

Canadian Seapower 2026

Dates: October 15–16, 2026

Location: University of Calgary

Over the past several years, global maritime competition has accelerated exponentially while Canada's local challenges have grown more complex. Traditional norms that governed maritime security have eroded, regional conflicts have thrown global supply chains into flux, and hybrid threats are proliferating. Canada now faces an operating environment where conflict is no longer a worst-case scenario, but an evolving reality.

The Royal Canadian Navy and Coast Guard therefore stand at an inflection point. The country's maritime security forces must undertake a generational recapitalization to become a credible instrument of deterrence, presence, and warfighting. The stakes surrounding this transformation are profound, and critical decisions lie ahead on force structure, equipment, recruitment, and operational doctrine.

This conference aims to support this effort by bringing together serving officers, policymakers, and academics to provide fresh insights that will support the country as it prepares for conflict and help it to chart the course ahead.



For more information

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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Centre for Military, Security
and Strategic Studies



StFX
UNIVERSITY

BRIAN MULRONEY
INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT



Speakers

This conference will bring together academics, experts, and serving and retired naval and coast guard personnel to examine the emerging maritime security threats facing Canada and offer ideas for a path forward.

Draft and Subject to Change
Note: CCG Speakers not yet finalized

Rear-Admiral Christopher Robinson



Rear-Admiral Christopher Robinson is Deputy Vice Chief of the Defence Staff in Ottawa. After beginning his military career as a Combat Engineer in the 3rd Field Engineer Regiment, he graduated university and joined the RCN, undergoing Naval Warfare Officer training aboard destroyers, minesweepers, and patrol craft before volunteering for the submarine service. He has served on HMCS *Onondaga*, *Ojibwa*, *Victoria*, *Corner Brook*, and *Windsor*, as well as participating in international missions on British, Norwegian, and American submarines, thereby becoming Canada's senior submariner. In addition to attending the Canadian Forces College's Joint Command and Staff Programme and the U.S. Naval War College's Naval Command College, he assumed the posting of Director General Naval Force Development in 2019 and subsequently was Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific and Joint Task Force Pacific from 2022 to 2025.

Rear-Admiral David Patchell



Rear-Admiral David Patchell began his naval career in 1993 as an Ordinary Seaman with HMCS *Carleton*. Trained as a Surface Warfare Officer, his early operational sea tours with the Pacific Fleet included service aboard HMCS *Huron*, HMCS *Algonquin*, and HMCS *Vancouver*, where he deployed as an Air Controller during Operation APOLLO. With the Atlantic Fleet, he served as Operations Officer on board HMCS *Halifax* and HMCS *St. John's*, and with Sea Training. He later was Executive Officer of HMCS *Athabaskan* and HMCS *Iroquois*, and he commanded HMCS *Toronto* during a deployment to the Middle East. His shore tours have included Squadron Commander at the Royal Military College, Chief of Staff to the Base Commander of CFB Halifax, Deputy Director of Naval Force Readiness in Halifax, Director Naval Strategic Management at National Defence Headquarters, and Director General Naval Strategic Readiness. Promoted to Rear-Admiral in 2022, he was appointed as Vice-Commander of the U.S. Second Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia, and he assumed command of Maritime Forces Pacific and Joint Task Force Pacific in August 2025.

Rear-Admiral Jason Armstrong



Rear-Admiral Jason Armstrong, Director General Naval Force Development since 2021, joined the CAF as a Maritime Surface Officer in 1989. After completing Naval Warfare Officer training in 1994, he joined the Pacific Fleet, and he has since served aboard ships on both coasts conducting a number of international deployments, including WESTPLOY, NATO, Operation AUGMENTATION, and Operation ALTAIR. He has commanded three ships and deployed aboard HMCS *Toronto* as Commanding Officer for Operation REASSURANCE in 2014–15. He has served in staff positions at Maritime Pacific and Canadian Fleet Atlantic Headquarters, as well as in the National Capital Region in Naval Force Development and as the Chief of Staff for the Commander of the RCN.

Captain (N) Gord Noseworthy



Captain (N) Gord Noseworthy currently serves as Deputy Commander of Canadian Fleet Atlantic. A Naval Officer since 1998, he was formerly Commanding Officer of HMCS *St. John's*, including during its deployments to the Caribbean in 2017 as part of Operation RENAISSANCE to provide humanitarian support in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, as well as to the Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea, and northern Atlantic Ocean in 2018 as part of Operation REASSURANCE.

Captain (N) R.J. Watt



Captain (N) R.J. Watt is Director of Naval Strategy for the RCN. Having joined the CAF in 1986, he served as a Submarine Officer and Clearance Diving Officer before spending four years with the Royal Navy on an exchange diving position. His duties thereafter saw him acting as Commanding Officer of Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific), deploying to Afghanistan for ISAF counter-IED network operations, returning to the Fleet in 2014 to command HMCS *Iroquois*, and serving three years as Chief of Staff of UNCMAC in South Korea, monitoring the Demilitarized Zone. Following a tenure as Canadian Defence Attaché in Tokyo, he returned to Canada in 2025 to assume his current duties.

Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Mark Norman



Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Mark Norman retired from the Royal Canadian Navy in August 2019 after over 39 years of service. He started his naval service as a reserve diesel mechanic in 1980 and rose through the ranks to be the Vice Chief of Defence. His military career has seen him serve at sea domestically and internationally and command a warship, the Canadian Atlantic Fleet, and ultimately the Royal Canadian Navy itself. He also has extensive experience in a variety of appointments in training and educating sailors, leading operations, strategic planning, and managing major procurement projects. Since retirement, Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Norman has applied his energy to a variety of pursuits, including as Champion for the NAVALIS Foundation (formerly the Royal Canadian Benevolent Fund), Senior Defence Strategist at Samuel Associates, and Director at Genoa Designs. He also contributes frequently to the important debate about security and defence issues in Canada as both a fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and a member of the Conference of Defence Associations Board.

Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Brian Santarpia



Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Brian Santarpia is a retired naval officer who served in the Royal Canadian Navy for 37 years. During his career, he held a series of appointments, including command of HMCS *St. John's*, Sea Training Atlantic, CFB Halifax, Combined Task Force 150 in Bahrain, and Maritime Forces Atlantic. He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Royal Roads University, a Master of Defence Studies from the Royal Military College, and a Master of International Affairs from King's College London. Since retiring from the Navy, he has focused on mentorship, working at the RCN's Navigation and Bridge Simulator in Victoria and now as the Exercise Coordinator for the RCN's Distributed Mission Operations Centre. He is a member of the Board of Directors of COVE, the Board of Governors of Nova Scotia Community College, and the Editorial Board of the *Canadian Naval Review*.

Captain (N) (Ret'd) Norman Jolin



Captain (N) (Ret'd) Norman Jolin is an associate consultant with CFN Consultants, specializing in naval and maritime issues. Prior to joining CFN, he provided advice on Canadian defence procurement in the private sector, following a 37-year career in the RCN that saw him serving across the spectrum of maritime operations. Much of his career involved service at sea in both ships and submarines, as well as commanding a squadron of minor warships and, later, HMCS *Montréal*. Thereafter, he served as a member of the Directing Staff at the Canadian Forces College, Branch Head for Exercises at NATO's Atlantic Command, Naval Adviser to the United Kingdom, Defence Attaché to Denmark, and a member of NATO's International Military Staff in Brussels.

James Bond



James Bond joined Davie in November 2025 as Director of the Icebreaker Centre of Excellence. With over 30 years of involvement in the marine and offshore industries, his career has focused especially on the areas of structural analysis and design, as well as regulatory oversight and rules development. He previously served as Marine Manager – Americas for Intelligent Engineering (Canada) Limited and assumed various Project Manager roles with the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), the most recent of which was as Director of Polar Research and Government Business Development in Ottawa. Bond was involved in the team that wrote the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Polar Class Rules, served as a representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Working Group that wrote the IMO Polar Code, chaired the IACS Expert Group on Polar Code Implementation, and works with the Arctic Council's Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) working group.

Paul Chamberlain



Paul Chamberlain worked for the Government of Canada for over 15 years in various defence, intelligence, and security positions, spending much of his career in Defence Policy in the Department of National Defence – including serving as the first civilian Policy Advisor to the Commander of the RCN. Since then, he has been a Visiting Research Fellow at Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) and a Research Fellow for Indo-Pacific Sea Power at the Yokosuka Council on Asia Pacific Studies (YCAPS). He is currently a PhD candidate at the Australian National University, in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, examining the topic of Sea Power as Statecraft in the Contemporary Indo-Pacific.

Dr. Kristen Csenkey



Dr. Kristen Csenkey is a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council postdoctoral fellow at the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government and the Canadian Maritime Security Network, where she researches quantum technology governance. She holds fellowship positions with the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies and the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network. She has published or has forthcoming articles in the *International Journal*, *Journal of Cybersecurity*, *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, *Canadian Military Journal*, and *Canadian Naval Review*.

Melanie Devaux



Over the course of her 21-year career at Cellula Robotics Ltd., Melanie Devaux has been a mechanical engineer and project manager. She now serves as Business Development Manager, Defence.

Dr. Richard Gimblett



Dr. Richard Gimblett was the Command Historian of the Royal Canadian Navy from 2006–18. His previous uniformed service (1975–2001) as a surface warfare officer included operations in the Persian Gulf during the war of 1991, following which he co-authored the official account of Canadian participation. He was on the team that developed *Leadmark: The Navy's Strategy for 2020*, was a contributing author to the official histories of the RCN, and edited a pair of commemorative volumes for the Centennial in 2010. His most recent book (with Karl Gagnon) is the award-winning *Guardians of the North: Canadian Warships and Maritime Aircraft, 1910–2025*.

Dr. Rob Huebert



Dr. Rob Huebert is Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary. He also is the director of the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies and co-director of the Canadian Maritime Security Network. He was appointed as a member to the Canadian Polar Commission (now renamed Canada Polar Knowledge) for a term lasting from 2010 to 2015. He is a senior fellow with the Macdonald-Laurier Institute; a fellow with the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies; a research fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute; and a senior fellow with the Conference of Defence Associations Institute.

Simon Hughes



Simon Hughes served for 30 years in the RCN, becoming Director Maritime Personnel 3 – Organization/Establishment & Occupation Management and subsequently Director Maritime Personnel 5 – Strategic Future Fleet Establishment & Crewing. Since 2012, he has been involved in the defence industry as a business development professional, serving first as Business Development Manager, Naval Programs, at Thales Canada Defence & Security before moving to Lockheed Martin in 2015.

Dr. Adam Lajeunesse



Dr. Adam Lajeunesse is Associate Professor and Chair of the Public Policy and Governance program at St. Francis Xavier University. He is the Arctic and Maritime Security Chair at the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government, a Fulbright Scholar with the Fulbright Arctic Initiative, and Director of the Canadian Maritime Security Network. A specialist in Canadian and maritime sovereignty, security, and circumpolar geopolitics, he is the author of *Lock, Stock and Icebergs: A History of Canada's Arctic Maritime Sovereignty*, the editor of the *Arctic Operational Histories* series, and an editorial board member of the *Canadian Naval Review*, the *Canadian Military Journal*, *Arctic*, and the *American Review of Canadian Studies*.

Dr. Suzanne Lalonde



Dr. Suzanne Lalonde is Professor of International Law and the Law of the Sea at the Université de Montréal's Faculty of Law, as well as Network Co-Lead for the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network. A specialist on the Law of the Sea, with a particular focus on the Arctic, she has been involved in several research projects examining the legal ramifications of an Arctic region that is becoming ever more accessible. Dr. Lalonde has regularly engaged in the Arctic Security Working Group's biannual meetings, participated in Canadian Forces operations in the North, advised the Government of Nunavut, and appeared before parliamentary committees.

Dr. Marc Lanteigne



Dr. Marc Lanteigne is Professor of Political Science at UiT: The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, as well as an adjunct lecturer at Ilisimatusarfik University of Greenland. Specializing in the domestic and foreign politics of China, as well as the non-traditional security and international relations of Europe, Northeast Asia/the Russian Far East, and the polar regions, he has taught in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China, and Canada and researched throughout the Arctic region. The author of *Chinese Foreign Policy: An Introduction* and *China and International Institutions: Alternate Paths to Global Power*, he is also co-editor of the *Routledge Handbook of Arctic Security*, *China and Nordic Diplomacy*, and *China's Evolving Approach to Peacekeeping*. Dr. Lanteigne is the chief editor of *Over the Circle*, a widely cited Arctic news blog.

Dr. Marc Milner



Dr. Marc Milner is Professor Emeritus at UNB, where he served as Director of the Military and Strategic Studies Program, Chair of the History Department, and Director of the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society. In 2016, he was awarded the Admiral's Medal for his contributions to Canada's maritime awareness, and he has also been appointed an Honorary Colonel in the RCAF. Dr. Milner is best known for his work on naval history, including *North Atlantic Run*, *The U-Boat Hunters*, *Canada's Navy: The First Century*, and *Battle of the Atlantic*.

Dr. David Perry



Dr. David Perry is President and CEO of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, host of its Defence Deconstructed podcast, and Co-Director of Triple Helix. Previously the Senior Security and Defence Analyst of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute and Deputy Director of Dalhousie University's Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, he has authored many publications on defence budgeting, transformation, and procurement. In addition to being a columnist for the *Canadian Naval Review*, he is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Calgary's Centre for Military and Strategic Studies and a research fellow of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development at Dalhousie University.

Richard Shimooka



Richard Shimooka is a senior fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and a contributing columnist for thehub.ca. Formerly a senior fellow at the Defence Management Studies Programme at Queen's University and a research fellow at the Conference of Defence Associations Institute, he writes on an array of topics, including Canadian and American foreign and defence policy, modern airpower, and defence procurement. He co-authored *Let Sleeping Dogs Lie: The Influence of External Studies and Reports on National Defence Policy*, has published multiple journal articles and chapters, and is a frequent writer in the media on security and defence issues.

Dr. Sergey Sukhankin



Dr. Sergey Sukhankin is a senior fellow at the Jamestown Foundation, senior fellow at the Saratoga Foundation, and advisor at Gulf State Analytics. His areas of interest include Kaliningrad and the Baltic Sea region, Russian information and cyber security, A2/AD and its interpretation in Russia, and the development of Russian private military companies. He is increasingly focusing on economic issues (the Northern Sea Route and oil/LNG projects) in the Arctic region. He has consulted or briefed the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Defense Intelligence Agency, and European Parliament, and his project discussing the activities of Russian PMCs, "War by Other Means," informed the United Nations General Assembly report entitled "Use of Mercenaries as a Means of Violating Human Rights and Impeding the Exercise of the Right of Peoples to Self-Determination." Dr. Sukhankin has taught a range of courses at Barcelona Global Business School, The Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals/ Pompeu Fabra, the University of Alberta, and MacEwan University.

Kate Todd



Kate Todd is a policy officer at the Department of National Defence and naval officer in the Royal Canadian Navy Reserves. A fellow with Arctic360, the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network, and the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, she is also on the editorial board of the *Canadian Naval Review*. Her research focuses on Arctic, national, economic, and maritime security and defence, as well as naval strategy, emerging technologies, and economic, natural resource, and infrastructure development.

Organizers & Sponsors

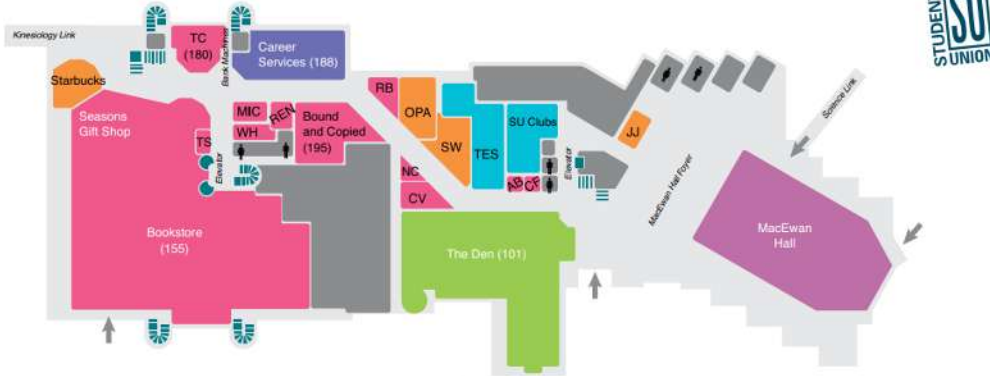


The Canadian Maritime Security Network (CMSN) is a dispersed research organization, tying together Canadian and international academic and professional organizations engaged in maritime security research.

Funded by the MINDS program (Department of National Defence), its purpose is to provide the Government of Canada with timely and relevant policy advice while advancing public understanding of maritime security issues. CMSN is managed by the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government at St. Francis Xavier University and the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary.



Lower Level



STUDENTS
UNION

Lower Level			
Jugo Juice	JJ	Renert Centre	REN
Opa	OPA	Royal Bank	RB
Starbucks		Seasons Gift Shop	SG
Subway	SW	Tech Stop	TS
The Den		Travel Cuts	TC
Students' Union Clubs		Microstore	MIC
That Empty Space	TES	Witchcraft Hairstyling	WH
Career Services			
MacEwan Hall	MH		
Atomic Body Jewelry	AB		
Bookstore			
Bound and Copied	B&C		
Campus Florist	CF		
Campus Vision	CV		
Nickel Copiers	NC		

Third Level (East)			
		CJSW	
		Gauntlet	
		Multi-Faith Chapel and Prayer Room	MFCP
		NUTV	
		MacEwan Ballroom	
		MacEwan Conference and Event Centre	
		Office	MCEC

Legend

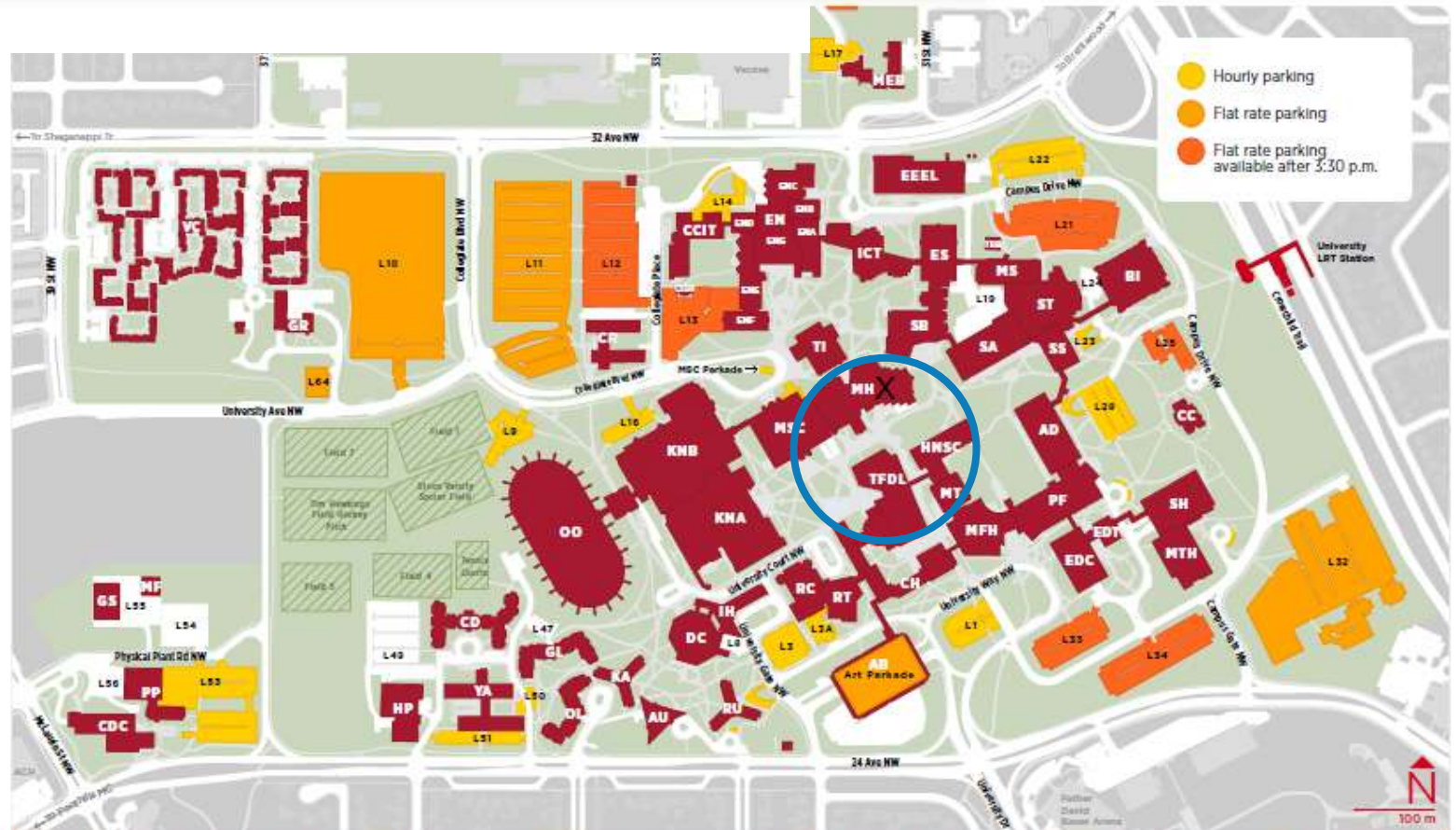


Third Floor (East)

Access by the stairs or elevator at the east end of the building.



my MacHall MacEwan Student Centre



AB Art Building & Parkade	CH Craighall Blocks C-G (University Theatre)	ES Earth Sciences	KNA Kinesiology Block A	MTH Mathison Hall	SH Scurfield Hall
AD Administration	CR Crowsnest Hall	GL Glacier Hall	KNB Kinesiology Block B	OL Olympus Hall	SS Social Sciences
AU Aurora Hall	CSH Genovus Spot/ Solar House	GR Grounds Building	MEB Suncor Building (Mechanical Engineering)	OO Olympic Oval	ST Science Theatres
BI Biological Sciences	DC Dining Centre	GS General Services Building	MF Materials Handling	PF Professional Facilities	TFOL Taylor Family Digital Library
CC Child Care Centre	EDC Education Classrooms	HNHC Hunter Student Commons	MFH Murray Fraser Hall	PP Physical Plant	TI Taylor Institute for Teaching & Learning
CCIT Calgary Centre for Innovative Technology	EDT Education Tower	HP Heating Plant	MH MacEwan Hall	RC Rozsa Centre	TRB Trailer B
CD Cascade Hall	EEEL Energy Environment	ICT Information & Communications Technology	MS Mathematical Sciences	RT Reeve Theatre	VC Varsity Courts
CDC Child Development Centre	EEEL Experiential Learning	IH International House	MSC MacEwan Student Centre	RU Rundle Hall	YA Yamnuska Hall
	EN Schulich School of Engineering	KA Kananaskis Hall	MT MacKimmie Tower	SA Science A	
				SB Science B	