



Cyber Threats to Canadian Democracy

August 25-27, 2025

MacEwan Hall, University of Calgary



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This event is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the National Cybersecurity Consortium. We gratefully acknowledge their funding, which has made this event possible



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About

The Faculty of Law and the Centre for Military, Security, and Strategic Studies (CMSS) are pleased to host the Cyber Threats to Canadian Democracy Conference at the University of Calgary on 25-27 August 2025. Spanning over two days of insightful speakers, moderated discussion, and keynote talks, this conference will address a number of issues pertaining to the security of Canadian democratic processes, including: municipalities and cybercrime, critical infrastructure and resources, cyberwarfare, technological risks and solutions, artificial intelligence, research security, mis/dis/malinformation and elections as well as human vulnerabilities and responses.

The global cyber threat landscape is quickly evolving and requires cross-sector collaboration to protect Canadians. This conference, the first in a series of events over the next few years, will gather experts from industry, government, policing and academia to analyse major threats to Canadian democracy and discuss solutions to advance Canada's cyber resilience. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, we aim to bring this important subject matter and its many facts before the Canadian public.

Sincerely,
The Organizing Committee

Dr. Emily Laidlaw
Canada Research Chair, Cybersecurity Law,
Faculty of Law

Dr. John Ferris,
Fellow, CMSS
Professor, History,
Faculty of Arts

Dr. Michael Nesbitt
Associate Dean (Research),
Faculty of Law

Dr. Rob Huebert
Director, CMSS
Professor, Political Science

DAY 1 – Monday, August 25

Location: The University of Calgary, MacEwan Hall

Time	Details
8:00 a.m.	Doors open
8:45 a.m.	Opening Remarks
9:15 a.m.	<p>Panel 1: Municipalities and Policing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Chair: John Ferris - Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Calgary➤ Mike Lalande - Staff Sergeant, Cyber Forensics Unit, Calgary Police Service➤ Steven Johnston - Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Alberta➤ Carina Huggins - Toddington International Inc.
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:00 a.m.	<p>Panel 2: Technical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Chair: Ken Barker - Scientific Director of the National Cybersecurity Consortium, Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Calgary➤ Prashant Prashant - Senior Cybersecurity Advisor at Enbridge➤ Joel Reardon - Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Calgary➤ Jeremy Wittman - National Cybercrime Coordination Centre, RCMP

12:15 p.m.	Lunch Keynote - Diane McLeod, Privacy Commissioner of Alberta
1:45 p.m.	Panel 3: Critical Infrastructure and Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chair: Patrick Lennox - Principal Consultant, Lagassé & Lennox ➤ William (Bill) McAuley - Director, Alberta's Provincial Security & Intelligence Office ➤ David Moule - Senior Manager at Deloitte ➤ Elizabeth Steyn - Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Calgary
3:00 p.m.	Afternoon Break
3:30 p.m.	Panel 4: Cyberwarfare Roundtable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chair: Stephanie Carvin - Associate Professor, Norman Paterson School for International Affairs, Carleton University ➤ John Bruce - Senior Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation ➤ Alexandra Lyn - Assistant Professor, Grant McEwan, PhD Candidate, University of Calgary, Faculty of Law ➤ Bob Gordon - Strategic Advisor, Canadian Cyber Threat Exchange (CCTX) ➤ Jody Thomas - former National Security and Intelligence Advisor

DAY 2 – Tuesday, August 26

Location: The University of Calgary, MacEwan Hall

Time	Details
8:30 a.m.	Doors open
9:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks
9:15 a.m.	<p>Panel 5: Artificial Intelligence Cyber Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chair: Florian Martin-Bariteau - University Research Chair in Technology and Society, Director Centre for Law, Technology and Society and Faculty member, Associate Professor, Common Law Section, Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa ➤ Maureen Hiebert - Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary ➤ Chris Parsons - Director, Technology Policy, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario ➤ Raymond Patterson – Professor, Business Technology Management, Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary ➤ Emir Avci – CEO & Co-Founder, Momena
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:00 a.m.	<p>Panel 6: Research Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chair: Michael Nesbitt - Associate Dean (Research), Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Calgary ➤ Matthew Gale - Manager of Compliance & Special Investigations in the Research Security Division, University of Calgary ➤ Kelly Coffin - Operations Officer in the Intelligence Bureau, Provincial Security and Intelligence Office, Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services

12:15 p.m.	Lunch Keynote - Erin O'Toole - President and Managing Director, ADIT North America; former Leader, Conservative Party of Canada
1:30 p.m.	Panel 7: Social Media, Dis/Misinformation and Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chair: Emily Laidlaw - Canada Research Chair in Cybersecurity Law and Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Calgary ➤ Ian Brodie - Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary ➤ JC Boucher - Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary ➤ Shelly Ghai-Bajaj - Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Waterloo
2:45 p.m.	Afternoon Break
3:30 p.m.	Panel 8: Human Centric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chair: Emily Laidlaw, Canada Research Chair in Cybersecurity Law and Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Calgary. ➤ Florian Martin-Bariteau - University Research Chair in Technology and Society, Director Centre for Law, Technology and Society and Faculty member, Associate Professor, Common Law Section, Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa ➤ Atefeh Mashatan - Canada Research Chair, Founding Director, Cybersecurity Research Lab, Associate Professor, Department of Information Technology Management at the Toronto Metropolitan University ➤ Suzie Dunn - Assistant Professor and Director of the Law and Technology Institute at Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law ➤ Lianna McDonald - Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Child Protection

DAY 3 - Wednesday, August 27

Location: The University of Calgary, MacEwan Hall

Time	Details
8:30 a.m.	Doors open
9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Postdoctoral and Graduate Student Presentations Join us for an exciting series of research presentations and interactive Q&As showcasing graduate students tackling some of today's most pressing cyber challenges.

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This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features multiple sets of horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page. Each set typically consists of three lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The paper is otherwise completely blank, with no text or other markings.

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