

Unclassified

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

Commission request for summary information on briefing to Michael Chong

This document has been prepared by the Government of Canada for the purpose of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions. It responds to a specific request by the Commission for an unclassified summary of information regarding a briefing given to a Member of Parliament by CSIS officials and should not be used as the basis for understanding any other topic. This document discloses only information that would not cause injury to the critical interests of Canada or its allies, national defence or national security.

The following summary was released in Protected B format to Michael Chong. With his consent, this document is now unclassified.

Summary of discussion

At the request of the Prime Minister, on May 2, 2023, CSIS' Director, David Vigneault, briefed Michael Chong with the NSIA.

Following a brief discussion that included the Prime Minister, NSIA, CSIS Director, and Mr. Chong, the Prime Minister and four PMO staffers exited the room. Director Vigneault then informed Mr. Chong that, given the parameters of the CSIS Act, the information he would be sharing would fall under section 12.1, threat reduction measures, and emphasized what was being shared next was classified information. CSIS' Director proceeded to verbally share key elements of CSIS Intelligence Assessment 2021-22/31 titled 'PRC Foreign Interference in Canada: A Critical National Security Threat' with Mr. Chong. Director Vigneault also raised the defensive briefing Mr. Chong had previously received. Mr. Chong indicated he appreciated the brief, noting that the content was general.

Director Vigneault sought to clarify and articulate the accurate interpretation of the word 'target' in the CSIS Intelligence Assessment report and to correct the mistaken narrative referenced in media articles which reference Mr. Chong.

Director Vigneault also emphasized CSIS intelligence did not reflect direct physical threats to him or members of his family. CSIS had no intelligence of PRC intent to cause physical harm.