

Meet Our Alumni Speakers

Nafisa Abdulhamid is a political scientist with expertise in counter-terrorism and civilian protection in armed conflict. She obtained her PhD in political science from Dalhousie University in 2021 where her research focused on civilian protection in Sub-Saharan Africa. After graduating, Nafisa managed the Research Network on Women, Peace and Security at McGill University before joining Global Affairs Canada in 2022.

Nafisa is currently the Senior Advisor to the Director-General of the Transnational Threats and Conflicts Bureau at Global Affairs Canada.



Adam P. MacDonald, a former Naval Warfare Officer in the Royal Canadian Navy with a PhD in political science from Dalhousie University, is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Centre for China Policy Research at Global Affairs Canada. His current work focuses on Sino-Russian relations, specifically in the Arctic, and its impact on and implications for Canada.





Hannah Forsyth is the Coordinator for Halifax Transit, focusing on strategic business planning and managing operational issues. With seven years at the Halifax Regional Municipality, she has previously worked in the Chief Administrative Office and the Clerk's Office. Hannah has a robust background in public service, having gained experience across all levels of government, including roles with the Nova Scotia Health Authority, the Ontario Legislative Internship Program, and supporting a Member of Parliament.

Hannah earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with a minor in Economics, from Dalhousie University (2011-2015). During her studies, she was also a dedicated elite-level sprint kayak athlete, becoming a four-time National Champion and representing Canada at the Canamex Americas Cup in Mexico. Her observations of sports governance, along with an early interest in politics, ignited a passion for good governance at a young age, driving Hannah's commitment to a career in public service.

Currently, she is pursuing a Master's in Public Administration and Management at Dalhousie where she enjoys bridging academic theory with practical applications. Living in Halifax, Hannah spends her free time hiking with her husband, planning her next travel adventure, or baking for friends and family.

Charles Humphrey completed both his BAH ('06) and MA ('09) in Dalhousie's Political Science department. Following the conclusion of his MA Charles took a teaching position at North China Electric Power University where he lectured in humanities and social sciences in the school's International Education Department. He returned to Canada in 2013 to pursue studies in paramedicine. He worked as a research assistant in Canadian defence policy for the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, a public policy think tank while in paramedic school.

Charles worked as a Primary Care Paramedic (2015-2018) and Advanced Care Paramedic (2018-2022) with the City of Greater Sudbury. In addition to his clinical role Charles served as a Paramedic Advisor to the Ontario Base Hospital Group Medical Advisory Committee (OBHG MAC) from 2019-2021, in which role he was responsible for advising the Ministry of Health on advanced life support guidelines for Ontario paramedics as well as a Quality and Research Assistant with Health Sciences North's Centre for Prehospital Care. Charles ran for the federal Conservatives in the riding of Nickel Belt in the September 2021 federal election, coming a close second to the incumbent Liberal with the best Conservative vote result in the riding's history.

Charles was recruited to the federal public service through the Recruitment of Policy Leaders program. He was offered a position with the Department of National Defence working as a Mental Health Policy Analyst in early 2024 and has recently moved back to Nova Scotia with his family to work out of CFB Halifax. Charles lives in Hammonds Plains with his wife and two young daughters and trains as a competitive grappler in his free time.

