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FEDERAL POLICING NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (FPNI)  
 IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE TEAM (IMCIT)

PROTECTED A  
 IMCIT SIB 02 -- 2023-06-16

## STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

### SECURITY THREATS TO CANADA'S JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 BY-ELECTIONS – UPDATE #2

*This assessment is intended to provide situational awareness of domestic security-related threats to Canada's June 19<sup>th</sup> by-elections. The information in this assessment is based on reporting from searches against RCMP holdings and open source resources (Information current as of 16 June 2023, 1000hrs). The IMCIT continues to maintain visibility on emerging threats and will provide updates as required. (U)*

#### KEY POINTS

- IMCIT has not observed any ideologically motivated criminality or threats to the by-elections in the ridings of Portage-Lisgar (MB), Winnipeg South Centre (MB), Oxford (ON) and Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Westmount (QC). No direct threats to any of the candidates, or to the administration of the election, were identified by IMCIT. (U)
- The localized nature of the 2023 by-elections means a reduced likelihood for ideologically motivated threat actors to engage with VIPs or protected persons. (U)
- IMCIT assesses that the potential for ideologically motivated threats targeting the by-elections on 19 June 2023 will remain low for the remainder of the election period. (PROTECTED A)

#### PURPOSE

To provide an overview of the current domestic threat environment related to Canada's June 19<sup>th</sup> by-elections in the ridings of Portage Lisgar (MB), Winnipeg South Centre (MB), Oxford (ON), and Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Westmount (QC), as of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. (U)

#### BACKGROUND

On 14 May 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that four by-elections would take place on 19 June 2023, in the electoral districts of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Westmount (QC), Oxford (ON), Winnipeg South Centre (MB) and Portage Lisgar (MB) in order to fill vacancies in the House of Commons.<sup>1</sup> The by-elections are being held to replace three MPs who have chosen to step down from

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federal politics, including former Liberal cabinet minister Marc Garneau (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce–Westmount, in Quebec), Conservative MP Dave MacKenzie (Oxford, in Ontario) and former Conservative interim leader Candice Bergen (Portage–Lisgar, in Manitoba). Additionally, the passing of former Liberal cabinet minister Jim Carr has left the Winnipeg South Centre with another vacancy.<sup>2</sup> (U)

### **BY-ELECTIONS THREAT LANDSCAPE**

IMCIT has not identified any direct threats to by-elections in social media, message boards, chatrooms, online forums or news media relating to the ridings of Portage-Lisgar (MB), Winnipeg South Centre (MB), Oxford (ON), and Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Westmount (QC).<sup>3</sup> (U)

Of the four announced by-elections, the riding of Portage-Lisgar has the highest potential for disruptions as the leader of the People's Party of Canada (PPC) is a named candidate in this riding. The campaign in Portage-Lisgar prominently featured messaging about gender identity issues, a subject which has been the catalyst for protests across the country in 2023. Additionally, the campaign has seen visits from social media personalities associated with anti-LGBTQ+ protests and rhetoric. Through the campaign period, however, IMCIT has observed only very limited protest and counter-protest activities in the riding, and only one reported incident of a campaign event being briefly disrupted by a peaceful protester.<sup>4</sup> On social media, supporters of the People's Party of Canada and Conservative Party candidates have exchanged heat rhetoric, often referencing conspiratorial grievances, but IMCIT has not identified any comments that have escalated into clear threats. (PROTECTED A)

The candidates in the other by-election ridings are relatively low-profile and unlikely to generate as much attention as a federal party leader with polarizing policy positions.<sup>5</sup> Online, there appears to be little interest in protesting or counter-protesting campaign events. While some constituents have expressed their distaste for some opposing candidates and parties in a heated manner, overwhelmingly on social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter, there have been no instances of ideologically-motivated threats identified to the election, administration or candidates and campaign events from all parties appear to have unfolded without disruption. (PROTECTED A)

IMCIT assesses the potential for public order-related threats would most likely result from:<sup>6</sup>

1. Disagreements to the PPC's newly announced policy position related to LGBTQ+ issues and the protection of women and children;<sup>7</sup> (PROTECTED A)
2. Ongoing Pride month events, many of which have been protested by anti-LGBTQ+ actors in recent months, particularly during Pride Month; (PROTECTED A)
3. Developments regarding the investigations into foreign interference from the 2019 and 2021 federal elections, which may lead to protests against "rigged" elections, and; (PROTECTED A)
4. Visits by party leaders to events, who often draw ideologically-motivated actors who are looking both to directly protest an official's policies or as an opportunity to draw attention to their own issues/beliefs. (PROTECTED A)

While the above-mentioned factors may contribute to the potential for public order-related events, IMCIT assesses that the likelihood of ideologically-motivated threats to the by-election and its candidates remains low. There appears to be little interest among ideologically-motivated threat actors

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to target, either through protests or physical violence, either the candidates or the infrastructure of the election. (PROTECTED A)

IMCIT continues to assess a low threat to the by-elections stemming from the ideologically motivated threat landscape. The potential for public order events exists, most likely relating to LGBTQ+ issues or grievances about election interference and it is unlikely if such protests manifest, that they will present a serious threat to public safety during the by-election period. (PROTECTED A)

*Issued by: Ideologically Motivated Criminal Intelligence Team (IMCIT)*  
*Approved by: Director General, Federal Policing National Intelligence*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=med&dir=pre&document=may1423&lang=e>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/byelections-federal-government-2023-1.6843113>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=ele&dir=2023&document=index&lang=e>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/438305028270009/posts/611293567637820/>

<sup>5</sup> IMCIT, *National threat Landscape Strategic Assessment*, May 2023

<sup>6</sup> *Idem*

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.peoplespartyofcanada.ca/policy-announcement-on-radical-gender-ideology>

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