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BPTS: 01528-2023

MEMORANDUM FOR ACTION

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

Foreign Interference by PRC diplomat

Summary

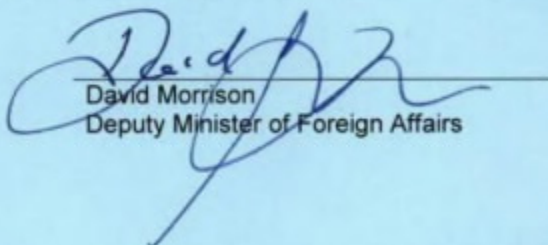
This memo outlines recommended next steps related to foreign interference in Canada perpetrated by the People's Republic of China (PRC), specifically on the reported conduct of an accredited PRC diplomat based at the Consulate General in Toronto, Mr. Zhao Wei. Most notably, the PRC official has been the subject of media reports suggesting he has conducted foreign interference activities against a sitting Member of Parliament (MP) for the MP's public policy positions vis-à-vis the PRC.

The PRC conducts a range of foreign interference activities in Canada. Since January 2021, Canada has raised this with PRC officials on over 30 occasions and, since the fall of 2022, via four diplomatic notes. While elements of recent media reporting about Mr. Zhao's activities are not accurate, there is no question that PRC interference activities in Canada have continued despite repeated warnings, or that some of Mr. Zhao Wei's activities constitute foreign interference. Additional information about Mr. Zhao's activities has been shared with Global Affairs in recent days.

Since May 4, 2023, both the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (USS) and Canada's Ambassador to the PRC, Jennifer May, have engaged senior PRC officials to facilitate Mr. Zhao's voluntary departure from Canada on an immediate basis. Despite five days of high-level and sustained diplomacy, and in the context of mounting media and public pressures, the Chinese side has continued to refuse to agree to Canada's demands, leaving Canada only one option at this time.

Recommendation(s)

That you declare PRC accredited diplomat, Mr. ZHAO Wei *persona non grata* and request his departure from Canada by 11:59PM, Saturday, May 13, 2023.



David Morrison
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

I concur I do not concur
 I wish to discuss



Minister

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