



Foreign Interference Commission

Public Consultation Process

Small Group Consultation Meeting Public Summary

In the summer of 2024, Commissioner Marie-Josée Hogue and members of the Foreign Interference Commission's (the "**Commission**") Public Consultation Process ("**PCP**") team met with eight individuals belonging to the Canadian Falun Gong community in a consultation meeting organized with the assistance of the Human Rights Coalition. This is a summary of the information shared at that meeting.

Notes to reader:

- The Commissioner has not and will not be making any findings about the accuracy of the information shared at the consultation meeting or make any findings of fact based on this information.
- The meeting attendees did not make an oath or swear to tell the truth before sharing information at this meeting.
- The meeting attendees were not subjected to cross-examination.
- The meeting attendees have reviewed and approved the contents of this public summary.
- Meeting attendees were given the option of anonymizing themselves for the purposes of the present public summary. Where meeting attendees opted to anonymize themselves, they are designated as "Participant 1", "Participant 2", etc.
- At each of the consultation meetings, the meeting attendees were asked to answer two questions, which are set out below. The meeting attendees were each given a total of 15 minutes to respond to both questions.
- Where necessary, Commission counsel have provided explanatory notes in square brackets and in the footnotes to assist the reader.

Executive Summary

- Certain attendees described the abuse they and their loved ones endured in the People's Republic of China (“**PRC**”) as a result of the Chinese Communist Party's (“**CCP**”) repression campaign against Falun Gong, in the form of arbitrary detention, torture, brainwashing, beatings and, in some events, killing.
- Certain attendees described their experiences of being harassed and monitored by the CCP and its agents in Canada. Some attendees mentioned threats being made against themselves and their loved ones, in Canada and in the PRC. Certain attendees detailed the difficulties faced by Falun Gong practitioners protesting against the PRC and the CCP in Canada. More precisely, attendees mentioned acts of verbal and physical violence directed at the practitioners, their protest materials being destroyed, vandalized or stolen, and protesters being photographed and filmed by unknown individuals.
- Certain attendees stated that Canadian elected officials at all levels of government were under CCP pressure not to publicly support Falun Gong or denounce the repression of Falun Gong practitioners. Some attendees further explained that the CCP had pressured elected officials to restrict Falun Gong practitioners' ability to protest in certain locations in Canada.
- Certain attendees noted that public education was required to counter the CCP's disinformation campaign about Falun Gong, which they said has been successful in affecting the Canadian public's perception of Falun Gong practitioners and Canadian policy responses. They specifically stressed the need to educate Canadian government and elected officials. Some attendees mentioned that media outlets in Canada had amplified these disinformation narratives by parroting the CCP's talking points.
- Certain attendees spoke about the atmosphere of fear and insecurity hanging over Falun Gong practitioners because of the CCP's increasingly overt repressive actions against them. Certain attendees voiced their desire for additional support from the Canadian government and law enforcement agencies. Certain attendees described the stigmatization and isolation faced by practitioners, as well as the psychological

and financial strain created by legal battles and advocacy efforts required to counter the CCP's disinformation narratives.

1. Participants' responses to Question 1

The first question posed to the participants was: *How are you, your loved ones and members of your community impacted by foreign interference in Canada's electoral processes and democratic institutions?*

Participant 1

Participant 1 said that they are a business owner who has been practicing Falun Gong for close to three decades. They explained that their once-peaceful Falun Gong practice was disturbed by the PRC's anti-Falun Gong local campaign that began in 1999, and has since extended overseas.

Participant 1 explained that they have volunteered in documenting the PRC's practices and tactics against Falun Gong. Participant 1 stated that Falun Gong practitioners in Toronto have established multiple "truth-telling" sites ("**Sites**") in high-traffic areas that are manned on a continual basis by volunteers, and which seek to expose the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong practitioners and help the Canadian public to understand the truth about the issue. Participant 1 said that the PRC and its proxies continue to use all means possible to spread misinformation about Falun Gong and to smear and isolate Falun Gong practitioners.

Participant 1 stated that the CCP controls all the local Chinese-language media outlets in Canada. Participant 1 recounted an incident when, in 2002, for the 10th anniversary of Falun Gong, their request to place an advertisement in a local Chinese-language newspaper was denied. Participant 1 said that they later received confirmation from the newspapers' staff that they could not publish a Falun Gong advertisement. Participant 1 stated that it has been publicly reported that this newspaper, and others, are controlled by Chinese consular officials and the CCP.

Participant 1 said that PRC agents have surveilled and taken photographs of Falun Gong practitioners, which Participant 1 said conveys the threat that the CCP is watching them. Participant 1 further mentioned that some Falun Gong practitioners have been followed when returning home, and that threats have been made to their loved ones in the PRC. Participant 1 also recounted that an acquaintance in the PRC was told by the Chinese police to tell Participant 1 that the police knew of their every movement in Canada.

Participant 1 said that another tactic employed by the PRC against Falun Gong practitioners is the denial of consular services, including refusing to issue or renew Chinese passports. Participant 1 recounted one incident in which a pensioner who required a certification letter from the Chinese consulate to continue to receive their Chinese state pension was told by consular officials that they needed to renounce their Falun Gong practice to receive the letter. Participant 1 said that this pensioner refused to comply, and their pension was cancelled.

Participant 1 said that in another incident, a Falun Gong practitioner who often protested in front of the Chinese consulate was fired from their job in Canada by their employer who maintained close ties with the CCP. Participant 1 also recounted a similar incident in which a Falun Gong practitioner was fired from their employment at a Chinese cultural and educational institution in Canada once their employer learned that they were associated with Falun Gong.

Participant 1 explained the impact of the CCP's disinformation narratives about Falun Gong on Canadian elected officials, as well as on the Canadian public more generally. More recently, Participant 1 mentioned that a current Member of Parliament ("**MP**") was hosting a public event next to a Falun Gong Site. Participant 1 said that the MP asked the practitioners to leave, citing the sensitivity of their presence during a political rally. In Participant 1's opinion, the MP did not want to be associated with Falun Gong because the CCP would not have been pleased.

Participant 1 gave examples of CCP infiltration of Canadian municipal councils. Participant 1 also stated that the CCP indirectly bribed Chinese nationals, including elected officials and community leaders, through the sponsorship of lavish trips to the

PRC. According to Participant 1, individuals who accept such trips and gifts become CCP puppets.

Participant 2

Participant 2 stated that they were twice taken to brainwashing camps in the PRC as part of the CCP's campaign against Falun Gong practitioners. Participant 2 said that they came to Canada in 2014, after years of being unable to obtain a Chinese passport. Participant 2 stated that in the years prior to coming to Canada, their activities and communications were monitored by the CCP, which impeded their ability to communicate freely with loved ones who had already immigrated to Canada.

Participant 2 explained that they have manned the Falun Gong's Sites and participated in peaceful protests since their arrival in Canada to expose the CCP's disinformation about Falun Gong. Participant 2 mentioned that the CCP and its proxies had attempted to destroy the Falun Gong's Sites, including by painting over, cutting down and destroying protest banners. Participant 2 showed pictures of the destroyed banners during the consultation meeting. Participant 2 stated that their ability to protest in front of certain Sites had been restricted in recent years. Participant 2 said that a storage unit used by Falun Gong practitioners to store materials used during their peaceful protests, such as flyers, banners, and posters, had been vandalized on numerous occasions, increasing financial pressure on practitioners.

Participant 2 said that Falun Gong practitioners manning the Sites would often be photographed and videotaped by various individuals. Participant 2 explained that some of these individuals would be seen photographing and filming at many of the Sites. According to Participant 2, in recent years, there has been an increase in physical attacks on Falun Gong practitioners manning the Sites. Participant 2 described two examples in which elderly practitioners were attacked by suspected CCP proxies when distributing flyers in Toronto, leading to requests for police intervention.

Participant 2 provided further examples of the harassment faced by Falun Gong practitioners protesting in public. In a first case, Participant 2 said that a young practitioner

was accosted by a stranger who told them that they knew their loved ones in the PRC. According to Participant 2, a few days after this encounter, the practitioner's loved ones in the PRC were told by the Chinese secret police to tell the practitioner to sever their ties with Falun Gong. Participant 2 gave another example in which a practitioner's father had their assets seized by the Chinese police.

Participant 2 detailed the impacts of the CCP's targeting of Falun Gong practitioners, including their family, personal, and business relationships. Participant 2 stated that they could not return to the PRC to visit ailing relatives because Falun Gong practitioners are blacklisted by the CCP. Participant 2 expressed frustration about the control exercised by the CCP in Canada and the lack of action by the Canadian government, which they said has led Falun Gong practitioners to fear for their safety and security.

Participant 3

Participant 3 discussed the benefits of their Falun Gong practice on their health. Participant 3 explained that they and their life partner were imprisoned for three years in the PRC because of their practice. Participant 3 detailed the mistreatment they faced when imprisoned, including beatings, sleep deprivation, and being forced to take psychiatric drugs. Participant 3 explained that they fled to Canada with hopes of freedom and safety.

Participant 3 said that they were soon subject to constant harassment and monitoring by CCP proxies in Canada. For instance, Participant 3 said that they were photographed every time they went to the Chinese consular offices to protest and display banners.

Participant 3 noted that Falun Gong practitioners manning Sites have been harassed and attacked by individuals acting in a coordinated and organized fashion, including Chinese international students. Participant 3 said that they have seen money being given to individuals who film and photograph Falun Gong practitioners. Participant 3 described practitioners being photographed from close range, banners being destroyed, and individuals verbally threatening practitioners. Participant 3 described a specific incident in which a Chinese man destroyed their banners with a metal stick and was later

apprehended by the police. Participant 3 said that the same individual came back two days later to the Site to take photographs of the practitioners, and threatened to kill them. Participant 3 stated that these incidents create a feeling of helplessness and insecurity amongst Falun Gong practitioners.

Participant 3 recounted a confrontation with a man who took pictures of them from very close range at a Site in September 2022. Participant 3 said that they asked the man why he was taking pictures, and the man responded that he was doing so was because they are a Falun Gong practitioner and grabbed Participant 3's hat. Participant 3 said that they took pictures of the man to report him, but that the man stole Participant 3's cellphone and ran away. Participant 3 said that, in another instance around the same period, a man and a woman on a motorcycle verbally harassed Falun Gong practitioners protesting in front of the Chinese consulate, accusing them of being traitors to the PRC and alleging that they had received money from Falun Gong. In fact, all Falun Gong practitioners are volunteers. Participant 3 also described another incident that they said took place in February 2023 in which a young man driving a car stopped in front of a Falun Gong Site, hurled insults at Participant 3 and threw hot coffee on them.

Participant 3 said that they and their loved ones have been the target of cyberattacks, causing them to delete personal and professional documents on their devices, and causing them many troubles. Participant 3 also described receiving numerous harassing calls originating from the PRC, as well as threatening text messages saying that information about Participant 3 and their whereabouts was well-known. In Participant 3's opinion, the authors of these messages are sponsored by the CCP. Participant 3 noted that they hope to live in a society which would protect them and their fellow Falun Gong practitioners.

[Participant 4](#)

Participant 4 began by describing the physical and psychological benefits of their Falun Gong practice. Participant 4 detailed the persecution they said that they and their family members who were also Falun Gong practitioners had to endure when the CCP's

campaign against Falun Gong began in 1999. Participant 4 said that some of their loved ones had been killed as a result of the CCP's persecution campaign.

Participant 4 said they immigrated to Canada in 2004. Participant 4 stated that ever since coming to Canada, they have experienced harassment and disruption from CCP proxies. Participant 4 said that they started to attend a Site in a park in Niagara Falls shortly after their arrival to Canada. Participant 4 said that the Niagara Falls location was chosen because it is a high-traffic tourist area. Participant 4 explained that, over the years, the Niagara Falls Site became well-frequented, allowing practitioners to distribute educational materials to tourists and conduct guided meditation sessions. Participant 4 noted that Niagara Falls City Hall raised the Falun Dafa flag in 2021 on World Falun Dafa Day in a ceremony attended by the mayor.

Participant 4 said that Falun Gong practitioners travelling to Niagara Falls were often surveilled and photographed by the same grey Sedan. Participant 4 said that a practitioner coming back from the Site was followed home by the grey Sedan once. Participant 4 also recounted an incident which took place in January 2021 in which three young individuals came to the Niagara Falls Site wearing identical t-shirts proclaiming that "Falun Gong is an evil religion". Participant 4 said that these individuals told them that Participant 4 was involved in a cult. Participant 4 said that they calmly responded and the three strangers ran away. Participant 4 believes that these individuals were sent by the CCP to disrupt successful Falun Gong operations.

Participant 4 detailed another incident which they said took place in September 2022. Participant 4 said that a group of individuals gathered around the area where Falun Gong practitioners were and started disrupting their activities. Participant 4 mentioned that one lady was using a loudspeaker to yell abusive smears at the Falun Gong practitioners. According to Participant 4, upon being asked to stop the disruption, the individuals started hitting the practitioners with the signs they were holding. Participant 4 said that police officers had to be called on site to stop the incident and the violence. Participant 4 noted that the same lady was also seen harassing another group of Falun Gong practitioners at

another Site in Toronto. Participant 4 believes that these individuals were sent by the CCP to disrupt successful Falun Gong operations.

Participant 4 said that, beginning in 2021, many false reports were made to local police services by CCP agents and proxies about Falun Gong practitioners. Participant 4 said that these reports were made in an attempt to disrupt their activities. Participant 4 stated that they were grateful for the understanding and positive relationship practitioners have developed with law enforcement.

Participant 4 said Falun Gong practitioners have encountered restrictions in their use of public parks in Niagara Falls where they used to conduct free exercise classes. Participant 4 explained that they now are asked to pay high fees in order to use these spaces, which is not affordable and they have to stop these activities.

Participant 4 expressed hope that the Canadian government and society as a whole would become more aware of the CCP's campaign of persecution targeting Falun Gong members.

Participant 5

Participant 5 said that they are the National Director of Falun Dafa Association of Canada. They referenced a recently released report entitled *Foreign Interference & Repression of Falun Gong in Canada*, and explained that the report exposes the PRC and the CCP's long-standing campaign of foreign interference and transnational repression of Falun Gong in Canada. More precisely, Participant 5 noted that the report presented more than 100 first-hand experiences of Falun Gong practitioners which illustrate the CCP's tactics in conducting its interference, including harassment, assault, infiltration, disinformation, hate propaganda, manipulation, surveillance, and cyberattacks.

Participant 5 explained that one tactic deployed by the CCP is pressuring elected officials and politicians not to support Falun Gong. Participant 5 noted that the CCP used local Chinese proxies to threaten politicians who dared support Falun Gong with potential loss of votes from the Chinese Canadian community. By way of example, Participant 5

mentioned that a British Columbia MP withdrew their support for Falun Gong after being threatened with retaliatory measures, including denial of future visas to the PRC. Participant 5 opined that the CCP's hate-inducing tactics have severely impacted Canadian officials at all three levels of government, and have led some officials to become unwitting proxies of the CCP.

Participant 5 provided examples of the CCP's influence on elected officials. Participant 5 recounted that the CCP pressured certain Canadian cities to restrict Falun Gong's ability to hold protests in front of the Chinese embassy. According to Participant 5, a municipal mayor's advisor confided to them that their city was under enormous pressure from Chinese consular officials to remove Falun Gong's protest Sites entirely. Participant 5 explained that in that city, the new permits issued to the Falun Gong came with additional restrictions limiting the size and location of their protest banners. Participant 5 expressed their opinion that freedom of speech and peaceful protest should not be curtailed by a foreign government's demands.

Participant 5 said that in 2016, a rude and aggressive email referencing Participant 5 and Falun Gong was sent by an individual pretending to be their colleague to an unknown number of MPs. Participant 5 said that shortly after the email was sent, one MP expressed their surprise at receiving the email. Participant 5 explained that sending emails impersonating Falun Gong practitioners is part of the CCP's strategy to sow discord. Participant 5 said that they reported the emails to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police ("RCMP") and to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service ("CSIS"), but that they had not been informed of any actions taken in response to their reports.

Participant 5 listed some of the impacts felt by Falun Gong practitioners as a result of the CCP's campaign of persecution targeting them on Canadian soil. Participant 5 said that practitioners experience increased feelings of vulnerability as the CCP's operations become more overt, which creates an atmosphere of constant fear. Participant 5 said that practitioners had to deal with safety concerns for themselves and their loved ones in Canada and in the PRC. Participant 5 said that Falun Gong practitioners also experience the psychological pressure, mental strain, and the constant stress of countering

misinformation about them. Participant 5 highlighted that Falun Gong practitioners face stigmatization, marginalization and exclusion, and must deal with rejection from some Chinese Canadian community members under pressure of the CCP, as well as with the prejudice and suspicion created by the CCP's disinformation narratives. Participant 5 also described other impacts endured by Falun Gong practitioners in Canada, including the escalation of stress due to the increase in violence; physical and psychological assaults and cyberattacks against Falun Gong practitioners; the political stigmatization of Falun Gong, with Canadian politicians being enticed to distance themselves from their efforts to end the persecution; the silencing of speech through the CCP's control of Chinese media outlets in Canada as well as its efforts to restrict Falun Gong members' ability to protest in Canada; and, the financial strain on practitioners who must embark on legal battles against the CCP's interferences, which divert time and resources from their own advocacy efforts. Participant 5 stated that these challenges are compounded by insufficient support provided by Canadian institutions.

Participant 5 highlighted the sophisticated and subtle nature of the CCP's foreign interference activities, which they said has led to a lack of public awareness and inadequate responses, allowing the threat to continue unchecked. Participant 5 said that the use of tactics such as impersonation and proxies infiltrating the Canadian political system makes it hard to counteract the CCP's efforts. Participant 5 stated that the CCP's interference aims to instill fear amongst the Chinese Canadian community, leading to self-censorship for fear of being prevented to travel to the PRC or losing personal and business relationships. Participant 5 stressed that while the CCP's primary goal is to threaten the security and safety of Falun Gong practitioners, it also undermines fundamental principles of Canadian society, and constitutes a threat to Canada's integrity and sovereignty.

Participant 6

Participant 6 stated that a key aspect of the CCP's campaign of persecution against Falun Gong is the implementation of a massive propaganda campaign to disparage Falun Gong and the manipulation of media outlets, both Chinese and English language, requiring

them to echo the CCP's propaganda that Falun Gong is a cult, which has created a climate of misunderstanding, indifference, discrimination, and hatred toward Falun Gong in society.

Participant 6 cited Pulitzer Prize winning journalists and scholars who state that Falun Gong does not meet the definition of a cult, and that the narrative that Falun Gong is a cult is a red herring which has been propagated and exploited by the CCP to aid in the repression. Participant 6 also mentioned that these sources state that those who label Falun Gong a "cult" are usually looking for sensationalism and do so "at the expense of careful analysis."

Participant 6 cited public reports interviewing CCP officials who stated that the crackdown would not be working "*if the propaganda hadn't changed the way the public thought about the once respected Falun Gong*".

Participant 6 said shortly after the CCP's 1999 repression campaign against Falun Gong practitioners in the PRC began, major media organizations provided coverage of the torture, brainwashing, and killing of practitioners, reporting on them as an innocent victim of a politically motivated campaign. Participant 6 said that this truthful reporting did not last, and international reports uncovered that the CCP began a ruthless campaign to control the messaging of major media outlets.

Participant 6 referenced public reporting that the Chinese embassy contacted editors of major American media outlets, asking them to "kill stories" about Falun Gong.

Participant 6 stated that the CCP's manipulation of media in Canada is documented and evident, and noted that some Canadian Chinese and western media outlets parrot the CCP's propaganda, including depicting Falun Gong practitioners as a cult or deranged murderers and linking them to terrorist activities.

Participant 6 stated that evidence shows the CCP continues to pay Chinese-language media outlets to publish inaccurate and defamatory stories about Falun Gong.

Participant 6 cited public reports that a major Canadian western media outlet was contacted by the Chinese embassy to cancel a documentary on Falun Gong and that media who feature reporting on the repression campaign targeting Falun Gong face consequences, including the blocking of their websites in the PRC.

Participant 6 also mentioned some western Canadian media continue to write bigoted and biased reporting against Falun Gong practitioners.

Participant 6 cited public reports that the CCP attempts to influence western journalists by offering them gifts and fully paid trips to the PRC. Participant 6 said that journalists who have taken such trips then publish articles that espouse the CCP's line on Falun Gong.

Participant 6 stated that the CCP used its state news agency, *Xinhua*, to spy on and propagate disinformation narratives against Falun Gong.

Participant 6 said that they had personally experienced the CCP's disinformation narratives targeting Falun Gong. Participant 6 said that when they advertised free exercise classes in their office building, an individual told them that they did not appreciate advertisement for cults. Participant 6 also referred to a legal dispute in which they successfully sued for libel an individual who had publicly accused them of being part of a cult.

Participant 6 said that they started offering online Falun Gong exercise classes during the COVID-19 pandemic to help people dealing with stress. Participant 6 noted that, while the classes were popular and well-attended, the Facebook group promoting the classes was subjected to many comments accusing Falun Gong of being a cult. According to Participant 6, at least some of these comments are made by CCP agents - "fifty-cents" writers, who are paid \$0.50 for each negative comment about Falun Gong.

Participant 6 said that one of their loved ones is a classical Chinese dancer who performed in *Shen Yun*, which was founded by people who practice Falun Gong, and who now teaches dance in schools. Participant 6 recounted that a school cancelled their

classes after Chinese parents complained that the classes were linked to a controversial group.

Participant 6 recounted another incident in which they invited an individual to participate in Falun Gong exercise classes. Participant 6 said that while the individual enthusiastically accepted their invitation, they later sent an email advising that after asking their Chinese friends about Falun Gong, the individual would not be participating in the class.

Participant 6 cited new reports indicating that the CCP is expanding its disinformation and repression campaign to target Falun Gong more aggressively outside China through social media and a network of embedded spies.

Participant 6 said that a CCP defector who appeared before the American Congress testified that the CCP's top priority is to wage war on Falun Gong.

Participant 6 concluded by noting that the CCP's efforts have successfully stigmatized Falun Gong practitioners in Canada and has fueled prejudice, discrimination, indifference, silence and even violence against the Falun Gong community. It has also impacted Canadian individuals, public opinion, and policy responses which has allowed the persecution of people who practice Falun Gong to continue for a quarter century.

Participant 7

Participant 7 stated that they have suffered severe persecution at the hands of the CCP because of their Falun Gong practice and because they exposed the persecution. Participant 7 said that a close family member and their partner were targeted and persecuted in the PRC due to their beliefs. Participant 7 said that their close family member was repeatedly detained and beaten by Chinese police officers and has been missing since 2001. Participant 7 stated that the close family member's partner was also repeatedly detained and died in a forced labor camp, less than two months after having been sent there. Participant 7 shared grueling details of the ordeal endured by these two loved ones at the hands of the Chinese authorities.

Participant 7 mentioned that they were part of the 1980s pro-democracy movement in the PRC, which was ultimately quashed in the Tiananmen Square Massacre. Participant 7 said that people were silenced and lost faith in a democratic future. Participant 7 explained that Falun Gong emerged to fill that moral vacuum, give hope back to people, and reconnect them with their culture.

Participant 7 came to Canada in 1999, when the CCP's persecution campaign against Falun Gong started. Participant 7 stated that they began to distribute pamphlets about their family's experience of CCP persecution. Participant 7 said that they realized the extent of the Chinese foreign interference in Canada upon seeing defamatory articles about Falun Gong in Chinese-language media outlets. Participant 7 said that when they contacted the editor of one such outlet, they were told that these articles came from the Chinese consulate, and that they did not have the right to make any changes.

Participant 7 said that someone broke the window of their former life partner's car in a Canadian city. Participant 7 stated that shortly after that incident, someone spread human feces over the balcony, of the home they had recently moved into. Participant 7 said that these incidents were CCP threats targeting them. Participant 7 said that the CCP's disinformation and harassment affected their relationship, and eventually became a major reason for their divorce from their former life partner who was not a Falun Gong practitioner.

Participant 7 stated that they moved with their children to another Canadian city. Participant 7 said that shortly after they had moved, a Chinese man armed with a gun came to their new home and ordered their babysitter to give him Participant 7's children. Participant 7 said that their children hid in the closet and were very scared. Participant 7 stated they wondered how this individual knew their new address, but realized that the CCP had been monitoring their mobile device. Participant 7 said that the CCP has harassed and threatened them.

Participant 8

Participant 8 said that they arrived in Canada as an international student in the early 2000s. Participant 8 stated that they have spent the last twenty years interacting with the Chinese Canadian community, and have observed that most Chinese Canadians still treat Falun Gong practitioners as friends and fellow Chinese. According to Participant 8, this treatment is different from the treatment of Uyghurs, Hong Kongers and Tibetans. Participant 8 mentioned that on occasion, some members of the Chinese Canadian community have avoided or run away from them. Participant 8 stated that they later found out that these individuals had been threatened directly or indirectly by the CCP.

Participant 8 stated that over the last 20 years, successive Canadian governments have tried to help the Falun Gong community in Canada. Participant 8 noted that around 2015, pro-Beijing politicians became more prominent in the Canadian political ecosystem, and the CCP deployed its economic power to influence Western democracies and numerous Chinese Canadian immigrants to become more involved in the electoral processes. Participant 8 said that these changes have made the situation more challenging for Falun Gong practitioners in Canada.

Participant 8 said that the CCP's main approach is to attempt to stop Canadian elected officials from voicing support for Falun Gong or condemning the persecution of Falun Gong. Participant 8 noted that over the last decades, the Falun Gong community has attempted to warn the world about the great threat posed by the CCP, which is now bolstered by the PRC's economic power.

Participant 8 explained that Beijing considers Uyghur and Tibetan issues to be regional in nature, because of geographic location of these populations. Participant 8 said that Falun Gong adherents are active within the mainland of the PRC, where 90% of the Chinese population lives and where most Chinese immigrants to Canada come from. Participant 8 stated that the Falun Gong issue was crucial from the PRC's point of view because of these geopolitical factors.

Participant 8 said that within certain Canadian political parties, a few politicians have discouraged their colleagues from supporting or meeting with Falun Gong representatives. Participant 8 stated that the CCP's United Front Work Department ("**UFWD**") representatives have conveyed messages to Canadian elected officials that if they support Falun Gong, they will lose votes and damage their relationship with the Chinese community. Participant 8 said that these tactics have been very damaging to the Falun Gong's support by politicians, and that Falun Gong practitioners have felt a decrease in the Canadian government's support since 2015.

Participant 8 noted that they have seen the strong fundraising and mobilization abilities of certain Chinese Canadian community leaders to support electoral candidates. According to Participant 8, while most Chinese Canadians dislike and distrust CCP, and have not voted based on CCP's narratives, they feel they still live under the shadow of the CCP's presence and are influenced by the strong fear and mis/disinformation. Participant 8 noted that Chinese Canadian community leaders can manipulate the Chinese Canadian electorate. Participant 8 said that Canadian democratic institutions are facing a serious challenge because of pro-Beijing politicians embedded within the Canadian political system.

2. Participants' responses to Question 2

The second question posed to participants was: *What are your suggestions for how you and others in your community who may be vulnerable to foreign interference could be supported and protected, and for how foreign interference could be detected or combated?*

Participant 1

Participant 1 stated that the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in Canada had increased and become more overt in recent years. Participant 1 noted that reporting incidents to local police services, the RCMP and CSIS had not yielded any results.

Participant 1 suggested the implementation of clear rules to ban foreign agents from infiltrating and influencing Canadian society.

Participant 1 said that public education efforts about Falun Gong should be made to counter the CCP's disinformation campaign. Participant 1 said that the CCP's disinformation campaign had had a big impact on the perception of Falun Gong by elected officials and Canadian society in general.

Participant 1 stated that officials with close ties to the CCP should not be allowed to run for public office in Canada unless they declare that they have cut their ties with the CCP.

Participant 1 said that the Canadian government should openly condemn the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. In Participant 1's opinion, the Canadian government should consider passing a law to protect Falun Gong members, as was recently done in the United States¹.

Participant 2

Participant 2 said that measures should be implemented to respond to the severe persecution and harassment campaigns targeting Falun Gong practitioners. Participant 2 noted that the response time by local police services in responding to incidents reported by Falun Gong members is inadequate, and that police officers had sometimes not presented themselves to the scene of the incident.

Participant 2 stated that legal measures should be deployed to prevent CCP agents and proxies from freely attacking Falun Gong members in Canada. Participant 2 noted that fundamentally Falun Gong practitioners need to feel safe in Canada.

Participant 2 said that Canada should adopt a law similar to the American *Falun Gong Protection Act*.

¹ **Note:** The American House of Representatives adopted Bill H.R. 4132, the *Falun Gong Protection Act*, in July 2023. The Bill is currently pending before the American Senate.

Participant 3

Participant 3 said that members of the 610 Office² backed by the CCP who are operating covertly in Canada should be deported.

Participant 3 stated that CCP-backed personnel should be banned from running for public office even if they become naturalized citizens.

Participant 3 also recommended the adoption in Canada of a law similar to the American *Falun Gong Protection Act*.

Participant 4

Participant 4 expressed their hope that the Canadian government would act to enact measures to protect Falun Gong practitioners against the CCP's repression campaign. Participant 4 believes that the use of sanctions should be considered by the Canadian government.

Participant 4 stated that individuals participating in harassment and repression of Falun Gong practitioners should be deported. Participant 4 noted that the identification of these individuals would be a challenge for law enforcement.

Participant 4 opined that a law similar to the American *Falun Gong Protection Act* would be beneficial in changing the attitudes of Chinese Canadians towards Falun Gong practitioners.

Participant 5

Participant 5 expressed their hope that the Canadian government will issue a public condemnation of the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong. Participant 5 said that the government should take a strong stance on the matter and issue public statements across

² **Note:** The 610 Office was a PRC security agency tasked with the coordination and implementation of the persecution campaign against Falun Gong.

multilateral channels in order to end the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in Canada and in the PRC.

Participant 5 said that representatives of Falun Gong should be included in parliamentary hearings on foreign interference and other related matters. Participant 5 believes that Falun Gong practitioners have relevant knowledge about these matters as a result of being targeted by the CCP.

Participant 5 said that the Canadian government should urge the Chinese government to end its interference and repression in Canada, and should seek to directly address these issues bilaterally.

Participant 5 said that Chinese diplomats in Canada should be held accountable for their actions.

Participant 5 stressed the need for assaults against Falun Gong practitioners to be prosecuted.

Participant 5 said that it is necessary to implement Bill C-70³.

Participant 5 noted that CCP proxy organizations and individuals should be investigated and identified.

Participant 5 said that secure reporting channels for Canadian Falun Gong practitioners and others to use to report foreign interference and transnational repression to the Canadian government should be established and publicized.

Participant 5 said it was very important that the Canadian government be transparent in implementing measures against foreign interference.

Participant 5 noted that government officials need to be educated on the issues facing Falun Gong practitioners in Canada, as they had been deceived and manipulated by the

³ **Note:** Bill C-70, *An Act respecting countering foreign interference*, was given royal assent on June 20, 2024.

CCP's disinformation campaign. Participant 5 also stressed the need to identify and recognize CCP propaganda.

Participant 5 said that the legal framework around foreign interference should be strengthened and that existing laws should be reinforced.

Participant 6

Participant 6 stated that public education on how propaganda is a tool of repression used in every genocide including the persecution of Falun Gong is essential. More precisely, Participant 6 noted that elected officials and journalists should be educated and empowered to counter these CCP tactics targeting the Falun Gong community to ensure they stand for truth and justice instead of being manipulated to support crimes against humanity.

Participant 7

Participant 7 said that the Canadian public needs to be educated about the CCP. Participant 7 expressed their hope that classes about the history and true nature of the CCP would be included into the Canadian public school curriculum. They also noted that Canadian elected officials at all levels of government should be educated about the CCP's history, deception, and tactics. Participant 7 believes that education is essential in countering the spread of CCP propaganda around the world.

Participant 8

Participant 8 stated that the Canadian immigration system had allowed some PRC military personnel, police officers, and other individuals involved in the persecution of Falun Gong to come to Canada. Participant 8 said that they are personally aware of an individual involved in torturing and arresting Falun Gong practitioners in the PRC who has immigrated to Canada. Participant 8 stated that these individuals can vote and contribute to spreading CCP narratives in Canada. Participant 8 recommended more vigorous screening measures to prevent such individuals from immigrating to Canada.

Participant 8 said that foreign agents should be required to register their activities in Canada, and that Bill C-70 was a good start in that regard. Participant 8 stated their belief that the law would help Chinese Canadians in countering the CCP's influence and in contributing to the creation of a healthy Canadian society. Participant 8 recommended increased transparency around benefits received by individuals and their relatives from the PRC.

Participant 8 expressed their belief that Canada needs to send a strong message to the PRC that its bad behavior will not be tolerated. Participant 8 said that certain individuals should be penalized in order to protect Canadian democracy and freedoms.