

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Royal Canadian Navy returns to Thailand**

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October 6, 2022 – Embassy of Canada, Bangkok

From October 7-11, 2022, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Winnipeg* will be conducting a port visit to Thailand, as part of Canada's defence engagements in the Indo-Pacific this fall. This comprehensive effort also includes HMCS *Vancouver* and a CP-140 Aurora long-range patrol aircraft deploying to Northeast Asia. The ships and aircraft will remain deployed in the region until November 2022, supporting both Operation (Op) PROJECTION and Operation NEON.

The ship's namesake is the City of Winnipeg, capital of the Canadian province of Manitoba in the heart of the country. The naval vessel and City of Winnipeg share a common motto, *Unum Cum Virtute Multorum* (one with the strength of many), to highlight the power of many peoples working together to achieve a common goal. HMCS *Winnipeg* has 250 highly trained and professional sailors, including 30 women, who are well prepared to meet the challenges of their deployment.

As part of Op PROJECTION, HMCS *Winnipeg* will participate in bilateral and multinational training exercises and engage with regional militaries and other international security partners in order to promote regional security and stability. Activities conducted during Operation PROJECTION will help build confidence and military partnerships.

During the visit to Chuk Samet Port in Sattahip, Chonburi Province, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) will be interacting with local counterparts and stakeholders to promote collaboration and friendship, including capability demonstrations, combined sporting events, and community engagement outreach.

The Embassy of Canada will also host a discussion on Women, Peace and Security in Bangkok featuring HMCS *Winnipeg*'s Commanding Officer, Commander Annick Fortin, Coxswain Chief Petty Officer 1st Class, Sue Frisby, and female members of the Royal Thai Navy. The event will be an opportunity to hear from women leaders in the defense sector on the role and the importance of women's participation in the armed forces, their contributions to global peace and security, and the lessons learned and the challenges for armed forces to become more diverse and inclusive. At the regional level, Canada is supporting ASEAN's efforts to develop a regional approach to implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Canada and Thailand celebrated 60 years of diplomatic relations in 2021, and have a dynamic and cooperative bilateral and multilateral relationship that is continuing to expand, assisted by increased flows of people, ideas, commerce and capital in a globalised world. Thailand is currently Canada's second-largest trading partner in the ASEAN region. In 2021, bilateral merchandise trade hit CAD \$5 billion for the first time. Bilateral trade in services amounted to CAD \$373 million in 2020. Expanding trade and investment relations, particularly in the context of COVID recovery, continues to be a leading interest for both countries. Academic relations have also been an important part of the bilateral relationship, with many Canadian universities having long-standing cooperation agreements with Thai academic and research institutions. In multilateral settings, Canada and Thailand continue to work actively through the United Nations on issues such as



peacekeeping, women, peace and security, and regional security. Our two countries also cooperate closely in regional and international organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and the World Trade Organization.

In defence and security relations, Canada and Thailand have cooperated since 1985 through a robust Military Cooperation Training Program. The training is focused on capacity-building and professional development, which fosters interoperability. Key security issues of mutual interest include maritime security, threats to regional stability, and environmental conservation of our waterways. Thailand and Canada are also working together in the implementation of security programming that aligns directly with Thai and ASEAN objectives, including the vision for sustainability and border management within ASEAN, developed as part of Thailand's chairing of ASEAN in 2019.

It has been three years since a Royal Canadian Navy ship, HMCS *Ottawa*, last visited Thailand, and we are pleased to welcome an RCN vessel once more. HMCS *Winnipeg* has been deployed since June and has so far visited San Diego, Pearl Harbour, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Cambodia. The ship participated in Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), the largest international maritime warfare exercise in the world, before commencing Op PROJECTION. After departing Thailand, HMCS *Winnipeg* will remain in the Indo-Pacific region, working with other allies and partners, before returning to Canada in December.

## QUOTES

"We look forward to meeting and training alongside the Royal Thai Navy in this, our fifth port visit of Operation PROJECTION 2022. As per our motto "One with the strength of many," HMCS *Winnipeg* is ready to uphold Canada's ongoing commitment to global peace and security, and enhance relationships with Canada's allies and partners."

***Commander Annick Fortin, Commanding Officer, His Majesty's Canadian Ship Winnipeg***

"Security in the Indo-Pacific region is inseparable from Canada's own security. We are therefore delighted to welcome HMCS *Winnipeg* to Thailand. This second Canadian ship visit to Thailand in the past three years is a concrete demonstration of our deepening bilateral defence and security ties, steadfast positive presence in the region, and recognition of the growing importance of safeguarding regional peace and security to ensure prosperity for our peoples."

***H.E. Sarah Taylor, Ambassador of Canada to Thailand***

"The Royal Canadian Navy has a long history of deploying around the world in peacetime and during conflicts. HMCS *Winnipeg* is delivering robust capabilities working with our partner navies to strengthen international partnerships and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. In line with Canada's defence policy, *Strong, Secure, Engaged*, Canada's naval forces work both independently and in support of allied or partner missions. While deployed on Operation PROJECTION, they are helping to promote regional security and stability. HMCS *Winnipeg* is outfitted with an embarked CH-148 Cyclone helicopter specializing in anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance, and search and rescue roles."

***Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Masterson, Canadian Defence Attaché (CDA)***



## QUICK FACTS

- Operation PROJECTION demonstrates Canada's ongoing commitment to increase security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. During Op PROJECTION, HMCS *Winnipeg* conducts forward naval presence operations, cooperative deployments and participate in international naval exercises with partner nations. The last iteration of Op PROJECTION was from 17 August to 16 December 2021.
- Operation NEON is Canada's contribution to a coordinated multinational effort to support the implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sanctions imposed against North Korea. During the mission, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) conducts surveillance operations to identify suspected maritime sanctions evasion activities, in particular ship-to-ship transfers of fuel and other commodities banned by the UNSC resolutions. The last time the CAF deployed in support of Op NEON was from 16 September to 20 November 2021.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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## LINKS

Operation PROJECTION – [Operation PROJECTION - Canada.ca](#)

Operation NEON – [Operation NEON - Canada.ca](#)

Canadian Patrol Frigates – [HALIFAX CLASS](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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