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Public Safety    Sécurité publique  
Canada            Canada

Deputy Minister    Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0P8

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DATE:

File No.: PS-040702

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

**CANADA'S COUNTER-FOREIGN INTERFERENCE STRATEGY**

(For Decision and Signature)

**ISSUE**

Your decision is requested by August 21, 2023 in order to publicly release the unclassified version of Canada's *Counter-Foreign Interference Strategy (C-FI Strategy)* (**TAB A**). Your approval is also sought to have the C-FI translated and released in additional languages other than English and French.

**BACKGROUND**

s. 39 - Cabinet Confidence

The *C-FI Strategy* is the culmination of policy development and extensive interdepartmental consultations dating back to 2018. It sets out three pillars (*1. Detect; 2. Strengthen; and 3. Act*) to underpin Canada's approach to protect five priority sectors of importance to the national interest. These include: (1) Democratic Processes and Government Institutions; (2) Communities; (3) Economic Prosperity and Research Security; (4) International Affairs and Defence; and (5) Critical Infrastructure. **s. 39**

s. 39 - Cabinet PS' intent to also lead the development of two versions of the *C-FI Strategy*:

- An unclassified version to enhance public awareness of the threat posed by FI, including existing measures in place to counter it, and tools at the public's disposal; and

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- A classified version to serve as an internal-to-Government implementation plan to guide current and future Government of Canada actions to counter FI.

While the classified version remains ongoing, the unclassified version is ready and recommended for public release.

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

#### *Ongoing reviews on Foreign Interference*

In its 2019 Annual Report, the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP) noted that there is no public foreign interference (FI) strategy similar to those developed for terrorism or cyber security. NSICOP specifically recommended the development of a “comprehensive strategy to counter FI and build institutional and public resiliency.”

In March 2023, the Prime Minister mandated NSICOP to complete a review to assess the state of FI in federal electoral processes. As part of this review, the development and status of the *C-FI Strategy* has been a focus of discussions between PS officials and the NSICOP. The NSICOP’s latest report is expected to be published in October 2023. The release of the *C-FI Strategy* in advance of this report would address a key outstanding 2019 recommendation. If not released, the 2023 report could highlight this as a failing of the Government to adequately address the recommendation of the 2019 report.

#### *International benchmarking*

The publication of the *C-FI Strategy* would be timely, with both Australia and the United Kingdom set to release their own public strategies in the short-term. Should the *C-FI Strategy* be released in short-order, Canada would be the first FVEY country to publicly release such a document.

In keeping with international best practices on public-facing material, PS also proposes to translate the *C-FI Strategy* to other languages in addition to English and French, after the initial release. These include Arabic, Farsi, Russian, and Simplified and Traditional Chinese, to ensure that communities vulnerable to FI have the information they need.

s. 39 - Cabinet Confidence

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**NEXT STEPS**

Should you approve the C-FI Strategy, the English and French versions of the document will be released on the PS website, along with accompanying web content updates to the PS Foreign Interference web page. Following this, the C-FI Strategy will also be translated into other languages and released accordingly.

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**PROTECTED B****RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended you approve the *C-FI Strategy (TAB A)* for release on the Public Safety Canada website. It is also recommended that you approve its translation into additional languages.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Patrick Boucher, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, National and Cyber Security Branch, at 613-990-4976.

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Shawn Tupper  
Deputy Minister

**I concur**

**I do not concur**

**I concur with changes**

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The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment(s) (1):

*Tab A: Canada's Counter-Foreign Interference Strategy*

Prepared by: NCSB-NSOD