

For Public Release

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Federal Policing

## Royal Canadian Mounted Police | Gendarmerie royale du Canada

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### HOT ISSUES NOTE

#### FOREIGN INTERFERENCE (CHINA)

##### RCMP SPEAKING POINTS:

- The RCMP takes threats to the security of individuals living in Canada very seriously and is aware that foreign states, including the People's Republic of China (PRC), may seek to intimidate or harm communities or individuals within Canada.
- The RCMP's primary focus is the safety and protection of the public at all times. We investigate, respond to, and level charges against criminal instances of harassment, intimidation, and coercion from foreign actors.
- It is important for all individuals and groups living in Canada, regardless of their nationality, to know that there are support mechanisms in place to assist them when experiencing potential foreign interference or state-backed harassment and intimidation.

##### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

*How does the RCMP counter foreign interference?*

- Within the RCMP, the National Security Program has the primary responsibility for investigations relating to foreign interference. The Program works with our domestic and international partners to investigate illegal activities where foreign actor interference is suspected, and works with security and intelligence partners to detect and disrupt interference activity from foreign actors.
- As this type of activity can manifest itself in different ways, the RCMP uses various methods and techniques to combat foreign actor interference within the RCMP's mandate.
- For operational reasons we cannot speak at length about this, however, foreign interference activity is monitored. What can be said, is that should there be criminal or illegal activities occurring in Canada that are found to be backed by a foreign state, it is within the RCMP's mandate to investigate this activity.
- The RCMP has a multi-disciplinary team in place dedicated to foreign actor interference and the identification of criminality. In collaboration with our law enforcement partners, the RCMP keeps Canada safe by responding to these

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reports of intimidation.

*What should be done if a member of the public is experiencing state-backed harassment and intimidation?*

- The RCMP takes threats to the security of individuals living in Canada very seriously and wants to reassure all Canadians that our primary focus is the safety and protection of the public at all times. Anyone who feels threatened online or in person, should report these incidents to their local police.
- If someone in the public is in immediate danger, they should call 9-1-1 or contact their local police.
- Individuals may also contact the RCMP National Security Information Network by phone at 1-800-420-5805 or by email at RCMP.NSIN-RISN.GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. Service is available in Canada's both official languages.

*What sorts of legislation guides RCMP efforts to counter foreign interference?*

- The RCMP has a broad, multi-faceted mandate that allows it to investigate, and prevent foreign interference drawing upon various pieces of legislation.
- This legislation includes but is not limited to:
  - *Security Offences Act*: Section 6(1) designates the RCMP as the primary enforcement body in relation to national security, as defined by the *Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act*, including acts of foreign interference;
  - *Security of Information Act (SOIA)*: Includes numerous offences and sections in relation to foreign actor interference, including economic espionage, the release of classified information, and foreign influenced threats or violence.
  - *Criminal Code*: Many tools used by foreign actors in foreign actor interference are otherwise illegal, and can be investigated by law enforcement. For example, regardless of who is doing it and why, mischief concerning computer data (i.e. hacking), bribery and harassment are within the mandate of Canadian police to investigate if the offence occurred in Canada.

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**BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS:**Foreign Interference

Foreign interference (FI) entails foreign states targeting Canada's democratic institutions, economic systems, and diaspora communities to advance their political, economic and security interests to the detriment of Canada's. FI can be conducted by representatives of the state (e.g. intelligence agencies, judicial representatives, police agents) or proxies (e.g. organized criminal networks). FI can be achieved through a broad range of activities, including: direct interference in the democratic processes of a state; cyberattacks against critical infrastructure and cyber-systems; harassment and intimidation of diaspora communities; leveraging traditional and social media to advance disinformation that prioritize state agendas; and targeted investments designed to extract intellectual property or dominate strategic sectors of the economy.

The RCMP is mandated by legislation (Section 2 of the *Security Offences Act* and Ministerial Direction) and RCMP Policy to investigate threats to the security of Canada defined in Section 2 of the *CSIS Act*, breaches of security defined in the *Security of Offences Act* (SOA) and *Security of Information Act* (SOIA) or any other criminal offence or any other federal statute or *Criminal Code* offence that may have a national security dimension. The RCMP also acts against FI threats such as acts involving the harassment, intimidation, or coercion of individuals or groups within Canada.

The RCMP encourages individuals that face harassment, intimidation, or coercion and feel that they are in immediate danger to contact either their local police department or 911. Individuals may also contact the RCMP National Security Information Network by phone at 1-800-420-5805 or by email at RCMP.NSIN-RISN.GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. Service is available in Canada's both official languages.