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ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER

c.c.: Daniel Rogers

**DEPUTY MINISTER COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE RESPONSE
(DMCIR) MEETING ON THE SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE THREATS
TO ELECTIONS (SITE) TASK FORCE**

(For Information)

SUMMARY

- You will chair a meeting of the Deputy Minister Committee on Intelligence Response (DMCIR) on June 23, 2023, focused on the Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections (SITE) Task Force update on recent by-elections. The proposed meeting agenda is in **Annex A**.
- Four by-elections took place on Monday June 19, 2023. The SITE Task Force will release classified and unclassified versions of their After-Action Report in the coming weeks. Throughout the by-election period, the SITE Task Force did not observe incidents of foreign interference that threatened Canada's ability to have a free and fair election during the by-election period.
- A fifth by-election has been called for the Calgary-Heritage electoral district, with voting to take place on July 24, 2023. The SITE Task Force will monitor this by-election. Two process changes have been proposed:
 1. a shift to weekly, rather than daily, written SITE reports, as long as there is nothing significant to report; and
 2. a shift to biweekly, rather than weekly, meetings of the DG/ADM Elections Security Coordination Committee (ESCC), as long as there are no issues of concern.

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BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS**ITEM #1: June 19, 2023, By-Elections**

- *You may wish to begin by turning to David Vigneault, Director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), to provide a final update on SITE's monitoring of the four by-elections. You may also wish to ask him if he can specify when SITE will be able to share a copy of its After-Action Report for DMCIR review.*
- *You may wish to provide an update on the status of your letter to Minister LeBlanc regarding the preliminary assessment of the by-elections.*
- *You may also wish to ask Paul MacKinnon, Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet for Governance, and/or Lorrie-Anne Kempton, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet for Communications and Consultations, for any further updates about post by-elections communications*
- Throughout the by-election period, the SITE Task Force undertook enhanced reporting and provided daily situational reports to DMCIR and other officials. Overall, no incidents of foreign interference threatening Canada's ability to have a free and fair election were observed during the by-election period.
- Given the recent public interest on issues relating to foreign electoral interference, it was proposed that you send a letter, on behalf of DMCIR and reflecting SITE reporting, to Minister LeBlanc to provide him with DMCIR's preliminary conclusions. Minister LeBlanc may then choose to release a public statement reflecting this correspondence. A proposed letter has been shared with your office.
- The SITE Task Force will finalize their After-Action Report and aim to release it as soon as possible following the by-election. They will prepare a classified report (approximately 2-3 pages) and an unclassified report for public disclosure (approximately 1 page). Both reports will be consulted with DMCIR.

ITEM #2: By-Election in Calgary-Heritage

- *You may wish to turn to Deputy Secretary MacKinnon to provide an update on the approach to be taken for the by-election in Calgary-Heritage.*

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- *You may also wish to turn to the Acting Assistant Secretary to Cabinet, Security & Intelligence, Marie-Hélène Chayer, to provide an update on any proposed process improvements/changes, given lessons learned from the four completed by-elections.*
- *Finally, you may wish to turn to Director Vigneault to ask if SITE has any threat updates to provide yet, and to ask when SITE might begin providing written updates.*
- A fifth by-election, for Calgary-Heritage (Alberta), was called on June 18, 2023. The election day will be on July 24, 2023.
- In accordance with an announcement from Minister LeBlanc, the measures brought in to protect the four June 2023 by-elections from any potential foreign interference will be applied to the upcoming by-election as well. SITE has been instructed to begin monitoring this by-election at their earliest opportunity.
- Based on experience from the four recent by-elections, two process changes have been proposed:
 1. SITE has proposed reducing the frequency of written reports from daily to weekly, as long as there is nothing significant to report. Should any incidents of foreign interference or threats of violence be observed, the tempo would shift back to daily reports.
 2. In addition, it has been proposed that the Elections Security Coordination Committee (ESCC) hold a joint DG/ADM meeting once every two weeks during this by-election, rather than every week. This does not preclude *ad hoc* meetings should any issues of concern arise during the by-election period.

Marie-Hélène Chayer
A/Assistant Secretary to the
Cabinet, Security and Intelligence

