



## Interview Summary: Stéphane Perrault

Commission counsel met with the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Stéphane Perrault, on March 14, 2024 at the offices of Elections Canada in a secure environment. This meeting was a follow-up to an unclassified interview conducted with Mr. Perrault in recent weeks. This is the public version of the classified interview summary.

### Notes to reader

- Commission Counsel have provided explanatory notes in square brackets to assist the reader.
- This summary contains information that relates to the Commission's mandate under clauses (a)(i)(A) and (B) of its Terms of Reference. Information provided during the interviews that relates to other aspects of the Commission's Terms of Reference has been omitted from this summary, but may be adduced by the Commission at a later stage of its proceedings. This summary also omits information covered by privilege or that is otherwise inadmissible pursuant to the Commission's terms of reference.
- This summary has been prepared pursuant to subclause (a)(iii)(C)(II) of the Commission's Terms of Reference. It discloses the evidence pertinent to clauses (a)(i)(A) and (B) of the Commissions Terms of Reference 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.

[1] Mr. Perrault explained that, during the 2019 federal election, he discussed with the **Canadian Security Intelligence Service ("CSIS")** allegations of irregularities related to voting in the nomination contest in the riding of Don Valley North, Ontario.

[2] At that point, Mr. Perrault determined that no action could be taken. On the one hand, Mr. Perrault noted that participation in a nomination contest is not regulated in the same way as an election. In any event, the matter would have to be examined during the audit

of the nomination contest report, which had not yet been produced at the time of the election. On the other hand, Mr. Perrault pointed out that no complaints had been lodged by other participants in the nomination contest.

- [3] Mr. Perrault indicated that following the election, a nomination contest report audit was conducted in compliance with the usual process. The file was referred to the **Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections ("OCCE")** for other reasons that may be unrelated to this allegation, such as accuracy, completeness or failure to meet filing deadlines.
- [4] At the end of the meeting, Mr. Perrault drew attention to a portion of Elections Canada's institutional report. On page 36 of the French version [page 32 of the English version] of this report, it reads:

As the CEO told PROC members during their study into Foreign Election Interference, while he did receive briefings on the level of risk before the 43rd and 44th GEs, he did not receive any information about specific actions related to foreign interference that may have taken place during those elections. [emphasis added]

- [5] Mr. Perrault noted the limited scope of this statement. Given the public character of the appearance and the nature of the allegations, the choice of words was important. Mr. Perrault also indicated that, in the interest of transparency, he had wanted to share with the Commission the allegations of foreign interference in the riding of Don Valley North.