

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



Entering to Spring 2025

As we enter the spring, we are thrilled to announce that our foundation office in Canada is engaged with multiple and exciting projects.

We are launching new publications, attended conferences and planning new roundtables with publications for the Spring 2025.

Top News

New Projects
Receptions
Publications

Future Conferences
for Spring 2025





Welcome from the Director

Dear friends of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Canada,

In the meantime, I have been through the first two winter storms as a storm-proof Lower Saxon for the first time and am very impressed by the Canadian calmness. But it's not just the icy temperatures of the Canadian winter that are a particular challenge at the moment. The recently threatened and then postponed punitive tariffs imposed by the USA on one of its most important and closest allies, Canada, but also on Europe, will be a particular test for the government and opposition in Canada and on the other side of the Atlantic. My personal opinion: Only together and with a cool head will an appropriate, considered strategy succeed in convincing the US and its current government that this is a dangerous impasse. The risks of an economic collapse on all sides, including in the USA, are very high. Nevertheless, this creates new opportunities for Canada to position itself more resiliently and possibly more independently of the US for the future. Personally, I would have liked Canada's European partners to have raised their voices much more clearly in this situation to make it clear that we will not allow the transatlantic bond to be cut carelessly. Despite the single currency area, but ultimately isolated, the USA alone does not have the strength to be successful in its own trading area.

Vice President Vance's latest announcements are the subject of much heated debate in Germany and Europe. The word "wake-up call", which has unfortunately become inflationary, is doing the rounds. Unfortunately, we in Europe have indeed been lulled into a false sense of security for many years under the protective umbrella of the USA. This may also have been true for Canada. We will now have to make an effort to expand European defense capabilities. But it also remains true that without European support, that of Canada and only together with the USA, Ukraine would have already lost Russia's war of aggression, which violated international law.

The Ukrainian army and the Ukrainian people have been fighting a tough and courageous battle for freedom and sovereignty in their country since 2024. A fight for freedom and democracy in Ukraine, but also in Germany, Canada and Europe. It is incomprehensible why our alliance is being weakened right now and why a door is being opened to the return of imperialism and protectionism. Europe and Germany have understood these signals very well. We will show that we can achieve a great deal if we want to and, above all, if we have to. The USA should not underestimate this. The same should apply to Canada.

No one should underestimate the impressive patriotism and courage, but also the strength of this country when challenged. The impressive victory of the Canadian national ice hockey team against the USA gave even me, who has only recently been a guest in Canada, goosebumps. The whole country of Canada seems to be coming together. Congratulations in every respect!

Beyond the sporting victories and impressive Canadian patriotism in a well-understood sense, what remains for me as a representative of a political foundation in Canada named after the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Konrad Adenauer, who stood like no other for the integration of Germany into the West, is that we, together with our partner Canada, are committed to ensuring that the bridges between North America and Europe, the transatlantic bond, are not destroyed carelessly and short-sightedly, possibly irretrievably. In 20 years' time, I do not want to look back on the days of the Munich Security Conference and have to admit that it heralded the end of the North Atlantic Alliance. The dictatorships of this world, the CRINK states, are just waiting for that. Especially in these turbulent times of crises, trade wars and military wars, the North Atlantic Alliance should stand united against these autocracies economically and in terms of security policy. In my view, the key partner USA should review its recent course and reconsider the end of such an escalation of trade wars with its own partners. These are truly turbulent times for my wonderful and internationally oriented team. And we at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Canada will focus all the more on common security in the Nordic Alliance and the economic deepening of free trade between the European Union, Germany and Canada. On the other hand, we will focus on the economic and security policy challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. As a political foundation, we work independently of political parties, but we are close to them, in this case the Christian Democrats in Germany. The CDU in Germany and the European People's Party, the EPP, is in turn a member of the International Democratic Union (IDU). Its current president until April 2024 is Stephen Harper, the former Prime Minister of Canada until 2015.

However, I am also looking forward to Germany with excitement. The result of the Bundestag elections will open up new options. Friedrich Merz will become most likely the next Chancellor by Easter. Possibly also for the German-Canadian relationship, this is good news.

But as you know, Canada is also facing elections this year. The only question is when?

My new team in Ottawa is highly motivated and we are happy to work for you on relevant social issues that strengthen the relationship between Canada and Germany. We stand for common values and shared convictions.

Dr. Bernd Althusmann

02/07

Inside This Issue

- Projects and events in Q1 of 2025
- Launch of the new podcast
- Social media and interaction boost

Projects and Events at Q1 of 2025

Our office has attended to multiple events in the first quarter of 2025:



-Attendance to the two-day workshop on rethinking and discussing disaster relief, organized by Civil Protection Youth Canada (CPYC) and the Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC).



-Sponsoring a discussion on foreign election interference with U.S. Election Commissioner, Mr. Thomas Hicks

-Meeting with Head of AHK-Canada, Ms. Yvonne Denz and Hannover Messe representative, Mr. Marco Siebert, in Ottawa.



-Attendance to Winterfest with German Ambassador Bellman and Hon. Greg Fergus.

-Attendance to the Arctic 360 Annual Conference in Toronto.

-Presence in the prestigious Embassy of Japan's Reception, celebrating the National Day of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor's 65th Birthday.



-Attendance at the Parti conservateur du Canada Party Leader Pierre Poilievre's 'Canada First' Rally.

Launch of the new Podcast : KAS Unfiltered

Our office have also launched a new podcast, where the new staff and director welcome guests based on their expertise and research focus with an aim to foster partnerships between Germany and Canada.

Every episode will focus on “unfiltered” opinions of Canadian foreign policy, new economic relations, energy investments, security questions, and explore further insights on geopolitics.

Our first guests for the first episode included the Executive Director at Macdonald-Laurier Institute, Centre for North American Prosperity and Security (CNAPS) , Ms. Jamie Tronnes and the Transatlantic Program Director at MLI, Balkan Devlen, PhD with KAS Canada Director Dr. Bernd Althusmann, while they look at the new administration in the U.S. and its impact on Canada.

Our second guests include Dr. David Perry, President and CEO of CGAI and Ms. Charlotte Duval Lantoiné, Vice President , Ottawa Operations of CGAI, talking about the recruitment at CAF and Bundeswehr and defence investment.

To listen to our podcast, go to Spotify to our [channel](#).



Elections in Germany



REUTERS/Kai Pfaffenbach

Dr. Althusmann on recent elections in Germany:

KAS Office states that Friedrich Merz and the CDU/CSU have clearly emerged as the strongest force from Bundestag election in Germany. The task now is to form a stable government for Germany as swiftly and carefully as possible.

Germany remains the most important economic power in Europe, though with many challenges, the third strongest economy worldwide and with Friedrich Merz as Chancellor, the country will regain its former strength in foreign, security, and economic policy. I am certain of this. The goal should be to establish a new government by Easter, ensuring that all our partners in the North Atlantic Alliance and in Europe quickly have clarity.

With Friedrich Merz as the next Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, the North Atlantic alliance will regain stability and reliability.

Bundestag elections - Second vote

From [Bundeswahlleiterin](#) via [gisa-infocom](#) · Preliminary results · [Learn more](#)

Results are preliminary

630 total seats · All 299 constituencies reporting

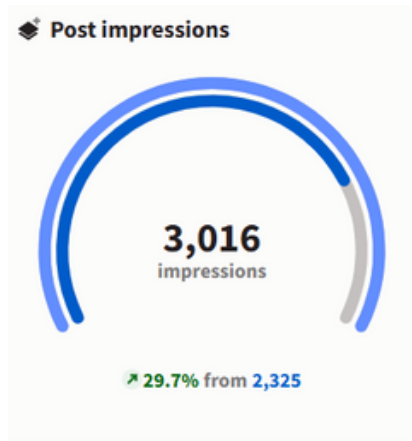


CDU/CSU Friedrich Merz	208 seats 14,150,432 votes (28.52%)
AfD Alice Weidel	152 seats 10,327,148 votes (20.8%)
SPD Olaf Scholz	120 seats 8,148,284 votes (16.41%)
GRÜNE Robert Habeck	85 seats 5,701,470 votes (11.61%)
Die Linke Heidi Reichhnek, Jan van Aken	64 seats 4,355,382 votes (8.77%)
SSW Stefan Seidler	1 seat 76,126 votes (0.15%)
BSW Sahra Wagenknecht	0 seats 2,468,070 votes (4.97%)
FDP Christian Lindner	0 seats 2,148,078 votes (4.33%)
Others	0 seats 2,197,091 votes (4.44%)

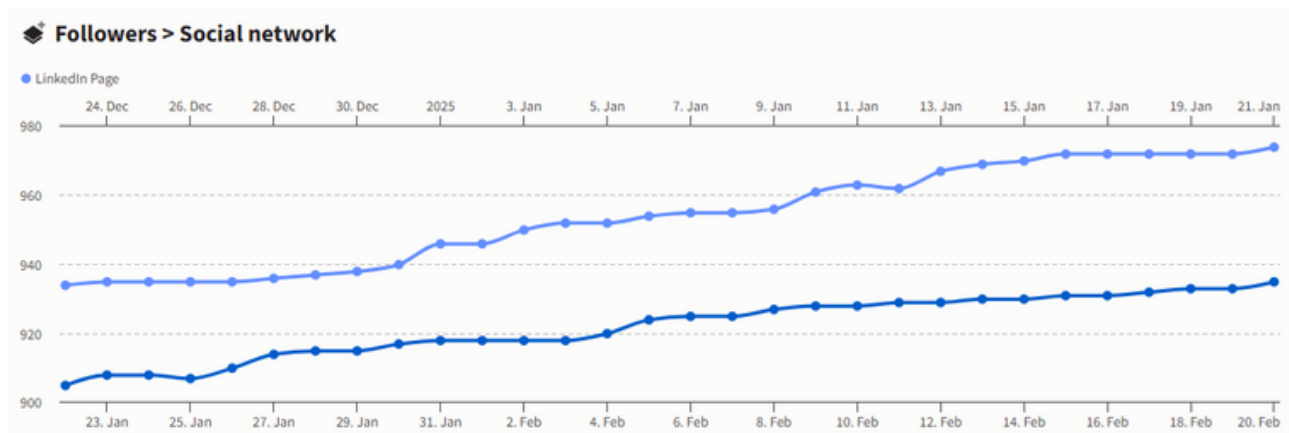
05/07

Social media and interaction boost

Our post reactions, followers and impressions on all across our social media channels have been rising compared to last month.



NEW
OPPORTUNITIES



Our Canada Office, based in Ottawa, was established in 2019, promotes multilateral cooperation as well as exchange between Canada, Germany and Europe on the most important global challenges of our time, especially in the areas of security, technology, climate change and migration.

As the first Chancellor of the newly-formed Federal Republic of Germany from 1949-63, Konrad Adenauer changed the face of post-war German and European history more than any other individual. Adenauer's experiences during the Second World War made him a political realist and he focused his attention on promoting the idea of pan-European cooperation. Our foundation is based on his values.

"When the world seems large and complex,
we need to remember that great world ideals all begin
in some home neighbourhood."

Konrad Adenauer

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We bring Canada and Germany closer together since
Organisation politique - Ottawa, Ontario - 934 abonnés - 2-10 employés



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