

Protected B

**Notes - Political Party Classified Threat Briefing
September 15, 2021**

1. Introduction from the Privy Council Office – 10 minutes

- This is the final classified briefing to designated political party representatives on election security. We will re-engage if threats change before the election results are finalized.
- The goal of these briefings is threefold:
 - Provide the Parties with the right information to become a partner in protecting the integrity of our democratic institutions,
 - Give Parties tools to recognize foreign interference and threats; and
 - To provide a means to connect with security and intelligence agencies when they suspect foreign interference.
- Last meeting focused on providing a detailed picture of the likelihood and nature of threats related to foreign interference, domestic extremism, and RCMP protective policing.
- Following your welcome and introduction of Government and Political Party members, you may wish to turn to Al Sutherland (PCO D)I for any introductory remarks or updates.

2. Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Taskforce (SITE) Threat Update – 20 minutes

- The current threat situation is stable and in-line with our expectations. Our system remains resilient.
- The counter-protests and threatening behavior at campaign events is concerning. Law enforcement recently arrested and laid two charges against an individual for allegedly uttering threats to the Prime Minister during an August 29 campaign stop in Cambridge, Ontario.
- The RCMP and Government security partners are working to ensure the right protective security posture for candidates and party leaders. Coordination and information sharing between Parties and the RCMP is key. The more advanced information Parties can share on the itineraries of leaders during the campaign, as well as any security concerns they may have, the better.

[APG]

Protected B

- This will allow the RCMP to plan its protection and security efforts.
- Before handing off to Lyall King for the SITE briefing, you may wish to remind Reps that the purpose of the briefing is twofold:
 - To sensitize them to the current threat picture; and
 - To help them to recognize potential foreign interference efforts that are targeted at either the Party or at individual candidates.

3. Canadian Centre for Cyber Security Update – 10 minutes

- The Cyber Centre (CCCS) will provide the Party Reps with an overview of the current cyber threat picture, retrospective of experience to date, and engage on the potential for longer-term outreach activities.
- The main theme of their presentation is that they have seen very little threat activity in cyber space.
- Vanessa Clowe from the Partnerships Office at the Cyber Centre will deliver the brief and engage the group on services they offer between elections.

4. Privy Council Office Update– 10 minutes

- The General Election is moving through its final stages. Canadians began voting at advanced polls last Friday and the application date for mail-in voting ended yesterday.
- In accordance with the *Canada Elections Act*, Elections Canada will begin counting votes once polls close. Capacity is sufficient to handle expected mail-in volumes, with results estimated in a day or two after polling day.
- If early returns on Election Day do not identify a clear victor, an extended delay could create an environment where actors could seek to cast doubts on the legitimacy of the democratic process.
- Party Reps have regularly raised questions about the potential for disinformation on or around Election Day that may attempt to discredit the result or cast doubt on the integrity of the process (e.g. mail-in ballot counting).
- Al Sutherland from PCO Democratic institutions should provide a brief summary of the Panel's continued operations during the caretaker period.

[APG]

Protected B

5. Discussion and Questions – 10 minutes

- You may wish to highlight that it would be wise for us to remain connected as Election Day draws near including having a sense of Political Party members' whereabouts on election night should we need to share new information.
- You may wish to remind Political Party members that as before, direct engagement with the appropriate SITE Agency can be arranged (via PCO) to address individual / specific concerns.
- You may wish to offer your observations on the series of threat briefings before turning to AI Sutherland for his comments and engagement of Political Party members to evaluate their experience (a questionnaire will support this discussion).
- You may wish to close the meeting by underscoring the value of the partnership and thanking colleagues and Political Party members for their time and contributions.

[APG]