

For Public Release

Modernizing Canada's legislative toolkit to counter foreign interference
Proposed SOIA, Criminal Code, Canada Evidence Act & CSIS Act Amendments
Consultation Plan – Summer 2023 (DRAFT)

Context

- Consultations on potential changes to the Security of Information Act (SOIA), the Criminal Code (the Code), the Canada Evidence Act (CEA) and the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service Act (CSIS Act) are planned for the summer of 2023.
- The amendments are being considered by the Government of Canada in the context of an effort to modernize Canada's legislative toolkit to counter the threat of foreign interference (FI).
- The objectives of both consultations are to foster transparency on counter FI activities, garner support for legislative modernization, and gain feedback from stakeholders, including affected communities.

Proposed Approach

- The consultation process will consist of public online consultations, in parallel with stakeholder engagement sessions.
- Justice will host a CC, SOIA and CEA consultation paper, while Public Safety will host the CSIS Act paper.
- There would be a single Canada.ca page, entitled "Consultations on modernizing Canada's legislative toolkit to counter FI", containing a single overarching narrative around the challenge of FI to Canada and Canadian society, with two different links: one to the Justice website for the consultation paper and submissions, and another to Public Safety Canada for the CSIS Act consultations.
- To avoid stakeholder fatigue or frustration, Justice, Public Safety Canada and CSIS will coordinate engagements, and hold joint sessions when necessary.
- Public comms will present these engagements as a continuation to the Spring 2023 Foreign Influence Transparency Registry consultations, as part of a broader effort of the Government of Canada to modernize Canada's toolkit to counter FI.
- Tentative timing:
 - Week of June 26 - Announcement of consultation plan
 - Second week of July (tentative) – Start of online consultations (6 weeks)
 - Third week of July – Start of stakeholder engagements (until end of August)

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Annexes:

- Annex A – Tentative Consolidated Stakeholder List
- Annex B – Justice Canada Consultation Plan
- Annex C – Justice Canada Consultation Paper
- Annex D – CSIS Act Consultation Plan (forthcoming)
- Annex E – CSIS Act Consultations Paper (forthcoming)