JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 2026

THE NSIRA BRIEF

A snapshot of NSIRA's work, activities and priorities

A Message from the Chair and Vice-Chair

Welcome to the first edition of The NSIRA Brief.

We are pleased to introduce this new publication, which highlights the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA)'s review and complaints work, key developments, and engagement with Canada's national security and intelligence community.

During this period, we met with senior officials from the Communications Security Establishment Canada, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the British Columbia Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Canada Border Services Agency Pacific Region to learn more about their priorities and operational challenges. These discussions provided valuable opportunities to exchange perspectives and deepen our understanding of the environments in which these organizations operate.

We also marked important milestones with the release of our new Technical Assurance Review report and the publication of our Recommendation Tracker.

Together, these initiatives support transparency and accountability by sharing the results of our review work and providing greater visibility into the status of NSIRA's recommendations.

We look forward to sharing more about NSIRA's activities, publications and priorities through future editions of The NSIRA Brief.

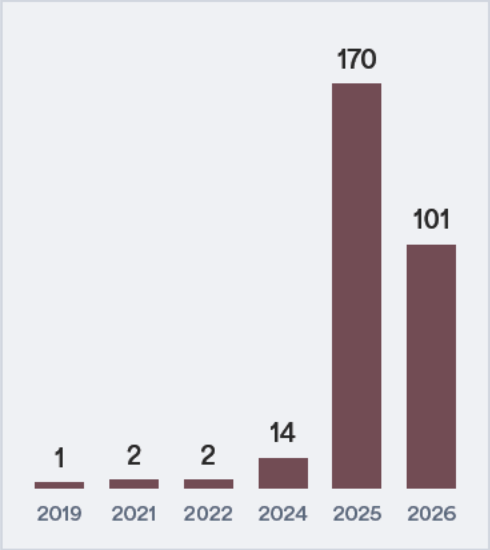
We hope you find this first edition informative and useful.

AT A GLANCE

9	358	8
REVIEW REPORTS SUBMITTED TO MINISTERS	ACTIVE PUBLIC COMPLAINTS	REVIEW REPORTS PUBLISHED

Trends

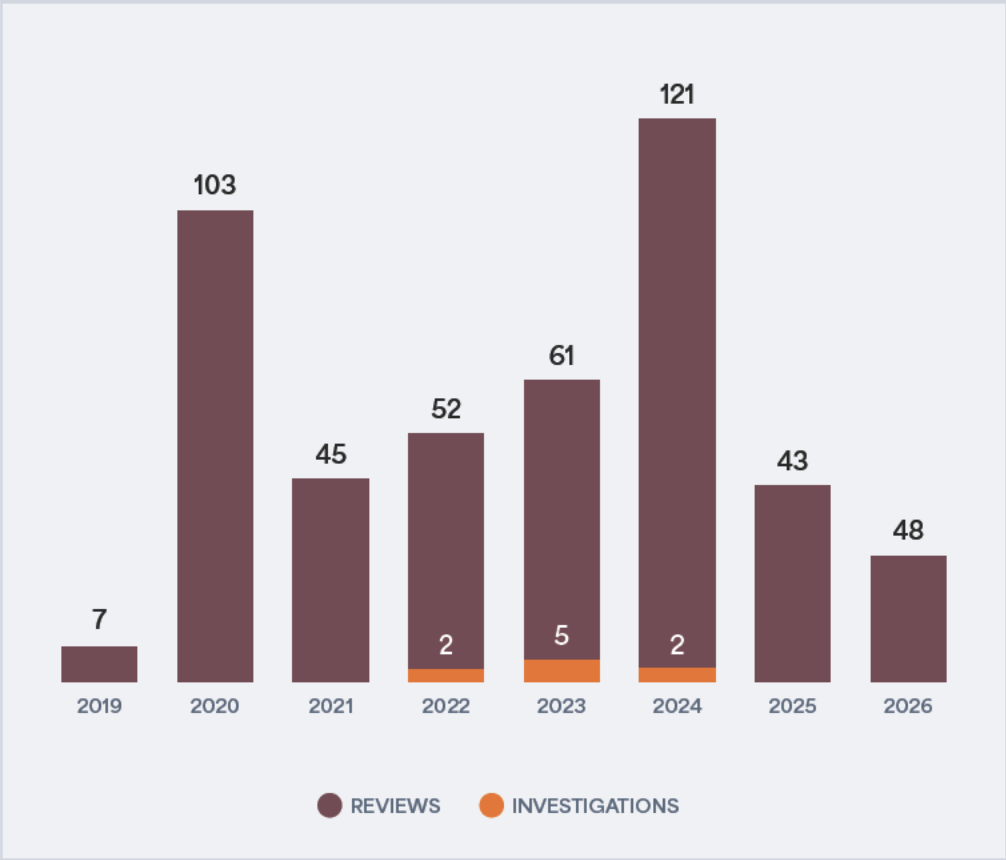
FILES BY COMPLAINT YEAR



TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED



RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY YEAR



Featured Report

REVIEW OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT'S DELETION OF DATA FROM SELECT [**] PARTNERS

A redacted version of NSIRA's *Review of the Communications Security Establishment's Deletion of Data from Select [**] Partners* was released on September 10, 2026, under the *Access to Information Act*.

The review, conducted using NSIRA's new Technical Assurance Review (TAR) format, examined CSE's process for deleting signals intelligence (SIGINT) data following a deletion request. Following a compliance incident reported by CSE in March 2025, NSIRA examined three deletion requests, related records and audit logs, and directly verified the deletion of selected information.

NSIRA assigned a **Medium Assurance** rating to CSE's deletion process, reflecting issues identified during the review and limitations on NSIRA's ability to independently verify the deletion of individual pieces of information.

Reviews In Progress*

1. Review of the Communications Security Establishment's Targeting Activities
2. Review of federal institutions' disclosures of information under the *Security of Canada Information Disclosure Act* in 2025
3. (Follow-Up Review) Rebuilding Trust - Reforming the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) Warrant and Justice Legal Advisory Process
4. Review of the Communications Security Establishment's Disclosures of Canadian Identifying Information (2025)
5. Review of the Use and Governance of Artificial Intelligence in National Security and Intelligence Activities
6. Review of the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada's Information Sharing
7. Review of Select Government of Canada Research Security Measures
8. Review of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service Counter-Intelligence Targeting
9. Review of Select Communications Security Establishment (CSE) Activities for 2025
10. Review of Select Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) Activities for 2025
11. Communications Security Establishment's Industry Partnerships
12. Royal Canadian Mounted Police's National Security Criminal Investigations
13. Review of Overseas Missions
14. Technical Assurance Review of a Specific Communications Security Establishment Activity
15. Review of Departmental Implementation of the *Avoiding Complicity in Mistreatment by Foreign Entities Act* for 2025
16. Review of the Communications Security Establishment - Department of National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces Collaboration
17. Communications Security Establishment Departmental Activity Review for 2026
18. Canadian Security Intelligence Service Departmental Activity Review for 2026
19. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Departmental Activity Review for 2026
20. Canada Border Services Agency Departmental Activity Review for 2026
21. Department of National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces Departmental Activity Review for 2026
22. Select Royal Canadian Mounted Police Systems Technical Assurance Review

** In Progress: The review has been officially launched and is underway.*

Spotlight

NSIRA'S APPEARANCE ON BILL C-22

On May 7, 2026, NSIRA Chair Marie Deschamps, Vice-Chair Craig Forcese, and Acting Executive Director Lawrence Mangano appeared before the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) as witnesses on Bill C-22, *An Act respecting lawful access*. During the appearance, NSIRA officials raised amendments needed to the Bill to ensure timely and effective independent review of new authorities provided under the legislation. Watch the full appearance of NSIRA at SECU here starting at 18:42:27 and read our Letter to the Chair of the Standing Committee here.

On June 18, 2026, Bill C-22 passed the House of Commons with the amendments advocated for by NSIRA during our committee appearance. The amendments will ensure that NSIRA is provided with timely access to information within 30 days after a decision is made by the Intelligence Commissioner to request information from electronic service providers or after a compliance order is issued by the Minister of Justice.

These amendments will strengthen accountability for the use of these new authorities and support NSIRA's ability to fulfil its mandate effectively. Bill C-22 is now at second reading at the Senate of Canada, with consideration expected to resume when the Senate returns in September.

Looking Ahead

For the last seven years, NSIRA has worked to ensure national security and intelligence activities are lawful, necessary, and respectful of Canadians' rights. At the time of NSIRA's inception, it was recognized by the government of the day that the structure of NSIRA may need to evolve over time. After seven years of operation, NSIRA's structure and legislative framework would benefit from modernization.

In July 2026, in light of the overdue legislative review required under the NSIRA Act, NSIRA submitted letters to the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security House of Commons and the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Veteran Affairs Senate of Canada to provide practical insights and support informed discussion on ways to continue strengthening Canada's national security and intelligence accountability framework.

NSIRA's submissions outline proposed changes to its governance structure and legislative framework to strengthen its mandate and support more effective review and accountability. An infographic summarizing NSIRA's observations and proposed amendments is available here.