

For Public Release

CAB 2023-24/28  
July 13, 2023

## Baseline Threat Assessment July 24, 2023 Calgary Heritage By-Election

### Background

1. CSIS is providing a baseline threat assessment on the foreign interference (FI) threat to the July 24, 2023 by-election in the electoral district of Calgary Heritage. This assessment focuses on the FI threat from the most significant threat actors known to engage in FI in Canada: the People's Republic of China (PRC), India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, and [REDACTED]<sup>1</sup>. CSIS is actively monitoring for any indications that these or other foreign states or state actors are engaging in FI activities around this by-election. This assessment also focuses on any threats of violent extremism directed at the July 24, 2023 by-election. As a member of the Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Task Force (SITE TF), CSIS will report any developments through SITE TF's weekly Situational Reports. (S//CEO)

### Foreign Interference Threat Overview

2. Sophisticated, pervasive and persistent FI activities constitute a serious threat to Canada's national security and the integrity of Canada's democratic institutions. For certain foreign states, FI activities are part of their normal pattern of behaviour in Canada and can increase during election periods. Foreign states can employ FI activities to influence Canadian politics by i) deceptively supporting individuals who are perceived to be receptive to foreign state interests, and ii) opposing individuals who are perceived to be against these foreign states. To accomplish their goals, threat actors exploit loopholes in political party nomination processes; engage in money and financing operations; mobilize and leverage community organizations; manipulate media outlets, including social media; and, engage in cyber threat activity. (S//CEO)

3. An important FI tool for many of the threat actors cited during election periods is to leverage Canadian diaspora populations as a voting bloc, in an attempt to try and shape electoral outcomes. While this is not the only tool at the disposal of these threat actors, it is a powerful one in electoral districts with large Canadian diaspora populations. (S//CEO)

<sup>1</sup> CSIS collection efforts are aligned with the Canadian Intelligence Priorities and Intelligence Requirements.



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**Key Threat Actors**

People's Republic of China (PRC)

4. [Redacted]

1)

2)

3)

5. [Redacted]


India

6. [Redacted]

7. [Redacted]

8. [Redacted]

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### Russia

9. 

10.  Russia is largely preoccupied on FI and disinformation campaigns related to the conflict in Ukraine and upcoming presidential elections in Russia in 2024.

### Pakistan

11. 12. 

13.  low proportions of Pakistan Canadian diaspora population in the Calgary Heritage riding means the possible leverage of a Pakistan diaspora voter bloc is diminished. (S)

### Iran

14. 

low proportion of Iranian Canadian diaspora population in the Calgary Heritage riding means the possible leverage of an Iranian diaspora voter bloc is  diminished. (S//CEO)



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[Redacted]

15. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Not Relevant

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Not Relevant

**Outlook**

18. [Redacted] the PRC, India,  
Russia, Iran, Pakistan [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] CSIS will continue to actively monitor for any indications of FI by foreign states or state actors as well as any threats of violent extremism relating to the Calgary Heritage by-election and will report any developments through SITE TF's weekly Situational Reports. (S//CEO)

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