

**From:** media-medias MEDIA-MEDIAS@smtp.gc.ca  
**Subject:** RE: Narwhal/JF interview request: CSIS information-sharing with private companies  
**Date:** October 22, 2025 at 9:13 AM  
**To:** Zak Vescera zak.vescera@thejif.org  
**Cc:** Matt Simmons matt@thenarwhal.ca

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Hi Zac,

All CSIS investigative activities have to meet clear thresholds laid out in law, and comply with law and ministerial direction. Our activities are also subject to robust review and oversight, and are consistent with the Government of Canada's Intelligence Priorities ([Canada's Intelligence Priorities - September 2024 - Privy Council Office - Canada.ca](#)).

Consulting and hearing from Canadians is an important step in the development of legislation. Accordingly, in developing potential amendments to the *CSIS Act* which became part of Bill C-70, *An Act respecting countering foreign interference*, CSIS consulted a wide range of partners and stakeholders. Over 55 separate organizations and governments were consulted, including non-governmental organizations, community and advocacy organizations, religious organizations, business and other levels of government. There was widespread agreement that it would be sensible for CSIS' mandate to include information-sharing beyond the Government of Canada, and that this would help mitigate a broad range of threats and build awareness and resilience for those people and organizations who may be at risk. It was also publicly called for by industry and others that the Government establish a mechanism to facilitate the secure and efficient sharing of information with external partners ([What We Heard and Learned Report CSIS Act Consultations](#)).

CSIS is considering formal mechanisms for enhancing information sharing with those outside government to help increase their resiliency to national security threats, such as foreign interference. The Canada Security Alliance Council is conceptual. Authorizing the timely disclosure of information by CSIS to relevant stakeholders is an important addition to the Government of Canada's toolkit to protect Canada, the Canadian public and our democratic institutions against threats to national security. **For example, such efforts can serve to protect** Canada's research ecosystem and economic prosperity from foreign interference, espionage, and unwanted knowledge transfer that could pose a threat to Canada and Canada's national security interests. They **can** also help to protect Canadians against transnational repression and other threats.

Beginning in 2022, CSIS and the BCC have enjoyed a productive relationship that has advanced the interests of Canadians and of Canada's economic security.

The relevant authorities enabling CSIS to disclose information are outlined in [the Amendments to CSIS Act Disclosure Authorities](#) placemat, which provides an overview of our current authorities. CSIS has leveraged the new resiliency disclosure authority under s. 19(2.1); for example, in 2024, CSIS made 28 disclosures to help build resiliency against threats to a variety of partners ranging from ethnic, cultural and religious communities, to other levels of government, industry and business partners. CSIS cannot disclose personal information of a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or any individual in Canada, or the name of a Canadian entity or corporation incorporated in Canada, unless it is about the recipient of the disclosure." However, under section 19 (2)(d) of the CSIS Act, the Minister of Public Safety can authorize CSIS to disclose information via a resiliency disclosure that they deem to be essential in the public interest and clearly outweighs any invasion of privacy. All such disclosures would be reviewed by NSIRA. Section 19 (2)(d) of the CSIS Act is the very demonstration of CSIS' respect for Canadian privacy rights. To date CSIS has not invoked

section 19 (2)(d).

CSIS would only investigate individuals if there was reasonable suspicion that said they were planning activities that fit within the scope of our mandate (threats to the security of Canada), such as violent extremism. The CSIS Act specifically excludes investigating lawful protest and dissent.

Merci, Thank you kindly,

**Magali Hébert**

Spokesperson, Media Relations, CSIS

Porte-parole, Relations avec les médias, SCRS