Timeline: Measures to combat foreign interference in elections

2016-2017

- The Minister of Democratic Institutions was **mandated** to lead efforts to defend the Canadian electoral process from cyber threats.
- The **National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP)** was created and has since produced a number of reports on foreign interference, cyber threats, diversity and inclusion within the security and intelligence community.

- **The Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSE)** published **biannual reports on cyber threats to Canada's democratic process** and committed to providing briefings to registered political parties and to Elections Canada on their threat reports.
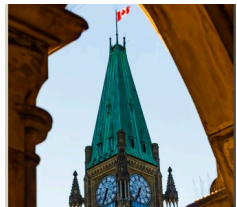

2018

- The **G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)** was established to respond to foreign threats to democracies.
- *Elections Modernization Act* **(Bill C-76) received Royal Assent**, modernizing the electoral process making it easier for Canadians to participate in elections and helping improve Canadians' trust and confidence in Canada's electoral system.

- Canada pledged support for the **Paris Call for the Trust and Security in Cyberspace**, calling for states, the private sector, and civil society to work together to promote security in cyberspace.

2019

- The **Plan to Protect Canada's Democracy** was announced. Measures of the plan include:
  - **Critical Election Incident Public Protocol (CEIPP)**
  - **Digital Citizen Initiative (DCI)**
  - **Classified threat briefings and cybersecurity guidance**
  - **Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections (SITE) Task Force**
  - **G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)**
  - **Canada Declaration on Electoral Integrity Online**

- CSE released the *2019 update: Cyber Threats to Canada's Democratic Process*.
- The **National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA)** was created and has conducted independent reviews of Canada's national security and intelligence activities to ensure that they are lawful, reasonable and necessary.

2020

- An **independent assessment of the CEIPP**'s effectiveness during the 2019 election concluded it was successfully implemented and is an important tool to protecting our elections against forms of interference. The directive on the CEIPP was updated to ensure the CEIPP remains in place for all future general elections, rather than specific elections.

- Canada became a co-lead for Principle 3 (Defend Electoral Processes) of the **Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace** to take part in leading activities on election interference and building international capacity in this area.

2021

- The **Plan to Protect Canada's Democracy** was updated to included changes to the CEIPP and a new focus on building a healthy information ecosystem online.
- The Paris Call Principle co-leads developed the *Multistakeholder Insights: A Compendium on Countering Election Interference* as a good practice guide to help build global expertise and understanding to counter disinformation.

- Reports on foreign interference and threats to Canada's democratic processes were published:
  - *Foreign Interference Threats to Canada's Democratic Process*
  - *Foreign Interference and You*
  - *Cyber Threats to Canada's Democratic Process: July 2021 Update*

2022

- Canada committed the G7 RRM to produce **annual reports** highlighting different aspects of the evolving threat landscape.
- **Budget 2022**: Funding to extend the RRM and establish the Protecting Democracy Unit in the Privy Council Office which coordinates and implements government-wide measures to combat disinformation and protect our democracy.

- **Fall Economic Statement 2022:** Funding to extend the Digital Citizen Initiative, which has funded over 110 projects that aim to support democracy and social inclusion in Canada by building citizen resilience against online disinformation and building partnerships to support a healthy information ecosystem.

2023

- The **independent assessment of CEIPP** covering the 2021 general election found that the CEIPP worked well and should be maintained.
- The report *Countering an evolving threat: Update on recommendations to counter foreign interference in Canada's democratic institutions* was delivered to the Prime Minister and lays out what Canada has done to address the recommendations from the NSICOP in 2018 and 2019, and the independent assessments of the CEIPP in the 2019 and 2021 general elections.
- The **Independent Special Rapporteur on Foreign Interference** provided **recommendations** to protect Canada's democracy.

- The **SITE Task Force** enhanced its monitoring and assessment of foreign interference threats during by-elections.
- $5.5 million to administer the **Canadian Digital Media Research Network's** work to support digital literacy strategies.
- The **Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions** was established.
- The **National Counter-Foreign Interference Coordinator** was established to coordinate efforts to combat foreign interference.

2024

- The Foreign Interference Commission released its **Initial Report of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions**.
- The **NSICOP** and the **NSIRA** conducted reviews on foreign interference during the 43rd and 44th federal general elections.
- Enhanced monitoring and assessment by the **SITE Task Force was made permanent** for general elections and all by-election periods.
- *An Act respecting countering foreign interference* **(Bill C-70) received Royal Assent**, bolstering Canada's ability to detect, disrupt and counter foreign interference threats.

- The **Electoral Participation Act (Bill C-65) was introduced**, aiming to remove barriers to voting, encourage voter participation, better protect personal information, and further strengthen protections against foreign interference.
- The **Protecting Democracy Toolkits** and **Countering Disinformation Guidebook for Public Servants** were launched and shared widely with provincial and territorial governments, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and federal public servants.

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