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Canadian Security Service canadien du
Intelligence Service renseignement de sécurité

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SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE THREATS TO ELECTIONS (SITE) TASK FORCE
Date: Wednesday, March 5th, 2024
Time: 15:00 to 16:30 (EST)
Location: In-Person [ ] (CSIS NHQ)

Meeting Chair: [ ]

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Name		Attended	Regrets	Method of Participation
	PCO DI	X		Virtual
	PCO S&I	X		Virtual
	GAC RRM	X		In person
	CSE	X		In person
	CSE	X		In person
	CSE	X		In person
	CSIS	X		In person
	RCMP FPNS		X	
Greg O'Hayon, RCMP FPNS		X		In person
	CSIS CFITT and SITE Chair	X		In person
	CSIS CFITT		X	In person

Guest Speakers: [ ] Senior Analyst, Elections Canada
Invitee: [ ], ITAC

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Welcome & Housekeeping**
   The Chair called the meeting to order and roundtable introductions were made.

2. **SITE Meeting Minutes, December 13th**
   Minutes were approved for SITE Meeting, January 24th.

3. **Durham by-election**

   The group shared observations further to the Durham by-elections on 2024 04 04. In the context of SITE TF monitoring of the by-election, as of 2024 03 05, the SITE TF had not

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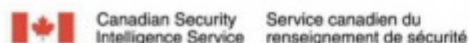
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observed any indication of foreign interference, cyber incidents or violence directed at the by-election. The SITE TF deemed appropriate to extend monitoring a week past the by-election.

Elections Canada representative, [   ], commented that EC successfully tested out electronic voting lists during the vote. No security incidents have been reported.

The group also discussed lessons learned out of an Election Canada (EC) led Table Top Exercise that took place on the date of the by-election at the RCMP HQ in Barrhaven. The goal of the TTX was to strengthen efficient intelligence communication in preparation for general federal elections. All SITE TF members attended the TTX, with EC, OCCE and several representatives from the law enforcement community. SITE participants agreed on the value of this efforts that permitted to better define roles and responsibilities, as well as to discuss respective tools. EC will follow up with a complete report on this initiative, to be shared with the SITE TF.

4. Tech Table

The reestablishment of the 'Tech Table', a group of technical experts from CSE, GAC, CSIS and potentially the RCMP, established to track and assess online FI threat activity and regularly meeting was discussed in the presence of SMEs who have been involved in this effort over the last federal elections. The group agreed on the value of this effort, especially in the context of the technological advancements in generative-AI, expected to enhance foreign electoral interference efforts which aim to control narratives, shape public opinion, and/or discredit factual information. The example of the recent Spamouflage Campain provides an example of threat activity reported back to the SITE TF for further analysis. This initiative may be pursued under the banner of a *'SITE Incident Response Group' (SIRG)*, as opposed to the 'Tech Table'. It was mentioned that a scenario based meeting with additional SMEs participants would permit to discuss authorities, skills and resources.
- **Action item (SITE Chair):** this meeting will be organized after Easter with a larger group of SMEs from SITE agencies.

5. Review of ESCC Material

SITE Chair provided observations on the 'SITE 2024 By-Elections Framework' document. These observations were shared with PCO. It was further mentioned that this document would benefit to be made general, as opposed to specific to the Durham by-election. No further comments were shared.

6. Threat Updates / Roundtable

GAC RRM:

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- Offered to the SITE TF members to attend a virtual meeting on March 11th on 2023 elections in Slovakia.

PCO DI
- Commented on the UK led initiative on a *Coalition for Electoral Security*. PCO is on listening mode and assessing potential opportunities. The SITE TF will be kept informed on developments.

ITAC:
- Further to discussion with SITE Chair over the last few weeks, offered a presentation to the SITE TF on threat levels.
- **Action item (SITE Chair)**: plan accordingly.

7. **Review of Action Log Items**

Committee Action Item	Deployment Leader	Status/Next Steps
Development of threat level capability		ITAC presentation
Development of a 'SITE Incident Response Group' (SIRG)		SME meeting

9. **Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 10th from 10:30-12:00

- *Prepared by* ____ *-March 11, 2024*