AI Diplomacy for Mid-size Powers.

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THE ORDER IS RUPTURING.

Rule-compliance no longer guarantees safety.

REFRAME

I.

A stack, not a ghost.

AI IS INFRASTRUCTURE.

It runs on land, power, chips, and people.

G	Governance
07	Applications
06	Models
05	Systems software
04	Chips
03	Sites & data centres
02	Electrons
01	Minerals & inputs

MODELS COMPILE IN MONTHS.

Substations do not.

415 TWh

2024

945 TWh

2030 · BASE CASE

II.

POSITION

Too large to follow. Too small to dominate.

EACH POSTURE FAILS.

Pick your weakness.

TOO OPEN Dependent on someone else's stack.	**TOO CLOSED** Suffocate the innovation you protect.
TOO NATIONAL Chase autarky. Lose scale.	**TOO GLOBAL** Ignore coercion and chokepoints.

WALLS AND BRIDGES.

Openness is a variable, not an axiom.

TWO AXES

III. Salience. Chokepoints.

Match instrument to coordinates.

HIGH Δ SALIENCE

LOW Δ SALIENCE

HIGH Δ · MOD X Allied R&D. Shared evals.	HIGH Δ · HIGH X Tight clubs. Targeted constraint.
LOW Δ · LOW X Protect the commons.	VARIABLE Δ · HIGH X Standards statecraft.

LOW CHOKEPOINT

HIGH CHOKEPOINT

FROM SLOGAN TO INSTRUMENT.

Five levers.

01 Aggregate.

02 Constrain.

03 Verify.

04 Diagnose.

05 Protect.

APPLY

IV. Different layers, different coalitions.

One coalition will not solve every layer.

LAYER	LIKELY GEOMETRY
Energy & sites	Provincial · Indigenous · climate-aligned.
Critical minerals	G7 buyers' clubs · allied supply.
Chips & compute	Trusted procurement · export controls.
Cloud & software	Sovereign-control conditions · interoperability.
Models & evaluations	Shared safety regimes · incident reporting.
Standards	Persistent presence in ISO/IEC, OECD, G7.
Research & talent	Secure hubs · trusted mobility.

STRATEGY

V.

Don't out-model the world. Make it runnable.

CANADA'S STAKE.

Eight assets.

01 Energy	02 Minerals	03 Talent	04 Capital
05 Stability	06 Alliances	07 Standards	08 Geography

PROCUREMENT IS DIPLOMACY.

Three verbs.

01

Build.

Where sovereignty is non-negotiable.

02

Partner.

Where scale demands coalition.

03

Buy.

Only with conditions that preserve control.

RESEARCH IS NOW INFRASTRUCTURE.

Universities are part of the stack.

THE SHADOW

VI.

Without guardrails — improvisation.

THE SHADOW VERSION.

Capture wears a sovereignty pin.

A Cloud dependence as sovereignty.	B Subsidies without value capture.
C Standards by incumbents.	D Public infrastructure, private rents.

SAFETY IS NOT A MODEL PROPERTY.

Safety lives in the whole stack.

“The metric is whether Canadian actors have *more options under pressure*”

— OPTIONALITY IS OBSERVABLE

CONVERT ASSETS INTO OPTIONALITY.

Six moves.

01 Map the stack.	02 Verify, don't trust.	03 Standards statecraft.
04 Procurement as diplomacy.	05 Protect the commons.	06 Legitimacy in infrastructure.

THE TEST WE SHOULD RUN.

When the next squeeze comes, do we have more options?

COMPUTE Can we keep training without one supplier?	MODELS Can we run a frontier-class system on Canadian terms?
STANDARDS Are our evals cited in the rules others write?	TALENT Do the best people choose to stay, and return?

IN CLOSING.

Freedom of action, under pressure.

That is the brief. Not autonomy in the abstract — the capacity to act when the room narrows.