



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

# JULIE DZEROWICZ

Member of Parliament  
Davenport

## DEFENDING OUR DEMOCRACY AND TACKLING DISINFORMATION

MARCH 2025

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Davenport friends and neighbours / amis et voisins de Davenport,

Strong democracies can only exist if our communities and general population have access to fact-based, independent media. If we do not have a common set of facts and information, it will be difficult for us to resolve our issues and chart a course for our future.

The former NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg would often say that the best way for NATO countries to counter disinformation is to have free and independent press, with independent journalists who are asking different questions and checking their sources.

**Our federal government believes in the importance of having a strong national public broadcasting organization**, and we have invested heavily to support the CBC/Radio-Canada. We have also **taken a number of steps to tackle disinformation and to protect our federal elections from foreign interference**. Furthermore, we're also working with other G7 countries to coordinate efforts to combat disinformation and "other foreign information manipulation tactics".

For a number of years, there has been a massive transition in the way we receive and absorb information and media. Our traditional media sources have lost many of their main funding sources, because

virtually all advertising has moved to social media.

Online information and news are the "wild west" of media - unregulated and unverified. Trump has convinced Meta to end their fact-checking program and weaken policies on hate speech. This is a major shift in the kind of information available online, and it makes it difficult to verify information we find online. The federal government is currently determining how we can support fact-based, independent journalism through this transition, and ways to educate Canadians on how to interpret the information and media that they consume.

**A call to action to all Davenport residents.** Our federal government needs to do more to develop best practices to encourage Canadians about how to find and interpret good media sources, and we need to do far more to protect Canadians from bad-faith sources. In the meantime, **it is important for everybody to take the time to read multiple credible news sources to ensure that they have the facts.** This will be critical to ensuring that we elect the leaders we want and continue to have a strong democracy.

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## CANADIANS WANT THE CBC - PIERRE POILIEVRE DOESN'T

The CBC/Radio-Canada was created in 1936 to unite Canadians across our vast country and to allow us to share our own stories. CBC/Radio-Canada is free radio, TV, and digital programming that costs each Canadian **\$34 per year**. **78% of Canadians want CBC/Radio-Canada to continue**, and in some areas of Canada, it is the only outlet to offer news services.

**PIERRE POILIEVRE HAS THREATENED TO DEFUND THE CBC, CALLING IT "A BROKEN AND FAILING PROPAGANDA MACHINE".**

He has vowed to defund the English branch - but not the French one - even though both services are completely intertwined and interdependent.

**I firmly believe that we need to continue to ensure strong funding for the CBC/Radio-Canada** so that they can employ top quality journalists; ensure that Canadians can access fact-based, independent journalism; and create great Canadian content locally, regionally, and nationally.

## PROTECTING CANADA'S FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Canada's democracy is among the strongest and most stable in the world. The strength and resilience of Canada's democracy is thanks in part to the Elections Act, which is regularly reviewed, updated and improved upon.

The Elections Act is crucial to helping to build Canadians' trust in our institutions and democratic processes and gives us tools to protect our electoral process.

Changes made to the Elections Act in 2024 via Bill C-65:

- ▶ Expand **protection against foreign interference** beyond election time;
- ▶ Allow us to take a **stronger stance against misinformation** about elections and the voting process by banning contributions by unknown parties, as well as strengthening the rules around third-party election contributions;
- ▶ **Update privacy policy requirements** to also better **protect Canadians' privacy** when engaging in elections;
- ▶ Develop **new technological safeguards** to protect data; and
- ▶ Make necessary updates to disclosure requirements if a breach occurs.

## COMBATting FOREIGN DISINFORMATION AND INFORMATION MANIPULATION

Disinformation is defined as false, inaccurate, or misleading information designed to intentionally cause public harm or make a profit. Often, it is either national actors or foreign actors who promote this.

Malicious foreign actors manipulate information or spread disinformation for many reasons, including to:

- ▶ **Influence public policy;**
- ▶ **Influence voter decisions;**
- ▶ **Polarize opinions and communities;**
- ▶ **Discredit individuals or public institutions, and;**
- ▶ **Undermine trust in democracy.**

We've taken a number of steps to combat disinformation and educate Canadians. The Government of Canada dedicates resources to uncover state actors' false claims and set the record straight by countering disinformation with facts - to learn more, kindly visit [International.gc.ca](https://international.gc.ca). We're also taking international action by strengthening the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism, which monitors and documents state-sponsored disinformation and "other information manipulation tactics", which may be part of broader efforts to undermine democracy.

Canada is working with all top global leaders on disinformation to adopt best practices from around the world in Canada (e.g. Taiwan, Finland, France, etc.).