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Subject: First Nation Protests – PS GOC Coordination

Subsequent to 2013 01 17 PSGOC Coordination meeting concerning First Nation Protests, the following are highlights from an ITAC perspective:

- Participating departments / agencies included: GOC, CSIS, RCMP, PCO, ITAC, TC, CBSA, DFO, PS, AADNC.
- Based on our discussions and in consultation with participants, the GOC is preparing a briefing Deck for ADM –NSOps meeting of 2013 01 24.

- ITAC will continue to participate in the GOC lead coordination working group.

Drafted by:

**GC CONTINGENCY PLANNING SCENARIO –
FN Protests & Potential Escalation
Slide Notes**

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Leadership

- As you can see, the diversity amongst the membership of this protest movement ensures that there is no singular leadership body for the movement. While the INM banner has been applied to the whole current Aboriginal protest movement, it is a mistake to conflate these groups, and to try to assign singular leadership over all the protests. The followers of INM may seek advice or ideological guidance from the founders and spokespeople of INM

but the group is a classic "Think globally, act locally", grassroots group, that acts without direction from a centre. The group itself says its purpose is "to support and encourage grassroots to create their own forums to learn more about indigenous rights and our responsibilities to our Nationhood via teach-ins, rallies and social media."

Motivations

- The next three influences are interconnected and especially important. They are youth, social media and success.
- The INM movement has successfully activated and engaged young aboriginals across Canada. Moreover, these young people have seen some success in publicizing their message.
- As with other interest groups and civil society movements, social media has been key to the founding, growth and success of INM, and the current Aboriginal protest movement generally. INM boast some 45,000 "Friends" on it Facebook page and XXX Twitter followers. The use of social media has also highlighted the developing gap between those who are social media literate and those who are not, with the result that the first group is leading the charge, and the potential of the second group being left behind...with unknown consequences.
- Success breeds success. While the lifespan of the INM movement has yet to be determined, the organizers of the INM movement have experienced success on several fronts, including increased media coverage, a successful social media campaign, as well as raising public awareness of Aboriginal issues, and all without violence or excessive criminality. The lessons learned, experience and knowledge gained while garnering these successes will outlive INM, while informing future protest organizers and the success of their endeavours.

Managing the Protests

- Thus far the management of the protests by both protest leaders, as well as local / provincial / federal authorities has been well handled, with the result that in the over 400 protest actions held nation-wide to date the vast majority have been

peaceful and uneventful.

- The founders of the INM have repeatedly stated that they only support peaceful, awareness raising events such as flash-mob-like round dances at shopping malls and pamphleteering. Even the blockades organized or endorsed by the AFN are deemed too aggressive. That being said, where there have been blockades, they have been undertaken peacefully, usually with prior notice and only for those times periods stated. In some cases, there were only slowdowns at major thoroughfares and agreements negotiated between protesters and local authorities.

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- Throughout the meeting held at the GOC on the the afternoon of January 17th, there was general discussion on the types of events which could potentially trigger greater protest, including potential violence and criminality. All agreed that the current situation was expected to remain peaceful, but that there were incidents that could further enflame the mood and actions of those protesting.

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- In conclusion, there are seven main take-aways:
 - While the ongoing Aboriginal protests are generally reported as being part of the **Idle No More** protest movement, INM is only part of the mix of views, agendas, and actions that are currently playing out.
 - As a result, there is **no central leadership** to the whole movement. INM is organized and carried out at a local level with only “ideological” guidance being given by the founders. The other groups may or may not respond to their own leadership, but will continue to follow their own self-interest.
 - The motivations underlying most Aboriginal grievances can be traced to a perceived lack of **Consultation, Accommodation**...and increasingly,

Compensation.

- Other issues beyond the original spark (*i.e.*, Bill C-45), will continue to aggravate the situation, and will likely to remain issues of dispute beyond the lifespan of INM and the current Aboriginal protest movement.
- The activation and energizing of **Aboriginal youth**, the use of **social media**, the **realized success** of INM and even the **weather** will all continue to have an influence in the current Aboriginal protests, and some may influence future protests activity after INM.
- The **current management of protest activities** by both the government and Aboriginal protest organizers **has been restrained**. The vast majority of protest activities have been peaceful with no excessive criminality.
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