

**Address by David Mulroney
Deputy Minister, Afghanistan Task Force
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to thank Mr. Cappe and the CDAI for the invitation to participate in this Seminar. This is a very welcome opportunity to talk about how we coordinate and deliver a strategically focussed, whole of government approach to Afghanistan.

Ce sujet présente pour moi un intérêt évident, en raison non seulement de mes nouvelles tâches, dont je parlerai dans un instant, mais aussi des fonctions que je viens tout juste d'assumer, soit celles de secrétaire du Groupe d'experts indépendant sur le rôle futur du Canada en Afghanistan.

This is of obvious interest to me, not just because of what I will be doing, something I will discuss in more detail in just a moment, but also because of what I have just completed: my work as Secretary to the Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan.

My time with the Panel underlined for me the extent to which the issue of coordinating the military and civilian sides of the mission in Afghanistan, or, for want of better words, the security and development sides, is a challenge that many are trying to get right. It is certainly a challenge at the multilateral level (take a look at what the Panel report says about the work of the NATO and the UN), it's a challenge for our main partners, and it has been a challenge for us.

But, as the Panel has made clear, security and development are inextricably linked. In places like Kandahar, development can only happen within the security bubble provided by the Canadian Forces. This is not to say that the forces are the prime deliverers of development (although they do have an important role to play), but that everybody involved, civilian and military, needs to be working to the same agenda, and to know his/her place in it. Both Stephen Wallace and Mike Gauthier will be speaking to specific examples to consider.

I would add here, parenthetically, that while getting this right is of obvious importance to the Afghanistan mission, it also points to a new way of doing international work.

I think we have made progress in integrating the 3 Ds of Defence, Development and Diplomacy around core objectives, what I have called the common narrative, the unifying policy objectives from which flow decisions about people and programs.

Operational planning in Kabul, at Kandahar airfield (HQ of TFA) and at the PRT is much more a cooperative, collaborative effort than before. The Commander's campaign plan is carefully consulted with key players including Ambassador Lalani, and our head of

aid, George Saibel, is leading thinking among embassy, civilian and military personnel about how we shorten the time between the cessation of kinetic military operations and the resumption of normal life, allowing us to sustain gains that the CF and the ANSF have made, and to support our ultimate objective of encouraging long term stability.

But as real as the progress that we are making is, the Panel clearly felt that it is not enough, and that we need to do better. I think that what was most compelling was what they heard, or more correctly, didn't hear, from Afghans. They didn't hear, and didn't see sufficient evidence of our making a difference at the level of what they would call "direct, practical needs". While they heard much about support to the multilateral system, to capacity building, and to the strengthening of institutions, they didn't see us, on the civilian side, having sufficient impact on the ground in Kandahar.

Les progrès sur ce plan sont difficiles, vu la situation qui prévaut actuellement en Afghanistan, et à Kandahar en particulier. Mais je suis optimiste.

Moving this agenda forward is a challenge, for all the reasons that make Afghanistan in general and Kandahar in particular a challenge. But I am optimistic.

First, the Panel report is itself a very useful blueprint, something that we have already seen, from the government's quick and positive response.

We have started to ramp up civilian deployments and this will continue. Civilian deployments are increasing, at this time last year we had 19 civilians in Kandahar (including RCMP). Right now, there are currently 29 civilians based in Kandahar, and that number will grow to beyond 30 as we complete our staffing process over the spring and summer months. We have appointed Elyssa Golberg, who served with me in the Panel secretariat, as the Representative of Canada in Kandahar. She will function, essentially, as Canada's Consul General in Kandahar. Part of her job will be to chart the course for greater civilian burden sharing.

Recently announced machinery changes, notably the creation of a cabinet committee and a new Task Force run out of the PCO, will ensure that we are giving this the high-level direction and management that it needs. And that work has already started. Ministers have already met, under the leadership of Minister Emerson, and Deputy Ministers are already hard at work.

We will be moving quickly to ensure that we are providing a sufficiently clear strategic focus to align what we are doing. This does not mean endless navel gazing. Issues like standing up the ANSF, improving local governance in Kandahar and encouraging higher degrees of cooperation along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border are fairly obvious areas of concentration.

These clear objectives for Canada in Afghanistan will inform our diplomacy in Kabul, in Brussels, New York, London, Washington, the Hague and beyond.

We need to be sure that our development assistance addresses immediate short term needs while also contributing to longer term stability. Above all, we need to be sure that Kandaharis are seeing the results of our presence and our investment.

It is clear, from the tragic events of recent days that the Taliban doesn't want this to happen, which is evidence of their ruthlessness and of their desperation. It makes our work in building up the ANSF all the more important.

Nos efforts en Afghanistan s'inscrivent dans le cadre global du Pacte pour l'Afghanistan et de ses objectifs, mais il nous faut aussi des indicateurs fixés par le Canada, et communs à tous les acteurs canadiens, qui nous permettront de définir et de mesurer les progrès accomplis. Mon équipe a déjà entrepris l'étude des indicateurs actuels, et tâchera de cerner un certain nombre de cibles simples mais importantes, que pourront viser ensemble tous les intervenants.

Et nous devons aussi, comme l'a conseillé le Groupe d'experts, mener des communications plus approfondies, et plus franches. C'est pourquoi nous sommes ici aujourd'hui.

While our work in Afghanistan fits within the broad context of the Afghanistan Compact and its benchmarks, we also need some made in Canada metrics, common to all Canadian players, to define and track progress. My team has already begun to review those that we have, with a view to focussing on a few key, simple, and common targets.

And we need to heed the advice about fuller and franker communications. That's why we're here today.

Let me turn things over to Stephen Wallace, who will provide an overview of what we're doing on the civilian side, and to General Gauthier, who will add the military perspective of our joint presentation. We're all happy to take questions.