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Deputy Minister Committee for Intelligence Response (DMCIR)

Terms of Reference

Mandate:

DMCIR will identify and discuss relevant, actionable intelligence reports (raw and assessed), and decide how to best respond with coordinated operational, enforcement, or policy action. It will also be a forum to triage the specific intelligence that should be briefed to Cabinet and the Prime Minister.

Process and Governance:

When a Deputy Head—either a core DMCIR member or a DM from another department—identifies actionable intelligence necessitating an urgent interdepartmental response, the Deputy notifies the NSIA's office and PCO-IAS, to recommend the report is added to that week's DMCIR agenda for discussion.

DMCIR will discuss actionable intelligence reports of concern, and strategic assessments on trends and threats that require a coordinated response in the near term. The committee will triage reporting, recommend if/when intelligence needs to be brought to Cabinet or the Prime Minister's attention, and coordinate the best Public Service advice.

The report(s) will be presented by the originating department or agency's Deputy Head, who will provide a short verbal briefing on the context and implications, and be prepared to speak to member's comments and questions.

Each meeting will begin with a review of the follow-up items from the previous week. Progress updates on actions underway will be expected from implicated departments.

PCO-IAS will act as Secretariat to DMCIR. This will include providing a note-taker, maintaining a tracking sheet of status updates on the implementation of DMIFC direction, and coordinating the provision of foreign and domestic reporting and assessments to the Committee.

DMCIR will set and review forward agendas for strategic intelligence assessments to ensure that they are sequenced to support current government policy deliberations and operational decisions. It will also provide strategic context for Ministers and allow them to refine intelligence priorities and direct further action as required.

DMCIR will begin by focusing only on Foreign Interference issues, but may choose to broaden its scope to include other appropriate issues.

Membership:

The NSIA will Chair DMCIR. Additional membership will include Deputy Ministers from CSE, CSIS, GAC, PS, RCMP, PCO-EPCRS, PCO-FDPA, and PCO-DSG. Other Deputies may be included depending on the issue being discussed. For individuals not required, attendance is optional. PCO Assistant Secretaries for IAS, S&I, and FITF are also members of this committee. The Assistant Secretary to Cabinet for IAS will be the Secretary to the Committee. Attendance is in-person.

Tempo:

DMCIR will meet weekly, tentatively scheduled right before DMOC (1400-1500 on Thursday).