



**(S//SI) New Policy Affects SIGINT Development: The Unmasking of Canadian Phone Numbers**

FROM: [REDACTED]  
SIGINT Policy (S02L1)  
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(S//SI) New guidance from our Canadian partners gives the SIGINT Directorate additional flexibility to conduct contact-chaining involving Canadian phone numbers.

(S//SI) Specifically, in November 2005 the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) authorized NSA/SID - for the purposes of SIGINT development and under specified conditions -- to cease the masking of Canadian phone, facsimile, and mobile numbers. This applies to Canadian numbers incidentally collected by NSA/CSS systems in the performance of SIGINT operations against foreign intelligence targets. ("Masking" is the process of minimizing numbers such that a complete number is not available for SIGINT analytic or reporting purposes.)

(S//SI) Under this new policy, the SIGINT Directorate:

- May utilize the Canadian number metadata in SIGINT Development contact-chaining analysis, but not as the primary subject.
- Will continue to minimize Canadian numbers in any SIGINT product or service.
- May retain unminimized Canadian numbers incidentally collected under this authority within the FASCIA II database.
- Will ensure that CSE receives all unmasked Canadian numbers via established forwarding means.

(S//SI) This permission to unmask Canadian numbers does not apply to metadata that is provided to NSA by CSE.

(U//FOUO) The signed Policy Memorandum, titled "[SIGINT Development - Unmasking of Canadian Numbers](#)," can be found on the [SIGINT Policy homepage](#) ("go sigint policy").

(S//SI) This new policy is in keeping with the [Alice Springs Resolution](#), which seeks to ensure that "intelligence results are captured and driven by the fullest possible search and analysis of data" across the Five-Eyes SIGINT community.

(U//FOUO) If you have questions regarding this policy, contact SIGINT Policy (S02L1) at [REDACTED] (s), [REDACTED] (b).

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