

For Public Release

Points for Speech on Chinese Interference in GE44

GENERAL

- *Taking stock of China*
- *Whole-of-government*
- *Safety and security of Canadians*

- Countries around the world are re-examining and reorienting their engagement with China. Canada is no exception.
- China's growing authoritarianism and coercive diplomacy are challenges faced by democracies around the world.
- In this context, our approach to China is constantly evolving. It is firmly guided by our principles, values and interests, while reflecting the complexity of our relationship.

- Protecting Canada's institutions and democratic processes is an integral part of Canada's values and remains an important priority for the Government of Canada.
- Canada is taking a whole-of-government effort to assess and address foreign interference, which represents a significant danger to Canada's prosperity and sovereignty.
- This includes the recently-announced Indo-Pacific Strategy, which recognizes China's growing influence globally, and outlines Canada's approach to addressing foreign interference activities emanating from China specifically.

- Recent reports of Chinese state-sponsored foreign interference in Canada are deeply troubling.
- The safety and security of Canadians, both at home and abroad, is the first priority of this Government. Any threats made to Canadians, either in Canada or abroad, are wholly unacceptable.
- Canadians, no matter where they come from, should never feel unsafe or threatened because of their ethnic background.
- As a country firmly committed to inclusion, diversity and multiculturalism, we are taking action and doing everything we can to protect our fellow citizens from racism and discrimination.

ACTIONS

- *Demarches and actions*
- *Circulars*
- *Raise it at the highest levels*
- *Raised it with my counterparts*
- *RRM*
- *Visas (?)*

- Reports of Chinese foreign interference in Canada's 2021 General Election are deeply troubling. Allegations of such acts by foreign agents are taken very seriously.

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- Chinese government representatives in Canada, like all foreign government representatives stationed in our country, have a duty under international law to respect the laws and regulations of Canada. Global Affairs Canada has not shied away from repeatedly underlining these points to Chinese government representatives, in Ottawa and through our embassy in Beijing.
- Global Affairs Canada has demarched the PRC Ambassador to Canada on five occasions on Chinese foreign interference activities in Canada and violations of Canadian sovereignty.
- Canada conveyed immediate consequences and warned of the possibility of further consequences if the PRC fails to address this issue.
- Canada has reiterated that it expects that all foreign entities present in Canada will comply with applicable international and Canadian law, including all applicable duties and obligations under the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations.

- In advance of General Election 44, Global Affairs Canada sent a circular notice to all heads of bilateral and multilateral missions in Canada, and to all Chargés d’Affaires a.i., reminding them of their duties, under Article 41 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Article 55 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving state and not to interfere in the internal affairs of the receiving state.
- This circular further clarified that during an election period, this means ensuring that diplomatic and consular representatives do not conduct activities, which may either be perceived as inducing electors to vote for a particular candidate, or prohibiting them from voting for a particular candidate. Furthermore, the circular makes clear that accredited foreign representatives should not – directly or indirectly – make any financial contribution to a candidate, political party or political event.

- Canadian concerns with Chinese foreign interference have also been raised with the Chinese government at the highest levels.

- Addressing challenges to democracy and the rules-based international order requires international cooperation. The G7 Rapid Response Mechanism, or G7 RRM, strengthens G7 coordination to identify and respond to foreign threats to democracies.
- The G7 RRM was established by G7 Leaders at the 2018 G7 Summit hosted by Canada in Charlevoix, Québec. It strengthens coordination between G7 countries to identify and respond to diverse and evolving foreign threats to democracy. These threats include hostile state activity targeting democratic institutions and processes. It also includes the media and information environment, and the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Canada and other G7 democracies can better safeguard our democratic values and institutions by sharing information and analysis, and identifying opportunities for coordinated response.
- Since its inception, the G7 RRM has focused on countering foreign state-sponsored disinformation. The G7 RRM comprises Focal Points from the G7 community, including the EU. It counts Australia, New Zealand, NATO, the Netherlands, and Sweden as observers. Focal Points leverage their respective institutional structures to support whole of government engagement.
- With a coordination unit headquartered at GAC, Canada has led the G7 RRM since its inception in 2018.

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OUTREACH

- *Domestic*
- *International*

- China's willingness to carry out various covert and illicit activities within and against Canada means we must work with other levels of government to shield our democratic institutions from foreign interference and election meddling.
- Global Affairs Canada conducts regular outreach to provinces and territories to discuss Canada's evolving approach to China, and to raise awareness, at all levels of government, about threats and challenges, including through disinformation, harassment, intimidation, and covert activity.
- Under the Indo-Pacific Strategy, Global Affairs Canada is further strengthening its capacity to reach out to provinces, territories, municipalities, academic institutions, and Canadians by setting up a China capacity and coherence unit.
- This Unit will further enhance our capacity to reach out within Canada on all matters pertaining to China.

- The international landscape has changed. Malign actors seek to spread insecurity, to undermine trust in public institutions, and to sow division within a country and among international community partners and allies.
- Internationally Global Affairs Canada has consistently sought to raise international awareness of threats from foreign interference and to democratic institutions by malign actors.
- We recognize that threats of information manipulation and interference, are a growing challenge for democratic societies, governments, and institutions around the world, that demand heightened international collaboration.
- Together, Canada and its allies and partners will stand up for our principles and make our democracies more resilient while at the same time pushing back any manipulative attempts to undermine confidence in our democratic institutions.
- In this context, we will continue to focus and expand our efforts in the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism to counter foreign interference in our democracies including by spreading disinformation.

COORDINATION

- We must continue to work with our partners around the world to protect the rules-based international order and defend human rights and freedoms. These are fundamental Canadian values that underpin our foreign policy.