

For Public Release



Government of Canada  
Privy Council Office

National Security and Intelligence  
Advisor to the Prime Minister

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0A3

Gouvernement du Canada  
Bureau du Conseil privé

Conseiller à la sécurité nationale et au renseignement  
auprès du Premier ministre

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DEMOCRATIC  
INSTITUTIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

c.c.: Paul MacKinnon

**POLITICAL PARTY ACCESS TO THE CLASSIFIED FINAL REPORT ON FOREIGN  
INTERFERENCE IN THE JUNE 2023 BY-ELECTIONS**

(For Information)

**SUMMARY**

- o The Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections (SITE) Task Force provided enhanced monitoring and assessment of foreign interference threats directed towards the by-elections that were held on June 19, 2023.
- o SITE produced classified and unclassified final reports on those by-elections, which note that SITE did not observe any indication of foreign interference directed at the by-elections, that no cyber incidents were detected to suggest that any foreign state actors were specifically targeting Elections Canada in the lead up to the by-elections, and that SITE did not observe any threats of violent extremism directed at the by-election.
- o Your May 16, 2023, announcement indicated that the classified report would be provided to identified representatives of the parties with appropriate security clearances. To fulfill this commitment, PCO contacted the six political parties that received a briefing from SITE at the beginning of the by-election, and offered to provide the classified report to an appropriately-cleared representative. So far, representatives from two parties have requested to read the classified report.
- o For parties that respond to this offer, PCO will make the classified report available to representatives who are already cleared to the necessary level (SECRET), and will offer to initiate the clearance process for one person from each party that does not have a representative with the necessary clearance.

For Public Release

- [APG] -

**UNCLASSIFIED****BACKGROUND**

- As you announced on May 16, 2023, the Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Task Force (SITE) provided enhanced monitoring and assessment of foreign interference threats directed towards the by-elections that were held on June 19, 2023.
- As it undertook this work, SITE kept the Deputy Minister Committee on Intelligence Response (DMCIR) informed through written reports and verbal briefings. DMCIR stood ready to brief and advise ministers with mandates to combat foreign interference and protect Canada's democratic institutions, should that have been necessary.
- As instructed in your May 16, 2023, announcement, SITE completed two reports - one classified and one unclassified - consisting of the Task Force's assessment of any attempts at foreign interference targeting the by-elections. The reports note that SITE did not observe any indication of foreign interference directed at the by-elections, that no cyber incidents were detected to suggest that any foreign state actors were specifically targeting Elections Canada in the lead up to the by-elections, and that SITE did not observe any threats of violent extremism directed at the by-elections.
- Your May 16, 2023, announcement also indicated that copies of the classified report would be made available to you, relevant ministers, the Independent Special Rapporteur (ISR), the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP), and identified representatives of the parties with appropriate security clearances.
- I transmitted both versions of this report to you, attached to a letter dated July 21, 2023. I also provided both versions of the report to the Prime Minister, and to Ministers Blair, Mendicino, Joly, and Anand. A copy of the classified report was provided to the Chair of the NSICOP and, though not mentioned in your announcement, to the Chair of the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA). Given that the ISR has resigned, the classified report was not provided to him.
- As a final step to fulfill the commitment made in your May 16 announcement, PCO contacted representatives of the political parties that were offered a SITE briefing at the beginning of the by-election – including the Liberal Party of Canada, the Conservative Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party, the Bloc Québécois, the Green Party of Canada, and the People's Party of Canada – to offer to provide the classified report to appropriately-cleared representatives.
- So far representatives from two parties have requested to read the classified report. PCO will make the classified report available to representatives who are already

For Public Release

- [APG] -

**UNCLASSIFIED**

cleared to the necessary level (SECRET). For parties requesting to review the report who do not have a cleared representative, PCO will offer to initiate the clearance process for one representative. Given the classification of the report, representatives wishing review the report will need to come to PCO offices in Ottawa to read the report, and will not be permitted to take a copy back with them.

- PCO is working with your office to finalize plans to release the unclassified reports publicly.
- SITE also provided enhanced monitoring and reporting for the by-election that was held in Calgary-Heritage on July 24, 2023, and will produce classified and unclassified reports on that by-election soon. The same process will be proposed for the distribution of those reports once they are complete.

Jody Thomas  
National Security and Intelligence  
Advisor to the Prime Minister

Walshe  
Webcams: