

CADSI's Operating Committees Backgrounder – 2025

Overview

CADSI's Operating Committees enable a cross-section of members to provide advice and perspectives on a range of important issues to the association's President and CEO. They are an important way for CADSI to establish the views and concerns of its members, seek information and advice, and foster an exchange of views among members.

Committees help inform CADSI's advocacy agenda and activities; review existing services, events and membership policies and consider new ones; and raise important issues for CADSI's small business members. To be eligible to join an Operating Committee, you must currently work at a company with a CADSI corporate membership (Micro, Small, Medium, and Large) in good standing.

Each committee is led by an Industry Chair, responsible for bringing together the views of industry members for consideration by the CADSI president and staff; build consensus across the membership; and communicate back to members any recent developments or concerns they have heard.

Operating Committee Mandates

1. Policy Committee

The implementation of various commitments that affect our industry that are contained in the government's Defence Policy Statement will occupy a considerable amount of CADSI's time and energy over the medium term. It is vital that CADSI engages the government constructively and consistently on the implementation of these initiatives—both in terms of program/policy design and timing. To do this effectively, CADSI needs company perspectives on the initiatives and commitments in the Defence Policy Statement, some of which are conceptual and need fleshing out to be translated into concrete programs. The Policy Committee, formerly called the Defence Policy Implementation Advisory Committee (DPIAC), therefore, is structured first and foremost to provide advice to the CADSI President on implementation of all industry relevant aspects of the Defence Policy Statement. It will also provide advice, as needed, on other industry-wide policy issues affecting members.

To this end, members are expected to provide timely intelligence and ideas to help implement the initiatives in the defence policy statement that affect industry and provide their perspectives on how aspects of the policy and other relevant issues fit together. Priority topics are the implementation of the DND Investment Plan; improved procurement processes and timelines; the implementation of the Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security (IDEaS) program, etc.

The committee will also be asked for views on other ongoing government initiatives that affect the industry, such as export control reforms (e.g. UN Arms Trade Treaty) and trade negotiations. The committee may also work with AIAC's Public Procurement Committee on certain procurement policy issues of common interest (Cost and Profit Policy, Risk-Rebalancing, Supplier Relationships and Vendor Performance Management, etc.).

CADSI Staff Liaison: [Mindy Pearce](#), Senior Policy Advisor, Government Relations and Communications

2. Small and Medium Business Committee

This committee provides timely advice and guidance to CADSI on matters pertaining specifically to defence SMBs, identifying future needs for SMB-focused programming, and provides a small/medium business lens to government policy and identify future needs for education/training targeted at SMBs.

CADSI Staff Liaison: [Nancy Clark](#), Director of Membership Care

3. Cyber Council

The Cyber Council provides ongoing feedback on CADSI's activities and research efforts in the cyber-defence domain, as well as offering input as the association works to form closer links between home-grown industry and government.

CADSI Staff Liaison: [Marc Watters](#), Senior Policy Advisor (Cyber), Government Relations and Communications

Selection Process

Throughout August, existing chairs will work with CADSI to select a representative slate of potential candidates (e.g. based on experience, knowledge, gender, defence/security capability or commercial field, and geography) for the above listed committees and working groups. The existing committee's membership will then select the applicants for the number of vacancies.

Committee chairs will set the agenda in consultation with CADSI's President and staff in alignment with CADSI's priorities. To enable non-Ottawa based members to participate, committees will offer web-based video conferencing technology. The meeting frequency is to be determined by the chair and the President and is dependent on the issues facing each committee. The existing committee schedules are as follows:

- 1) **Policy Committee** The Policy Committee meets for two hours each month, with the exception of May and July. Meetings are held in person and via Microsoft Teams. Feedback is regularly sought from committee members via email or telephone calls, in between meetings, on time-sensitive issues.
- 2) **Small and Medium Business Committee** The SMB Committee meets for two hours up to four times per year via Microsoft Teams. Feedback is occasionally sought via email from SMB committee members, in between meetings, on time-sensitive issues.
- 3) **Cyber Council** The Council meets for 60-90 minutes approximately every quarter, or as needed. Meetings are held via Microsoft Teams.

Timelines

Throughout 2025	Existing committees continue to meet as required.
June 2025	Nomination period for membership opens.
August 6, 2025	Nomination period for membership closes.
Mid-August to Mid-September, 2025	CADSI collates and reviews expressions of interest by members. Existing committees review and agree on the incoming members.
Late September 2025	First meeting of committees with incoming members participating.