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# BRIEFING NOTE TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

NOTE
D'INFORMATION
AU SOUSCOMMISSAIRE

# RCMP PROCESS FOR THE FEDERAL ELECTION

#### ISSUE:

To provide you with information about the intake and triage process as outlined in the RCMP Electoral Interference Response Protocol (REIRP) (**TAB A**).

## BACKGROUND:

Since early 2018, work has been underway across the Government of Canada (GoC) to mitigate potential threats to Canada's democratic institutions, and to ensure the integrity of the 2019 Federal Election. Various GoC departments and agencies have continued to collaborate and develop initiatives that contribute to the broader effort to protect Canada's democracy and electoral process. These initiatives include a Privy Council Office-led Critical Election Incident Public Protocol (CEIPP), which guides how senior GoC officials would communicate with the public in the event of a significant incident that impacts the election; a Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections (SITE) Task Force, comprised of CSIS, the RCMP, the Communications Security Establishment and Global Affairs Canada, that provides a coordination and de-confliction mechanism, and ensures situational awareness for all relevant departments and agencies; and, classified threat briefings to the leaders of the official political parties. The GoC is also undertaking several other initiatives to increase citizen media literacy, provide cyber technical advice, and better protect Canada's democracy.

To this end, the RCMP's principal role is contributing to intelligence collection, analysis and assessment, and supporting the Commissioner of Canada Elections (CCE). Utilizing existing intake, assessment and response processes, FP is layering a process for responding to the CCE and for tracking election-related criminal incidents. These activities are captured in the RCMP Electoral Interference Response Protocol (REIRP), found at **TAB A**.

#### CONSIDERATIONS

In the lead-up to the fall federal election, a range of officials across Government have been focussing attention on the need to protect the integrity of the electoral process by launching several high profile initiatives, including SITE and the CEIPP, both of which implicate the RCMP.

Submitted by – Rédigé par e-approved	Date	Reviewed by – Examiné par e-approved	Date
Acting Manager,	2019-07-	Director	2019-07-
National Security	26	Federal Policing Strategic	29
Federal Policing Strategic Direction		Direction	
Recommended by - Recommandé		Approved by - Approuvé par	
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Ed Drodge, a/Executive Director	29	Deputy Commissioner, Federal	
Federal Policing Strategic Direction		Policing	

RCMP GRC 2928 (2009-06)

For Public Release

The RCMP REIRP clarifies internal and external requirements for tracking, responding and communicating elections-related criminality within the existing intake, assessment, and response processes. This is intended to be a reference for Divisions to communicate the process and thereby assist with referrals to and from the CCE. It will be translated and distributed to Divisions. The REIRP is can also be used as a reference tool for RCMP senior management as it provides an overview of the RCMP response to electoral interference.

Incidents that fall under the *Canada Elections Act* will continue to be referred to the CCE for investigation, and the RCMP is prepared to undertake joint investigations and/or provide technical support under the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding between the RCMP and the CCE, a document that is currently being updated. To promote increased awareness of the need to report and work collaboratively on elections-related criminal activity, the CCE will provide a presentation to the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) on August 13, 2019.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that you share the attached REIRP (**TAB A**) with the Commissioner's office for situational awareness.

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