



**Statement by NSIRA regarding the Government of Canada response to the recommendations of the NSIRA Review arising from the Federal Court's Judgment in 2020 FC 616:**

**Department of Justice**

NSIRA's review made a number of findings and recommendations regarding the factors that threaten the ability of Justice to provide timely and operationally relevant legal advice. As noted in the review, Justice must pursue its commitment to genuine systemic reform of the manner in which such advice is provided. While Justice's responses emphasize the work done to date, NSIRA is confident that the issues described in the review persisted as of the end of 2021. NSIRA will continue to be exposed to the provision of legal advice within subsequent reviews of CSIS activities.

As noted in the review, NSIRA intends to undertake a further review in two years time to assess progress in implementing the report's recommendations. At that time, NSIRA will have the opportunity to scrutinize and assess whether any reform initiatives have been successful.

**Canadian Security Intelligence Service**

NSIRA's review made a number of findings and recommendations regarding the systemic, governance, and cultural issues that have contributed to inefficiencies that threaten the ability of CSIS to fulfill its mandate. The failure to effect sustainable solutions following the multiplicity of reviews and candour breaches is indicative of organizational struggles with deep rooted cultural issues. NSIRA was alive to the particular challenge of disaggregating legacy issues from contemporary concerns. In doing so, NSIRA acknowledged, and took into consideration, the ongoing initiatives included in the Government response. NSIRA heard about a number of initiatives, some that are planned, others underway or partially implemented, and others abandoned. Accordingly, NSIRA is confident that the issues described in the review persist as of the end of 2021.

As noted in the review, NSIRA intends to undertake a further review in two years time to assess progress in implementing the report's recommendations. At that time, NSIRA will have the opportunity to scrutinize and assess whether any reform initiatives have been successful.

**Public Safety**

NSIRA welcomes Public Safety's commitment to developing an enhanced vetting function housed in Public Safety Canada. NSIRA believes a true independent challenge function will strengthen the warrant vetting process and enhance Ministerial accountability. NSIRA intends to review this new unit in two years, as part of its subsequent review of the implementation of the report's recommendations.