

### **National Security Council**

- The National Security Council (NSC) provides a monthly forum to set direction and take decisions on Canada's interests related to national and economic security, defence, and foreign policy. It will deliberate on and set the national course on the most seismic domestic and global issues that will affect Canada over the next decades.
- The Council will form an integral part of Canada's national security infrastructure and will foster a comprehensive and horizontal approach to managing security issues that have broad and long-lasting impacts on Canada's interests.

### ***Supporting Governance***

- The deputy heads who will be regular participants in the NSC will meet monthly to:
  - discuss potential topics to be brought forward to the Council, relevant policy considerations and decision points;
  - provide guidance and feedback on supporting documentation; and
  - track progress on the implementation of NSC direction and decision.
- This core group will be supported by a committee of assistant deputy ministers, which will regularly liaise with and seek input from their respective minister's office.

### ***Forward Agenda***

- In order to ensure that the NSC is well positioned to discuss the most relevant and timely national security issues facing Canada, a forward agenda has been developed to help align resources across departments and agencies, with the aim to develop well-considered and timely documents and tailored briefings (proposed list of topics attached).
- NSC topics of discussions will meet the following criteria:
  - **Horizontality** – the topics trigger several ministerial accountabilities and/or require engagement with other levels of government/international partners;
  - **Impact** – the topics present a growing and potentially long-lasting impact on national security and interests; and
  - **Strategic policy gaps** – topics require strategic direction from the government to enable policy development and advice, and preserve the Government's decision space.
- The forward agenda will outline key strategic considerations and questions pertaining to each topic, will be approved by the Prime Minister and will be updated as required.

### ***Supporting Documents***

- The NSC Secretariat will coordinate the production and dissemination of background material that will be provided by lead departments and agencies to support NSC deliberations. Supporting material will constitute **Type 2 Cabinet documents** and, depending on the topic, could include strategic policy non-papers, fact sheets and intelligence assessments.
- As they will not include specific or detailed policy proposals and are rather **meant to inform NSC members, identify key strategic questions and decision points, and outline potential high-level policy avenues**, these documents will not require ministerial approval. Ministerial advisors and PMO staff may nonetheless be consulted during the drafting process.
- The supporting materials will be subject to Cabinet documents policy and processes, and will be distributed well ahead of meetings in both official languages. The NSC Secretariat, together with other PCO secretariats, will provide a challenge function and will develop templates for the various products that will be specifically drafted in support of the Council.

### ***Tailored support to NSC members***

- Working in collaboration with OGDs, the NSC Secretariat will coordinate joint intelligence support and briefings to NSC members.
- The Secretariat will also facilitate general information and intelligence sharing on national security and intelligence issues— especially for those ministers and deputies with less direct mandated responsibilities in those areas.

***Decision implementation***

- NSC decisions will be summarized at the end of each discussion item by the Secretary (NSIA) and duly recorded. The decisions will initiate and set the tone for more detailed policy work that will be conducted through the Cabinet Committee on Global Affairs and Public Security, set priorities and risk tolerances for national security and intelligence operations, and lay out broad strategies to strengthen Canada's security, prosperity, and place in the world.