



## **The National Security and Intelligence Review Agency introduces the declassified, de-personalized policy on final investigations reports.**

*The National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA) considers as one of its core values that “enhanced accountability and transparency are vital to ensuring public trust and confidence in Government of Canada institutions that carry out national security or intelligence activities.” [National Security Act, 2017]*

*To increase transparency, NSIRA is committed to the release of declassified and de-personalized final investigations reports as they become available after redaction, translation and consultation with the parties to the complaint investigation.*

**The Honourable Marie Lucie Morin, P.C., Acting Chair NSIRA**

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### **SUMMARY**

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This policy statement outlines the commitment on the part of NSIRA to systematically and diligently declassify and de-personalize the content from every final investigation report going forward. The aim of the policy is to enhance transparency, accessibility of NSIRA’s investigations process, and promote public accountability with respect to national security and intelligence activities.

By making these declassified and de-personalized reports available to the public, NSIRA is encouraging open discussions and debate in the public sphere.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

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NSIRA is committed to the fundamental guiding provisions of accountability and transparency, while also ensuring appropriate protection of information, found in the *National Security Act, 2017*.

NSIRA is committed to removing any and all classified content from every final investigation report.

NSIRA is committed to removing any and all personalized information, data, details found within every final investigation report.

NSIRA is committed to removing any and all other identifying information that could potentially identify individuals involved in the final investigation report.

This includes, but is not limited to, information and content included in:

- the complainant's allegations;
- the facts provided for the complaint investigation;
- the evidence heard by the parties to the complaint investigation; and,

- NSIRA's findings and recommendations.

Upon completion of the above, NSIRA is committed to releasing the declassified and de-personalized final investigation reports.

## **BACKGROUND**

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One of NSIRA's core functions is to investigate complaints with respect to activities carried out by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) or the Communications Security Establishment (CSE). Complaints against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) that are closely related to national security are also referred to NSIRA by the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (CRCC).

NSIRA also investigates complaints regarding the denial or revocation of security clearances to federal government employees and contractors as well as those complaints referred by the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) and certain matters under the *Citizenship Act*.

While a complaint investigation is ongoing, under section 25 of the *NSIRA Act*, NSIRA must protect its proceedings by holding them in private. Specifically, this protection is to avoid the inadvertent disclosure of sensitive and classified information that is being considered by NSIRA in the course of the investigation.

Upon the conclusion of the investigation and all information contained in the report has been protected by way of redactions based on claims of national security and other confidentiality claims, the investigation is no longer considered ongoing and the protection afforded by section 25 of the *NSIRA Act* is no longer applicable.

For more information on NSIRA's complaints process, click here (<https://bit.ly/2ZNpJRK>)