

**Vice-Admiral Craig Alan BAINES, CMM, MSC, CD**  
**Commander – Royal Canadian Navy**  
**12 January 2021 to Present (January 2022)**



Vice-Admiral Baines' career in the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) has been a combination of sea-going appointments and staff officer positions throughout his 33 years of service. He started his career as bridge watch-keeping officer in Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Saguenay*, specializing in navigation and naval warfare en route to an appointment as Commanding Officer of *HMCS Winnipeg* in 2007. He held the appointment of Base Commander of Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt between July 2010 and July 2012. After serving as the Commander of Canadian Fleet Atlantic between 2014 and 2017, he was promoted Rear-Admiral and appointed Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic and Joint Task Force Atlantic. In July 2020, he became the Deputy Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff. He took Command of the RCN from Admiral Art McDonald on 12 January 2021 as the 37<sup>th</sup> Commander of the RCN.

Vice-Admiral Baines graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. While on exchange in Norfolk shortly following his warfare tours, he completed the US Naval War College program and a graduate certificate program in the history of strategy and policy at Old Dominion University. Upon returning to Canada in 2003, he attended the Canadian Forces Staff College in Toronto where he completed his Master of Defence Studies. In 2013, he completed the National Security Program in Toronto and a Master of Public Administration. In 2018, he completed the Senior Executives in National and International Security program with the Harvard Kennedy School.

Vice-Admiral Baines received the **Meritorious Service Cross (MSC)** for his leadership as Commanding Officer of *HMCS Winnipeg* during *Winnipeg's* counter-piracy mission off the Horn of Africa in 2009. In 2019 he was presented with the Degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) from the University of Manitoba. He was made a **Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)**.

He created a controversy on 02 June 2021 when he and then Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, Lieutenant-General Mike Rouleau played golf with the former Chief of Defence Staff, General Jonathan Vance, who was/is under investigation for Sexual Misconduct while Chief of the Defence Staff. After two weeks of personal time away, the CDS allowed him to return to his position as the Commander of the RCN in late June 2021.