

For Public Release

# CSIS Response to Public Safety Request

for information



**SECRET//CANADIAN EYES ONLY**

**Public Safety questions related to**

**1. What more do we know about the**  **groupchat?**

WeChat is a Chinese-language social media platform that is widely used by the broader diaspora to maintain links back to family in China and to consume Chinese-language media and news. The platform is heavily censored by the PRC and features a high volume of pro-PRC propaganda.

**2. How easy is it to join Wechat groups? Are they private? Are new members carefully vetted by administrators?**

WeChat groups operate similarly to other social media, and access to specific groupchats depends on the privacy restrictions set by creator or administrator(s). Those with personal WeChat accounts can openly join most public WeChat accounts, also known as WeChat subscription accounts, but closed or non-public groups require an invite from an existing member or approval from the administrator(s). There are no public 'groupchats' on WeChat; all groupchats are private and have a hard cap of 500 members per group.

**3.**



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4. **Why are the names of Canadians and Canadian entities sometimes hidden [redacted], and sometimes not? What is the rule?**

CSIS seeks to maintain source security while still providing important intelligence reporting to key clients that is relevant, timely, and informative.

[redacted] CSIS implemented measures to minimize Canadian names and entities *for several months*

In order to ensure the ongoing value of *its reporting* to clients, [redacted] CSIS has reversed its decision to minimize Canadian names/entities/etc. [redacted]

[redacted] **However, there may be instances where minimization is still required, and these reports are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.**

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