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## Defence minister insists Canada is prepared to face evolving global threats

National Defence Minister Anita Anand insists Canada is ready to handle evolving global threats, amid concerns over Russia's war in Ukraine spilling into a NATO country and North Korea's ongoing testing of ballistic missiles.

In an interview with CTV's Question Period with Joyce Napier, Anand said its vital Canada "be able to walk and chew gum at the same time."

"We need to be able to contribute to our multilateral alliances to NATO and to bilateral support for Ukraine, at the same time as ensuring that we have a presence in supporting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, and that's exactly what we're doing," she said.

"This all comes as the world's largest gathering of defence leaders from democracies are meeting in Halifax this weekend. On Saturday, Anand had a bilateral meeting with United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to reaffirm support for Ukraine, and discuss upgrades to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), among other topics.

Anand told CTV's Question Period that Canada is continuing to work with its allies, and that she'll remain as diligent and prudent as possible when making decisions, especially when it comes to incidents such as the missile strikes in Poland this week, on the border with Ukraine, which left two people dead. There was initial concern the missiles may have been from Russia, which may



which is expected by the end of the month.

"We are ready and we will continue to be even more prepared as we undertake this new Indo-Pacific Strategy," Anand said.

When asked about a new report by auditor general Karen Hogan this week, which stated various Canadian vessels in the Arctic need to be replaced, and the Canadian government's delay in doing so could affect surveillance in the region, Anand reiterated that she announced this year the federal government has committed an additional \$40 billion over 20 years to defence, of which nearly \$5 billion will go to upgrading NORAD.

"We are on it," she said. "Arctic sovereignty is absolutely crucial as this global environment continues to change, we will continue to upgrade our protections in our North."

## Canada needs to take a harder line on 'evil authoritarian regimes' like China: senator

Following claims that Chinese agents interfered in recent Canadian elections and stole industry secrets from Hydro-Quebec, Conservative Sen. Leo Housakos is calling on the Canadian government to take a much harder line against China - a country he describes as "an evil authoritarian regime."

Housakos has introduced a bill, S-237, that would establish a foreign influence registry in Canada - a system that would compel agents working on behalf of a foreign government to either register their interactions with public officials in Canada or face criminal penalties.

Under this proposed law, any foreign-backed agent who fails to declare any interaction with a "public office holder" - like a cabinet minister, an MP, a senator or a senior government official - could be charged with a crime and face hefty fines and up to two years in jail.

While the registry is meant to act as a deterrent, it also would empower police to charge people for things that are not necessarily criminal under current law.

The proposed registry is similar to registries that exist elsewhere in the Five Eyes intelligence sharing alliance (made up of Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom).

In the U.S., for example, the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) requires people working for "foreign principals" to publicly disclose their activities.

A number of former U.S. president Donald Trump's staffers were charged under the law after promoting foreign interests outside.

The 1938 law was enacted in response to concerns about Nazi and communist propaganda in the U.S.

Housakos said Canada needs this sort of law now to deal with a different threat - an "increasingly belligerent" China.



Canada has a long list of grievances against Beijing that demand some sort of response, he added.

China has been accused of meddling in Canada's elections. A Chinese national was mysteriously fired from Canada's National Microbiology Lab. A Chinese national working at Hydro-Quebec has been criminally charged for alleged economic espionage. China's ambassador threatened MPs and senators with "forceful measures" as payback for Parliament describing China's treatment of its Uyghur minority as a genocide. And Beijing arbitrarily detained two Canadians for more than 1,000 days.

"Evil regimes trying to manipulate us, senators say."

"There's no doubt countries like China, Iran, Russia, just to name a few of the evil authoritarian regimes, are trying to influence our institutions, our laws," Housakos told CBC News.

"All of these regimes are very active in Canada and we have a prime minister and a government that refuse to take concrete steps."

Bill S-237 represents "a small but important step" toward curbing that interference, he added.

"Canada has been under siege from regimes like Beijing, like Moscow, like Tehran, and now we need to step up and take action to protect the security of our institutions. We need to put these nations on notice that if you're going to set up spy operations or policing activities to intimidate Canadians, there will be consequences," Housakos said, referring to reports that China has established "police stations" in Canada and elsewhere to keep an eye on Chinese nationals living abroad.

"We need some laws with teeth."

A spokesperson for Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said "protecting Canada's democracy is a responsibility" the government takes "extremely seriously."

The spokesperson said CSIS and the RCMP are regularly investigating allegations of foreign interference.

supports the idea of a foreign registry along the lines of what Housakos is proposing.

She also pointed out that the last parliamentarian to propose such a registry may have been targeted by the Chinese government himself.

Former Conservative MP Kenney Chiu has accused the Chinese government of targeting him with a disinformation campaign during the last federal election because he introduced legislation to enact a foreign registry. Chiu ultimately lost his seat in a riding with a large number of Chinese-Canadian voters.

It should really be the government that brings this registry in," McCuaig-Johnson said, adding that the state of Canada-China relations leaves Ottawa with little to lose.

"Canada is still in the deep freeze. We're still being punished for Meng," she said, referring to Canada's 2018 arrest of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou on a U.S. warrant.

"We have to set all the pressure up and say, 'We're going to do what's right for Canada,' and that includes a foreign registry act."

"This shouldn't be a partisan issue!"

In an interview with CBC Radio's The House, Dan Stanton, a retired CSIS intelligence officer and the director of national security at the University of Ottawa's Professional Development Institute, said action against China needs to be above everyday party politics.

To start, Stanton said, Canada needs to amend the existing CSIS Act to empower national security agencies to deal with "foreign influence," not just Cold War-era style foreign "interference."

"This shouldn't be a partisan issue. There needs to be a Team Canada approach. It shouldn't be an us vs. them issue. It needs to be multi-party, because all parties are vulnerable," he said.

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# CSIS director told Trudeau invoking the Emergencies Act was 'required' to quell Freedom Convoy

OTTAWA—The head of Canada's spy agency advised Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that invoking the Emergencies Act was "required" to deal with Freedom Convoy protests, despite his opposition over finding it would specifically threaten national security.

Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) director David Vigneault told the Emergencies Act inquiry during a secret hearing that he advised Trudeau to invoke the act "based on his opinion of everything he had seen to that point" during a meeting on Feb. 13, the day before it was invoked.

An unclassified summary of the secret hearing was made public by the commission on Monday. The hearing was held in private so that CSIS could share sensitive information with the Public Order Emergency Commission freely.

Vigneault's recommendation to invoke the act is a significant boost to

the federal government's case in invoking the exceptional powers of the act to deal with the protests and blockades across Canada on Feb. 14.

The Emergencies Act requires that there be a threat to the security of Canada as defined by section two of the CSIS Act.

But Vigneault also told the inquiry that at no point did the Freedom Convoy ever "constitute a threat to the security of Canada," but that assessment does not include other factors "such as economic harm or environmental harm, even public health harm, and the pandemic," because they are not included within the definition of the CSIS Act.

Identifying again Monday, this time publicly, Vigneault explained that he made his recommendation to invoke the Emergencies Act based on a legal interpretation from the federal department of justice that the act's definition of a threat to the security of

Canada was broader than the one it refers to in the CSIS Act.

Many government witnesses, including the prime minister's national security adviser Jody Thomas last week, have referred to that legal interpretation when arguing that cabinet could invoke the act because of a broader "national crisis" caused by Freedom Convoy blockades and protests.

That legal interpretation has not been made public because it is covered by solicitor-client privilege. In a statement, Canadian Constitution Foundation lawyer Sujit Choudhry called on the government to waive that protection and make the document public.

"Mr. Vigneault testified today that he asked the Department of Justice for a legal opinion on threats to national security under the Emergencies Act. In fairness to the Commission's process, the federal government

should waive solicitor-client privilege and publicly release this opinion," he said.

Vigneault also told the commission that section two definition is badly out of date and should be updated.

"This provision was enacted nearly 40 years ago and there is a need for future, public discourse around the reform of national security legislation," he told the commission according to his witness statement.

Vigneault said CSIS was not "investigating the convoy," but was monitoring individuals it was already surveilling who may have been attending, as well as new "potential threats" who could be radicalized and emerge through the protests.

CSIS confirmed that it now dedicates at least half of its counter-terrorism resources to monitoring the threat of ideologically motivated violent extremism (IMVE), a stark shift from the decade after 9/11 when Islamic radicalism was identified as the biggest threat to Canada.

CSIS breaks down IMVE into four categories of violence: xenophobic (white supremacy, neo-Nazi), anti-authority (anti-government, such as the Jan. 6, 2021 storming of the U.S. Capitol), gender-driven (incels or violent misogyny), and "other grievance-driven" threats (such as violent environmental or anti-abortion groups).

# CSIS head says he told Trudeau invoking the Emergencies Act was required last winter

The head of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) says he told Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that invoking the Emergencies Act last winter was required.

CSIS Director David Vigneault made the comments during an in-camera session of the Public Order Emergency Commission on Nov. 5. A summary of that hearing was entered into evidence Monday as Vigneault and other senior intelligence officials testify before Commission Panel 1.

Vigneault told the in-camera hearing that Trudeau asked him for his advice at the end of Feb. 13 meeting of the Incident Response Group during which the Emergencies Act was discussed.

By that point, anti-COVID-19 mandate protests had gridlocked downtown Ottawa for weeks and had spread to border crossings.

"Vigneault explained that, based on both his understanding that the Emergencies Act definition of threat to the security of Canada was broader than the CSIS Act, as well as based on his opinion of everything he had seen to that point, he advised the Prime Minister of his belief that it was indeed required to invoke the act," said the summary.

The commission heard previously that Vigneault didn't believe the self-styled Freedom Convoy constituted a threat to national security under the CSIS Act.

On Monday, Vigneault expanded on that, adding that the agency's enabling legislation is narrow in scope.

The commission has been tasked with determining whether the federal government met the legal threshold to invoke the Emergencies Act.

Under the law, the federal cabinet must have reasonable grounds to believe a public order emergency exists - which the act defines as one that "arises from threats to the security of Canada that are so serious as to be a national emergency."

The act also describes a national emergency as an urgent and critical situation "that seriously endangers the lives, health or safety of Canadians and/or such proportions or nature as to exceed the capacity or authority of a province to deal with it."

The act then points back to CSIS's definition of such a threat - which



calls serious violence against people or property "for the purpose of achieving a political, religious or ideological objective," espionage, foreign interference or the intent to overthrow the government by violence.

During cross examination, Justice said he asked the federal Justice Department for a legal interpretation and was told the Emergencies Act definition of threat to the security of Canada was broader than what is in the CSIS Act.

Vigneault "further explained that the [Emergencies Act] cannot be read in a manner that gives CSIS the exclusive authority to determine whether there exists a public order emergency, as this is the responsibility of the federal government," said the interview summary.

"Vigneault explained that, although section 16 of the [Emergencies Act] references the definition of a threat to the national security of Canada set out in section of the CSIS Act, the two statutes are concerned with distinct issues."

Jody Thomas, the prime minister's security and intelligence adviser, told the commission that she believes the definition "threat to security of Canada" under the terms of the Emergencies Act should be reconsidered to better reflect the times.

Vigneault and CSIS deputy director of operations Michelle Tessier also told the commission behind closed doors that it's time to update the definition of a national security threat under the CSIS Act.

"In today's environment we really need to be looking at the definition of threats to the security of Canada, it's more threats to Canada's national interests," says a summary of both their interviews.

to invoke the Emergencies Act, calling it a "measure of last resort."

Here is what the commission has heard so far:

Testimony describes police dysfunction

The first two weeks of the commission focused on the police response to the protest. Multiple officers with the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) described chaos and confusion in Ottawa after protesters arrived the first weekend and parked big rigs and other vehicles on downtown streets.

Despite receiving several early warnings, Peter Sibly - OPS chief during the protests - told the commission that even in "hindsight," he doesn't think the intelligence he was getting before the protest convoy rolled into town suggested that protesters would dig in and remain.

The commission has heard that OPP sent the Ottawa police intelligence reports warning of "hinge ideologies" active within the protest movement, and alerting the OPS that organizers did not have an exit strategy to end the protest.

Sibly, the Ottawa police planned for the protesters to stay for only one weekend. They stayed for nearly a month.

"I think we were floundering a little bit in terms of our staffing, in terms of our ability to really take stock of what was going on and then move forward and come up with a plan to get out of it," Patricia Ferguson, acting deputy chief of the OPS, told the commission inquiry. (Sibly resigned as Ottawa's police chief in mid-February.)

Both OPP and RCMP officials have testified that they had no idea how OPS planned to end the demonstrations. "We couldn't read their minds as to what their plan was because there was no plan," said Supt. Craig Abrams of the OPP.

Thomas also testified about the actions of the RCMP's Insp. Miroslaw. RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki told the commission inquiry that on the eve of the federal government invoking the Emergencies Act, she told Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino's chief of staff that the felt police did not have exhausted all legal tools to end the protest. But Thomas said Lucki failed to pass that information on during a meeting with senior officials on Feb. 13.

"If there is useful or critical information, it needs to be provided, whether you are on the speaking list or not," said Thomas.

Thomas also said Lucki never notified the federal cabinet that police had fired up an operational plan to end the blockades.

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## Spy agency investigating 'credible' death threats from Iran against individuals in Canada

Canada's spy agency is actively investigating what it calls multiple "credible" death threats from Iran targeting individuals in Canada, CBC News has learned.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service said it's aware of state actors from the Islamic Republic of Iran monitoring and intimidating people inside Canada to silence those who speak out publicly against the regime. "CSIS is actively investigating several threats to life originating from the Islamic Republic of Iran based on credible intelligence," CSIS spokesperson Eric Balsam said in a media statement on CBC News. "Ultimately, these hostile activities and foreign interference undermine the security of Canada and Canadians, as well as our democratic values and sovereignty." It's the first time the agency has confirmed multiple ongoing investigations involving what it calls "death threats to Canadians and people located in Canada" originating from Iran.

The details were released to CBC News after Britain's domestic intelligence chief revealed Wednesday that the United Kingdom faces a major security threat from Iran, Russia and China - countries the U.K. accuses of using violence and intimidation abroad to suppress their interests.

For the past two months, demonstrations have taken to the streets in Iran to protest the regime. The massive demonstrations were triggered by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was arrested by the so-called morality police and died in custody after allegedly wearing her high-top properly.

At least 341 people - including teenagers and children - have been killed and more than 15,800 have been detained in relation to Iran's protests, according to Human Rights Activists News Agency, an organization of Iranian activists. Experts suggest the true numbers could be much higher, given the regime's crackdown on the release of real-time information online.

MIS, the United Kingdom's domestic counter-intelligence agency, said Iran's intelligence service is targeting dissidents abroad they "perceive as enemies of the regime."

Ken McCallum, director-general of MIS, said Iran is responsible for at least 10 potential threats to kidnap or kill British or U.K.-based people this year.

"Iran projects threat to the U.K. directly, through its aggressive intelligence services," said McCallum. "The foreign secretary made clear to the U.K. will not tolerate intimidation or threats to life towards journalists, or any individual, living in the U.K."

Canada's government last year condemned Iran's "pattern of intimidation and foreign interference" after U.S. authorities laid charges in an alleged Iranian plot to kidnap or kill and take them to Iran - including three individuals from Canada. In an interview airing Sunday on CBC's Rosemary Barton Live, U.S. Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley

said threats from Iran are continuing. "We know there's been active plotting against Americans, former and current officials. And that's something that we have been absolutely resolute in seeing, that regardless of any differences that we may have among Americans, one thing where we stand together is in defending any American - official, non-official, in uniform, out of uniform," he said last and CBC chief political correspondent Rosemary Barton.

"And of course we stand with Canada, with the U.K. and with others who face the same threat and that's just one of many examples of Iran's activities which go against international norms and for which they need to be held to account."

Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino's office said it is "soberly aware of the risks."

"We use all tools at our disposal, and will continue to work closely with our allies and partners to respond to such illegal and unacceptable behaviour by authoritarian states," said Mendicino's spokesperson Alexander Cohen in a statement.

The federal government announced earlier this week it has officially designated the Islamic Republic of Iran as a regime that has engaged in terrorism and systematic and gross human rights violations "which makes thousands of members of the regime inadmissible to Canada," said Cohen.

The federal government is picking up, reportedly about the future remains. Jason Schneider, the reeve of Vulcan County, located southeast of Calgary, said the area sits on some established oil and gas fields, and people are busy again there.

"It's not a secret that affordability has been front of mind for people who live in our community," he said. "I think if you talk to anybody about what their top issues are, they'll tell you that the cost of groceries has been going up, they'll tell you that the cost of their home heating oil bill is making life more challenging and the ability to get by is not something that they can take for granted."

The government says a household that moves from heating oil to a heat pump can save between \$1,500 and \$4,700 a year on energy bills. "Light at the end of the tunnel?" Kayla Muir is a homeowner who lives near Stellarton and is raising two young kids. She says her family has been struggling with rising prices of everything from food to clothes to electricity, but one of the biggest expenses in her household is home heating oil.

She said last winter, she couldn't afford to have an oil truck fill her tank, so she would fill Jerry cans at

## New federal grant will help offset costs of switch from oil to heat pumps

The federal government has announced details of a new grant aimed at helping low- to mid-income Canadian households make the switch from oil to heat pumps.

The Oil Heat Pump Affordability (OHPA) Grant will provide households with up to \$5,000 - depending on the household income - to cover costs that include the purchase and installation of heat pumps, necessary electrical upgrades and information services.

Households may be eligible if they have an income at or below the median household after-tax income, if their home is heated by oil and if they are the primary resident and owner of their home.

The money will be provided up front to pay for the switch, and the new grant can be combined with existing greener-home grants from federal, provincial and territorial governments and utilities.

Sean Fraser, the minister of Environment, Climate Change and the Environment, made the announcement Monday morning in Stellarton, N.S.

"It's not a secret that affordability has been front of mind for people who live in our community," he said.

"I think if you talk to anybody about what their top issues are, they'll tell you that the cost of groceries has been going up, they'll tell you that the cost of their home heating oil bill is making life more challenging and the ability to get by is not something that they can take for granted."

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She said last winter, she couldn't afford to have an oil truck fill her tank, so she would fill Jerry cans at



The gas station with home heating oil to get by.

"It is, sadly, something that makes us forgo other necessities," she told Fraser at the news conference. "The tough reality is that these days, like many families, the money we spend on heating our home means less bread and milk in our kitchen."

Muir said she's grateful the new grant will be available soon.

"This is a tough time and my family is getting through it, but today's news really feels like a light at the end of the tunnel."

Brian Gifford, the chair of the Affordable Energy Coalition, said he's heard from members of the group who are facing a difficult winter due to the rising cost of energy.

"The cost of a half a tank of oil in Amherstview is \$900, which is more than twice as much as last year. And people just can't afford it," he said.

Gifford said a member in Halifax who lives in a mobile home and receives a disability benefit just learned her oil charge is going up by \$73 a month.

"She was distraught," he said. "She doesn't know how she's going to manage."

Gifford said the new grant is important, and one of its perks is that it will provide funding up front rather than expecting recipients to pay first and get reimbursed later, which can be a challenge for those without financial wiggle room.

Reducing pollution The OHPA program will cost \$250

## Bank of Canada won't say whether it used NDAs in harassment, workplace violence cases

The Bank of Canada is not saying whether any cases of harassment or workplace violence from the past two years involved the use of non-disclosure agreements, citing the institution's privacy obligations in the incidents.

Global News asked the central bank whether any of the six complaints that it investigated over the past two years - three of which the bank determined breached its policy on harassment and workplace violence - had resolutions that saw anyone involved sign NDAs.

In response to requests from Global News, a Bank of Canada spokesperson declined to answer the question directly.

"The Bank's responsibility to uphold its obligations under the Privacy Act preclude us from speaking about any specific case or individual. All reports and complaints received under our policy, including the names of the individuals involved, the circumstances, the complaint process and repercussions, are treated as strictly confidential," the statement read.

Pakistan Post had previously asked for details about whether any of the six complaints involved senior leadership at the bank, financial payouts or termination. The bank would not provide a direct response to those questions either, citing Privacy Act obligations.

The Bank of Canada, which sets monetary policy for the country such as the benchmark interest rate for many types of loans, is a public institution and Crown corporation owned by the federal government. The bank sets its policy independently of the feds, but receives its funding from the government and Ottawa appoints the institution's governors.

## Oil industry booming, but profits aren't staying in Alberta like they used to

The people of Fort McMurray in northeastern Alberta have seen their share of tough times over the last decade - a fire, a flood, COVID-19 and an oil crash. One restaurateur joked last year he hoped lockdowns weren't next.

But more than one year later, the oil and gas industry's fortunes have changed significantly, lifted by record profits. The situation has also buoyed the expectations of some of those who live in the community.

Owen Irwin, owner of Mitchell's Cafe in downtown Fort McMurray, said the community seems to be the first to experience the highs and lows of Alberta's boom-and-bust oil industry.

Today, he's seeing some encouraging signs - like Syncrude moving more employees downtown, and more municipal and provincial government employees present in the community. "I think we're seeing a lot of optimism, of course, with oil and gas being our main sector up here," Eskinskie said.

Optimism is a welcome relief to



residents of a community that has gone through many challenges, but what seems clear is that the oilpatch is not splashing around investment like it did in previous years.

Though companies have been reporting record profits this year, the proportion of oil and gas investments back into the Alberta economy are a fraction of what they were at the time of the last boom.

The ARC Energy Research Institute, which models the entire western Canadian sedimentary basin, projects the industry will produce \$250 billion of revenue this year,

almost two times the typical level seen over the past decade average.

Almost all cash flow used to go back into capital spending, said Jackie Forrester, executive director of ARC. Today, only one third is going back.

"So [capital expenditures] is a fairly small number here. We're expecting about \$42 billion of capital spending this year, which is really down relative to the average over the last 10 years," she said, adding that over the past decade a typical level might have been \$60 or \$70 billion.

Even in communities where oil and

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