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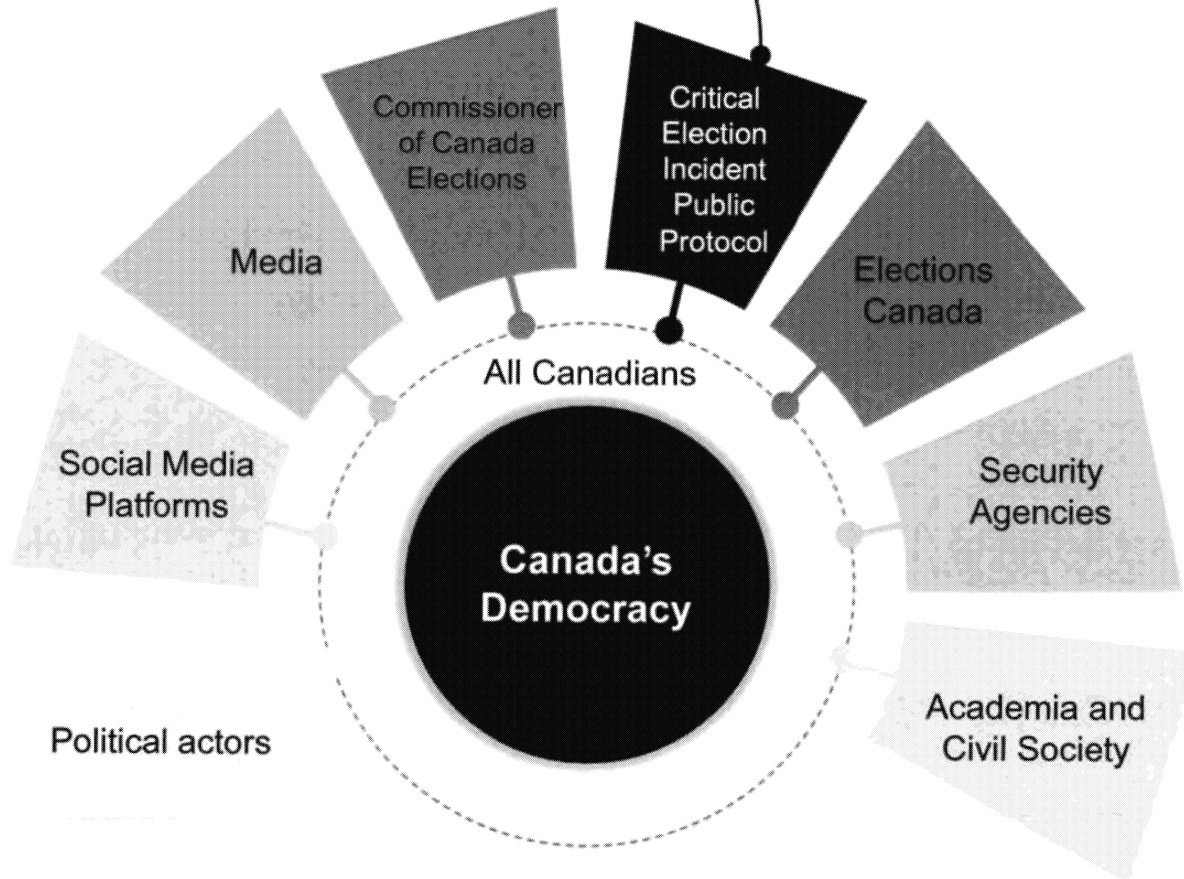
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# Protecting Democracy Ecosystem

Protecting our democratic institutions from incidents that threaten our ability to have a free and fair election is a **shared responsibility** for all Canadians.

Panel of senior public servants:

- Clerk of the Privy Council;
- National Security and Intelligence Advisor;
- Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General;
- Deputy Minister of Public Safety; and
- Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.



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## Cabinet Directive – The Critical Election Incident Public Protocol

The Critical Election Incident Public Protocol:

- ensures a clear, transparent and consistent approach to informing Canadians about incidents that threaten our ability to have a free and fair election;
- is limited to incidents that fall within the writ period and that are not Elections Canada's responsibility to address;
- will not be used as a means to referee the election;
- will not pronounce on issues occurring prior to the writ as these will be addressed as part of regular government operations.



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# Considerations for Assessment

Determining whether the threshold has been met will require considerable judgement that reflects the context around the incident.

CABINET DIRECTIVE CONSIDERATIONS

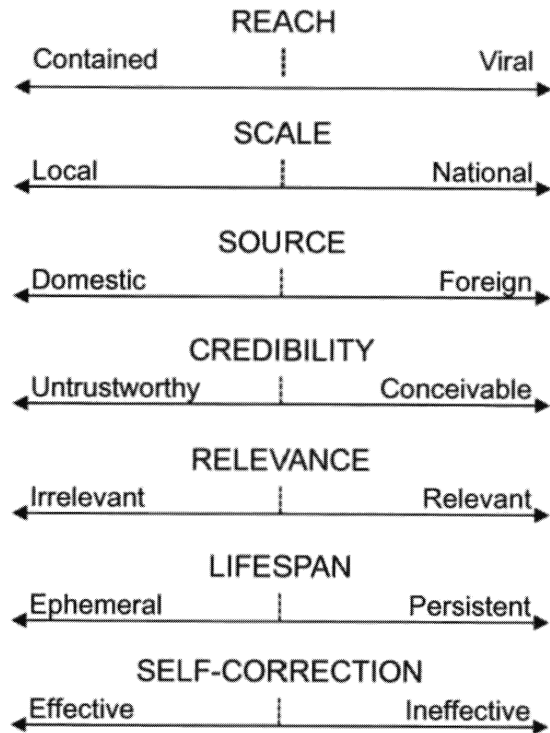
Degree to which the incident(s) undermine(s) Canadians' ability to have a free and fair election

Potential of the incident(s) to undermine the credibility of the election

Degree of confidence officials have in the intelligence or information



These three key considerations may be assessed using certain parameters including, but not limited to:



The **Threshold** is very high and is limited to addressing exceptional circumstances that could impair our ability to have a free and fair election, whether based on a single incident or an accumulation of incidents



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## Key Takeaways

- The Protocol is one of many steps to safeguard the election from foreign interference.
- The Panel is comprised of persons from a variety of relevant backgrounds and reflects the *Caretaker Convention*.
- Determination if the threshold has been met depends on the context, and requires judgement and consideration. The threshold for an announcement is very high.
- Threats are dynamic, and strategies need to be nimble and continue to evolve.
- Citizens are our strongest asset in combatting interference.



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# CRITICAL ELECTION INCIDENT PUBLIC PROTOCOL

1

2

3

4



## AWARENESS

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA BECOMES AWARE OF AN INTERFERENCE ATTEMPT IN THE ELECTION DURING THE WRIT PERIOD.



## CRITICAL ELECTION INCIDENT PUBLIC PROTOCOL

## SHARING INFORMATION

HEADS OF NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCIES BRIEF THE CRITICAL ELECTION INCIDENT RESPONSE PANEL:

Clerk of the Privy Council

National Security and Intelligence Advisor

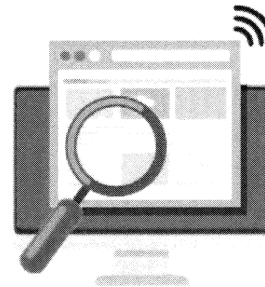
Deputy Ministers of Justice, Public Safety, and Foreign Affairs



## ASSESSING THREAT

IF THE PANEL FINDS THAT THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL THREAT TO A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION:

Inform the Prime Minister, political party officials and Elections Canada of the incident and that an announcement will be made



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

CANADIANS ARE INFORMED OF:

What is known about the incident

Any steps they should take to protect themselves



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