

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



HEADING INTO SUMMER 2026

As we head into the summer months, we are pleased to share the latest updates, activities, and insights from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. This edition highlights key projects, partnerships, and discussions that have shaped our work in recent months, while looking ahead to the opportunities and challenges on the horizon. We hope you enjoy reading about our ongoing efforts to promote democracy, good governance, and international cooperation.

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Top News

- Discussion on democracy and societal resilience with Minister Karin Prien, German Federal Minister.
- FIFA World Cup
- Welcoming a delegation from Germany to Canada
- Political Dialogue about the Future with young Canadian political leaders in Germany





Dear Friends of KAS Canada,

First and foremost, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all Canadians and to everyone who calls this proud and remarkable country home on the occasion of Canada Day on July 1, 2026. Happy Canada Day! I would also like to congratulate the Canadian national soccer team on its impressive victory in the knockout stage of the FIFA World Cup. I had hoped for a Canada–Germany final, but for Germany it was a disappointment. A few photos in this newsletter capture the vibrant atmosphere in Toronto during the tournament and from Ottawa public viewing at Braumeister Bierhalle.

The past weeks and months have been marked by significant geopolitical tensions, crises, wars of aggression, and rapid changes in the global landscape. Against this backdrop, the FIFA World Cup in Mexico, Canada, and the United States may seem almost like a welcome respite. At the very least, the global passion for soccer has the power to unite rather than divide.

At the same time, we must not lose sight of the many tragedies unfolding around the world. The devastating earthquake in Venezuela has claimed thousands of lives. Russia's ongoing brutal war against Ukraine continues to escalate through the increasing use of long-range drone attacks.

Meanwhile, military attacks by the United States, Israel, and Iran has heightened tensions across the Middle East.

The consequences are likely to be felt for some time through rising energy and commodity prices worldwide.

These developments once again underscore the critical importance of energy and resource security, particularly for countries that possess few domestic natural resources. In this context, Canada's emerging role as an energy superpower, alongside other democratic middle powers, has become increasingly significant. At a time when the United States appears less predictable as a partner for both Europe and Canada, support within Canada for closer cooperation with the European Union—and especially Germany—continues to grow.

A recent public opinion survey conducted by KAS Canada in partnership with the Nanos Research Institute (see link below) found that more than 60 percent of Canadians support closer cooperation with the European Union and favour greater independence from the United States. Following recent discussions regarding the future of the CUSMA agreement, support for deeper cooperation with Europe beyond the existing CETA framework may continue to increase.

[2026-2913 KAS - Populated report - FOR RELEASE download](#)

Beyond these questions, the survey also explored what Canadians see as the key challenges facing their country and what expectations they have for Canadian policy, particularly regarding relations with Germany and the European Union. I encourage you to take a closer look at the results. If you have questions or would simply like to share your thoughts, please write to us at info.canada@kas.de.

The past two months have been both exciting and demanding for our team. We had the privilege of organizing and accompanying two high-level expert delegations. The first brought German energy experts to Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, and Montreal in April. The second took a Canadian delegation to Germany under the theme “Transatlantic Firewalls for Democracy.” If I were to summarize both programs in a single phrase, it would simply be: exceptionally successful.

These exchanges provided valuable insights, meaningful dialogue, and many opportunities to learn from one another. Alongside serious discussions on major policy issues, there was also plenty of laughter and camaraderie. The experiences gained will undoubtedly enrich the future work of KAS Canada.

Finally, a brief update from our office at 8 York Street. Over the past few months, our team has continued to grow. Since April, Carmen Trimbuch and Ursula Verrillo have joined KAS Canada and are already making outstanding contributions to our work.



At the same time, we will soon bid farewell to our Program Manager, Marie Yamada, who will be returning to Tokyo with her family following her husband's transfer. We are grateful for her dedication and are pleased that we have been able to fill this upcoming vacancy.

The approaching summer period will provide an opportunity to recharge before we embark on an exciting second half of 2026. We have a full program of events and initiatives planned. As we celebrate both the 150th anniversary of Konrad Adenauer's birth and the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Germany, we look forward to a dynamic and engaging season ahead.

Yours,

Dr. Bernd Althusmann
Director
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Canada

Projects and Events

- **April 23rd, 2026: Honouring 150 Years of Konrad Adenauer's Legacy** brought together experts and guests at the Global Centre for Pluralism in Ottawa to discuss the state and future of democracy in an increasingly complex world. Marking Konrad Adenauer's 150th birthday, the event featured remarks by Dr. Bernd Althusmann and a keynote by Dr. Lars Hänsel, Head of KAS Europe and North America, who highlighted the importance of strong democracies and international cooperation amid today's global challenges.
- **Energy Security in a Changing World** brought together Canadian and German experts on **April 28, 2026** in Ottawa to discuss energy security, resilience, and strategic cooperation in an era of geopolitical uncertainty. The event highlighted the importance of diversification, reducing dependencies, and strengthening Canada–Germany partnerships to advance long-term economic security and a sustainable energy future
- **Standing Together: Building Resilient and Engaged Societies** brought together policymakers, experts, and practitioners on **May 4th, 2026** to discuss how Canada and the EU can strengthen societal resilience against foreign information manipulation and interference. The event featured opening remarks by Minister Karin Prien, German Federal Minister for Education, alongside other distinguished speakers, and focused on democratic resilience, civic engagement, and Canada–EU cooperation in addressing today's information challenges.
- **On June 1, 2026**, KAS Canada and IPSA co-hosted **Canada and its Transatlantic Relations** at the University of Ottawa, celebrating 20 years of IPSA in Canada and 75 years of Canada–Germany diplomatic relations. The conference brought together diplomats, academics, and policymakers to discuss the future of transatlantic cooperation, highlighting the importance of democratic resilience, economic and energy security, and the strong partnership between Canada, Germany, and Europe in a rapidly changing global order.

YOUNG CANADIAN POLITICAL LEADERS IN GERMANY

It was a great honour to welcome a remarkable group of young Canadian leaders to Germany to foster dialogue, strengthen democracy and build the future of the transatlantic partnership.

- The first day in Berlin featured inspiring exchanges on the future of the automotive industry, Canada–Germany relations, democratic resilience, and economic transformation. Highlights included a working breakfast with Hildegard Müller at the German Association of the Automotive Industry, a thought-provoking lunch with former German President Christian Wulff on the challenges facing democracies, and an unexpected encounter with European Parliament member David McAllister—making for an inspiring and memorable start to the program.
- High-level discussions were held on the future of the transatlantic partnership, democratic leadership, and economic resilience. Highlights included an exchange with Sigmar Gabriel on the role of Canada and Germany as middle powers in safeguarding peace and democracy, insights into Christian Democratic policy at CDU Headquarters, and a visit to the German Bundestag to discuss Germany’s economic and energy priorities with Gitta Connemann.
- Second day in Berlin focused on foreign policy, transatlantic cooperation, and Europe’s evolving role in a changing world. Highlights included an exchange with Minister of State Florian Hahn on Germany’s foreign policy priorities, discussions with Dr. Till Blume on Canada–Germany cooperation in energy and trade, and participation in the CDU/CSU European Affairs Working Group meeting at the German Bundestag.

CONTINUE

- Concluded with high-level exchanges at the German Bundestag on foreign affairs, defence, energy, and Arctic security, including discussions with Jürgen Hardt, Prof. Dr. Günter Krings, and Thomas Röwekamp. The day also featured a visit to the Bundestag and ended with a special reception at the Embassy of Canada to Germany, celebrating 75 years of Canada–Germany diplomatic relations and reaffirming the strength of the transatlantic partnership
- From Kiel to Hamburg, the day highlighted how democracies can strengthen resilience through closer cooperation on maritime security, economic stability, and innovation. Key exchanges at Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems, the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Economic Affairs with Minister Claus Ruhe Madsen, and a cross-sector networking dinner in Hamburg underscored the importance of the German–Canadian partnership in an increasingly uncertain world.
- On the final day in Hamburg brought together key themes of the program—resilience, security, and innovation—through high-level exchanges on crisis preparedness at Hamburg City Hall, economic resilience at HHLA, and industrial transformation at Aurubis AG. Across discussions on AI, logistics, and energy security, the program underscored that democratic resilience depends on strong partnerships between government, industry, and society.



MEP David McAllister



Visit the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung



Focused on foreign policy,
and transatlantic cooperation



Discussions with Tilman Kuban



At the Brandenburger Tor with former
President Christian Wulff



We then continued discussions on
economic resilience



Hamburger Town Hall



Elbphilharmonie Hamburg

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

Soccer World Championship 2026: Canada Catches World Cup Fever!

⚽ Football has united Canada like never before!

The 2026 Football World Championship has brought excitement, energy, and celebration to communities across Canada. As one of the tournament's host nations, Canada has welcomed thousands of visitors from around the world while fans gather in homes, parks, restaurants, and public viewing areas to cheer for their favourite teams.

Cities such as Toronto and Vancouver have come alive with colourful flags, live entertainment, cultural performances, and fan festivals. Families and friends are enjoying outdoor screenings, delicious international food, music, and activities that celebrate the world's most popular sport. Across the country, the "Canada Celebrates" program has created community events where people of all ages can experience the excitement of the tournament together.

Canadian supporters have had even more reason to celebrate after the national team advanced to the Round of 16 with a dramatic victory over South Africa, creating unforgettable moments for fans across the country. The success has inspired a new generation of young football players and strengthened Canada's growing passion for the game.

The 2026 Football World Championship is more than a sporting event—it is a celebration of friendship, diversity, and community spirit. Whether wearing team jerseys, waving flags, or simply enjoying the festive atmosphere, Canadians are embracing the beautiful game and sharing unforgettable memories with visitors from around the world.

Go Canada, Go! ⚽🍁



Public Opinion Insights

As global challenges continue to reshape the international landscape, understanding public opinion has never been more important. Our latest surveys, conducted in partnership with the Nanos Research Institute, offer valuable insights into how Canadians view Canada's role in the world, its relationship with Europe and Germany, and the country's future priorities.

Importance of Europe to Canada's global trade strategy in the future – by connection to Germany

Q – Would you say that Europe is important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or unimportant to Canada's future in the following areas:

	Canada 2026-05 (n=1531)	My ancestry is from Germany (n=162)	I have friends whose ancestry is from Germany (n=251)	I have visited Germany (n=233)	I am interested in visiting Germany in the future (n=444)	I have learned about Germany through work (n=59)	None of these statements describe me (n=714)
Important	59.7%	66.9%	71.4%	73.3%	68.3%	63.5%	51.1%
Somewhat important	28.2%	22.9%	21.4%	20.0%	25.8%	34.1%	32.0%
Somewhat unimportant	4.2%	3.6%	3.0%	4.5%	3.6%	2.4%	4.3%
Unimportant	1.0%	0.9%	1.5%	0.3%	0.1%	-	1.6%
Unsure	6.8%	5.7%	2.6%	1.9%	2.1%	-	11.0%

Canadians who have visited Germany (73%), have friends who have German ancestry and those interested in visiting Germany in the future (68%) report higher levels of belief that Europe will be outright important to Canada's global trade strategy in the future than those with no connection to Germany (51%).

Importance of Europe to Canada's foreign policy strategy in the future – by connection to Germany

Q – Would you say that Europe is important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or unimportant to Canada's future in the following areas:

	Canada 2026-05 (n=1531)	My ancestry is from Germany (n=162)	I have friends whose ancestry is from Germany (n=251)	I have visited Germany (n=233)	I am interested in visiting Germany in the future (n=444)	I have learned about Germany through work (n=59)	None of these statements describe me (n=714)
Important	53.4%	58.0%	64.1%	65.8%	61.8%	58.5%	45.7%
Somewhat important	30.4%	27.8%	25.1%	24.6%	28.7%	27.9%	33.0%
Somewhat unimportant	5.2%	3.1%	5.6%	3.2%	5.0%	11.5%	4.9%
Unimportant	2.5%	1.7%	2.6%	2.9%	1.1%	2.2%	3.3%
Unsure	8.5%	9.5%	2.6%	3.6%	3.4%	-	13.1%

Those who have visited Germany (66%), have friends with German ancestry (64%) and are interested in traveling to Germany in the future (62%) are more likely to believe that Europe will be outright important at a rate higher than those who have no connection to Germany (46%).

Canada's cooperation with Europe, 10 years from now - by connection to Germany

Q – Do you think Canada's cooperation with the following will be stronger, the same or weaker in 10 years than it is today? [RANDOMIZE]

	Canada 2026-05 (n=1531)	My ancestry is from Germany (n=161)	I have friends whose ancestry is from Germany (n=251)	I have visited Germany (n=233)	I am interested in visiting Germany in the future (n=442)	I have learned about Germany through work (n=59)	None of these statements describe me (n=716)
Stronger in 10 years than it is today	63.4%	62.5%	74.4%	79.7%	74.2%	64.5%	55.1%
Same in 10 years than it is today	28.8%	27.9%	20.9%	13.7%	20.0%	29.2%	35.8%
Weaker in 10 years than it is today	7.8%	9.6%	4.7%	6.6%	5.8%	6.4%	9.1%

Majority of Canadians who have a connection to Germany think Canada's cooperation will be stronger in 10 years than it is today, more so than those with no connection to Germany (55%).

Issues to focus on when thinking of Canada's place globally – by connection to Germany

Q – What is the most important issue today for Canada to focus on when you think of Canada's place in the world? [OPEN]

	Canada 2026-05 (n=1499)	My ancestry is from Germany (n=158)	I have friends whose ancestry is from Germany (n=246)	I have visited Germany (n=227)	I am interested in visiting Germany in the future (n=438)	I have learned about Germany through work (n=56)	None of these statements describe me (n=697)
Broader Economic Strength	16.4%	12.0%	18.5%	17.5%	17.5%	22.6%	15.7%
High Cost of Living and Inflation	13.8%	14.1%	12.2%	12.4%	11.6%	18.8%	16.6%
Trade Diversification Beyond the US	10.6%	13.9%	14.0%	13.4%	11.9%	8.4%	8.7%
Managing the US Relationship	9.5%	10.2%	8.6%	9.7%	9.7%	6.8%	8.9%
Greater National Independence and Self-Sufficiency	8.5%	6.1%	8.8%	9.3%	8.3%	10.7%	8.2%
Better Relations With Non-US Allies	5.9%	7.2%	7.2%	8.2%	6.7%	4.2%	4.0%
Stricter Immigration Control	4.7%	5.5%	2.7%	1.5%	4.7%	5.1%	5.6%

Source: Nanos Research, online non-probability representative panel survey, May 1st to May 5th, 2026, n=1499 Canadians.