



## **BRiC Next Generation (BNG) - CAMPAIGN NARRATIVE**

### **Keeping Canadians Safe**

The cost of recovering from increasingly complex threats and recurring natural disasters is straining public safety budgets in Canada and around the world. To meet these evolving challenges means that public safety has to become smarter.

The Canadian public depends on all levels of government to provide public safety services that can respond rapidly and effectively to keep them safe. Responders need reliable technologies that can provide the critical information they require to perform their life saving missions.

The Prime Minister has mandated his ministers to protect Canadians and grow the economy. This can be realized by providing the responders with the tools needed by funding innovation that will not only keep Canadians safe but will create jobs and growth.

### **The Need and the Solution**

Canadians are reminded every day of why these tools are essential to public safety in Canada. Responses to recurring forest fires and floods invariably identify communications challenges and a lack of shared information. When alone gunmen entered Parliament in 2014 he did so because of inadequate communications capabilities that prevented a rapid and coordinated response. Cybercrime continues to spread across the internet threatening an increasing number of Canadians and Canadian companies. Funding innovation for digital solutions that can help individual public safety agencies become smarter and better coordinated response forces will keep Canadians safe and create jobs.

### **Public Safety Innovation in Canada – The BRiC**

Currently the only collaborative public safety research effort that is open to Canadians resides at the University of Regina. The Bridging Research and Interoperability Collaboration framework known as the BRiC brings together academia, industry and public safety agencies focused on developing technology solutions for critical and timely information sharing challenges within the public safety domain.

Over the past three years the BRiC has successfully advanced public safety solutions with initial government funding from the Western Economic Diversification (WED) and a leadership team consisting of the Government of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, the RCMP and an industry group led by General Dynamics Mission Systems - Canada (GDMS-C). This initiative has attracted a growing number of partners and stakeholders determined to find solutions that Canadian responders desperately need.

This strong collaborative team has undertaken a series of initial studies, experiments and tests, including continuous research on securing infrastructure end points, tamper detection, vehicle make and model detection, policy controls and representation, voice analytics, interoperability frameworks, analytics and development of required public policy. (For more information - <http://www.justiceandsafety.ca/centre-initiatives/national-public-safety-interoperability-laboratory-npsil>)



## **The Next Generation of Public Safety Research in Canada**

The BRiC's continuous efforts to raise awareness of capability limitations have been echoed by responders from across Canada with multiple reports to governments citing unreliable communications and a lack of safe information sharing platforms as major operational deficiencies. However, with only one testbed and limited opportunities to engage public safety agencies and small medium enterprises (SME's) in other provinces, this vital research work is being hampered.

What the BRiC has learned is that the next generation of this research needs to find ways to operationalize these evolved capabilities together with responders from across the country because evolving threats are placing an increasing strain on public safety across Canada.

## **BRiC Next Generation (BNG) – A National Public Safety Research Network for Canada**

As set out in the 2015 Speech from the Throne “the Government is committed to providing greater security and opportunity for Canadians. BRiC Next Generation (BNG) aligns with this federal priority as well as Canada's Digital Economy Strategy (DES), the Communication Interoperability Strategy for Canada (CISC), and the Canadian National Strategy for Critical Infrastructure.

BNG follows rigorous studies of the Federal Government priorities, and responders' critical needs; along with a long track record of serving the Canadian digital economy that aims at creating jobs and maintaining global lead.

With federal contribution to the BNG initiative, the BRiC research consortium can be expanded into a national innovation platform for Canada using the existing CANARIE network to achieve the following:

- Offer Canadian academics and SME's access to a collaboration platform with public safety agencies to operationalize developed solutions from coast to coast that share best practices and save lives
- Facilitate a collaborative national network of excellence formed by researchers, government agencies, and SMEs to develop innovative public safety solutions and stimulate evolution
- Enhancing the safety of Canadians by improving the ability to protect the public, basic infrastructure and cyber infrastructure with big data analytics, fusion and cyber security
- Intensifying Canadian competitiveness on the global market by providing strong competitive advantage to Canadian SMEs in a well-defined lucrative international market
- Ensuring evidence based capabilities are delivered to the responder community at a lower cost and quicker time to fuel innovation and local jobs
- Federal funding supports the Government's innovation agenda, positioning Canada as an internationally recognized innovator in Public Safety systems
- Expanding research work will create new companies, scale existing companies, provide jobs and build a marketplace connecting innovation to first responders and to a global marketplace.



### **Call to Action - Empowering public safety and job creation in Canada**

The ingredients for success are already working in the BRiC. Academia is driving the research, public safety agencies are motivated to contribute and shape the development based on their needs, SME's are eager to gain access to a nationally funded research effort and multinational enterprises are willing to invest because of the global demand for proven public safety solutions.

The time for Canada to act is now, given the increasing cost of natural disaster recovery, the expanding economic impact of complex threats and cybercrime. Other G-7 nations are all realizing these new realities and are already working to gain a foot hold in the international public safety market.

Federal funding would be a catalyst to leverage the success of the BRIC and expand this critical work for the benefit of all Canadians with the ability to export our collective knowledge overseas and create jobs.