

Minister of
Democratic Institutions



Ministre des
Institutions démocratiques

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

CLERK OF THE SENATE

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GREFFIER DU SENAT

Ms. Nicole Proulx
Interim Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments
Senate of Canada
Centre Block, Room 185-S
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

Dear Ms. Proulx:

Pursuant to Rule 12-24 (3) of the Rules of the Senate, I am pleased to enclose for tabling in the Senate, the Government Response to the Seventeenth Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, entitled "*Controlling Foreign Influence in Canadian Elections*."

Yours sincerely,

Honourable Karina Gould, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Democratic Institutions

Attachments

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Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
c/o Keli Hogan, Clerk
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, K1A 0A4

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to respond to the Seventeenth Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, entitled *Controlling Foreign Influence in Canadian Elections*. I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their analysis and thoughtful advice on this important issue.

The Government is committed to improving democratic institutions to restore Canadians' trust and participation in our democratic processes. As part of this commitment, as Minister of Democratic Institutions, I am mandated to review the limits on the amounts political parties and third parties can spend during elections, and propose measures to ensure that spending between elections is subject to reasonable limits as well. I am also mandated to work with the Communications Security Establishment to defend the Canadian electoral process from cyber threats, including through analyzing risks and offering advice to Canada's political parties and Elections Canada on best practices when it comes to cyber security. I want to assure you that your views and recommendations are being given due consideration as part of this review.

Our Government is committed to taking measures to enhance, strengthen and safeguard Canada's electoral process. As such, the Government is generally supportive of the recommendations and our Government is considering introducing further amendments to the *Canada Elections Act* in response to the recommendations of the Chief Electoral Officer. I look forward to working with the Committee should the Government decide to introduce legislation.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your advice on these matters of importance to Canadians.

Yours sincerely,

Honourable Karina Gould, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Democratic Institutions

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