

NSIA Talking Points: Cabinet

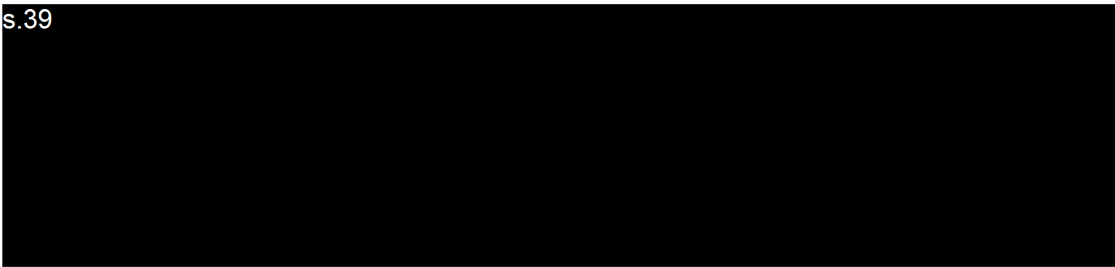
February 8th, 2022

OTTAWA UPDATE

- Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is police of jurisdiction, and ultimately responsible for maintenance of public order (including the removal of vehicles and protesters) and for deciding when to request additional resources if needed.
- Sunday, February 6th: Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson declared “state of emergency” which in reality is a mechanism that provides the city flexibility to more quickly procure supplies and resources.
- OPS also recently announced ramping up of enforcement actions (i.e., seizing over 3,000 litres of fuel, cutting off convoy supplies within Ottawa’s downtown core, dismantling logistical base, issuing over 1,000 tickets, and opening nearly 100 criminal offense investigations).
 - Some media reports have been critical of this response, noting that, as the Chief was announcing fuel delivery to the red zone would be stopped, videos emerged of this activity continuing.
- The Chief continues to communicate publically his view that OPS lacks resources to effectively manage the situation. This may be somewhat true, but may also be a strategic tactic.
- Over the course of the two weekends and throughout the weeks OPS has brought in additional police resources from a number of Ontario municipalities and the OPP depending upon the estimated and actual number of protestors.
 - 275 RCMP members have been deputized to investigate acts of criminality, intimidation and other issues pertaining to the protest.
- Mayor of Ottawa has written to Prime Minister and Minister Mendicino requesting 1,800 officers from federal and provincial governments.
 - Mayor also publically requested the Prime Minister appoint a mediator to be "an honest broker" with the protesters.

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CSIS VIEW

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RCMP

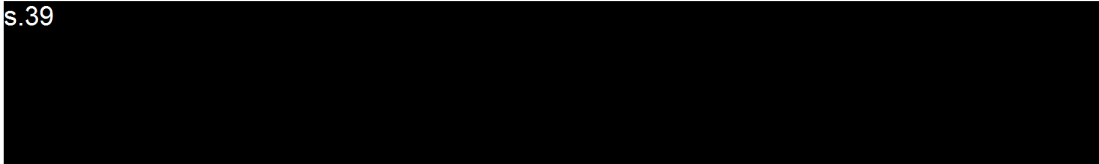
- RCMP have provided 275 officers to assist with law enforcement activities in Ottawa.
- Commissioner and others are in continual contact with OPS and other police agencies coordinating activities and support, receiving updates, providing advice and helping to shape the strategic and tactical approaches to police resolution.
- RCMP has two main lines of effort in the national security space: 1) IMVE and 2) foreign interference.
- RCMP has national security teams looking at activity related to the national security mandate including any financial element that ties into national security investigations. This includes open source.
- The RCMP is not looking at financing of lawful protest activity.

SITUATION ACROSS CANADA

- Number of demonstrations in solidarity occurring in varying degrees across Canada. Thus far have occurred in major Canadian cities (i.e., Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Quebec City) over the last weekend, and a number of smaller cities across Western Canada.
- Events were largely peaceful and have resolved - potentially aided by the application of lessons learned from Ottawa.
 - Law enforcement issued a number of tickets for bylaw and traffic violations.

- Demonstration at Coutts, AB, port of entry ongoing.
 - Two traffic lanes are sometimes open or closed and traffic flow remains very unpredictable.
 - Second blockade on a highway leading to the same US border crossing also ongoing approximately 18 km north of Coutts (Milk River, AB), slowing access to US border. This blockade situation is more tenuous and at times dangerous from a policing perspective.
 - NOTAMs have been issued for Coutts and Milk River and are expected to remain in place until tomorrow.
- Yesterday, a protest in Windsor ON blocked Canada-bound traffic on the Ambassador Bridge linking Detroit to Windsor. Traffic was reduced to a single lane and faced significant delays. US-bound traffic was unaffected. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) advised motorists to use the tunnel, which was not blocked and that commercial trucks should reroute to Sarnia's Bluewater Bridge.
- There have been other POE blockages or congestion caused by 'slow roll' convoys across Southern Ontario POEs.

FPT ENGAGEMENT

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- Ministers of Transport, Public Safety and Emergencies actively engaged with provincial and municipal counterparts to share information as well as identify and encourage opportunities to respond. There has been a particular emphasis on engagement with the City of Ottawa over the past ten days.
- Senior officials (DMs Stewart, Keenan and myself) continue to engage City of Ottawa to **encourage dialogue** with demonstrators, consultations with provincial regulatory authorities, sharing of operational plans and a coherent communications approach.
- Yesterday Ministers participated in a Press Conference outlining federal government actions to date to support peaceful resolution of this demonstration.
 - Announced the creation of a tripartite table between federal, provincial and municipal representatives to swiftly respond to City of Ottawa's needs and share relevant information.

- Ministerial engagement with Provincial counterparts and those with equities at play could help **expedite** an end to the demonstration and **protect** against escalation nationally.
- Yesterday an FPT table of DM of Public Safety and Transportation met to discuss a national and coordinated strategy to that is built upon “maximum and strategic enforcement” using any and all tools available at all 3 levels of government, and need to align all communications to protestors about “maximum enforcement” and the consequences. General support for approach – more to come.

Movement forward

- Ministers continue to reach out to their counterparts across the country and advance participation in the “maximum enforcement” approach.
- Minister Alghabra is meeting with his provincial counterparts to maximize the use of provincial rules and regulations and to work with insurance companies to explore consequences for participating truckers.
- s.39 [REDACTED]
- Solicitor-Client Priv. [REDACTED]
- INTERSECT, joint police coordinating body in the NCR, continues to meet daily and coordinate law enforcement efforts.
- Transport Canada engaging with industry regulators.
- PCO Democratic Institutions engagement with social media companies around their enforcement and actions to remove harmful content from social media platforms.
- Potential for international engagement with US officials on joint messaging around vaccine mandates.

RESPONSIVE, IF PRESSED

- Solicitor-Client Priv. [REDACTED]
- PCO works closely with Parliamentary Protective Service and Sergeant-At-Arms to ensure coordination of their efforts to inform and protect MPs in Ottawa.

- RCMP, PPS and SaA are providing a variety of protective services to MPs and Ministers as they move around downtown Ottawa and the Hill.
- Yesterday, Ontario Superior Court Justice granted 10-day injunction to prevent truckers parked on city streets in downtown Ottawa from honking their horns.
- Departments have developed a rolodex of “creative alternatives” to be explored in addressing this matter.
- Advice to employees of the Public Service remains the same – avoid downtown core and work from home unless your tasks are critical and must be done in your downtown office.