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Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference
in Federal Electoral Processes and
Democratic Institutions

Enquête publique sur l'ingérence étrangère
dans les processus électoraux et les
institutions démocratiques fédérales

Addendum to *In Camera* Examination Summary: Minister Dominic LeBlanc

Minister Dominic LeBlanc was examined by Commission Counsel during in camera hearings held between February 28 and March 6 2024. The following addendum contains information provided by the witness that is relevant to stage 2 of the Commission's inquiry and that, in the opinion of the Commissioner, would not be injurious to the critical interests of Canada or its allies, national defence or national security.

Notes to Reader:

- Commission Counsel have provided explanatory notes in square brackets to assist the reader.

1. Examination by Commission Counsel

1.1 Flow of intelligence related to Michael Chong

- [1] [Earlier in his testimony, Minister LeBlanc explained that, as Minister of Democratic Institutions, he was not a consumer of detailed intelligence, but instead received intelligence of a general nature about the evolving threat landscape and the measures that would be appropriate to detect, disrupt and counter such threats. Minister LeBlanc confirmed that he had not been briefed on specific incidents or allegations of Foreign Interference during the 2019 or 2021 elections, and only received such information after the leaks in the media in the Winter and Spring of 2023.]
- [2] In response to a question from Commission counsel as to whether he received intelligence relating to PRC targeting of Michael Chong, Minister LeBlanc testified that he similarly was not aware of any intelligence relating to Mr. Chong before the allegations appeared in the media leaks.

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- [3] When asked about handwritten notes of a PMO official regarding a question he asked during a meeting he attended relating to allegations of FI conducted by the PRC following the leaks, Minister LeBlanc recalled asking about the type of “research” that was allegedly being conducted on Mr. Chong, as this had been the term used by one of the CSIS officials who presented. Minister LeBlanc testified that this term can have multiple meanings with different significance and wanted to know whether the term was a euphemism for some clandestine activity or referred to, for example, someone using Google to conduct open-source research. He recalled that CSIS’ explanation did not correspond to the public discussion of threats to Mr. Chong and that there was some distance between what he understood was research and what Mr. Chong and others were asserting publicly were threats.