

Further to the request of the Minister the following are some old and new found views regarding Canadian Defense and Security.

I am by no means an expert however I have travelled to view our Military in training and met with many of our Military in several scenarios and disciplines.

I have been repeatedly impressed and grateful for the commitment to train to secure, protect and educate Canadians and other nations.

The men and women who dedicate themselves should be held in the highest regard and treated with our gratitude and support.

Canada has been known as the peacekeepers, which is something to be proud of.

The climate in the world has changed dramatically and yet hasn't changed at all – there are still atrocities, still war, still hunger, still poverty.

In a lifelong quest to live in a world at peace I was told by one of our own Officers after his many tours of the war torn and elsewhere that until we solve poverty we will not have peace. With that said below are some of my views.

Main Challenges:

1. Borders/Internal: Other than First Nation people we are all Immigrants.

All new people moving to Canada must live by Canadian law regardless of visa if they do not then they are sent back to their country of origin. Whether real or imagined the Canadian public believes there is a larger threat internally. My husband is a first generation Immigrant from Brazil, when they came in the late 50's they were told that they had to abide by Canadian law or they could have their status revoked and citizenship taken away. Whether that was true or not they abided with grace and were very proud of it.

They came in as they say "through the front door". This view should be supported wholeheartedly by DND. By everyone abiding by our simple rules of conduct and laws that support them it creates a feeling of both safety and support inside the county which allows focus and resources to be placed outside rather than inside the county.

2. Cyber: far and away the largest challenge facing the world. In order to be peacekeepers we must have superior training and knowledge to be effective.

Fund our training, hire the best, train and retain the best in class in cyber security, engineering and development. Envision the world in 10 years in what develop.

Role of Canadian Armed Forces:

1. To protect Canada on Canadian soil and Canadian interests.
2. To continue to train best in class in the best equipment available – Cyber and combat

Resources and capabilities needed to carry out the CAF mandate

1. Allow the military to write the specs of the equipment they require and have much faster process to procurement giving them sign off on large projects.
2. Adequate hiring and training budgets looking out for the next 10 – 15 years. With the current attrition rates in Canada of nearly 1000 people retiring and will continue over the next 15 years (the number is 10,000/day in the US) it is key to draw great people.
3. Recognition and retention programs within. Our military does a phenomenal job of not only training how to lead but also how to follow.
4. Make the intern programs the reservists have into businesses larger to help them bridge and expand to regular forces where companies can hire on projects as long as it does not impede the forces.
5. Provide properly to our wounded, mentally or physically for not just the soldier but their immediate family with better financial and health care support – make sure they get the best. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude, we must show it and be loud and proud of it as Canadians. This will also help attract the best.
6. As peacekeepers continue to advance mediation skills at all levels and have an elite school to do so for military and business in a 3P program, much can be learned by broadening the lens.

7. Provide the best equipment for our troops, we owe them that if they are willing to give their life for us.

DND through public relations has done a good job over the last 5 years or so engaging the broader public, in my particular instance women in business. We are key influencers in our businesses, procurement, our homes, families and voting. Through engagement I am better informed, engaged and supportive willing to use my voice and influence to ensure the needs of our Military and Canada are being met.

Having just viewed some of the war memorials there is a quote on the Korean memorial in DC. "THE PRICE OF FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"

My best,

**Leslie Meingast**  
CEO