



National CIO
Subcommittee on
Information Protection

NCSIP Report to

PSCIOC

February 2016

Table of Contents

Contents

Overview NCSIP Collaboration Participation & Meetings2

NCSIP Ottawa Meeting2

NCSIP 2016 Jurisdictional Scan on Admin Privileges3

Investigations and Forensics Collaboration.....3

Security Awareness Collaboration.....3

MISA Participation3

NCSIP Officers3

Requested Actions of PSCIOC.....4

Overview NCSIP Collaboration Participation & Meetings

NCSIP has a significant role in addressing cyber threats facing the Canadian public sector. Attempts by cyber criminals and hostile foreign states to obtain our information, national and corporate secrets, and the use of our IT infrastructure remains a threat all jurisdictions face. NCSIP provides an avenue for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) or their designates to share information, best practices, tools, techniques and threat intelligence to mitigate cyber risk to government. Most importantly, NCSIP members openly collaborate and share their experiences and information in a timely manner on emerging cyber risks. A key to this type of collaboration is that it is done in confidence. Collaboration between jurisdictions in the form of information sharing alone is credited regularly with preventing or mitigating adverse impacts to infrastructure and data.

Since November 2015, NCSIP has met via conference call on three occasions and in-person once in Ottawa. NCSIP is currently developing plans for a 2016 spring meeting that will be held in New Brunswick. The conference calls last approximately one hour and in-person meetings are 2 ½ to 3 days in duration. During the monthly conference calls, members submit items for discussion that typically include ongoing work activities, threat intelligence, or other information on events and incidents that have occurred and best practices used to mitigate. Members also collaborate on key strategic initiatives and projects of importance.

NCSIP has seen a positive increase in the consistency of participation by some previously absent jurisdictions. However, NCSIP continues to face ongoing challenges with participation at in-person sessions. Some jurisdictions are experiencing frequent turnover of participating individuals which poses a challenge and still other jurisdictions are completely absent (e.g. YK, NU).

Cyber security has never been more imperative and participating members regularly state that participation in NCSIP is one of the highest value activities they participate in. Commitment to attend both conference calls and in-person sessions is necessary to ensure that we can collectively “raise the bar” across Canada from an information security perspective. This may mean explicitly getting commitment for travel or centrally funding requests. Otherwise, without consistent participation, it is difficult to further Canada’s Cyber Security initiatives. We ask that PSCIOC fully supports NCSIP participation by all jurisdictions.

NCSIP Ottawa Meeting

Collaboration and information sharing among the Provinces, Territories, Municipalities and the Federal Government is essential and continues to be a cornerstone of the NCSIP meetings. From November 24-26, 2015, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) hosted the semi-annual NCSIP meeting in Ottawa, ON. In attendance were 12 members representing 6 provinces/territories, MISA East and the federal government. During the meeting each participating jurisdiction presented an update on regional information security initiatives and cyber security activities. There were discussions on security education and awareness activities and further opportunities for collaboration, phishing campaigns, security incident response, risk assessment, and gathering and sharing threat intelligence. Additional focus was placed by way of a workshop on cloud, vendor, and supply chain security. Recurring themes were expressed on the shortage of cybersecurity talent,

importance of identifying and mitigating risks with foreign travel, data classification and identifying organizations' "crown jewels", and standards for critical systems. A threat briefing was provided by the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) and jurisdictions shared lessons learned from incidents throughout the meeting. Also, Public Safety Canada provided an overview of the Cyber Security Action Plan.

NCSIP 2016 Jurisdictional Scan on Admin Privileges

PSCIOC in November 2015 requested NCSIP develop a report on Use of Administrative Rights. NCSIP delivered and provided a report entitled "NCSIP 2016 Jurisdictional Scan on Admin Privileges" on January 7, 2016. The report was a business focused discussion that identified that most jurisdictions are moving away from providing administrator privileges to end users in order to prevent and mitigate the impact of unauthorized system changes and malware.

Investigations and Forensics Collaboration

Technology specialists from NCSIP jurisdictions continue to participate in an Inter-provincial Investigations and Forensics conference call on a monthly basis. Participants have an opportunity to share modern techniques and opportunities with evolving demands posed by investigations and forensics needs. Those who participate recognize the value this unique opportunity provides and testify to the value provided at each meeting.

Security Awareness Collaboration

Security Awareness and Education leads from NCSIP jurisdictions have participated in several Inter-provincial conference calls with plans to meet more consistently in 2016. Participation in the call was determined through NCSIP and provided the leads the opportunity to share successful education and awareness techniques, messages, and materials. This is an excellent example of an area where NCSIP can benefit from heavy collaboration.

MISA Participation

MISA has continued to support its participation in NCSIP. Richard Langley from the City of Ottawa retired in September 2015 and Terry Madsen from the Municipality of Durham has stepped forward to fill his place. Terry is a valued addition and we believe MISA would benefit even further by putting forward a member from MISA West as well to attend.

NCSIP Officers

During the January 2016 session the following members were elected:

Kent Schramm – Chair (ON)

Gary Perkins – Vice-Chair (BC)

Requested Actions of PSCIOC

1. Ensure that there is an NCSIP representative assigned from your jurisdiction and have them participate actively in monthly conference calls. Representation from each jurisdiction is necessary for maximum benefit and success.
2. Support, within the limitations of existing travel constraints, your assigned member's participation in the semi-annual NCSIP in-person meetings.
3. Support the Canada's Cyber Security Strategy Action Plan by endorsing your jurisdictions participation on NCSIP.
4. Confirm within your jurisdiction those responsible for cyber security at the Minister, Deputy Minister, and other levels and ensure correct members are consistently put forward to participate in FPT meetings and tables on this topic.
5. Consider establishing quarterly briefings to Minister, Deputy Minister on cyber security due to level of intensity expected in 2016 and beyond.