



The National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians

MARCH 12, 2025



Background

- The *National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians Act* was passed in June 2017.
- The Committee's first members were appointed in November 2017.
- The Committee responds to long-standing calls for creation of a committee of parliamentarians with security clearance and broad access to classified information.
- In creating the Committee and introducing parliamentary review of national security and intelligence, Canada joined other Western countries.



Mandate

- The Committee may review:
 - The legislative, regulatory, strategic, administrative and financial framework for national security and intelligence;
 - Any activity carried out by a department that relates to national security and intelligence;
 - Any matter relating to national security or intelligence that a minister refers to the Committee.
- The mandate is broad and strategic:
 - Does not specify for what purposes the Committee may review an issue
 - Not limited to one department or agency
 - Encompasses both strategic issues and specific activities
 - Complements expert review bodies that typically focus on compliance



Composition & Characteristics

- Made up of a chair and at most ten other members, only three of which may be senators and only five of which can be members of the governing party.
- NSICOP operates independently from Parliament:
 - Not subject to parliamentary rules or procedures
 - Determines the procedures to be followed (in-camera meetings, appearances by witnesses, votes).
 - Members must obtain and maintain the necessary security clearance (Top Secret).
- The Committee's work is supported by a secretariat established under the Act, which is made up of public servants.



Access to Information

- NSICOP is entitled to have access to any information that is under the control of a department and that is related to the fulfilment of the Committee's mandate.
- NSICOP is not authorized to receive:
 - Cabinet confidences, the identity of confidential sources or of protected witnesses, and ongoing law enforcement investigations that may lead to prosecutions; and,
 - Special Operational Information listed in the *Security of Information Act* if provision to NSICOP is deemed injurious by the Minister.

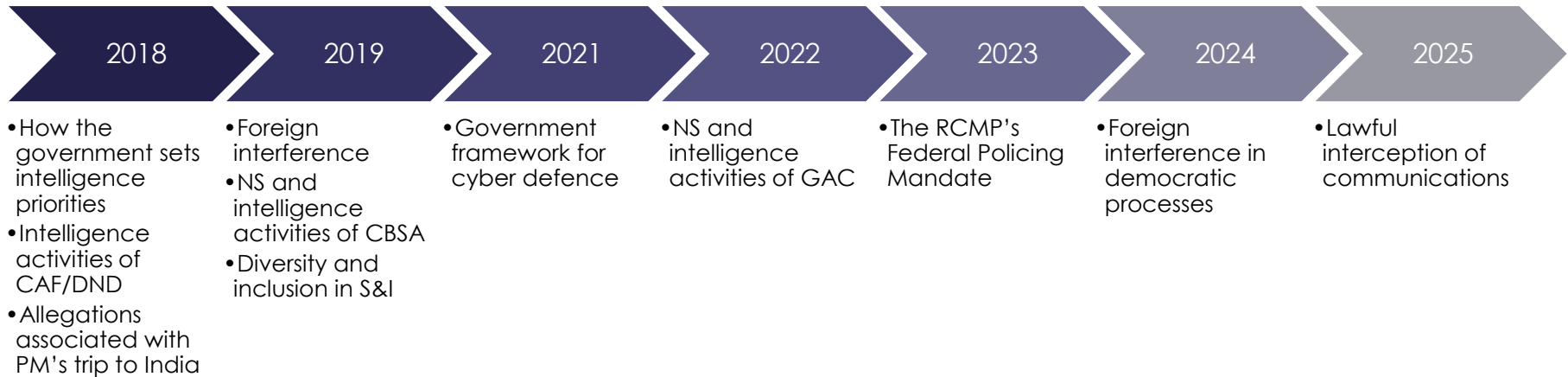


Reports

- The Committee's annual reports include:
 - Findings and recommendations of reviews conducted;
 - Number of times that a minister has refused access to documents requested by the Committee.
- Special reports may be issued at any time.
- Declassified reports are tabled by the Prime Minister in Parliament.
 - Redaction (removal) of information must be done for specific reasons (injury to national security, national defence, international affairs, solicitor-client privilege).
 - Information cannot be redacted solely because it may be embarrassing or negative.

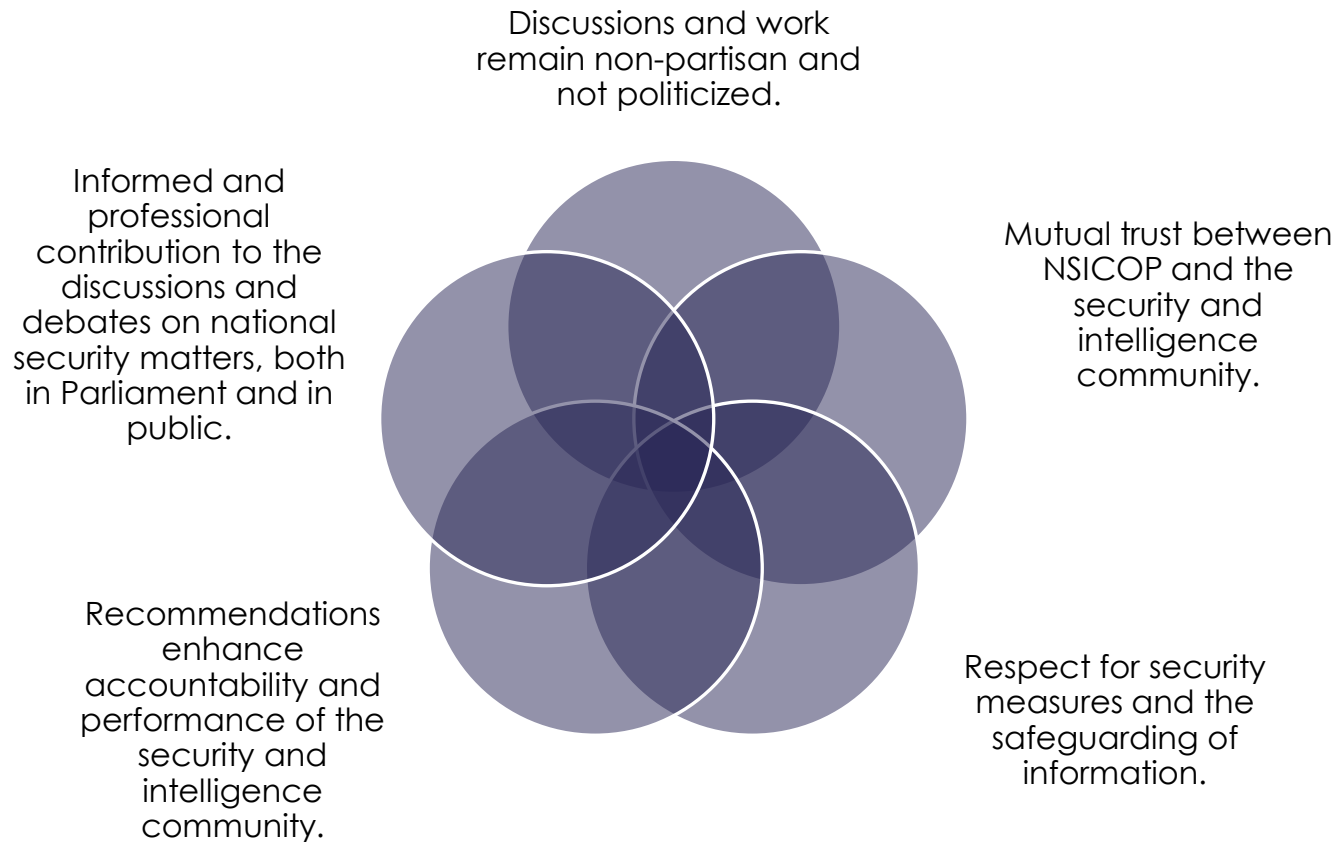


What has NSICOP studied?





Keys to Success





Thank You