

For Public Release

SECRET// CANADIAN EYES ONLY

JUNE 2023

SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE THREATS TO ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- The Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Task Force (SITE TF) was established in 2018 as part of the Government of Canada's plan to safeguard Canada's 2019 federal election from foreign interference (FI). As noted in the 16 May 2023 announcement, the SITE TF will focus on enhanced monitoring and assessing of foreign interference threats with respect to the by-elections. However, if SITE member agencies observe other threats to the by-elections (e.g. threats of violence), they will include this in their reporting.

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.*" In the context of Canadian electoral processes, the objective of FI is to affect electoral outcomes and/or undermine public confidence in Canadian democratic institutions.

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 review and focus intelligence collection, assessment, and open-source analysis related to terrorism threats affecting 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 electoral processes through sharing with partners or, when respective mandates permit, take action to mitigate the threat¹.

Membership

Operational Level Forum

- Canadian Security Intelligence Service
- Communications Security Establishment

¹ SITE TF will not act as an approval authority for individual members seeking to use an existing authority; however, it is expected that members will bring pending mitigation actions to the SITE TF for awareness, discussion, and deconfliction (if and when necessary).

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- Global Affairs Canada
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Observer Level

- Privy Council Office

Senior Level Forum

- Deputy Director of Operations of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service
- Deputy Chief SIGINT of the Communications Security Establishment
- Assistant Deputy Minister International Security of Global Affairs Canada
- Executive Director, Federal Policing Intelligence and International Policing, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Assistant Secretary to Cabinet, Privy Council Office, Security & Intelligence

The SITE TF Chair will rotate on an annual basis, according to the availability of TF members to fulfil the role.

Members may appoint delegates and additional executive participants within their agency/department as appropriate. Where appropriate, additional Government partners will be invited to participate.

Non-member departments with close-working relationships with SITE TF member departments may be granted observer level status. In order to maintain operational and analytical independence, observer level participants will be invited to SITE TF meetings on an ad hoc basis for situational awareness purposes, and will be asked to leave SITE TF meetings, based on the nature of the operational discussions and/or as determined by the SITE TF Chair.

The SITE TF Chair will have regular meetings with PCO during an election period to ensure communication and engagement between SITE and PCO.

Principles of Engagement

- **Collaboration:** SITE TF members support an open and collaborative environment – this is essential to SITE TF success.
- **Respect:** The multi-disciplinary approach of SITE TF is a strength, but can also result in differences in opinions and views. SITE TF members support differing views and will resolve differences in a respectful manner, with a view to ensuring the best possible outcome for the Government of Canada and Canadians.
- **Default to Share:** Recognizing that some intelligence sources are highly sensitive, SITE TF members will endeavour to share relevant intelligence at the lowest possible classification in order to ensure a consistent awareness of the threat picture.

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