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### **MD on Accountability**

- In the case of Mr. Chong, CSIS considers that it met its duty to advise the Minister by way of disseminating the relevant intelligence reports and assessments which outlined the potential threat activity directed at Mr. Chong and his family.
- Further, through Issues Management Notes, CSIS advised the DM of Public Safety, the Minister and the NSIA of the plan to provide a Personal Security Briefing given the nature of the threat information.

### **Intelligence Advice**

- CSIS core mandate is to collect information intelligence and **to advise the Government of Canada** on threats to the security of Canada.
- Intelligence assessment and sharing is a fundamental part of CSIS' daily activities.
  - In 2022, CSIS produced and shared over 2500 intelligence products – from tactical reports to strategic assessments – with Government of Canada clients.

### **Ministerial Accountability**

- The *CSIS Act* sets out the accountability of the Director of CSIS, who is responsible for the control and management of the Service under the direction of the Minister.
- CSIS is currently bound by ministerial direction on its operations, the sharing of information, its intelligence collection priorities and accountability.
- In September 2019, the Minister of Public Safety (Goodale) issued a new unclassified Ministerial Direction on Accountability to the Service (in the wake of the En Banc hearings before the Federal Court.)
- Under the MD, the Service has a duty to inform the Minister of any matter that is relevant to fulfill the Minister's mandate: "The Director

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will **advise the Minister on a case-by-case basis as necessary**. In general terms, the Minister expects to be consulted or informed regarding any action on which a Deputy Head would normally involve his or her Minister."

- **A framework for cooperation underpins the MD and outlines measures to facilitate the timely sharing of information** in order to ensure that the Minister receives the information and advice required to perform their accountability function.
- In the case of Mr. Chong, CSIS considers that it met its duty to advise the Minister by way of disseminating the relevant intelligence reports and assessments which outlined the potential threat activity directed at Mr. Chong and his family.
- *Prior to May* 2021, CSIS shared  intelligence reports that discussed PRC foreign interference efforts against Michael Chong. These reports were shared to named senior officials, including:
  - The Clerk of the Privy Council, the National Security and Intelligence Advisor, and others at the Privy Council Office;
  - The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and others at Global Affairs Canada;
  - The Deputy Minister of National Defence and others at the Department of National Defence;
  - The Chief of the Communications Security Establishment and others at the Communications Security Establishment;
  - The Minister and Deputy Minister of Public Safety, and others at Public Safety Canada.
- The July 2021 Intelligence Assessment referenced in this week's Globe and Mail reporting summarized these earlier reports. It was shared much more broadly across the Government of Canada, to the above departments and others, such as CBSA, IRCC, ISED, and RCMP.

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## Information Sharing

- The framework for cooperation requires the designation of employees with appropriate security clearances to handle sensitive CSIS information; quarterly meetings to discuss specific issues; notification for certain legal and technical developments; and establishes triggers for consultation on policy and legal issues.
- CSIS has a variety of channels to advise the Minister of relevant information.
  - Intelligence products are shared through established points of contact.
  - Weekly Top Secret briefings provide an opportunity to raise significant issues verbally.
  - Written briefing notes are sent for decision or information; and
  - Standing meetings at the working, management and senior executive level allow for routine information sharing.