



## 4th NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

1. The Foreign Interference Commission tabled its initial report on May 3 after examining foreign interference in the 2019 and 2021 general elections and the flow of information respecting it within the government. In essence, and subject to what the Commission may learn in its coming work, the Commission concluded that acts of foreign interference were committed in the last two federal general elections. These acts of interference had no impact on which party formed the government but may have impacted the results of nomination contests or the election in a handful of ridings, affecting the identity of the persons who have been elected to Parliament or of the political parties that won a seat. The Commission further concluded that foreign interference had tainted the process leading up to the vote and undermined public confidence in Canadian democratic processes.<sup>1</sup>

2. Since the filing of its initial report, the Commission has been actively pursuing its work, and has begun to examine and assess the capacity of federal departments, agencies, institutional structures, and governance processes to permit the Canadian government to detect, prevent and counter any form of foreign interference aimed directly or indirectly at Canada's democratic processes (Clause C of its terms of reference). This review will first enable the Commission to draw factual conclusions, and to formulate

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<sup>1</sup> Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions, *Initial Report* (May 2023).

recommendations for strengthening existing measures and, if necessary, deploying new ones.

3. On March 22, 2024, the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP) presented a classified special report to the Prime Minister on foreign interference in Canada's democratic processes and institutions. This report was made public on June 3, with some of the information contained in the classified report being redacted.

4. Some passages in this NSICOP's special report suggest that Canadian parliamentarians may have wittingly or unwittingly participated in acts of foreign interference. These passages have raised concerns and provoked heated exchanges among parliamentarians and in the media.

5. It was against this backdrop that, on June 11, the Bloc Québécois tabled a motion in the House of Commons calling for the Commission's mandate to be expanded to address some of the findings of the special report. This motion was supported by a majority of the political parties. In its final form, it reads as follows:

"That the House

- a) take note of the Special Report on Foreign Interference in Canada's Democratic Processes and Institutions of the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians;
- b) express concern that certain elected officials may be wittingly or unwittingly working in the interests of foreign powers; and
- c) request the terms of reference of the foreign interference commission (the Hogue Commission) to be expanded to allow it to investigate Canada's federal democratic institutions, including members of the House of Commons elected in the 43rd and 44th Parliaments, as well as Senators."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> House of Commons, *Journals*, No. 329 (Unrevised), Tuesday June 11, 2024, pp. 4150-4152.

6. The Commission takes note of the government's decision to resort to the process of an independent commission of inquiry to shed light on the facts and events discussed in the NSICOP report that refer to the role that certain parliamentarians may have played, wittingly or unwittingly, in foreign interference activities. The Commission will conduct this examination as part of its ongoing work under Clause C of its current terms of reference. It should be noted that the Commission has access to all of the documents reviewed by the NSICOP and on which it based its conclusions. The Commission also has access to the documents consulted by the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency, which also recently examined the production and dissemination of intelligence on foreign interference in the last two Canadian federal elections within the government of Canada.

7. The Commission will examine these issues within the framework it has already established for executing its mandate, and in accordance with the rules and principles applicable to any independent commission of inquiry. These rules and principles include the obligation to respect the principles of procedural fairness and the fundamental rights of any person affected by its work, in compliance with the rule of law.

8. The Commission will make every effort to complete its work within the December 31, 2024 deadline already set for the production of its final report. The Commission understands that this deadline has been set to allow the government to put in place any measures that may be appropriate to protect the integrity of elections before the next federal general election, which must be held no later than October 20, 2025.

9. The Commission will shortly publish a public notice dealing specifically with the procedures of its upcoming work, including those surrounding the public hearings scheduled for next fall.

10. In the meantime, the Commission is continuing its public consultation campaign, launched on May 22, 2024. We welcome comments from members of the public on their experiences, observations, and ideas on foreign interference in Canada's federal electoral processes and democratic institutions. We are particularly interested in hearing from members of diaspora communities, who may be especially vulnerable to foreign interference. To that end, we are expanding our public consultation program this week by providing information on the Commission, and guidance for making public submissions, in 17 languages in addition to English and French. Relevant information is available on the Commission's website.