

## Canada: China's Interference in Election Process; Relations with India

April 6, 2024

April 5, 2024: **Ottawa, Canada: Foreign Interference Commission: Lyall King**, who served as Chair of the **Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections (SITE)** Task Force during the 2019 and 2021 elections, told the **Commission** on Friday that the **purpose of the task force briefings** was to educate the parties and make them aware "in greater detail what foreign interference was, how it was conducted and in what spaces it was being conducted" so that **every political party would be able to look in its own campaign and its own spaces to try and see if it could potentially identify activities of that kind.**"

**King** said that the **briefing** was "**never intended**" to share specific intelligence **King** went on to describe a specific statement in the top-secret document as "massively problematic."

**King** had said, in a written submission, that he had written, in an e-mail in 2019, to CSIS that to provide the **briefing**, one week after the election, when this information was clearly known beforehand and built up over time, served no purpose.

That intelligence assessment was drafted by the **Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)** Canada, a body established in 2018 to identify and respond to foreign threats to democracy. It was dated **Sept. 13, 2021**, seven days before Canadians cast their ballots. The top-secret document said RRM had "observed what may be a **Chinese Communist Party (CCP)** information operation that aims to discourage voters from voting for the **Conservative Party of Canada.**" A redacted version of the document has been published by the **Commission**. The assessment added that RRM was unable to determine whether there was coordination between CCP Media Unit and WeChat news accounts serving Chinese-speaking Canadians that were amplifying the narrative.

April 4, 2024: **Ottawa, Canada: Foreign Interference Commission: Cherie Henderson**, CSIS Assistant Director, was asked about King's 2019 email on

Thursday. She said that the report in question was the culmination of an investigation that began before the 2019 election campaign. SITE only manages issues that arise during the election period.

**Henderson** said the top-secret report said "the **threat actor** has already had an impact on the 2019 federal election and will remain a foreign interference threat after the election." She said that CSIS assessment was that the integrity of the 2019 election was not affected by the **threat actors**.

April 3, 2024: **Ottawa, Canada: Foreign Interference Commission: Erin O'Toole** said on Wednesday that he believes the **Conservative party lost five to nine** seats, at the Federal elections of 2021, because of a foreign misinformation campaign aimed at Conservative candidates in B.C. and Ontario, and at his party more generally. O'Toole told the inquiry the assessment was never shared with his campaign.

**O'Toole** also told the commission that it quickly became clear to him, on election night in 2021, that he was not about to become Prime Minister, but he was nonetheless startled by the disappointing results in a number of ridings. He added that he might have continued, as the Leader of the Conservative caucus, after losing the 2021 Federal election had his Party not won two seats less than the party did in the 2019 election.



*April 3, 2024: Ottawa, Canada: Erin O'Toole, former Conservative leader*

The SITE **Task Force** includes representatives from CSIS, RCMP, Global Affairs Canada and the Communications Security Establishment. The **Task Force** is

responsible for monitoring and reporting threats and to guard against foreign meddling during the Federal election campaigns in Canada.

The Commission is also expected to hear testimony from **Allen Sutherland**, who serves as Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet for the Privy Council Office.

Led by Quebec Superior Court Justice **Marie-Josée Hogue**, the Commission is examining allegations of foreign interference by **China, Russia** and other foreign states in the 2019 and 2021 Canadian Federal elections.



*Public Inquiry Into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions: Justice **Marie-Josée Hogue***

The Commission is scheduled to release its first report on May 3, 2024. Its final report is due on December 31, 2024.

April 4, 2024: **Ottawa, Canada: Foreign Interference Commission:** A document presented to the Commission by CSIS says Canadian intelligence suggests Chinese officials may have transferred around \$250,000 to “threat actors” in Canada in late 2018 or early 2019. The document says that prior to and during the 2019 election “a group of known and suspected **People’s Republic of China (PRC)** related threat actors in Canada, including PRC officials, worked in loose coordination with one

another to covertly advance PRC interests through Canadian democratic institutions.”

*The objective seems to be to help some Canadian citizens of Chinese origin, who were candidates at the Federal elections.*

The document says **seven** of the candidates were **from the Liberal Party** and **four** were **from the Conservative Party**, and that some appeared willing to co-operate in foreign interference “related activity” while others appeared unaware of it, because it was of a clandestine nature.

*The term “threat actors” is used here to refer to either Chinese Consular Officers in Canada or to Canadian citizens, of Chinese origin, working to help the Chinese Consulates in Canada with information and advice.*

April 4, 2024: **Ottawa, Canada: Foreign Interference Commission: Testimony from Dan Rogers**, the Deputy National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister: **Rogers** said the CSE had gathered intelligence after the 2021 election that included allegations about a potential “distribution of funds.” The CSE had shared the intelligence with the RCMP and CSIS.

*Communications Security Establishment (CSE) Canada is Canada's national cryptologic agency, for providing the Government of Canada with information technology security and foreign signals intelligence.*

April 4, 2024: **Ottawa, Canada: Foreign Interference Commission: Testimony from Michael Duheme**, RCMP Commissioner: **Duheme** told the **Commission** that the RCMP did not open any criminal investigations into foreign interference in either the 2019 or 2021 elections. But, after the last general election the RCMP opened an investigation into foreign interference involving elections or democratic institutions, after Conservative MP **Michael Chong** said publicly that he had been a target of foreign interference from China.

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024: Ottawa: Han Dong** has appeared as a witness at the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions. He is said to be close to the Officers of the Chinese Consulate in Toronto. Considered view of [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) is that the Canadian Government has been unfair to both the MP and the citizens by not bringing out the truth, pro-actively: A reputed journalist of Canada in his column, said that many

candidates had accepted financial and other help from the Chinese Consulate in Toronto for winning nomination and for getting elected in 2019, through an MP, close to the Chinese Consulate.

**Han Dong** was suspected of **having advised** the Chinese diplomats in Toronto against quick release of **Michael Kovrig** and **Michael Spavor**. **Dong has denied the allegation** and said **he has always advocated for the early release of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor**.



**Han Dong**, MP for Don Valley North from October 21, 2019

Member, Ontario Provincial Parliament for Trinity—Spadina (June 12, 2014 – June 7, 2018)

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024:** Ottawa: Former Conservative MP **Kenny Chiu** said he did not feel protected by the federal government when he was “drowning” under alleged Chinese foreign interference that cost him his seat in the 2021 election.

Chiu lost the Steveston-Richmond East seat in 2021.





***Kenny Chiu**, MP for Steveston-Richmond East (October 21, 2019 – August 15, 2021)  
Shadow Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Youth (Sept 7, 2020 – Sept 20, 2021)*

**Kenny Chiu** has been a vocal critic of China. He says that he lost his seat in the 2021 federal election due to China's alleged election meddling. He says he was the target of propaganda and disinformation on WeChat during the last election campaign.

Chiu says he's not surprised by the report in **the Globe and Mail** citing Canadian intelligence documents and describing alleged **efforts to oust candidates seen as unfriendly to Beijing**. After the elections, he says that he learnt that articles indicating that his private member bill regarding foreign influence would "put Chinese Canadians in danger" were circulating on WeChat — something he says is not true.

**Kenny Chiu** believes there's been a lack of action from Ottawa on foreign interests operating in Canadian politics. "What I feel is a deep sense of worry for our country," Chiu told Gloria Macarenko, the host of 'On The Coast'.

He added," We're continuously allowing and permitting foreign countries that are aggressive and predatory to penetrate our systems, our institutions and jeopardizing their integrity ... without our government doing anything to protect and safeguard it."

OTHER MPS: New Democrat MP **Jenny Kwan** said that Canada's spy agency has confirmed her long-held belief **she is being targeted by the Chinese government**, as the prime minister granted the NDP's wish to allow more party members to review top-secret intelligence.



***Jenny Kwan**, MP for Vancouver East from October 19, 2015*

*Member, BC's Legislative Assembly for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant (May 28, 1996 – Aug 4, 2015)*

*BC's Minister of Community Development, Cooperatives & Volunteers (Feb 29, 2000 – June 5, 2001)*

*BC's Minister of Women's Equality (July 21, 1999 – February 24, 2000)*

*BC's Minister of Municipal Affairs (February 18, 1998 – July 21, 1999)*

Kwan said the Canadian Security Intelligence Service spent an hour with her, a few days back, laying out the intelligence it possesses that she has been targeted by China **since before the 2019 federal election over her advocacy for human rights in Hong Kong and for the Uyghur Muslim minority in China.**

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) is quoting below the remarks of **David Vigneault**, dated June 19, 2017, because these are very

pertinent to the investigation, being conducted by **Foreign Interference Commission**. **David Vigneault** also termed the challenges being faced by Canada today as "significantly more complex" than the threats of the Cold War era. [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) notes that the North American leadership seems to be much less united and awake to these threats, while the axis of Russia, China, Iran and Turkey is much more powerful than USSR ever was. [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) had called for updating the "outdated laws," under which CSIS was working.

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) calls upon the political leadership of Canada to take up the task of giving appropriate powers, through legislation, to CSIS so that Canada is kept ready to overcome the threats to its security and so that the Canadians continue to feel as safe as they have after the end of WW II.

**David Vigneault**, the Director of the **Canadian Security Intelligence Service** (CSIS), in his first public speech at the **Centre for International Governance Innovation** (CIGI), on **February 9, 2021**, named **Russia, China, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Venezuela** as "**countries of concern**". (*Laos, under the present Government, is a client State of China. Hence in [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com)'s view, the threats from Laos may be essentially from China, whenever China would find it more effective to operate under the cloak of another country.*)





***David Vigneault**, the 9th Director of CSIS (from June 19, 2017)*

**Vigneault** said that "state actors (*of these countries*) have done 'significant harm' to Canadian companies" and pose "a significant danger to Canada's prosperity and sovereignty". The **Sydney Morning Herald** reported that he said "The **Government of China** ... is pursuing a strategy for geopolitical advantage on all fronts – economic, technological, political, and military – and using all elements of state power to carry out **activities that are a direct threat to our national security and sovereignty.**"

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) notes that both the proceedings of the **Foreign Interference Commission** and the important statement of **David Vigneault** bring out the challenges being faced by Canada today due to the interference by the Chinese Communist Party in the internal affairs of Canada. Both of them have not mentioned India, anywhere.

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) understands that the relations between India and Canada have been damaged since the minority Government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau depends on the votes of NDP, which is headed by **Jagmeet Singh**, a well-known Khalistani and anti-Indian politician. However, PM Trudeau is too astute and experienced a politician, not to be able to work with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards improving the relations between the great democracy of India and Canada.



Approval Rating of PM **Justin Trudeau**:  
June 2015: 45%; Sep 2016: 65%;  
Apr 2020: 54%; Mar 2024: 32%



Approval Rating of PM **Narendra Modi**:  
May 2014: 34%; May 2019: 37%;  
Apr 2024: 40%

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