



RCAF Centennial Conference

November 14-15, 2024

Teaching Institute 160, University of Calgary

*"I'll be with
you, boys"*

*Fly and Fight
with the*

R·C·A·F

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Tier 3



Organizing Committee

Dr. Rob Huebert
Interim Director CMSS
Professor, Political Science

Dr. John Ferris
Professor Emeritus, History

Dr. David Bercuson
Professor, History

Dr. Ron Wallace

Ms. Mary Anderson
Coordinator, CMSS

Conference Schedule

Thursday, November 14 (Day One)

Teaching Institute 160, The University of Calgary, 434 Collegiate Boulevard NW, Calgary AB

7:45am	Doors open	
8:00am	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. John Ferris & Dr. David Bercuson ▪ Dr. Rob Huebert, Interim Director CMSS ▪ Dr. Aoife Mac Namara, Dean Faculty of Arts ▪ Hon. Mike Ellis, Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Safety and Emergency Services (with MLA Justin Wright, Military Liaison) 	
8:45am	KEYNOTE 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deputy Commander of the Airforce, Major-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet 	
9:45am	Panel 1: Fighter Pilot Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laurie Hawn ▪ Gordon Todd ▪ Bob Wade ▪ Billie Flynn 	Moderator: Ron Guidinger
11:45am	Lunch Teaching Institute Atrium	
12:45pm	Panel 2: Understanding the History of the Royal Canadian Airforce (RCAF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richard Mayne – Predecessors and Promise: The challenges of writing government air force history ▪ David Bercuson – Writing RCAF History ▪ Seb Cox -- “No risk of its being forgotten”: the workings of the Combined Strategic Targets Committee and its influence on the strategic targeting policy of RAF Bomber Command 1944-45 	
2:05 p.m.	Panel 3: The Second World War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ted Barris – A Great Tide of Airmen ▪ Randy Wakelam -- “This aircraft ... is considered missing”: the Heroism of Eddie Laporte ▪ Rebecca Murray -- Taking a Gander for Grandma: How Servicewomen are Historicized in the Photographic Record 	
	Break	
3:50 p.m.	Panel 4: Government of Canada and RCAF Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Erin O’Toole – 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richard Goette -- Unification and Canada's Air Force ▪ David Pratt -- The Ukraine conflict, NATO and Canada's Strategic Position 	
4:50pm	Closing	

Thursday, November 14 (Evening)

MacEwan Hall Ballroom, 3rd floor MacEwan Student Centre

*Separate Registration/Fee - email info@canadacompany.ca

6:00pm	Doors open	
6:30 p.m.	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hon. Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Advanced Education ▪ President Ed McCauley, University of Calgary 	
7:00 p.m.	KEYNOTE 2: "The Canadian Airman" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Billie Flynn, Retired RCAF Combat Commander and Former F-35 Lightning II Senior Experimental Test Pilot 	

Friday, November 15 (Day Two)

Teaching Institute 160, The University of Calgary, 434 Collegiate Boulevard NW, Calgary AB

7:45 a.m.	Doors open	
8:00am	Panel 5: RCAF Technical and Social History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ James Fergusson -- The Neglected Command: An Historical Perspective on NORAD and the RCAF ▪ Adam Coombs -- Flying on Ice: Hockey in the RCAF during the Early Cold War ▪ Allan English – Creating an "Air Force Community": Women and the RCAF – 1952-1962 	
9:35am	Panel 6: Air Operations Post Cold War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seb Ritchie -- Operation Unified Protector, Libya, 2011: Air Campaigning in the Context of Coalition Warfare ▪ Bob Bergen – Lessons Learned during Canada's bombing campaign during the 1999 Kosovo War; Russia's war against Ukraine; and the Israel-Hamas War ▪ Richard Shimooka -- Adaptation and Upgrades: In-service Capability Modernization in the RCAF 1980~2024 	
11:30am	Lunch: Ted Barris Book Talk: "Battle of Britain: Canadian Airmen in Their Finest Hour"	

12:30pm	<p>Panel 7: RCAF Servicewomen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sarah Hogenbirk - “Gone But Not Forgotten:” Leading Aircraftwomen Alice Lovina Anderson and Airwomen’s Deaths During the Second World War ▪ Karen Davis – Women in the RCAF: Unification to the 21st Century ▪ Erin Gregory – The New Few: The SWINTER Aircrew Trial, 1979-1985 	
2:05pm	<p>Panel 8: The North</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whitney Lackenbauer - Per Ardua Ad Arcticum: The Royal Canadian Air Force and the Opening of the Canadian Arctic and Subarctic, 1920-1960 ▪ Jeff Noakes - Canada and the Strategic Air Command Refuelling Bases, 1958-1963 ▪ Patrick Carpentier (ret’d) - Communications, Energy and Transportation/Resilience and its role in Deterrence 	
	Break	
3:50pm	<p>Panel 9: Canadian Air Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andrea Charron & Col Chris Morrison – The Neglected Command ▪ Brad Gladman -- From Strategy to Organizational Change: Analysis and Recommendations for the Future RCAF ▪ Rob Huebert -- 	
5:20pm	Closing Remarks	



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