

In this regard, I want to commend the Atlantic Council of Canada on its vital contribution to educating Canadians about NATO and about Canada's role in the Alliance, promoting public debate about the future of trans-Atlantic security, and facilitating the scholarly exchange of information, opinions and research on NATO-related topics. I note in particular your focus on youth and education programs. For example, your internship program, with the financial support of DFAIT, enables young Canadians to gain invaluable experience working for NATO or for one of a number of governmental and non-governmental institutions in Allied and Partner countries. You are making an exemplary effort to engage a cross-section of Canadians on issues that the public often overlooks. This is a welcome contribution to our public dialogue on foreign policy and one that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is proud to support.