



# Media Protocol

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## **Purpose**

This Media Protocol (“the Protocol”) will guide media access to the proceedings of the Foreign Interference Commission (PIFI) and the way Commission staff will interact with members of the media.

The Commission is committed to sharing information with members of the media and with the public in a timely, transparent, and accessible manner.

All matters relating to media coverage of the Commission’s proceedings are subject to the sole discretion of the Commission and the Commissioner.

Respect for witnesses and all other participants at the public hearings, and the hearing process itself, is paramount. Any aggressive behaviour or harassment by an accredited journalist towards another journalist, counsel, a participant, Commission staff and contract partners, Library and Archives Canada staff, or a member of the public will not be tolerated and may result in the loss of accreditation and/or expulsion from the hearing venue.

An accredited journalist’s failure to abide by the terms of the Media Protocol may result in the revocation of their accreditation, among other things.

## **Webcast**

The Commission will provide webcasts of public hearings on its website daily and will provide regular updates on its social media channels. In addition, transcripts and recordings of all public hearings will be archived on the Commission’s website.

- English: <https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/>
- French: <https://commissioningerenceetrangere.ca/>

Portions of the Commission’s webcasts (audio and video) may be re-broadcasted as part of conventional news coverage. Media outlets are permitted to share hyperlinks to the Commission’s live webcast page and the page of archived videos on the Commission website.

## **Social Media**

X (formerly Twitter): [@PIFIEPIE](https://twitter.com/PIFIEPIE) (English) and  
[@EPIEPIFI](https://twitter.com/EPIEPIFI) (French)

LinkedIn:

English: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/foreign-interference-commission/>  
French: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/commission-ingérence-étrangere/>



## Contact Information

Michael Tansey  
Senior Communications Advisor

[michael.tansey@PIFI-EPIE.gc.ca](mailto:michael.tansey@PIFI-EPIE.gc.ca)  
(343) 630-2154 (mobile)

## Media Inquiries

Inquiries by members of the media should be addressed to [Michael Tansey](#).

Normal working hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern time, Monday to Friday. Depending on workload and availability, e-mails may be answered after the conclusion of regular working hours. The Commission will strive to acknowledge all media requests within two (2) hours of receipt.

Commission staff will make every effort to respond to media inquiries on the same day as they are received, or within the journalist's deadline, depending on the complexity of the request, the time of day the request is received and workload. Media relations staff will provide updates to journalists on their requests if it is not possible to meet these standards.

## Media Interviews

The Commissioner will not participate in any interviews. Commission counsel may be available to journalists from time-to-time.

Journalists may request interviews with Commission witnesses; however, it will be up to the witnesses to determine if they want to speak with members of the media. Journalists are invited to make their own arrangements with counsel and/or witnesses brought to the Commission by Participants who have standing at the Commission.

Interviews may not be conducted inside the hearing room or in the foyer immediately outside the hearing room. A designated scrum area is available inside the secure area at 395 Wellington Street.

## Media email list

The Commission maintains an e-mail list of journalists who wish to receive updates about the work of the Commission and copies of notices, media advisories and news releases issued by the Commission. To be added to the list, please contact [Michael Tansey](#).

## Public Hearings

The Commission's public hearings will be held in Salon A, on the main floor of 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Information about the schedule of public hearings and the witnesses scheduled to appear will be available on the Commission's website. The Commission anticipates posting each week a list of witnesses scheduled to appear the following week. The witnesses and the timing of their appearance may change at the Commission's discretion.



## **Closed Proceedings**

The Commissioner may decide to hold a hearing in a closed setting (in-camera). If the Commissioner decides to hold a closed hearing, the Commission will endeavour to release as much information as possible on the reason the hearing is not open to the public or the media.

## **Security Screening**

All members of the public who wish to attend the Commission's public hearings will be required to undergo a security screening each time they enter the venue. Accredited journalists will not be required to undergo daily security screening. Accredited journalists may not enter any non-public areas, except the dedicated media space.

## **Media Accreditation**

Accreditation is required for members of the media who wish to have access to the dedicated media room at the hearing venue and the dedicated seating for the media.

To receive accreditation, members of the media are required to complete an [online application form](#). Please allow two days for processing, however journalists seeking accreditation prior to the start of the hearings are encouraged to submit their requests as early as possible. Journalists who seek accreditation will be required to provide the Commission with information to confirm their status as working journalists. The following documents will be required by the Commission:

- A letter of assignment from an organization's bureau chief or editor.
- In some cases, journalists may be required to provide additional information to be granted accreditation.

Accredited journalists are required to abide by the terms outlined in the Commission's Media Protocol (this document). Failure to abide by the terms of the Protocol could result in the revocation of accreditation. The Protocol may be updated from time-to-time; the version that is posted on the Commission's website shall be considered the current version that they must abide to.

Accredited journalists will be issued Commission media credentials, which must always be visible when inside the secure area of the Commission's premises. Accredited journalists must also carry a second piece of government-issued photo ID (health card, driver's licence, or other media credentials) at all times. Media accreditation is valid for the duration of the Commission's work and is non-transferable.

Media who choose not to be accredited will be able to cover the Commission's proceedings by following the proceedings on-line or by gaining access to the hearing room on a first-come-first-served basis, along with other members of the public. Seating for members of the public in the Commission's hearing room is limited. Without valid accreditation, media representatives will not be able to access media facilities at the Commission's public hearing venue.



## **Documents**

Media relations staff will make every effort to provide key documents to journalists who request them on the same day as they are tabled. In some instances, this may not be possible. Requests to receive documents prior to their availability on the Commission's website should be addressed [Michael Tansey](#).

## **Designated media areas in the hearing room**

Several designated media areas will be available to members of the media in the hearing room.

Designated areas will be available for television cameras. Videographers are only permitted to operate their equipment from within the designated media areas. They must be in place prior to the start of testimony of each witness – they will not be permitted to enter the hearing room and set up their equipment while a witness is testifying. Members of the media are advised to allow sufficient time to set up their equipment prior to the beginning of testimony of each witness.

A limited number of seats with tables and power bars will be available to the media in the hearing room. These will be available on a first-come-first served basis.

Media may not move around the hearing room while the hearing is underway. Media must wait for a break in the proceedings (i.e., between witnesses) before moving equipment.

On some days, the size of the designated media areas may not be large enough to accommodate demand. In these instances, TV networks may be asked to work together and set up pool arrangements.

No auxiliary lighting, including flashes, may be used in the hearing room while the hearing is underway.

## **Recording of audio & video feeds**

Recording of hearings by accredited media will be permitted from designated media areas in the hearing room.

Media are not permitted to operate recording devices (video, audio or still photography) in a way that obstructs the entrances or pathways of the location or room.

The Commissioner's and/or Counsel's notes or laptop computers must not be filmed or photographed.

The Commission will provide a streamed, live feed of the public hearings through its website. Recordings of Commission hearings will also be archived on the Commission's website.

A broadcast quality video feed of the hearings will be available to television networks. Contact [Michael Tansey](#) for details.

## **Still photographers**

Still photographers are permitted to take photographs during the proceedings from designated positions on either side and the back of the hearing room.



No more than six still photographers will be permitted in the room at the same time (three on either side of the room). Photographers are encouraged to use silent equipment (mirrorless cameras) to avoid disrupting the proceedings.

### **Media working area**

A media room will be available to accredited journalists, which will include large television monitors to follow the proceedings at public hearings. Wi-fi and access to audio and video feeds will be available in the media room. Each seat in the media room will also include access to a power bar.

### **Scrums and unilateral positions**

Scrums and interviews are not permitted in the foyer outside of the hearing room. A designated scrum area is available inside the secure area at 395 Wellington Street.

In addition, unilateral positions for television networks are available in the foyer of the auditorium. Contact [Michael Tansey](#) for details.

### **Use of mobile electronic devices**

The use of cellular telephones and other electronic devices will be permitted during Commission proceedings to receive and transmit messages and e-mails provided that the sound is turned off and they do not disrupt proceedings.

Media and members of the public are not permitted to live-cast on social media from inside the hearing room when the Commission is in session. Media may transmit information about the proceedings while they are underway for publication and by other means (including X – formerly Twitter, -- texting, email, etc.), unless the Commission advises otherwise.

### **Commercial reproduction**

No commercial reproduction of video, audio or still photographs from the Commission's hearings is permitted.

### **Agreement to abide by the Media Protocol**

All journalists accredited by the Commission agree to familiarize themselves with the contents of the Media Protocol and abide by its terms. The Media Protocol may be updated from time-to-time. The version that is posted on the Commission's website shall be considered the current version.

Journalists must also be aware of the following sections of [the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure](#) (dated December 12, 2023) available on the Commission's website:

9. Witnesses and attendees, including members of the media, are bound by the Rules of Practice and Procedure, to the extent applicable.



**Foreign Interference Commission**  
**January 24, 2024**

10. The Commissioner shall deal with a breach of these Rules as she sees fit including, but not restricted to, imposing restrictions on further participation in or attendance at (including exclusion from) the hearings by any Participant, legal representative, individual, or member of the media, and revoking the standing of a Participant.

85. All media representatives shall be bound by the rules respecting personal confidentiality as set out herein. A breach of these rules by a media representative shall be dealt with by the Commissioner as she sees fit.