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UNCLASSIFIED**INTELLIGENCE PRIORITIES – MINISTERIAL DIRECTION**Ministerial Direction Background

- Ministerial Directives serve to ensure responsible Ministers provide clear direction to the intelligence production organizations under their portfolio.
  - They refine and scope the applicability of the Intelligence Priorities (IP) to each individual intelligence producer.
  - This serves to ensure these organizations can more efficiently focus their resources on implementing and planning internal business and campaign plans accordingly.
- s. 39 - Cabinet Confidence [redacted] the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, National Defence, and Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness are to issue directives regarding implementation of the priorities to the following organization, respective of their portfolios: Canada Border Security Agency, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Communications Security Establishment, Department of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces, Global Affairs Canada, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- The intelligence priority Ministerial Directions inform the development of organization specific intelligence production plans.
  - Organizational intelligence production plans integrate additional considerations, namely: applicable law, mandates, resource availability, accesses and sources, and availability of intelligence support from international partners.

2021-2023 Ministerial Direction Process

- Unlike previous years, where agencies were responsible for drafting their own MDs on the implementation of the IPs, PCO developed standard templates for agencies to use.
  - This was undertaken in response to recommendations from the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians' *2018 Annual Report*, which called for greater consistency within the organizations' respective MDs and leadership from PCO.
  - The use of a standard template assists in ensuring alignment across the community and aid in accountability and governance for the IPs.
- As required by law, a copy of CSIS's MD will be provided to the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency.
  - A copy of the RCMP's MD will also be provided to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission of the RCMP.
- Since the issuance of these MDs are being undertaken during a writ period, PCO consulted internally with Machinery of Government officials regarding the applicability of the Caretaker Convention with respect to the IPs MDs.
  - From PCO's perspective, the MDs may be issued under the Caretaker Convention as it is a routine/cyclical requirement, is not public facing, is in the public interest (protecting the safety and security of Canada) and is reversible if so desired.

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Next Steps

- Should Minister's approve the MDs, letters will be sent to relevant Deputy Minister's and review bodies (as applicable) to articulate their expectations with regards to implementation of the priorities.
- The security and intelligence community continues to develop the Standing Intelligence Requirements (SIRs).
  - SIRs, which Cabinet does not review, outline specific issues or entities of interest related to the intelligence priorities, and assist in providing detailed areas of focus for the production community.