

For Public Release

UNCLASSIFIEDMEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

c.c.: Janice Charette

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL
GOVERNANCE INNOVATION**

(Signature Required)

SUMMARY

- In March 2022, you received a copy of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)'s Special Report: *Reimagining a Canadian National Security Strategy*, as well as a letter from Mr. Aaron Shull and Mr. Wesley Wark (**Tab B**).
- CIGI's Special Report is a culmination of its project to generate new thinking on Canada's national security. This project involved over 250 experts from government, industry, academia and civil society, including senior Government of Canada officials.
- The report reflects on changes in the threat environment, including those posed by climate change, technological change, economic insecurity, pandemics and geopolitical disruption. CIGI proposes a new definition of national security and makes a series of recommendations that CIGI believes would ensure that Canada is positioned to respond to this changing landscape.
- PCO S&I assesses that a number of CIGI's recommendations are worthy of further exploration, especially since they have now been echoed in a May 2022 University of Ottawa report penned by leading national security practitioners, including former NSIAs, Directors of CSIS and Deputy Ministers of National Defence and Foreign Affairs.
- Your response to CIGI will signal the Government's commitment to protecting Canada's national security as well as the importance of public dialogue on these important issues.
- It is recommended that you sign the attached response letter to Mr. Shull and Mr. Wark (**Tab A**).

For Public Release

[APG]

UNCLASSIFIED

Background

- In March 2022, you received a copy of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)'s Special Report: *Reimagining a Canadian National Security Strategy*. The report was accompanied by a letter from the Managing Director, Mr. Aaron Shull, and Mr. Wesley Wark, a CIGI Senior Fellow (**Tab B**).
- CIGI's Special Report is a culmination of its project to generate new thinking on Canada's national security. This project involved over 250 experts from government, industry, academia and civil society, including senior Government of Canada officials.
- This report analyzes Canada's national security outlook and proposes a series of recommendations for a renewed national security strategy for Canada that incorporates, among other things, threats from climate change, technological change, economic insecurity, pandemics, and geopolitical disruption.
- At the core of the report is a proposed new definition of national security: "*National security aims to protect Canada and its people from major threats that would undermine our democratic institutions and processes, our economy, our social fabric and values, and our interests*". The authors note that the definition is not bound by geography and links national security to national interest.
- Additional recommendations include undertaking a review of Canada's national security capabilities and legislation, establishing a Cabinet committee on national security chaired by yourself, as well as creating a National Security Council to integrate and inform senior decision-making. Furthermore, CIGI also recommends establishing in legislation a coordination role for the National Security and Intelligence Advisor to the Prime Minister.
- For your additional information, in May 2022, the University of Ottawa (UofO) released the report "*A National Security Strategy for the 2020s*". The report was prepared by UofO's Task Force on National Security made up of a number of Canadian national security experts including former National Security and Intelligence Advisors, former Directors of CSIS, former Deputy Ministers for National Defence and Foreign Affairs, and former Canadian diplomats.

For Public Release

[APG]

UNCLASSIFIED

- Recommendations contained in the UofO report echo those from CIGI in a variety of areas. For example, the UofO Task Force recommends:
 - developing an updated national security strategy to meet the challenges of today's threat environment and geopolitical realities;
 - strengthening national security legislation, authorities, capabilities and information sharing;
 - enhancing national security governance through establishing a Cabinet-level national security body chaired by you and enhancing the role of the NSIA; and,
 - increasing transparency and engagement on national security with all sections of Canadian society.

PCO Comment

- CIGI, based in Waterloo, ON, is an independent, non-partisan think tank whose peer-reviewed research and analysis seek to influence policy makers to innovate. Mr. Wark is a widely known and respected academic in the field of national security. He served two terms on the Prime Minister of Canada's Advisory Council on National Security. He has appeared on numerous occasions before parliamentary committees and comments regularly for the media on national security issues.
- CIGI's analysis and recommendations reflect ongoing discussions in the broader Canadian security and intelligence community and raise similar issues. For example, CIGI recommends updating the *Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) Act* – a change which CSIS itself is advocating. In addition, CIGI emphasizes the need for greater intelligence sharing, which is something you also stressed in your mandate letters to the Ministers of Public Safety and Justice.
- PCO assesses that a number of CIGI's recommendations merit additional consideration, especially in light of the fact that they have been echoed in the UofO report by leading Canadian national security practitioners and experts, such as former NSIA and Deputy Minister of National Defence Margaret Bloodworth, and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Morris Rosenberg. While some of these recommendations, such as the establishment of a Cabinet-level national security body chaired by you, would have larger machinery implications, their appearance in two separate, independent reports suggests there is a certain consensus among a number of national security experts that such changes would be beneficial to Canada.

For Public Release

[APG]

UNCLASSIFIED

- Some of CIGI's and the UofO Task Force's recommendations are already reflected in the current legislative and policy work happening across the security and intelligence community. For example, PCO is collaborating with several agencies and departments to look at possibilities to modernize the authorities of Canada's national security agencies. At times, various Ministers have raised the need to modernize authorities during Safety, Security and Emergencies Cabinet Committee discussions.
- Comprehensive reviews of national security legislation are in line with both groups' recommendations to strengthen national security legislation and authorities. For example, as part of the upcoming review of Bill C-59, the security and intelligence community will be examining ways to improve provisions of the *CSIS Act*, *CSE Act* and the *Secure Air Travel Act*, among others. In the area of governance and transparency, the C-59 review will also look to improve the *NSIRA Act*, the *Intelligence Commissioner Act*, as well as the *Avoiding Complicity in Mistreatment by Foreign Entities Act*. In a further example, the upcoming Hostile Activities by State Actors (HASA) Memorandum to Cabinet will seek to address modern threats emanating from states hostile to Canada and its interests.

Recommendation

- PCO S&I has drafted a response letter to CIGI for your signature. Your response will signal the Government's commitment to protecting Canada's national security as well as the importance of public dialogue on these important issues. It is recommended that you sign the attached response letter to Mr. Shull and Mr. Wark (**Tab A**).

Jody Thomas

Attachments

10551942/[] MacDonald, []