



NSIRA Review 2020-01

March 1, 2021

The Honourable Marc Garneau
Minister of Global Affairs Canada
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0G2

RE: Review of the Global Security Reporting Program

Dear Minister Garneau:

On behalf of the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA), it is my pleasure to present you with our first dedicated review of Global Affairs Canada (GAC), conducted under the authority of paragraph 8(1)(b) of the *National Security and Intelligence Review Agency Act*. The review was focused on the activities of the Global Security Reporting Program (GSRP), and is provided to you pursuant to section 34 of the NSIRA Act.

The review was selected given that the GSRP is a key component to GAC's footprint overseas, dedicated and funded to collect overt security-related information. GSRP clients have reported that the Program is both unique and valuable to the Government of Canada.

Many of the receiving states where GSRP officers work have poor human rights records and/or are environments where surveillance of foreigners and citizens is commonplace. As such, receiving state perceptions of GSRP activities have direct implications for reputational risk to Canada and its allies, to other Canadian departments and agencies such as the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), to GSRP officers, and finally, to the local contacts used to help collect the Program's information.

The review made a number of findings and recommendations which can be found in the attached report, some of which relate to legal obligations under the *Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations*.

NSIRA considers this review to be extremely sensitive.

As part of this review, we believe that the review's findings and recommendations need to be read and understood. Owing to the implications of a foreign state reading this review in a similar vein, we are not going to make our findings and recommendations public at this time.

In accordance with section 15.1 of the NSIRA Act, we intend to share a classified version of this review with the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP) given its particular relevance to the NSICOP's own mandate. First, however, we will consult with GAC officials to ensure that redactions required under sections 14 and 16 of the NSICOP Act are applied.

This review contains a number of recommendations. We would ask that the Government respond to indicate whether it agrees with these recommendations, and if so, to explain how they will be implemented. We are working with your officials and the Privy Council Office to establish a standard approach in this regard. The thorough consideration of NSIRA's recommendations is essential to ensuring that NSIRA's efforts with regard to the accountability of government institutions yields results.

Given the issues raised in this review, we intend to provide a copy to the Minister of Public Safety, the Deputy Minister of Public Safety, the Director of CSIS and the National Security and Intelligence Advisor to the Prime Minister in the coming days. Please let me know if you have any concerns with this approach.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your officials for their assistance during this challenging period. If you wish to discuss this review or have any questions or concerns, I would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Marie-Lucie Morin, P.C., C.M.
Acting Chair, National Security and Intelligence Review Agency

cc: Marta Morgan, Deputy Minister, Foreign Affairs