Canada

INFORMATION BULLETIN

PURPOSE:

Following the commencement of the 45th General Election and the importance of safeguarding our democratic processes, the Government of Canada (GoC) is introducing a new program to further support the security posture of candidates, when required, to complement the work of the police of jurisdiction.



Overall, the GoC is adopting a layered approach to election security through the following measures:

- a security awareness campaign;
- the services of respective police of jurisdiction;
- the support from Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) for leadership candidates who are eligible to receive RCMP protection based on a threat and risk assessment;
- existing security arrangements put in place by the candidate.
- In addition, the federal government will support these measures by providing an additional layer of security through unarmed, private sector security services to candidates who feel intimidated, threatened or face specific trends, but do not meet the threshold to warrant RCMP and/or local police protection.

WHAT SERVICES ARE BEING OFFERED?

Subject to contractor availability, close protection services will be offered to candidates who require to be escorted and protected while attending campaign events and/or during daily campaign activities. An unarmed guard will take proactive measures to mitigate risks to the candidate.

In addition, residential security will be offered, subject to contractor availability, where an unarmed guard will safeguard the residence from any potential disturbance and threats.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any candidate registered in the 45th General Election who meets one or more of the following criteria:

CLOSE PROTECTION CRITERIA

A candidate is eligible to receive close protection if they have met one or more of the following criteria:

- ✓ A security incident intending physical harm to the candidate has occurred
- ✓ The candidate is experiencing intimidation tactics that hinder the candidate's ability to fulfill their campaign responsibilities
- ✓ The candidate has received specific threats insinuating an intent to physically harm the candidate
- ✓ There are planned protests that are causing the candidate to feel threatened and intimidated

RESIDENTIAL SECURITY CRITERIA

A candidate is eligible for residential security if they have met one or more of the following criteria:

- ✓ The candidate's residence or personal property has been subjected to acts of vandalism, resulting in property damage
- ✓ The candidate's property has been targeted by protesters
- ✓ The candidate feels threatened by disruptive uninvited individual(s) that have targeted the candidate's residence
- ✓ The candidate feels threatened by disturbing social media posts that disclose the candidate's home address or photos of residence

HOW CAN CANDIDATES APPLY?

Candidates can apply directly by contacting the election security team with the coordinates provided below. A candidate information package will be provided to them by Elections Canada and their respective political party. Police of Jurisdiction, Security Partners and Elections Canada can also contact the program directly to refer a candidate if they become aware of a candidate that may require security protection.

HOW ARE LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS SUPPORTING THIS PROGRAM?

The GoC believes there is a shared responsibility to ensure the safety and security of individuals who participate in the federal election. Law enforcement partners play an important role in establishing a robust security environment to safeguard our democratic processes. We also believe that enhanced coordination amongst relevant organizations will provide a more effective and efficient approach to addressing security concerns of candidates.

If you become aware of security incidents or concerns impacting candidates, we ask that you inform us of the situation by contacting our dedicated security partners line provided below.

The below coordinates are solely dedicated for the use of law enforcement and intelligence partners.

(613) 952-7573
CSS-SSC@pco-bcp.gc.ca