



July 2026

NEED TO KNOW

Need to Know is an unclassified open-source, multi-platform media collation, produced by **CSIS Partnerships and Strategic Engagement**, on issues considered relevant to Canada's broad national security interests. The objective is to highlight and share a diverse array of perspectives on Canadian and global security matters, with a focus on emerging developments and sources of expertise across disciplines. Inclusion of a document, source, expert or event does not constitute endorsement by, or affiliation with, CSIS.

Need to Know: July 2026

The Cyber Threat to the 2026 World Cup — This article provides insights into the cyber threats arising from the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The author begins by explaining that the World Cup presents a unique opportunity for threat actors because it spans three different international jurisdictions (Canada, the United States, and Mexico) and multiple cities. The article also discusses examples of cybercrime at past international sporting events and outlines how current geopolitical conditions may be increasing risks. The author explores the types of cyber threats malicious actors may employ, including cybercrime, disruption, espionage, and disinformation, and the implications these threats may have for the tournament and the surrounding communities. However, the author also addresses the strong security measures in place to help mitigate these threats. Published in June 2026 by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, read [here](#).

South Korea and Canada's Potential Industrial Partnership — This article is written by Dr. Alexander Salt, who recently visited the Republic of Korea as part of a Canadian stakeholder delegation. During his visit, he examined opportunities for expanding defence industrial cooperation between Canada and South Korea. The article discusses Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy and argues that South Korea makes a strong case for the "partner" component of the strategy. Additionally, Salt discusses his visit to Hanwha Aerospace, a major South Korean defence manufacturer where the KSS-III submarine and K9 self-propelled howitzer are manufactured, and explains his observations. He believes that the South Korean defence industry is interested in working alongside Canada and does not view the partnership as transactional, but rather as a mutually beneficial collaboration that could support both countries' present and long-term needs. Published in June 2026 by the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, read [here](#).

Podcasts of Note



Battle Rhythm

This CDSN podcast discusses CAF recruitment of gamers, cultural tensions, global hunger impacts of the US/Iran conflicts, and challenges in Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy.



Minerals Matter

This episode of the Asia Pacific podcast discusses Canada's efforts to build domestic rare-earth processing capacity and reduce reliance on China while strengthening critical mineral supply chains.



Shifting Ground

This Orbis podcast episode argues that policymakers must adapt to a more integrated "West Asia" built on flexible partnerships.



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Transparency and the World Trade Organization — This article discusses the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the global trading landscape. The author argues that, as a result of weakened international reporting to the WTO, the international rules-based order is becoming destabilized. The article discusses energy shocks, the widening information gap, as well as the rapid growth of the digital economy and the "Orwellian trap." The author explains that transparency is necessary to defend multilateralism. They believe the solution lies in closer cooperation between the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. Published in June 2026 by the Centre for International Governance Innovation, read [here](#).

A Canada Australia Critical Mineral Partnership — This article discusses what a partnership between Canada and Australia could look like in terms of a key resource alliance centered on critical minerals. The authors argue that Canada and Australia are natural partners, as both countries are geographically large, resource-endowed, export-oriented democracies. Together, the two countries could become reliable critical mineral suppliers while strengthening critical mineral supply chains for middle powers. The authors suggest an industry-led, government-supported approach in which each country prioritizes specific mineral supply chains. Additionally, the authors lay out four key recommendations for how Canada and Australia can practically implement this resource partnership: 1) coordinated action; 2) pricing transparency; 3) alignment in processing capacity; and 4) broadening cooperation. Published in June 2026 by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, read [here](#).

A Look Into Missile Defence — This article provides insights into the necessity of Canada obtaining its own hypersonic missile defence system. The author argues that the threat posed by hypersonic missiles is exaggerated and that Canada should spend its resources on other deficiencies facing the Canadian Armed Forces. The article provides a detailed explanation of the differences between defence, deterrence, and nuclear deterrence. It also highlights that the threat from hypersonic missiles is not new, and that recent studies have shown significant technological issues affecting hypersonic weapons, which casts doubt on their effectiveness. Finally, the author addresses the effectiveness of missile defence systems and explains that these capabilities are not foolproof, nor would they be fully effective against other threats such as nuclear missiles. Published in June 2026 by the Centre for International Defence Policy, read [here](#).

Bonus! Did you know?

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), in partnership with NordForsk, is now accepting applications for its newly launched funding opportunity on "The Changing Nature of Security and Conflict".

- These thematic grants will enable researchers to synthesize existing research knowledge on key topics, such as Arctic security, whole-of-society defence strategies, and cybersecurity. The projects will help identify knowledge gaps and policy implications to inform evidence-based decision-making.
- This funding opportunity will award up to \$40,000 to successful applicants in the domestic stream and up to \$78,000 for applicants in the international stream.
- The next information webinar will be on October 8, and the application deadline is December 3, 2026.
- For more information, please contact KSG-SSC@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.

Upcoming Events



Maritime and Arctic Security and Safety Conference Atlantic Canada Aerospace and Defence Association Register here St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador	13-16 July 2026
Reserves at the Ready: Transforming Total Defence Forces in War and Peace Centre for International Defence and Policy Register here Kingston, Ontario	15 July 2026 8:30am-4pm
Western Nuclear Law Masterclass Calgary School of Public Policy Register here Calgary, Alberta	21 July 2026 8am-7pm MDT

Diversion



Explore this impactful online oral history exhibition featuring stories from Canadian veterans and their loved ones.
Visit [here](#).

Feedback



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 LRCI@smtp.gc.ca