



Ken Hardie, MP
Chair of the Special Committee on the Canada-People's
Republic of China Relationship
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

Dear Mr. Hardie,

As the Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs, and on behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to respond to the fourth report of the Special Committee on the Canada-People's Republic of China Relationship, entitled *The Chinese Communist Party's Overseas Police Service Stations*. I wish to thank the Committee and its members for taking the time to examine this important and timely issue.

The Government of Canada takes the issue of transnational repression seriously and is using all available tools at its disposal to address the threat. There is no greater responsibility for the Government of Canada than to ensure the safety of its citizens and communities. Acts of harassment, intimidation, or violence by foreign states against individuals in Canada, including Chinese-Canadians and other communities, is unacceptable.

You can be assured that where there is credible evidence of foreign interference, Canada's security agencies use the full extent of their mandates to respond. While their efforts often remain unseen for security reasons, a great amount of work is being done by security agencies to protect Canadians and Canada's national interest.

As you know, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police continues to actively investigate reports nationally of criminal activity in relation to the alleged "police stations". As mentioned by Ms. Laura Harth and highlighted in your report, the response of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to those stations has been among the best across democracies in the world.

While the Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation is ongoing, the Government of Canada is committed to addressing the foreign interference threat by modernizing Canada's policy and legislative framework in ways that align with our national values, respect Canadian rights and freedoms, and account for a wide range of perspectives and experience.

The Government has already taken several steps to adapt Canada's toolkit to counter foreign interference in ways that emphasize transparency as well as citizen and community engagement. For example, on May 9, 2023, public consultations on the development of a Foreign Influence Transparency Registry concluded. Since then, the Government has continued policy development, focused on incorporating the input collected, and held targeted engagement with specific stakeholders, such as provinces, territories and Indigenous organisations. The Government of Canada also held public and stakeholder consultations about possible amendments to the *Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act*, the *Criminal Code*, the *Security of Information Act*, and the *Canada Evidence Act* to further the Government's ability to address foreign interference threats.

Additionally, in March 2023, the Prime Minister announced the creation of a National Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator within Public Safety Canada. The role of the Coordinator is to provide a dedicated focus on foreign interference and enhance partnerships with non-federal stakeholders, including raising awareness of the foreign interference threat and tools at the public's disposal to report these threats when observed.

Canada also works closely with allies who face the common threat highlighted in the Special Committee's report to counter foreign interference and transnational repression. Through cooperation and information sharing with like-minded countries, we are constantly improving our ability to identify, track, and respond to foreign interference and transnational repression.

For example, Global Affairs Canada, through the Rapid Response Mechanism Canada, has been mapping out the online footprint of the People's Republic of China alleged Overseas Service Stations using Open Source Intelligence methodologies. In the context of international collaboration, countering transnational repression is among the priorities of the Canada-led G7 Rapid Response Mechanism for 2024. This priority action aims to raise international awareness of the threat of transnational repression to democratic values, affirm our shared commitment to countering the threat, and to share best practices, lessons learned, and threat information among G7 and partner countries.

Once again, on behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to thank the members of the Special Committee on the Canada-People's Republic of China Relationship for the diligence and commitment undertaken in your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. LeBlanc', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., K.C., M.P.