

NEWS RELEASE

Winnipeg to host Manitoba-UK Defence Summit to advance international trade and defence partnerships

Manitoba and UK leaders will explore opportunities in defence supply chains, Arctic security, dual-use innovation and procurement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, September 23, 2026 – Aerospace and Defence industry leaders from Manitoba and the United Kingdom will gather in Winnipeg on September 28 and 29 for the first ever Manitoba-UK Defence Summit.

The invitation-only Summit is one of the first signature events under the new Canada-Manitoba Defence Alliance. It will bring together organizations from both jurisdictions to identify opportunities for trade, investment and collaboration within the global defence supply chain. Discussions will focus on Arctic defence and sovereignty, supply chain integration, dual-use technologies, procurement, military modernization and the practical implementation of new partnerships.

“Manitoba has industry-leading talent in the aerospace and defence sectors,” said Jamie Moses, Minister of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation. The MCDA hosting this summit allows us to strengthen longstanding alliances with our UK partners while advancing our shared goals. This summit will enhance our ability to attract investment, grow our manufacturing capabilities, and create more good jobs for Manitobans.”

The Summit comes at a time of increased international attention on defence and growing interest in strengthening economic and security relationships among trusted allies. It will showcase Manitoba’s aerospace, defence, advanced manufacturing, transportation, research and innovation capabilities while connecting Manitoba companies with UK organizations interested in developing commercial partnerships.

“Manitoba has the industrial capabilities, skilled workforce, strategic infrastructure and collaborative spirit required to make a meaningful contribution to Canada and North America’s defence and security priorities,” said Paul Soubry, Executive Champion of the Manitoba-Canada Defence Alliance and Summit host. “This Summit is designed to explore opportunities by bringing Manitoba and UK leaders together to identify complementary strengths, build trusted relationships

and explore practical opportunities for our companies to participate in global defence supply chains.”

The two-day program will begin with a conference at the Manitoba Club on September 28. Sessions will examine the evolving Canadian and UK defence landscapes, opportunities for Manitoba companies in the UK market and vice-versa, Manitoba’s role in global supply chains, Arctic sovereignty, defence-related infrastructure and the opportunities and barriers associated with entering bilateral defence supply chains. The day will conclude with a *Journey to Churchill* reception hosted by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and the Business Council of Manitoba.

On September 29, UK delegates will visit Boeing Winnipeg at the National Research Council, StandardAero and Magellan Aerospace. The program will also include business-to-business meetings, networking opportunities and a closing reception at the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada.

“The Manitoba-UK Defence Summit gives our companies an important opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities directly to prospective international partners,” said Beverlie Stuart, CEO of the Manitoba Aerospace and Defence Association. “Manitoba has a strong foundation in aerospace, advanced manufacturing, maintenance and repair, transportation, training, research and dual-use innovation. By connecting that expertise with UK organizations seeking capable and trusted partners, we can open new pathways to investment, procurement and long-term business growth.”

The Summit will include structured discussions intended to identify bilateral opportunities and practical barriers within the defence supply chain. Delegates will receive market information, develop new industry connections and participate in targeted discussions with organizations whose capabilities and business interests may be complementary.

The Manitoba-United Kingdom Defence Summit is part of the Accelerating Manitoba-UK Trade series produced by Sinclair Barnes Limited a management consultancy with expertise in international economic development with offices in London UK and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Summit at a glance

- **Dates:** September 28 and 29, 2026
- **Location:** Winnipeg, Manitoba
- **September 28:** Conference, roundtable discussions and networking, *Journey to Churchill* Reception Hosted by Manitoba Chambers of Commerce & the Business Council of Manitoba
- **September 29:** Industry site visits, individual meetings and closing reception
- **Key themes:** Defence trade, Arctic security, supply chain integration, procurement, dual-use innovation and international partnerships.

About the Manitoba-Canada Defence Alliance

The Manitoba-Canada Defence Alliance is a collaborative initiative that brings together industry, government, Indigenous partners, academia, economic development organizations and representatives of the Canadian Armed Forces. Its purpose is to strengthen Manitoba's position in Canada's defence economy by coordinating partners, supporting business growth, promoting Manitoba's capabilities and advancing investment and procurement opportunities.

About the Manitoba Aerospace and Defence Association

The Manitoba Aerospace and Defence Association supports the growth and strategic positioning of Manitoba's aerospace and defence sector by bringing together industry and institutional partners, advancing workforce and business development, strengthening collaboration and promoting Manitoba's capabilities in Canada and internationally. Manitoba Aerospace and Defence Association currently represents 40 Manitoba companies in the sector collectively employing more than 6,000 people.

Quick Facts

- The Canadian defence industry contributes nearly \$10 billion to our gross domestic product and supports more than 81,000 jobs.
- Canada is set to spend **\$81.8 billion** on defence over the next five years, with a projected increase to **5% of GDP** by 2035. The government aims to invest with a focus on equipment, infrastructure, and vital support processes and technologies. This investment is part of Canada's commitment to strengthening its defence capabilities and ensuring the country's sovereignty and strategic interests are protected.
- With the support of the federal and civic governments, the Manitoba government launched the Manitoba-Canada Defence Alliance on September 8, 2026, to attract aerospace, defence and security investment and procurement opportunities to the province.
- The governments of Canada and Manitoba announced more than \$3.2 million in funding in September 2026 for the Manitoba Defence and Dual-Use Innovation Bridge. The initiative is expected to support 100 small and medium-sized businesses in Manitoba and create 90 jobs. It will also help more Manitoba companies become defence-ready, connect with customers, and compete for contracts in domestic and international defence supply chains.

Associated links

[Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy - Canada.ca](#)

[Manitoba Aerospace](#)

[Province of Manitoba | News Releases | Manitoba Government Announces New Manitoba-Canada Defence Alliance](#)

[New initiative harnesses Manitoba expertise to strengthen Canada's defence industrial base and defend our sovereignty - Canada.ca](#)