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# Defence Industries Brief

March 18<sup>th</sup> 2026



## Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

Welcome to the Reconstituted Western Canada Defence Industries Association (WCDIA) Representing companies, academia, and government partners across British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, WCDIA is the unified voice for Western Canada's defence ecosystem. From cutting-edge technologies and supply chain excellence to workforce development and export opportunities, we are dedicated to fostering growth, collaboration, and competitiveness on national and international stages.

As a not-for-profit association, our mission is clear: to strengthen business opportunities, drive economic impact, and enhance Canada's national security by connecting industry with government, primes, and global partners. Whether through advocacy, networking events, educational programs, or strategic initiatives, we empower our members to thrive in a dynamic landscape.

The Western Canada Defence Industries Association (WCDIA) is being relaunched reenergized, refocused, and ready to build the next generation of defence innovation from the ground up. We are in the exciting early stages of rebuilding this organization, connecting the full spectrum of defence-related industries across Western Canada from advanced research institutions and technology developers to established manufacturers and emerging start-ups.

Our mission is clear: to create a powerful, collaborative network that establishes Western Canada as a global leader in defence innovation, readiness, and capability development. New members joining now are truly on the ground floor, with the opportunity to shape the direction, priorities, and future of the association as we grow together.

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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DEV - SEC  
Tradeshow

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Staff Highlight

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What's New

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Membership  
Highlight

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Where to find us  
next

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Did you know?

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## DEFSEC West 2026

See us at Booth #C902

DEFSEC West is a premier networking event for the defence, security, and aerospace sectors, highlighting the growing opportunities across Western Canada. Blending the strengths of a trade show and a defence procurement conference, the event brings together industry leaders, government representatives, and military stakeholders in one dynamic setting. Attendees can connect with exhibitors from across Canada and internationally, participate in facilitated B2B and B2G meetings, and attend expert panels and seminars focused on current industry priorities. With a variety of networking events and an intimate venue designed for meaningful interaction, DEFSEC West offers a unique opportunity to build partnerships, explore export opportunities, and strengthen Canada's defence supply chain—all in one place.

### Partners



Visionary business leader and growth strategist with more than three decades of experience across technology, security, defence, culture, and education. As a founder, CEO, advisor, and board member, Gustaf-Wilhelm has helped organisations expand globally, strengthen resilience, and achieve sustainable growth. He is the creator of The Kingfish Mindset and the CD-MORA Business Model™, frameworks designed to help leaders and entrepreneurs think differently and grow both personally and professionally.

### Partners



Nic Cobb brings nearly 20 years of experience advising global stakeholders across defence, security, energy, fintech, and government sectors. He specializes in communications, risk management, and geopolitical strategy, while facilitating high-level connections across government, military, and industry. Nic is also a frequent media contributor and industry event chair, and volunteers with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). In 2024, he was named a Knight Commander of the Order des Belges (TME CdB) for humanitarian service.

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## Chair



Norman Leach is Chair of the Western Canada Defence Industries Association, bringing decades of leadership in defence advocacy, military community engagement, and national security education. Through extensive volunteer work with veterans' organizations and military families, he has been widely recognized for strengthening civil-military partnerships and championing the people and industries that support Canada's security.

## What's New

### Edmonton Garrison Business Luncheon

Norman Leach, Chair, had the privilege of attending the Edmonton Garrison Business Luncheon, which proved to be an outstanding success. The event offered exceptional networking opportunities and brought together leaders from across the defence and business communities.

Norman was pleased to attend with two guests representing the Western Canada Defence Industries Association: Maritza Meneses, owner of Rowles Fine Art Gallery, and Pardeep Dass, CEO of Space Engine Systems.

Their presence highlighted the diversity and strength of Western Canada's defence-focused innovators and underscored the growing collaboration within the region's defence industry.

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# Space Engine Systems

## Membership Highlight

### Space Engine Systems Edmonton AB

Established in 2011, Space Engine Systems is developing a series of hypersonic spaceplanes; becoming the lowest cost trucking company to anywhere in space, including the lunar surface. As Canada's defense and dual-use industry grows, our technology can support our sovereign capabilities of protection and space access through the most cost-effective and sustainable methods. With spin-off products available for aerospace and industrial applications including turbopumps, highly efficient cryogenic heat exchangers, liquid hydrogen tanks and mobile turbine engine test cells. We also have a robust CAD capability with an in-house CFD suite enabling propulsion and aerodynamic analyses.

In terms of defence we are working on both ISR and ISR strike in both supersonic and hypersonic regime. Our HyperDrone is offered as a custom designed and developed drone for Defence. We are trying to export these products.

We have CGP (Controlled Goods Program) and JCP (Joint Certificate Program) USA/Canada defence registration.

#### Products & Services:

Hypersonic Drones (HyperDrone from 40 kgs to 380 kg pay load), Supersonic drones, Cryogenic Pumps, Turbo Pumps, High thrust and radial bearings for cryogenic applications, thermal testing, turbine engine development for defence purposes, 25,000 lbf (111kN) mobile turbine and turbo-engine test cell. 40 + employees

Web: [www.spaceenginesystems.com](http://www.spaceenginesystems.com)

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# Where to Find us Next

## Featured Podcasts

### Water Though

Hosted by Ed Drozda  
Airs Mid April 2026

*"We can't make you drink, but we can make you think."*

A thought-provoking podcast that dives into ideas, insights, and perspectives designed to challenge how you see the world.

### JP – Side Hustle Hero

Hosted by Joan Posidy

Discover the stories and strategies behind successful side hustles. Joan highlights inspiring individuals turning passion projects into thriving ventures.

### International Risk Podcast

Hosted by Ed Penrose

A deep dive into global risk, security, and international affairs. This podcast explores the issues shaping business, politics, and global stability.

### Leadership in Quarters

Hosted by Josh Seldin  
Broadcast June 21<sup>st</sup> 2026

A focused leadership podcast breaking down the essential lessons and strategies leaders need to grow, inspire teams, and make an impact.

### Epic Events Podcast

Hosted by Muhammad Younas  
Broadcast May 6<sup>th</sup> 2026

Explore the world of events, entrepreneurship, and innovation with insights from industry leaders creating unforgettable experiences.





## Did you know?

**\$ 70+ BILLION**  
ESTIMATED VALUE OF CANADA'S  
PLANNED DEFENCE PROCUREMENT  
OVER THE NEXT 20+ YEARS,  
CREATING LONG-TERM  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIAN  
SUPPLIERS, INCLUDING SMES  
ACROSS WESTERN CANADA,  
THROUGH DIRECT CONTRACTS AND  
SUPPLY-CHAIN PARTICIPATION.

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For any newsletter updates email Chelsea at  
[info@wcdia.ca](mailto:info@wcdia.ca)



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403-710-9683

[info@wcdia.ca](mailto:info@wcdia.ca)

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