



OPENING REMARKS: POLICING AND PUBLIC ORDER PANEL — 2022 WEST COAST SECURITY CONFERENCE

Date: November 24, 2022

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KEY EVENTS

On November 24, 2022, BC's British Consul-General Thomas Codrington, delivered his opening remarks for panel four of the 2022 West Coast Security Conference. During his opening remarks, he highlighted some of the similarities between Canada and the United Kingdom (UK) in terms of the security challenges that both countries face. He also stated that the UK and Canadian governments are always seeking opportunities to share and learn from best practices, which makes the West Coast Security Conference an important event, as there can be a fruitful exchange in perspectives between practitioners and academics.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Codrington began by highlighting that with Canada being a part of the Commonwealth and the Five Eyes alliance, and having similar practices in legislation and statutes as the UK, there is a lot of synergy between both countries in the public safety and security space. Canada and the UK are committed to working together to increase the safety and security of both countries. This collaboration goes from front line policing to national security and public safety perspectives.

Mr. Codrington stated that Canada and the UK are adapting collaboratively in many areas of the fast-changing security landscape and are also under intense scrutiny. For instance, challenges faced in policing have strong parallels, such as working with underrepresented minority groups, working to improve public trust and confidence, improving de-escalation techniques, creating better wellness and mental health programs, improving recruitment and retention of officers, changing internal police culture, etc.

In terms of national security and public safety, both countries face similar threats. For example, extremism, cyber-attacks, and hostile states. Mr. Codrington noted that new technology allows these threats to evolve at a great pace and are sometimes unhindered by the barrier or bureaucracy.

To conclude, Mr. Codrington stated that the UK and Canada have agreed to deepen their national security partnership and response, which include providing citizens the necessary information they need to be more resilient against challenges, such as cyber threats or disinformation. Mr. Codrington stressed that we can combat these threats only by working together, sharing best practices, investing in common technology, and learning from each other.

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- Canada and the UK are working together and adapting collaboratively in many areas of the fast-changing security landscape to increase the safety and security of both countries.
- Canada and the UK face very similar challenges in policing, including working with underrepresented minority groups, working to improve public trust and confidence, changing internal police culture, and more.
- New technology has allowed threats from extremism, cyber-attacks, and hostile states to evolve at a pace that not even governments can stop.
- Canada and the UK have agreed to deepen their national and security partnership response to arm citizens with the necessary information to combat cyber threats and disinformation.



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