

## April Meeting:

Our upcoming ZOOM meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> begins at 9:40 a.m. with a social time  
The presentation begins at 10:00 a.m., forgoing the regular business portion to maximize  
the focus on the War in Ukraine Panel Discussion.



### A brief overview:

Armed conflict in Ukraine first erupted in early 2014, transitioning to a stalemate with Russia, with intermittent skirmishes along their shared border. The full-scale attack by Russia began on February 24, 2022. Ukrainians continue to fight for their lives and country with unprecedented determination. Neighbouring Poland is welcoming and redirecting millions of women, children and needy

individuals as they flee to safety. Casualties are high. NATO members are working collaboratively to provide assistance including sanctions against Russia, requested weapons, funds, support for refugees and medical aid for casualties.

### The Probus Panel:

On April 6<sup>th</sup> the Speaker's Committee will present a panel discussion on the current war in Ukraine. Gary Smith, a former Canadian Ambassador to Russia, has agreed to participate as a member providing history on the topic and assuming the role of moderator. Shelagh Stevens will share relevant experiences and current understandings of the United Nations. Elsie Stresman will share her knowledge and experience with humanitarian crises and the needs of refugees. Major-General Clive Addy will be available to field questions related to his extensive past experiences with military strategizing.



### Biographies of participating panelists:

**Gary Smith** is a former career diplomat who served over 30 years, more than 20 of which were served abroad. His postings took Gary and his family on a series of around-the-world adventures of varying cultures, climates, schools and political environments. He served at the UN in New York, the Soviet Union, at NATO HQ, Israel, India, Germany, Indonesia, and Ottawa (as Director of Arms Control and Disarmament, among other positions). After leaving government he served as Vice-President (Advancement) at York University, and as an elected official in Central Frontenac. He is currently a Director on The Board of the Former Ambassadors Association, based in Ottawa.

**Elsie Stresman** is a retired principal. She worked in Pembroke, Thunder Bay, at CFB Baden-Soellingen Germany and NATO JFC Brunssum The Netherlands. From 2015 to 2020 Elsie was a member of the executive of CARR in Perth which successfully sponsored four families from Syria and Iraq. In the fall of 2021 Elsie and Margo Bell took on the responsibility of being co-chairs for a revived CARR in order to sponsor two Afghan families.

**Shelagh Stevens** started her career in the military before moving to the logistics Section Chief at the UN mission in Côte d'Ivoire (CDI). She became a contracted instructor with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, was recruited to give UN Staff Officer courses on Peacekeeping Logistics in Canada, and was later contracted by the US State Department to give UN instructor, staff officer and logistics courses and exercises from Mongolia to Tunisia, from Malaysia to the Ukraine. At the time Shelagh left the military, she had more peacekeeping experience than any other woman in the Canadian Armed Forces.

**Major General Clive Addy** has extensive experience with demanding serious and challenging fields. He served 43 years in the Canadian Forces, 11 of which were overseas. He was National Secretary of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, coordinated 17 divisions across Canada and 18,000 employees. He presided over the Conference Board of Canada conferences including cyber security, transportation security, climate change and pandemic planning. He spent nine years as the first Executive Editor of Frontline Security magazine. Clive has significant personal experience in Afghanistan to contribute to this panel.

**Leonard J. Edwards** retired in 2010 after 41 years in Canada's Public Service, including 9 years as a deputy minister in 3 assignments: International Trade, Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs. In the 1990's he served as ambassador to the Republic of Korea and later to Japan. Len was also Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for relations with Asia Pacific and for Trade and Economic Policy. He served as Canada's Senior Official for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation organization. Len is a recipient of Canada's Distinguished Service Medal, Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, and Korea's Order of Diplomatic Service Merit.



**ACTION ITEMS:** Probian questions are encouraged in advance of this panel discussion. Our moderator will integrate this sharing into the framing of the presentation. Please email your question to [speakers@probusperth.ca](mailto:speakers@probusperth.ca) at your earliest convenience. The Q&A will attempt to accommodate chat line questions.

The panel honorarium in the amount of \$300 will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross in Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis.