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Canadian Security
Intelligence ServiceService canadien du
renseignement de sécurité

Director - Directeur

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For Information**MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER****THE CSIS PUBLIC REPORT 2022****SUMMARY**

- The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) presents its Public Report 2022, which must be tabled in Parliament within 15 sitting days of its submission to you.
- The Report provides an overview of the threats to Canada's security and national interests, its engagement with Canadians and communities, and an overview of CSIS's organisational structure, workforce and authorities. CSIS makes best efforts to ensure the report is as transparent and pertinent as possible for Parliamentarians and Canadians, and, to highlight that previous reports have been well received by media and stakeholders in recent years.

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with s. 20.2 of the *CSIS Act*, I am pleased to present you with CSIS's Public Report 2022. This Report is the 28th iteration since CSIS's founding in 1984 and the third year in which it is an annual, statutory requirement. To note, the Report covers the calendar year of 2022. In drafting the Report, CSIS consulted various departments, including Public Safety, the Privy Council Office, Global Affairs Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, Communications Security Establishment, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

DISCUSSION:

2022 was a transformative year, with national security concerns and CSIS's role in the intelligence community at the fore, and this year's Public Report 2022 highlights the many ways CSIS's work was more visible to Canadians than ever before. CSIS appeared a record number of times before Parliament, a 225% increase compared to 2021. These appearances were an opportunity to be frank about CSIS's work and the challenges it faces in a changing threat environment.

In 2022, global uncertainty continued to underpin national security threats, and major domestic and international events unfolded in record time. While these events contained elements of threat to the security of Canada CSIS has seen and investigated before, the powerful role technology and social media can play in the exacerbation of threat actor behaviour was clearly on display.

For example, we saw protests grip our nation's capital and block border crossings in places such as Coutts and Windsor in early 2022. Events like the Freedom Convoy protests revealed challenges across the security and intelligence community when dealing with a complex, multi-layered and dynamic situation that included both public order and national security components. CSIS participated in the Public Order Emergency Commission that followed the invocation of the *Emergencies Act*, speaking to the many ways CSIS coordinated with its partners to provide timely and relevant advice to Government.

Ideologically motivated violent extremism, or IMVE, is a complex threat comprised of a set of ideologies fuelled by extreme views around race, gender and authority. IMVE thrives on division, festers in the online space and radiates into other parts of society. The hateful rhetoric from these ideologies is becoming normalized and seeping into the mainstream. The Report outlines traditional IMVE groups with more structured leadership and defined objectives have been largely—although not completely—replaced by loosely networked, transnational movements with vague goals that co-exist across the IMVE milieu.

We continue to see threat actors exploit social media to influence their intended targets. For example, state actors leverage it as a means to spread disinformation, divide public opinion and generally interfere in healthy public debate and discourse. Non-state actors, meanwhile, use it as a means to spread conspiracy theories and inspire violent extremist actions. Threat actors are aware of the impact information manipulation has on open democratic societies, and continue to target Canadians. As more Canadians transition from conventional to digital media, threat actors continue to exploit this transition via proxies to support their messaging.

The Report acknowledges growing challenges to the rules-based and open international order. The Russian Federation's illegal invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has directly threatened world security, while also affording Russia and its supporters worldwide an opportunity to step up their disinformation-based propaganda campaigns in the West, including in Canada. Canada has benefited from broad adherence to the rules-based international order, but it is clear that the world is evolving in a way that is not favourable to Canada as actors seek to exploit weakness within the rules-based system. It is also clear that CSIS is able to take action and respond to these threats by providing trusted intelligence and advice to help ensure a safe, secure and prosperous Canada.

These threats compound the importance of CSIS's being a forward-leaning and modern organization. In order to fully operate in this environment, CSIS must leverage technology to counter the systemic hostile activities by foreign state actors, emerging threats and unanticipated crises. Federal Court decisions interpreting CSIS's foreign intelligence assistance mandate have highlighted a technological gap. Practical experience interpreting new dataset authorities reveals significant limitations in CSIS's ability to operate in a data-rich landscape. CSIS requires modern and nimble authorities to perform its duties and functions in a way that accommodates technological evolution and the speed with which threats develop, while also maintaining Charter-

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protected rights in accordance with the Rule of Law. With a renewed dialogue on national security in Canada, CSIS looks forward to hear from Canadians on potential avenues for modernizing its authorities.

Given the proliferation of disinformation and hateful rhetoric in the online space, CSIS has taken an active role in raising awareness of the threats facing Canada and Canadians. CSIS also issued a public report entitled "Foreign Interference and You" to increase awareness and build resilience among Canadians on this important threat to the security of our country. This was published in six languages, so that as many Canadians as possible can be reached.

In keeping with the CSIS's ongoing commitment to transparency, the Public Report 2022 has increased its use of statistics to provide concrete examples of how CSIS is engaging with Canadians to create better understanding of the national security threats facing Canada. Examples include the number of briefings to elected officials, stakeholder engagement activities with community organizations and civil society, as well as operational statistics that demonstrate CSIS's role in the *Investment Canada Act* and immigration security screening.

CSIS continues to seek out opportunities to engage directly with Canadians on issues of national security to build awareness, trust and resilience to threats. In 2022, CSIS hosted 14 virtual expert briefings, produced 14 commissioned reports, facilitated two expert roundtables, and provided feedback from a national security lens on two Government of Canada funding advisory boards. In addition to mobilizing knowledge from a wide variety of academic experts, CSIS also continued to mentor university students including a cohort of graduate-level students at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia.

CSIS also made Indigenous engagement and the work of advancing Truth and Reconciliation a priority in 2022. Senior-level CSIS delegations travelled to Inuit Nunangat to establish relationships with local and regional organizations. These meetings represented unique opportunities for CSIS to learn first-hand about the culture and traditional livelihood of Inuit, and most importantly, to lay the foundations for long-term relationships between Inuit and CSIS.

Building on these engagements, the Report also outlines CSIS' new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategy, with 44 commitments to pursue over the next four years. The DEI Strategy is accessible to Canadians on our external website and commits to the integration of DEI principles into CSIS's business. The organization integrated DEI considerations and commitments into standardized training and information sessions for new Intelligence Officers and Executives; piloted and implemented customized Gender Based Analysis (GBA) PLUS interactive training; and incorporated GBA PLUS considerations in its formal evaluation processes.

The Report is an important tool to demonstrate the excellence and relevance of CSIS as it remains committed to fulfilling its mission in a manner that reflects Canada's values and the trust that Canadians have placed in CSIS. The people of CSIS take their responsibility to protect Canada and Canadians to heart and, throughout and beyond this pandemic; they have continued to carry out their duties with diligence, dedication and the utmost professionalism. As Director, I am very proud of all their work.

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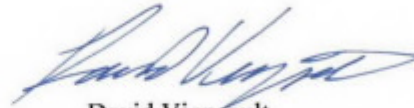
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NEXT STEPS:

In accordance with s. 20.2 of the *CSIS Act*, the Report must be tabled in Parliament within 15 sitting days of its submission to you. We will work with your office to ensure this requirement is met. Immediately following the tabling in Parliament, the Report will be made available online on CSIS's website for all Canadians to consult.

In anticipation of this tabling, CSIS has developed a communications and outreach strategy. As always, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



David Vigneault

cc. Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada
National Security and Intelligence Advisor

Enclosure (1)

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