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JULY 2021

## SITE TF BRIEFING TO SECRET CLEARED FEDERAL POLITICAL PARTIES

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**INTRODUCTION TO THE SITE TF**

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The Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Task Force (SITE TF) consists of members from the Communications Security Establishment, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Global Affairs Canada, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. SITE TF was established in 2018 as part of the Government of Canada's efforts to safeguard Canada's democratic processes from foreign interference (FI).

SITE TF defines FI as: "activity conducted or supported by a foreign state/actor that is detrimental to Canadian national interests and is clandestine, deceptive or involves a threat to a person."

**SITE TF Mandate**

- To provide a clear point of engagement with the security and intelligence community for Government partners engaged in related work.
- To review and focus intelligence collection, assessment, and open-source analysis related to foreign interference in Canada's democratic process in a coordinated manner.
- To provide situational awareness for Government partners, senior public servants, and other relevant partners.
- To promote the use of intelligence, assessment, and open-source information analysis in the protection of democratic processes through sharing with partners or, when respective mandates permit, take action to mitigate the threat.

I would like to turn to each of my SITE colleagues to say a word on the roles and responsibilities of their respective agencies bring to the Task Force. I will begin with CSE:

UNCLASSIFIED  
July 2021

## CSE

- Information Technology Security: Providing advice, guidance, and services to help ensure the protection of electronic information and of systems of importance
- Foreign Intelligence: Collection of foreign intelligence for Government of Canada on threat actors
- Supporting CSIS and RCMP: Providing assistance on technical operations\
- Foreign Cyber Operations: Defensive and Active Cyber Operations to mitigate foreign threats

## CSIS

- CSIS investigates threats which may, on reasonable grounds, be suspected of posing a threat to the security of Canada (such as foreign interference) and advises the GoC. We collect intelligence on those threats using a variety of investigative methods. CSIS has the authority, in certain circumstances, to take reasonable and proportionate measures to reduce the threats we detect. However, CSIS is not a law enforcement agency like a police force or the RCMP. We have no authority to arrest or detain people.
- Since CSIS' inception, the Service has been mandated to investigate foreign influenced activities, espionage and sabotage threat activities within or relating to Canada.
- During an electoral period, as a core member of SITE TF, CSIS collects information about foreign interference and provides advice, intelligence reporting and assessments to the GoC about these activities, as well as other hostile state activities.
- At CSIS, accountability is at the centre of everything we do. The National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA) reviews all our activities. We are subject to judicial oversight. For example, a warrant from the Federal Court is required for any intrusive investigative measure we use. We are also subject to annual review from the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP) on foreign interference. (

## GAC (G7 Rapid Response Mechanism)

- Open source research and data analysis on foreign state sponsored disinformation.
- Coordination with G7 and other international partners to identify and respond to diverse and evolving threats to democracy

## RCMP (National Security)

- The primary responsibility for preventing, detecting, denying and responding to national security-related criminal threats in Canada.

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July 2021

- Investigates criminal offenses arising from terrorism, espionage, cyber attacks, and foreign influenced activities.
- The key investigatory body for Elections Canada if criminal activity is suspected.

**What can be done with the information you hear/receive today:**

This classified information is intended to:

- Improve your awareness of the current threat environment
- Provide context to the unclassified guidance being given to you (the 'why')
- Help you to recognize potential risks areas
- Inform your decision-making in your current roles or official capacity
- Assist in opening a 2-way dialogue with the S&I community (i.e. provide indicators as to when members might want to engage for advice and guidance).