

For Public Release

Summary of Federal Government Efforts and Departments Involved in Online Disinformation

Department of Canadian Heritage - Digital Citizen Initiative (DCI)

- The Digital Citizen Initiative focuses on promoting digital literacy, critical thinking, and media literacy skills among Canadians. It provides educational resources, conducts awareness campaigns, and supports research projects to enhance citizens' ability to identify and counter disinformation.

Privy Council Office – Democratic Institutions (PCO-DI)

- PCO-DI leads an integrated response to protect Canada's democratic institutions, including the federal electoral process; coordinates policy development across different government departments and agencies; and, ensures a whole-of-society approach to addressing foreign interference in democratic processes and disinformation. It facilitates interdepartmental collaboration and information sharing and helps to align strategies, research, and action among relevant stakeholders.
- PCO-DI also works to help refocus research and analysis to better understand the impacts of disinformation and to engage with experts and civil society in order to inform the development of policies.

Privy Council Office – Communications (PCO-Comms)

- PCO's Ministerial Communications team supports the work of the Minister responsible for Democratic Institutions through the delivery of strategic communications advice and recommendations; communications product development including communications strategies, news releases, media lines, and more; and coordination with other government departments.
- In the event of significant disinformation campaigns or incidents, PCO-Comms supports crisis response efforts by coordinating communication strategies and ensuring consistent messaging across government departments. It works closely with relevant departments and agencies to develop effective response plans and manage public communication during disinformation emergencies.
- PCO's Digital Communications Coordination Unit (DCCU) coordinates the digital communications channels across the Government of Canada and provides direction and advice to departmental communications teams regarding communications approaches to mis- and disinformation.

Global Affairs Canada (GAC):

- GAC houses Canada's permanent secretariat to the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). In this capacity, GAC monitors the digital information environment for foreign state-sponsored disinformation, including during general elections. It also supports Canada's international engagement on foreign state sponsored disinformation.
- GAC's Centre for International Digital Policy is also leading work on developing a Global Declaration for Information Integrity Online that would espouse agreed-upon principles to safeguard the integrity of the online information ecosystem.

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Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (PSEP)

- The PSEP, through its National Cyber Security Strategy, works to enhance cybersecurity across the country. It collaborates with other federal departments, provincial and territorial governments, and international partners to identify and respond to foreign interference and disinformation campaigns targeting critical infrastructure and public safety.

Elections Canada

- Elections Canada takes measures to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process. It monitors and investigates potential instances of online disinformation during election periods, educates voters about disinformation risks, and promotes transparency in political advertising.

Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCCS)

- The CCCS, housed within the Communications Security Establishment (CSE), collaborates with various government agencies, the private sector, and international partners to monitor and analyze disinformation campaigns, share threat intelligence, and provide guidance to protect critical infrastructure. CSE recently launched a public awareness series on how to identify misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation.