Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) is Canada’s defence science and technology agency. A part of the Department of National Defence, DRDC has the objective of providing a knowledge and technology advantage to support defence and security operations at home and abroad. Among a variety of areas of research, DRDC has led a number of research and development activities for Canada’s defence and security interests in space. Examples include previous projects such as Ground Based Optical surveillance of space, NEOSSat, as well various small satellite development activities. Historical involvement in space includes the development of the Alouette 1 spacecraft, launched in 1962. Current space research projects include Space Situational Awareness (SSA), a Space Common Operating Picture (SpaceCOP), as well as Space Mission Assurance (SMA). This presentation will provide an overview of DRDC as well as provide some insight into DRDC’s space research and development activities.

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2016
TIME: 2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Room 422, Petrie Sciences Building
Refreshment will be served at 2:15 p.m.

Patrick Gavigan is an aerospace engineer and defence scientist at Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) in Ottawa. He is part of the Space Systems and Operations Group, under the Space and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Applications Section and is currently assigned to the “Space Mission Assurance” project as a technical specialist. He completed his graduate studies at the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies at the Space Flight Laboratory (UTIAS-SFL) as an NSERC Canada Graduate Scholar. At SFL, Patrick worked on a variety of nanosatellite projects, including the AlISSat-1 ship tracking mission, the BRITE astronomy missions, CanX-4&5 formation flying demonstration mission, and the NEMO-AM environmental sciences mission.