

**GREGG CENTRE RESPONSE TO
THE DEFENCE POLICY REVIEW CONSULTATION PAPER**

The Gregg Centre welcomes this opportunity to contribute to a long-overdue defence policy review, and is pleased that the government is reaching out to the Canadian defence academic community in this way. We have read the consultation paper; our comments on it follow below. Given the constraints of time and space our observations will necessarily be brief. But we hope that they will be no less useful for that.

Our response to the consultation paper is to pose some questions back to the Minister and to the government as a whole. We realize that this probably is not what is expected from us. The questions posed on p. 27 of the paper are important, and need to be answered. However, we believe it is important for the government, the Minister, DND, and CF to address several other questions before attempting to answer the ones on its own list.

1. Do the government, the Minister, and the Department have a clear vision of what things (domestic and international institutions, processes, values, political and human conditions) need to be defended from external or internal threats?
2. Have they identified the challenges and threats to those things, and ranked them in order of priority for Canada and of likelihood that they may impact us or require a Canadian response?
3. Has the government established and prioritized policies toward those challenges and threats within the larger context of Canadian foreign, defence, and national security policy interests and goals?
4. Has the government determined whether any of our national defence resources are relevant to any or all of the threats and challenges?
5. Has the government determined whether the application of any of our defence resources can advance Canadian interests and goals in regard to those threats and challenges?
6. Since Canada's defence resources are limited and demands for action are potentially unlimited has the government determined how it will make choices about when to engage and deploy those resources?
7. Does the government have the will to undertake difficult choices and commitments, and to see them through to achievable rather than time-limited end-states?

We believe that once the government has answered those seven questions it can then use the answers it receives to its own questions to craft a defence policy that will:

- A. Determine which roles and missions could advance our interests in relation to the identified threats and challenges, and can be undertaken with the resources available, and which ones might require enhanced capabilities (beyond those currently available).
- B. Determine whether enhanced capabilities will/should be acquired and when.
- C. Refine the roles and missions list for the CF in a way that will match possible tasks to capabilities, and that will allow the government to make reasonable choices and decisions that can advance our interests, and to avoid those that do not.

Finally, we at the Gregg Centre believe strongly that the Minister and the Department should take the opportunity afforded by this review to reinvest in the human resources of the Canadian Armed Forces, not just quantitatively but qualitatively. A close study of Canada's wartime overseas experience from the Great War through to Afghanistan reveals that the most important capability the Canada's defence forces have brought to every one of their missions is well-trained and educated officers and NCOs. Those cadres have been central to rapid integration of new mission specific systems and doctrines imposed by unforeseen enemy-imposed battlefield circumstances. From First World War heavy artillery and Second World War mechanized formations through to peace support missions and the recent ISTAR-enabled operations in South Asia, peace-time-prepared regular and reserve force officers and NCOs have adapted quickly to new challenges on the battlefield. Maintaining this internationally-recognized Canadian standard of professional readiness requires a commitment to sustaining and enhancing CAF professional education and its intellectual excellence. Our Alliance partners recognize that, in today's uncertain and rapidly evolving security environment, among the most important capabilities to foster is intellectual readiness for the unexpected. As long-standing members of the Canadian defence academic community we stand ready to support and contribute to all such efforts.