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## CONFERENCE DOCUMENT

# FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL DEPUTY MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MAY 23-24, 2024 - REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

# FPT COLLABORATION TO INCREASE AWARENESS ON FOREIGN INTERFERENCE THREATS TO CANADA

# SPONSORING JURISDICTION(S):

Canada

## ISSUE / DECISION REQUEST:

Public Safety Canada to provide an update to Deputies on federal, provincial, and territorial collaborative efforts to address the threat of foreign interference in Canada, specifically efforts underway to enhance situational threat awareness across provincial and territorial legislatures and political parties.

Deputies will also be asked to consider how jurisdictions can further work together to strengthen collective efforts and build resiliency against foreign interference.

## BACKGROUND:

Foreign interference is a serious threat that undermines Canada's national interests, economic prosperity and values. It also affects the safety of Canadians, and their ability to exercise their fundamental democratic rights and freedoms. These threats are present across all of Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions. Addressing these challenges requires a collective and coordinated response.

The topic of foreign interference has been discussed multiple times over the past year at the Ministerial and Deputy Minister tables. Public Safety Canada and Justice Canada have met with most jurisdictions to consult on the need for a Foreign Agent Transparency Registry and potential FI-related legislation amendments. All jurisdictions are aware that elected and public officials are particularly valued targets for foreign interference threat actors; and education and threat awareness are important tools in building resilience against foreign interference.

Building on our work to-date, including the recent national security consultations and engagement efforts through Public Safety Canada's Office of the National Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator, jurisdictions are committed to working on engagement plans to deliver threat briefings to elected and public officials.

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## CONSIDERATION / OPTIONS:

Public Safety Canada, in partnership with other Federal departments, has undertaken an effort to brief all federal Members of Parliament on the threats of foreign interference. These materials are being adapted and tailored in collaboration with respective jurisdictions to meet their needs.

However, general threat briefings are not exhaustive, and partners should continue their efforts to develop options to further collaborate on national security matters, particularly foreign interference.

#### NEXT STEPS:

Public Safety Canada will continue to work with jurisdictions to provide general threat briefings and develop options to advance collaboration in the future.

FPT partners will work together to develop a draft national security workplan for the coming year to be reviewed at the next Deputy Ministers' meeting.

# DESIRED OUTCOME - (This text would be used in the Decision Summary).

Deputy Ministers discussed foreign interference threats and instructed officials to explore further opportunities for collaboration on national security issues, with a particular focus on foreign interference and reiterated their desire to work more closely in this space. As a first step, Deputies expressed their desire to review a draft FPT national security workplan framework at their next meeting.

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