Civil-Military Relations After Afghanistan

Stephen M. Saideman
Carleton University
Outline

• The Canadian Case: the Best and Worst of Times
• Problems for NATO Countries
• Puzzles
Best of Times for Canadian Civ-Mil

• Public Appreciation of CF Is Near All-Time High
• More Realistic Expectations: Warriors, not Just Peacekeepers
• Enhanced Reputation w/in NATO
Worst of Times for Canadian Civ-Mil

• Kandahar Confusion
  — Mythology of Big Decision Not Good For CF
• Burned Civilian Leadership
  — Missions Mean Loss of Message Control
  — Concerned About Too Powerful Mil
  — Hiding from Responsibility
• Lame Parliament
Problems for Not Just Canada

• Credibility Challenge
  – Success??

• Exhaustion and Austerity
  – Limited Libya Mission, No to Syria

• Burden-Sharing Tensions

• Smart Defence Questions
  – Militaries and Civilians Will Conflict Over Specialization/Cuts
Puzzles

• WoG Overplayed/Regrets
• Lessons Learned?
• What Did Canada Get for its Trouble?