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Greetings,

I am writing to those of you today who have a vested interest, and have reached out to our office on similar topics to give you an update on my recent NATO meetings.

I was honoured to be part of a delegation that travelled to Luxembourg from May 19 to 22, to meet with representatives from other NATO countries to discuss issues of national security.

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### **The Illegal Attack on Ukraine**

During our time, we completed work on the statement on the Ukraine declaration from the NATO Parliamentary Association that will go to the leaders at the NATO Summit Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, in July.

We must all remember that the illegal and full-scale invasion of Ukraine is an attack on our collective democracy.

We are reviewing the impacts that acts of aggression such as the illegal attack on Ukraine have on children and families. Representatives heard a presentation from Irene Fellin, the NATO Security General's Representative on

Women, Peace and Security. She spoke of the increased suffering experienced by the children in Ukraine, over 500 of whom have died since the illegal attack by Russia. Russia has also bombed many educational buildings, which further diminishes the ability of children in Ukraine to access education and childcare.

It is vital that we ensure the voices and experiences of children are considered as we develop plans for responding to acts of aggression.



We passed two resolutions one for continued strong and unwavering support for [#Ukraine](#) and the other regarding Accelerating [NATO's](#) Adaptation at the Vilnius Summit.

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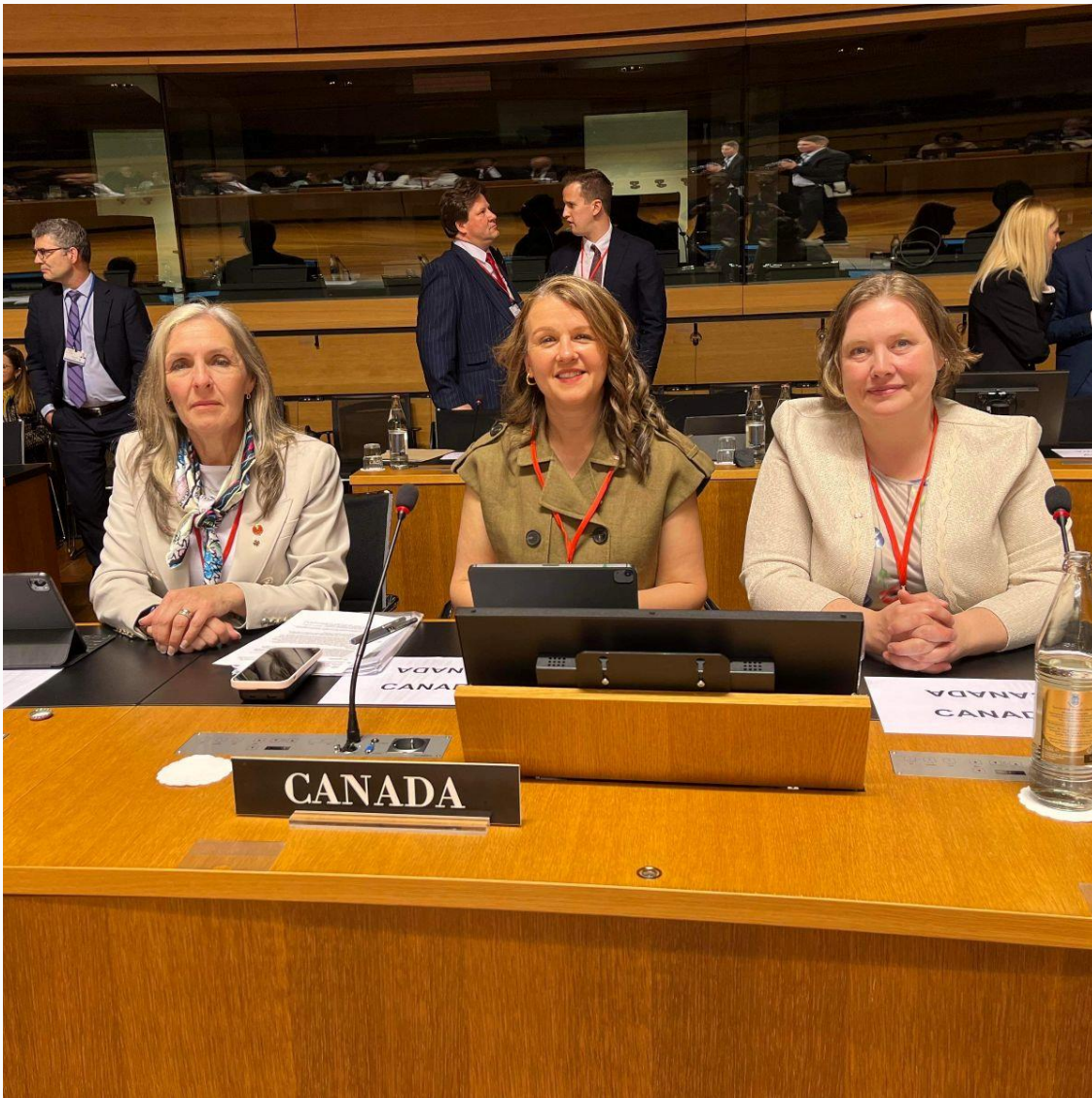
## **Science and Technology Committee**

I am fortunate to be a member of two NATO committees. The Science and Technology Committee and the Democracy and Security Committee.

The Science and Technology Committee's work currently revolves around the evolution of science and technology, and how that evolution impacts the reality of conflict on the planet. As science and technology play increasingly important roles in conflict, we must work to figure out how to maintain a human connection. The more acts of war that can be committed without seeing the people who are harmed, the easier such acts are to carry out.

Our discussion included the use of drones, and how the fighting in Ukraine is occurring in the trenches but with evolved technology. We are also exploring climate change as it relates to military action, both caused by the military and addressed by it. Important considerations include the morality of technology's evolution, how authoritarianism impacts progress, and how we collectively respond to the changes.

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Rachel with Senator Rebecca Patterson and Chair of Canada-NATO Julie Dzerowicz

## Democracy and Security Committee

At the Democracy and Security Committee, we discussed how to work with international processes and judicial bodies to use social media to track war crimes so that effective evidence of those crimes can be presented in international court. At issue is how to develop international legislation to share information across countries. Additionally, we need ways to ensure social

media outlets keep evidence of war crimes so it can be accessed.

These days, people can be filmed doing terrible things, and that film can be shared publicly. How do we make sure the information is maintained so that when we accuse people of war crimes, we can accurately identify the person and how the crime happened in a way that is acceptable in international court?

We also spoke about the power of disinformation and how we can work within countries to encourage critical thinking. It's important to acknowledge the aggressive attack from Russia and how we can respond to it more effectively.

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Senator Rebecca Patterson, Senator Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu, Senator Gwen Boniface, Julie Dzerowicz, MP Cheryl Gallant, and MP Rachel Blaney at the Spring Meeting in Luxembourg

## **Disarmament**

I worked with representatives from Belgium, Iceland, Germany, and The Netherlands to further the discussion around nuclear disarmament; we must reiterate our goal towards their elimination, given the recent talk from authoritarian leaders about increasing nuclear weapons.

I am honoured to be part of the NATO group, and look forward to more engagement on important topics.

For more information, please visit: [Home - Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association \(CANPA\) - Parliamentary Associations - Interparliamentary Activities - Diplomacy - Parliament of Canada](#)

You can also find more information about the declarations here: [2023 Spring Session Declarations | NATO PA \(nato-pa.int\)](#)

If you would like additional information or have further concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Blaney', is displayed within a white rectangular box.

Rachel Blaney, MP  
North Island - Powell River



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