks?

Yes, but none located in the North, built by the North, or trusted across the North. CIAS is more than a think tank, it's designed to be a practical, integrated Institute designed to serve and strengthen the North.

How do we know this will endure?

CIAS is designed to grow with credibility and measurable output, not dependency.

CIAS meets the moment here and now

- CIAS is early-stage and well-positioned
- We have proof of concept, strategic relationships, and a plan for scaled impact
- We're not here to duplicate what's already being done
- We exist to fill the space that only a Northern-based, independent, and informed organization can

The CIAS is an investment in Canada's long-term strength, stability, and sovereignty.



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Contact:
Andrew G. Smith
Project Lead
Canadian Institute for Arctic Security
+1-867-335-6008 | cias@yukon.ca
arcticsecurityinstitute.ca
linkedin.com/arcticsecurityinstitute

