



**2026 LONDON
CANADA-UK BUSINESS SUMMIT**

**POST SHOW
FINDINGS
REPORT**



The 4th Annual London Canada–UK Business Summit .

On Wednesday, June 24, 2026 the 4th Annual Canada–UK Business Summit brought together leaders from government, business, investment, and industry at Canada House in London to explore the future of the Canada–UK partnership. Through a series of high-level panels and fireside chats, delegates examined the opportunities shaping bilateral collaboration in energy, infrastructure, investment, defence, and geopolitics.

This report captures the key insights and takeaways from the day's discussions.



Award-winning Canadian journalist Hannah Thibedeau hosted the 2026 London summit, bringing her depth of political insight and broadcast experience to guide the day's conversations.

Canada–UK Business Summit London Photos:



Canada–UK Business Summit London in numbers:



**165 Registered
Attendees**



**19
Speakers**



**1
Federal Minister**



**4.7 avg session
rating**

BUILDING MOMENTUM | From London to Toronto

Key Takeaways from the 4th Annual Canada–UK Business Summit | Canada House, London | 24 June 2026

Prepared by: **Global Public Affairs**

The 4th Annual Canada–UK Business Summit brought together government leaders, NATO representatives, industry executives, investors and infrastructure experts from across Canada and the United Kingdom to explore the opportunities shaping the next chapter of the bilateral relationship.

Across every discussion, one message was clear: the Canada–UK partnership is entering a new phase. Built on shared values and longstanding ties, both countries are increasingly aligned on the strategic challenges and economic opportunities of the future. From defence and security to energy, critical minerals, artificial intelligence, infrastructure and investment, the Summit highlighted practical opportunities to strengthen collaboration and build greater resilience together.

1. A Partnership Built for the Future

The Summit opened by reaffirming the strength of the Canada–UK relationship and the significant opportunity to deepen cooperation in the years ahead.

Bilateral trade is approaching \$85 billion annually, representing growth of approximately 60 per cent since 2016. As Prime Minister Carney pursues the goal of doubling Canada's trade with non-US partners over the next decade, the United Kingdom is well positioned to be one of Canada's closest strategic and economic partners.

High Commissioner Bill Blair identified three areas where closer collaboration can deliver immediate benefits:

- **Defence and security infrastructure** – Investment is increasingly focused on the infrastructure that enables national security, including ports, railways, airports, icebreakers and Arctic transportation networks. Canada's growing investments, including more than \$63 billion in defence spending, a \$38.6 billion NORAD modernisation programme and a \$1 billion Arctic Infrastructure Fund, present significant opportunities for collaboration.
- **Critical minerals** – Canada possesses abundant reserves of lithium, cobalt, nickel, copper and uranium that are essential to defence, advanced manufacturing and the clean energy transition. Building stronger processing capacity and integrated supply chains with trusted partners such as the UK will be critical to maximising this potential.
- **Energy** – Canada's expertise across oil and gas, LNG, nuclear energy and emerging clean technologies complements the UK's energy security priorities, creating opportunities for greater cooperation across the full energy sector.

"The risk balance completely tips if we don't move faster. We've spent decades minimising regulatory and financial risk at the cost of operational risk. That deal has to change."

James Appathurai, NATO

2. Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

A central theme of the Summit was the rapidly evolving security environment and the growing importance of Canada-UK cooperation in addressing emerging threats.

James Appathurai, NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General, emphasised that cyber threats are no longer theoretical. Critical infrastructure - including energy systems, financial services, ports and communications networks - is already being targeted by increasingly sophisticated state-linked actors.

Discussions highlighted several key priorities:

- **Artificial intelligence is changing the nature of cyber security.** New AI systems are capable of identifying vulnerabilities and adapting far more quickly than traditional cyber tools, requiring governments and businesses to continuously evolve their cyber defences.
- **Building resilient digital infrastructure is essential.** Rather than striving for complete technological independence, speakers stressed the importance of diversified and interoperable systems that protect sensitive data while reducing reliance on any single provider.

- **Supply chain resilience remains a strategic priority.** While large organisations often have mature cyber security programmes, smaller suppliers throughout defence and critical infrastructure supply chains remain particularly vulnerable and require greater investment and support.

The discussion reinforced that strengthening cyber resilience is an area where Canada and the UK can continue to expand cooperation, share expertise and support innovation.

3.The Arctic: A Shared Strategic Priority

The Arctic emerged as one of the Summit's defining themes and an area of growing strategic importance for both Canada and its allies.

Attention to the North has been episodic in the past, and Prime Minister Carney made a clear signal that was profoundly important to the people of the north in his first days in office. The decision to visit France, the United Kingdom and then Iqaluit during his first international trip underscored the importance of Canada's North as a national priority. This commitment is already being translated into major investments across the North, including Arctic over-the-horizon radar as part of the \$38.6 billion NORAD modernisation programme, the Grays Bay Road and Port project.

Speakers emphasised that sovereignty is demonstrated through sustained presence, functioning infrastructure and thriving northern communities. Investment in transportation, ports and regional development is therefore essential not only for economic growth, but also for strengthening Canada's long-term security and presence in the Arctic.

Key discussion points included:

- **Indigenous partnerships are fundamental to successful development.** Indigenous communities are essential partners whose knowledge and leadership continue to shape infrastructure planning and long-term development across the North.
- **Significant infrastructure opportunities are emerging.** Projects such as the Grays Bay Road and Port development, alongside other approved Arctic infrastructure initiatives, represent major opportunities for investment and international collaboration.
- **The UK is well positioned to contribute.** Speakers noted that London's investment community has considerable experience financing large-scale infrastructure and is well placed to support Canada's Arctic ambitions.

The Arctic presents one of the most significant opportunities for future Canada–UK collaboration. As Canada continues to invest in northern infrastructure and security, there is considerable scope for UK expertise, investment and partnership across key initiatives; including Arctic over-the-horizon radar systems, Inuit-contracted runway and port infrastructure along the Dempster Highway corridor which aim to leverage Indigenous entrepreneurial capacity and ensure northern communities share in long-term economic growth.

"Some of the rhetoric around Greenland has awoken NATO and other allies to real Arctic security partnerships."

High Commissioner Bill Blair

4. Energy, Nuclear, and the Financing Frontier

The nuclear energy discussion demonstrated how Canada's and the UK's respective strengths create a strong foundation for deeper cooperation.

Canada is a leading producer of uranium and continues to expand its nuclear programme through investments in small modular reactors (SMRs), reactor refurbishment and advanced nuclear technology. The UK brings significant expertise in enrichment, nuclear regulation and project delivery. Together, these complementary capabilities offer considerable potential across the nuclear value chain and fuel reliance between the two countries.

Discussions focused on several opportunities:

- **Expanding proven nuclear technologies.** Canada's successful experience with CANDU technology and reactor refurbishment provides valuable expertise that can support future projects internationally, including in the UK.
- **Developing innovative financing models.** Both countries are exploring approaches that attract long-term private investment while supporting major infrastructure projects through construction.
- **Strengthening the nuclear workforce.** Addressing skills shortages through workforce exchanges, credential recognition and closer collaboration could benefit both countries while supporting future industry growth.

Looking ahead, the panel identified a significant opportunity for Canada, the United Kingdom and allied partners to deepen cooperation across the nuclear fuel cycle, combining Canada's uranium resources with UK enrichment capabilities to support energy security and fleet-scale nuclear infrastructure development.

5. Financing the Future

The final panel focused on one of the Summit's central questions: how to finance the infrastructure, energy and industrial projects needed for long-term economic growth.

Speakers agreed that private investment will play a critical role alongside government support. Stable policy frameworks, predictable revenue models and long-term certainty remain essential to attracting institutional capital. London-based capital is increasingly seen as a key enabler in resolving this gap, given its familiarity with blended finance structures, tolerance for staged investment, and alignment with Canadian policy direction. Gulf capital is also increasingly in play, with London acting as a bridge jurisdiction.

Key themes included:

- **Innovative financing models are unlocking investment.** Successful approaches in both Canada and the UK are helping attract institutional investors to major infrastructure and clean energy projects.
- **Corporate demand is creating new opportunities.** Growing energy requirements from data centres and technology companies are generating new financing pathways for both nuclear and renewable energy projects.
- **Policy certainty encourages investment.** Stable and predictable regulatory frameworks remain one of the most important factors influencing long-term investment decisions.
- **Critical minerals and defence technologies represent significant opportunities for collaboration.**

Speakers noted considerable scope to increase investment flows between Canada and the UK as both governments continue to prioritise these strategic sectors.

Three conditions were identified as prerequisites for scaling investment:

- A sustained pipeline of bankable projects, rather than episodic deal flow
- Standardised risk-sharing instruments applied consistently across jurisdictions
- A single coordinating mechanism spanning federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governance structures

"The financing follows the revenue model almost directly. Get a robust, sustainable revenue model in place - and by and large, the financing follows."

Iain Smedley, Global Chairman of Banking, Barclays

Thank you to our Speakers



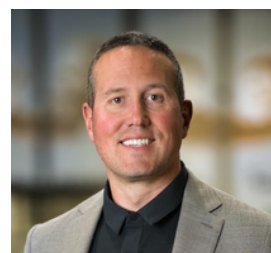
Hon. Bill Blair
HIGH COMMISSIONER
HIGH COMMISSION OF CANADA
IN THE UK



Hon. Julie Dabrusin
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE,
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



Hannah Thibedeau
EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER
GLOBAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Nathan Flaman
HEAD OF GLOBAL GROWTH
CAMECO UK



Alex Wilson
MANAGING DIRECTOR AND HEAD,
EUROPE CORPORATE BANKING
CIBC



Kathleen Gnocato
SENIOR ADVISOR
GLOBAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS



James Appathurai
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
GENERAL FOR INNOVATION,
HYBRID, AND CYBER
NATO



Ime Ekong
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT (EMEA)
EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CANADA



Michelle Leslie
EXECUTIVE ADVISOR
DELOITTE



Richard De Cani
CHIEF OFFICER FOR GLOBAL
BUSINESS AND MARKETS
ARUP



Mike McNair
PRESIDENT & CEO
ARCTIC ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Kelly Trice
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,
GLOBAL SERVICES, NUCLEAR
ATKINSRÉALIS



Adam Holmes
GLOBAL HEAD OF PRODUCT
STRATEGY
TELUS AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER GOODS



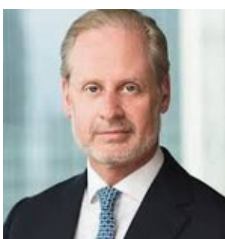
Nigel Bacon
CEO
CANADA-UK CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



Erveina Gosalci
FOUNDER & CEO
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
OF SMALL MODULAR
REACTORS



Kruthika A. Bala
MANAGING DIRECTOR
RESOURCES NOW



Scott Hopkins
SENIOR ADVISOR, M&A AND
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



Jeffrey Sundquist
EXECUTIVE CHAIR
CELEBRATE CANADA
WORLDWIDE



Iain Smedley
GLOBAL CHAIRMAN,
INVESTMENT BANKING
BARCLAYS

2026 LONDON EVENT AGENDA



9:00 – 9:30	Registration & Morning Coffee Sponsored by CIBC	NETWORKING
9:30 – 9:35	Welcome Message Jeffrey Sundquist , Celebrate Canada Worldwide	WELCOME
9:35 – 9:40	Welcome to the Summit Hannah Thibedeau , Event Host, Global Public Affairs	WELCOME
9:40 – 9:50	Keynote Address James Appathurai , NATO	KEYNOTE
9:50 – 10:25	Fireside Chat: Geopolitical Issues Impacting the Canada-UK Relationship Host Kathleen Gnocato , Global Public Affairs James Appathurai , NATO	FIRESIDE
10:25 – 11:00	Panel: Arctic Defence & Northern Sovereignty Infrastructure Projects Moderator Hannah Thibedeau , Mike McNair , Arctic Economic Development Group, Kruthika A. Bala , Resources Now	PANEL
11:00 – 11:20	Networking Coffee Break Sponsored by CIBC	BREAK
11:20 – 11:25	Spotlight: ARUP Richard de Cani , Chief Officer, Global Business & Markets, ARUP	SPOTLIGHT
11:25 – 12:15	Panel: Energy Security & Nuclear Infrastructure Michelle Leslie , Moderator, Deloitte Nathan Flaman , Cameco, Kelly Trice , AtkinsRéalis Erveina Gosalci , CASMR	PANEL
12:15 – 12:30	Keynote Address Hon. Julie Dabrusin , Minister of the Environment, Climate Change & Nature, Government of Canada	KEYNOTE
12:30 – 1:15	Networking Lunch Sponsored by Cameco UK	LUNCH
1:15 - 1:20	Welcome Back from the CA-UK Chamber of Commerce Nigel Bacon , CEO, CA-UK Chamber of Commerce	WELCOME
1:20 – 2:00	Panel: How Canada & the UK Finance Mega-Projects Together Moderator Ime Ekong , Export Development Canada, Scott Hopkins , Alex Wilson , CIBC, Iain Smedley , Barclays	PANEL
2:00 – 2:05	Spotlight: TELUS AG's Growth into the UK Adam Holmes , Global Head of Product Strategy, TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods	SPOTLIGHT
2:05 – 2:35	Fireside Chat with the High Commissioner of Canada Host Hannah Thibedeau , Global Public Affairs, Hon. Bill Blair , High Commissioner, Canada in the UK	FIRESIDE
2:35 – 2:40	Closing Comments Hannah Thibedeau	CLOSING



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