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to: davidmckiec@gmail.com

date: Jun 21, 2022, 1:16 PM

subject: ATI Request submission /
Requête de demande AI
#545858

ATI Request submission / Requête de demande AI #545858

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Open Government, Government of Canada

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Global Affairs Canada

Year

2022

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02

Request Number

A-2021-00824

Request Summary

Research reports and analyses produced by Rapid Response Mechanism Canada in 2021.

Disposition

Disclosed in part

Number of Pages

272

E-mail

dcp@international.gc.ca

Requestor Category

Media

Delivery Method

Electronic Copy

Given Name

David

Family Name

McKie

Your E-mail Address

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Your telephone number

[613-290-7380](tel:613-290-7380)

Additional Comments

Please email the information in the format released to the original requester.

Address

2011 Woodglen Crescent
Ottawa, ON. K1J6G7
Canada

Preferred language of correspondence

English

I have read, understood and agree with the above Privacy Notice.
Yes



Global Affairs Canada Affaires mondiales Canada

125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2

Our File
AI-2022-00630 / CB

2022-06-22

David McKie
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Ottawa, Ontario
K1J 6G7

davidmckiec@gmail.com

David McKie,

This is in reply to your informal request to the following:

“Records found in: A-2021-00824”

Please find attached a copy of the document(s) requested.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christian Bazinet at 343-203-3381 or by email at Christian.Bazinet@international.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Alexandre Drago
Director
Access to Information and Privacy Protection Division

Enclosure: 291 Pages

GE44: Chinese Communist Party Social Media Accounts Spreading Negative Narratives about the Conservative Party of Canada

Key Findings

- RRM Canada has observed what may be a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) information operation that aims to discourage Canadians of Chinese heritage from voting for the Conservative Party of Canada.
- RRM Canada has observed CCP media accounts on Chinese social media platforms WeChat and Douyin (China's equivalent of TikTok) sharing widely a narrative that the Conservative Party of Canada's election platform suggests leader Erin O'Toole "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China".
- The narrative originated from CCP tabloid *The Global Times*, which recapped a *Hill Times* report on Canadian political parties' proposed China policies on September 8.
- The narrative has now grown in considerable scale:
 - On September 9-12, a number of popular WeChat news accounts that service Chinese-speaking Canadians actively shared the narrative that O'Toole wants to break off relations with China; they did not credit the Global Times, obscuring the narrative's point of origin.
 - Some accounts added commentary, such as "Chinese-Canadians are scared" of the Conservatives' platform, and questioned whether "Chinese compatriots should support the Conservative's if they use this rhetoric?"
 - Respected state news agency *Xinhua* (China's equivalent to AP or *Reuters*, and the highest-ranking state-media organ next to the People's Daily) shared videos on Douyin that read: "according to former policy advisor Jocelyn Coulon, the Conservative's policy almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China."
- RRM Canada is unable to determine whether there is coordination between the CCP media that originally promoted the narrative and the popular WeChat news accounts that service Chinese-speaking Canadians that are now amplifying the narrative. WeChat news accounts that service Canadians are all registered to individuals in China. While many of these WeChat news accounts are well-established and recognized Canadian-Chinese news sites, some may have unclear links to CCP media groups.
- RRM Canada is also unable to determine whether there was inauthentic activity that boosted user engagement with the narrative as Chinese social media platforms are completely non-transparent.

Purpose

This Open Data Analysis¹ is part of Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada's efforts to monitor the digital information environment for signs of foreign state sponsored information manipulation related to Canada's 44th General Election (GE44). RRM Canada has identified a narrative first put forward by the *Global Times* about the Conservatives and leader Erin O'Toole that has grown in considerable scale over the past six days (beginning September 8). The narrative suggests that Beijing may be trying to discourage Canadians of Chinese origin from voting for the Conservative Party of Canada.

Methodology

RRM Canada used a combination of methods to analyze this influence operation, primarily manual review of Chinese social media platforms including WeChat, Douyin, Weibo, Xigua Video and Bilibili, as well as open source forensic digital analysis including, website archives, social listening tools, and cross-platform social media ranking tools.

Findings

Summary of Initial Research

RRM Canada first detected the narrative that "The Conservatives almost want to break diplomatic relations with China" in two *Global Times* articles published on September 8. The articles featured variations of the following headlines: the Conservatives' platform "mentions China 31 times", the party "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China"; or, the Conservatives' platform appears to take a tougher stance on China, while the Liberals' platform "has tried to avoid talking about China" only mentioning China "once." The *Global Times* dubbed this phenomenon "a magical sight."

The *Global Times* article was prompted by the publication of a piece in the *Hill Times* that reviewed the three major Canadian parties' stances on China-Canada relations. However, according to data analytics tools BuzzSumo and Crowdtangle, the *Hill Times* piece did not receive any major engagement with a Chinese-speaking audience, and it is likely that the *Global Times* was the first Chinese publication to engage with its content. The two *Global Times* articles on the topic received high levels of engagement (over 100K page views each).

It is unclear what prompted the *Global Times* to engage with the *Hill Times* piece on September 8. Similar articles published by the *Toronto Star* on September 4 and *Global News* on September 6 elicited no response from CCP media. The Conservative Party platform, published on August 16, 2021, also did not elicit a response. RRM Canada notes that the timing coincided with the first Canadian Leaders' Debate and increasingly close polling numbers.

¹ Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada produces Open Data Analysis to chart trends, strategies and tactics in foreign interference. This analysis supports the G7 RRM, an initiative agreed by the G7 in 2018, to strengthen coordination to identify and respond to diverse and evolving threats to G7 democracies, including through sharing information and analysis, and identifying opportunities for coordinated response.

Reach and Impact of the Campaign

Canadian WeChat news accounts began engaging with the *Global Times* narrative on September 9. The accounts copied the content and form of the *Global Times* piece on the Conservative Party of Canada, but did not credit the publication, thus obscuring the narrative's point of origin. Canadian WeChat accounts, such as *York BBS*, *GTA Life*, *iToronto Life*, and *Vancouver Headlines*, also added commentary to the articles, with lines like: "the Conservatives' platform contains many policies that are unacceptable to Chinese people", "Chinese are frightened by the platform" and "[the platform] challenges Chinese people's bottom lines!" Two of the Canadian WeChat articles questioned whether "Chinese compatriots should support the Conservatives if they use this rhetoric?"

York BBS, *GTA Life*, *iToronto Life* and *Vancouver Headlines* are some of the most popular Canada-focused news accounts on WeChat and have a following of 150K to 415K followers each. Unless otherwise credited, WeChat users would not know that the narrative about the Conservatives and O'Toole originated from the *Global Times* and would assume the articles were original reporting from the Canadian WeChat accounts. The articles published by the accounts all received high levels of user engagement (5K to 20K page views).

Furthermore, CCP media accounts on Douyin (the Chinese-version of Tiktok) published videos that repeated the September 8 *Global Times* headline. *Xinhua's* Douyin account (26 million followers) shared a video that the Conservatives' platform mentions China "31 times" and that an "expert" says the Conservative Party of Canada "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China." The video received over 29K engagements. *Xinhua* is China's official state-run press agency, plays an equivalent role to AP or *Reuters*, and is the highest-ranking state-media organ next to the *People's Daily*. In comparison to the *Global Times*, which is known for publishing salacious headlines and bombastic rhetoric, *Xinhua* has a reputation for publishing official and respectable news content that often reflects the true intentions of the Chinese Communist Party.

Other Notable Narratives

RRM Canada notes that WeChat news accounts in Canada continue to post a false claim that private member's bill C-282 (An Act to establish the Foreign Influence Registry), introduced by Conservative Party of Canada Member of Parliament Kenny Chiu, would require "all individuals or groups with ties to China" to register as agents of the Chinese government. Prior to this, RRM Canada observed WeChat news accounts in Canada posting a false story claiming that Conservative leader Erin O'Toole would ban WeChat if elected. It is unclear where these two narratives originated.

Next Steps

Following the discovery of the widened scale of the negative Conservative Party narrative, RRM Canada increased its observation of Chinese social media platforms and introduced new search terms in English and simplified Chinese to better understand the narrative's impact. RRM Canada will continue to monitor Chinese platforms and the greater Chinese news ecosystem throughout the writ period.

Released: 13 September 2021

Disclaimer: Rapid Response Mechanism Canada monitors and shares information consistent with Canada's privacy laws and the Ministerial Direction for Avoiding Complicity in Mistreatment by Foreign Entities. The information sharing practices of Global Affairs Canada are subject to review by the Privacy Commissioner, the Information Commissioner of Canada, the Office of the Auditor General and the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians, among others. Nothing in the present document shall be construed as adding any obligation or normative commitment under international or national law for any G7 member.

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Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 16 to 17, 2021
- RRM Canada assesses the vast majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.

Scan performed at: 5:00PM, August 17, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM August 16, 2021 – 5:00PM August 17, 2021

Platform used: Buzzsumo, WeChat.

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BuzzSumo engagement¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook engagement	Twitter engagement	Reddit engagement	Total engagement
Trudeau calls federal election, voters to go to the polls Sept. 20	Aug. 15, 2021	CTV News	18.8K	631	24.3K	43.7K
Trudeau Liberals banning unvaccinated Canadians from travel violates Privacy Act, says privacy commissioner	Aug. 16, 2021	Post Millennial	30K	247	0	30.3K
O'Toole comes out against mandatory vaccinations for federal employees, travellers	Aug. 15, 2021	CTV News	5.9K	110	8.5K	14.5K
Erin O'Toole opposes mandatory vaccination for federal public servants, travellers	Aug. 16, 2021	CBC News	8.3K	1.2K	4.3K	13.8K
Canada is headed for a federal election on Sept. 20	Aug. 15, 2021	CBC News	9.7K	908	1.3K	11.9K
Canada's 2021 federal election is officially a go. Here's how it will work - National	Aug. 15, 2021	Global News	10.5K	317	341	11.2K
Erin O'Toole opposes mandatory vaccination for federal public servants, travellers	Aug. 16, 2021	CBC News	2.8K	607	2.6K	6.0K
Manifestation contre le passeport sanitaire à Montréal	Aug. 15, 2021	La Presse	5.3K	159	0	5.5K
Sabrina Maddeaux: Trudeau calls selfish election as Afghanistan burns	Aug. 15, 2021	National Post	3.6K	937	101	4.6K
O'Toole's past performance shows he could surprise pundits	Aug. 14, 2021	The Toronto Sun	3.8K	193	0	3.9K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories receive the most engagement. "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR " Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "Parti vert du canada", "Maxime bernier" OR "Parti populaire" OR "people party", "Maverick Party" OR "Le Parti Maverick"

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WeChat engagement

Article Title ²	Date	Account	Total engagement ³
<u>特鲁多刚要赌一把，他们就拿出“中国牌”!</u> (Trudeau wants to gamble, and they all want to play the “China card”!)	Aug. 17, 2021	<i>Global Times</i> (China party-state media)	100K
<u>突发！加拿大要变天了：杜鲁多解散国会，发动“闪电大选”！定在9月20日！</u> (Breaking news! Canada is about to change: Trudeau dissolves parliament and launches a "speedy election"! Scheduled for September 20!)	Aug. 16, 2021	<i>51.ca</i> (local media)	39.1K
<u>新增1个月翻8倍！特鲁多刚刚宣布大选！\$2000基本收入有机会吗？邮寄选票成关键</u> (Cases rise 8-fold! Trudeau just announced the election! Does \$2000 basic income have a chance? The mail-in ballot is the key!)	Aug. 16, 2021	<i>Superlife</i> (local media)	18.3K
<u>刚刚官宣 首批阿富汗难民就飞到加拿大了! 大选在即 网友沸腾了</u> (Just announced: the first batch of Afghan refugees are flying to Canada! The election is just around the corner, and the internet is abuzz!	Aug. 16, 2021	<i>West Canada Weekly</i> (local media)	9.6K
<u>[焦点]特鲁多强势拉开大选！耗6亿巨额 此举或冷却房市！</u> ([Focus] Trudeau has the power to force an election! Spending 600 million on the election, this move may cool the housing market!)	Aug. 16, 2021	<i>Lahoo Vancouver</i> (local media)	5.9K

² Article titles translated by RRM Canada

³ Total engagement numbers reflect the article’s page views. WeChat does not automatically calculate the number of comments an article receives.

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Monday, October 18, 2021

Global Times article:

- *The Global Times* (GT) reported on the LPC Leader's announcement of a September 20 election. The piece was published on the Global Times WeChat account and was likely intended for a domestic audience in China.
- The piece claims that the leaders of the LPC, CPC and NDP are likely to take a "tougher stance on China" because it will be "more favorable to the election campaign"
- The GT reporter quotes a professor Li Haidong from China Foreign Affairs University, an education institute administered by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Li says the parties will likely play the "China card" on issues such as "human rights and democracy" or on arrests of Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig
- The article has received a combined 200K page views across all of the Global Times' WeChat accounts. Based on initial observations of the WeChat platform, these are likely typical engagement numbers.
- This the first observed commentary from Chinese state or Communist Party linked media media on GE44
- The piece was likely directed at a domestic audience in China and the Global Times did not provide a translation on its English site

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Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 18
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- RRM Canada identified an article from the *Global Times* that called on users to “Co-sign our petition! Request Canada to release [Meng Wanzhou]!” The *Global Times* likely timed the release of the petition with Meng’s 1000th day of in detention in Canada, and not the federal election. The petition has received high levels of engagement on the Chinese platform WeChat, but little engagement on Twitter, Facebook or Reddit. Canadian news outlet *Globe and Mail* has also covered news of the petition. The *Globe and Mail* article is available here: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-chinese-state-media-launches-online-petition-demanding-meng-wanzhou/>

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, August 18, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM August 18, 2021 – 8:00PM August 19, 2021. (Updates on the Meng Wanzhou petition and *Global Times* article as of 9:30AM Aug 19, 2021)

Platform used: Buzzsumo, WeChat, Weibo, Crowdtangle

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Monday, October 18, 2021

Engagement on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook engagement	Twitter engagement	Reddit engagement	Total engagement
<u>O'Toole slams other parties as 'all the same' and 'part of the problem' in first campaign rally</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	31.1K	17	0	31.1K
<u>Ottawa has 'no plans' to recognize Taliban as legitimate government of Afghanistan: Trudeau</u>	Aug. 17, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	58	208	10.3K	10.6K
<u>Trudeau heckled over vaccines, lockdowns during campaign stop in Ontario</u>	Aug. 17, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	6K	69	0	6.0K
<u>Twitter pulls Conservatives' 'Willy Wonka' attack ad on Trudeau due to copyright</u>	Aug. 17, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.4K	359	2.3K	5.0K
<u>Canada will not recognize Taliban as Afghan gov't</u>	Aug. 17, 2021	<i>Reuters</i>	3.8K	109	671	4.6K
<u>Trudeau announces he consulted with Hillary Clinton about Afghanistan crisis</u>	Aug. 17, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	4.4K	100	0	4.5K
<u>Trudeau touts need for "she-covery" after "she-cession"</u>	Aug 17, 2021	<i>TNC News</i>	4.2K	207	0	4.4K
<u>Justin Trudeau faced with onslaught of boos and heckling during first campaign stop in Cobourg, Ont.</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	4K	63	0	4.0k
<u>Mandatory COVID-19 vaccines a hot-button issue as election race kicks off</u>	Aug. 17, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	3.2K	19	0	3.3K
<u>'GST Holiday' In December Is Erin O'Toole's Latest Election Promise</u>	Aug. 17, 2021	<i>Narcity</i>	3.1K	13	0	3.1K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories receive the most engagement. "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR " Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Annemie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "Parti vert du canada", "Maxime bernier" OR "Parti populaire" OR "people party", "Maverick Party" OR "Le Parti Maverick"

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Monday, October 18, 2021

Engagement on WeChat

Article Title ²	Date	Account	Total engagement ³
<u>加拿大，放人！</u> (Canada, let her go!)	Aug. 18., 2021	<i>Global Times</i> (state media)	100K
<u>一起联署！要求加拿大放人！</u> (Co-sign the petition! Demand Canada to release her!)	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Global Times</i> (state media)	100K
<u>加拿大快放人！孟晚舟引渡案审理结束</u> (Canada, release her! Meng Wanzhou's extradition trial is over!)	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Global Times</i> (state media)	100K
<u>孟晚舟案审理结束！</u> (Meng Wanzhou's extradition trial is over!)	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Global Times</i> (state media)	100K
<u>孟晚舟案今晚结案 律师：最后请求法官释放</u> (Meng Wanzhou's case ends tonight! Lawyer: Requesting the judge to finally release her)	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>iFeng</i> (partially owned by state)	83K

Notes on BuzzSumo engagement

- According to data presented by the analytics tool Crowdtangle, none of the top-ranking stories for August 18 were shared among unfamiliar Canadian politics-related Facebook groups.

Notes on WeChat engagement

- Generally, the top-ranking Canadian politics stories on WeChat originate from locally-run accounts, such as 51.ca, SuperLife, BC Bay and York BBS. The top four Canadian politics stories for August 18 all originate from the Global Times and feature the petition to Amb. Barton demanding the release of Meng Wanzhou.

² Article titles translated by RRM Canada

³ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not automatically calculate the number of comments an article receives

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Monday, October 18, 2021

On our radar:

Global Times article and petition:

- The *Global Times*' WeChat account posted an [article](#) calling on users to sign a petition that “demands Canada release Chinese citizen Meng Wanzhou.” The petition is likely intended for both a domestic and foreign audience, and is available in both English and Chinese. The *Global Times* later shared the [petition](#) on Weibo, Facebook and Twitter.
- The article [headline](#) directs users to a clear call of action “Co-sign the petition! request Canada to release [Meng Wanzhou!]” It then directs users to a separate HTML web page hosted outside the WeChat platform. In general, news articles within the WeChat subscription service are hard to share outside of the platform's ecosystem. The petition is likely hosted on a regular HTML web page to encourage users to share it with others.
- Users who wish to sign the petition only have to click a button in the centre of the page. The user does not have to provide their name or any other identifying information. Underneath the “sign the petition” button, a user is prompted to share the website URL on Facebook or Twitter.
- There is a counter that displays how many users have signed the petition. At the time of writing, there were 7.8 million signees.
- The *Global Times* Twitter account (1.8 million followers) shared the petition a number of times, and tweeted: “We need your vote! After nearly 1,000 days, Chinese citizen #MengWanzhou is still under detention in #Canada due to political persecution by #US. Come sign this online petition to call for Meng’s immediate release.”
- As of writing, the petition has received a total engagement of 13K (including likes, comments and shares) on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit; a number of high-followers accounts have shared the petition, including the [People’s Daily Facebook page](#) (2.7 million followers) and [Zhang Heping](#), counselor at the PRC embassy to Pakistan (74K followers).
- The *People’s Daily* Weibo account has shared the petition with its 80 million followers. The [post](#) has since been shared 21K times.
- The following is an excerpt from the English petition:
- *“Your government, which labels itself internationally as a country that “values human rights,” is flatteringly compliant in the face of such blatant political persecution of a Chinese citizen by the US government. What is even more outrageous is, despite the overwhelming evidence that Meng presented to show how the US was lying, Canada still pushed forward with so-called extradition procedures. As an accomplice in the case, the Canadian government should be held liable for aiding the US persecute a Chinese citizen for political purposes. Therefore, as the 1,000 days approach after Meng was illegally detained in Canada, the Global Times has launched a campaign to invite netizens from China and the rest of the world to join in the appeal against the ugly acts of the Canadian government, which is acting as an accomplice of the US government to persecute a Chinese citizen, demanding the immediate and unconditional release of Meng. We would like to ask you to convey our concerns to your government truthfully.”*

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Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 19.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- A *Global Times* petition calling on Amb. Barton to “release Meng Wanzhou” continues to receive high levels on engagement on Chinese social media platforms WeChat and Weibo and comparatively little engagement on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit (a total of 23.8K engagements, including shares, comments and likes). RRM Canada will continue to monitor for any signs of manipulation in the context of GE44.
- Several U.S. alternative online media outlets commented on the LPC leader’s use of the words “she-covery” and “she-cession” at an LPC campaign event. At least one of these alternative media outlets appears to also promote narratives that the 2020 US election was fraudulent. RRM Canada has not observed any of these outlets promoting narratives about the current federal elections in Canada.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, August 19, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM August 19, 2021 – 8:00PM August 19, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, WeChat, Weibo, Newrank.cn

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G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Trudeau doubles down on mandatory COVID-19 vaccines for domestic travel</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	15.8K	122	4.6K	20.5K
<u>Canada's Justin Trudeau Calls Hillary Clinton for Help with Afghanistan</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Breitbart</i>	10.4K	94	52	10.6K
<u>Canada election: NDP leader Jagmeet Singh pledges to increase tax on foreign buyers to combat housing crisis</u>	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	102	6	7.7K	7.8K
<u>Trudeau says people who are not fully vaccinated won't be able to travel on domestic planes or trains</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	6.8K	173	0	6.9K
<u>Justin Trudeau faced with onslaught of boos and heckling during first campaign stop in Cobourg, Ont.</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	6.3K	109	0	6.4K
<u>Justin Trudeau Promises 'She-covery' from the 'She-cession'</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Louder with Crowder</i>	4.7K	0	0	4.7K
<u>Matthew Lau: Trudeau's irresponsible spending proves he doesn't deserve to govern</u>	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	2.8K	124	0	2.9K
<u>O'Toole Tories cheer Nova Scotia PC win, Trudeau Liberals look for lessons</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.2K	146	144	2.5K
<u>Rex Murphy: Trudeau's vanity election would be silly, if it weren't so shameful</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	2.3K	181	0	2.5K
<u>Kelly McParland: Nova Scotia election shows how Trudeau could meet his doom</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	2.2K	115	42	2.3K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

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Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Les anti-vaccins se verront refuser l'accès à bord des transports</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	8K	70	0	8.1K
<u>L'avion et le train réservés aux pleinement vaccinées, dit Trudeau</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	1.5K	42	0	1.5K
<u>Le NPD propose une taxe de 20 % pour les acheteurs étrangers</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	591	26	800	1.4K
<u>Erin O'Toole offre un contrat aux Québécois</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	1.2K	4	0	1.3K
<u>Les électeurs sans masque pourraient être refusés, dit Élections Canada</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	996	36	0	1.0K
<u>De passage au Québec, O'Toole réitère sa promesse d'une loi anticorruption</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	987	1	0	1.0K
<u>Erin O'Toole veut donner plus de pouvoirs au Québec</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	786	4	0	790
<u>Le Bloc québécois dénonce la discrimination des aînés</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>L'Express</i>	751	1	0	752
<u>Les libéraux auraient pu mieux protéger la santé des Québécois, selon Blanchet</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	698	17	0	715
<u>Quels sont les risques de politiser la vaccination obligatoire?</u>	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	656	32	0	688

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total engagement⁴
<u>华春莹：希望加拿大政府倾听中国民意，立即释放孟晚舟</u> (Hua Chunying: I hope the Canadian government will listen to Chinese public opinion and immediately release Meng Wanzhou)	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>People's Daily</i> (state media)	100K
<u>加拿大，放人！</u> (Canada, let her go!)	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>People's Daily</i> (state media)	100K
<u>“这就是中国的民意！”</u> (This is the public opinion of China!)	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>Reference News</i> (state media)	84K
<u>风向 孟晚舟案仍存两大变数，若引渡美国有何后果？</u> (Trends: Meng Wanzhou case still has two major variables, what will the aftermath be if she's extradited to the U.S.?)	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>iFeng</i> (partially state owned)	63K
<u>加拿大，放人！</u> (Canada, let her go!)	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>Buyidao</i> (state media)	9.4K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not automatically calculate the number of comments and likes an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Notes:

***Global Times* article and petition:**

- The *Global Times*' petition continues to receive high levels of support from Chinese Communist Party-affiliated media, including the official newspaper of the CCP's Central Committee, *the People's Daily*. The petition was shared twice on the *People's Daily* official WeChat account (the data analytics company Newrank believes the *People's Daily* is one of the highest-followed news accounts on WeChat, but isn't able to provide a definitive figure on the total number of followers for the account).
- The petition was later shared on the WeChat account of *Reference News*, also one of China's highest followed news sources.
- At around 8:00PM EST, the petition signee counter surpassed over 10 million "signatures". RRM Canada notes that "signatures" for this online petition are anonymous and the hosting website claims signature count is based on unique IP addresses clicking a sign here button.
- Users on Facebook and Twitter have not widely shared the petition. According to data analytical tool Crowdtangle, the petition has received a total of 23.8K engagements. In total, the URL for the petition has been shared 127 times on Twitter, and 377 times on Facebook.
- RRM Canada has not detected any social media posts that link the launch of the *Global Times* petition to the federal election.

User engagement with English-language online media

- The majority of English-language stories shared on social media for August 19 originate from recognizable Canadian and U.S. media outlets.
- Of note: A number of alternative online media outlets (*Breitbart*, *Louder with Crowder*, *Independent Chronicle*) commented on the LPC leader's use of the words "she-covery" and "she-cession" at an LPC campaign event. At least one of these outlets (*Independent Chronicle*) also promotes narratives that the 2020 US presidential elections were fraudulent; however, RRM Canada has not observed any of these outlets promoting narratives about the current federal elections in Canada.

User engagement with French-language online media

- All of the of most shared French-language stories for August 19 originate from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 20 to August 22.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- A US Alternative media outlet reported that Prime-Minister Justin Trudeau had discussed the situation in Afghanistan with former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The article appears directed towards US audiences and did not discuss Canadian elections or politics.
- Last week, a petition from the Chinese Communist Party-linked Global Times that called on Amb. Barton to “release Meng Wanzhou” was shared widely on WeChat, Weibo and Douyin. This week, the petition has received comparatively little attention on Chinese social media platforms, and is not widely shared on Facebook, Twitter, or other U.S. social media platforms.

Scan performed at: 9:00PM, August 22, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM August 20, 2021 – 9:00PM August 22, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, WeChat, Newsguard

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Diane Francis: Erin O'Toole's platform proves he is ready to govern unlike Trudeau the child</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	8.7K	1.4K	74	10.2K
<u>LILLEY: Trudeau is reducing sentences for serious gun crimes</u>	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	7.5K	848	854	9.2K
<u>Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau Comes Clean, Says He Spoke with Hillary Clinton About Afghanistan</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>MAGA Conservatives</i>	7.3K	1	0	7.3K
<u>Increasingly Divisive & Dangerous Trudeau Must Be Defeated</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>Spencer Fernando</i>	6.2K	356	0	6.5K
<u>People's Party Leader Maxime Bernier will not be in federal election debates</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	1.9K	330	4K	6.3K
<u>Trudeau seen as best pick for PM, but faces trust issues as election ramps up: poll</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	4.9K	478	148	5.5K
<u>Trudeau pledges 10 paid sick leave days for federal workers — if Liberals are re-elected</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	5.4K	74	0	5.4K
<u>Rupa Subramanya: Trudeau blames Afghans for not getting to the airport fast enough</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	4.3K	901	94	5.3K
<u>Several Conservative Candidates Directed Public Money to Canada's Biggest Anti-Abortion Lobby Group</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Press Progress</i>	2.1K	911	1.9K	4.9K
<u>Nanos tracking: Liberal, Conservative race narrows in week one of Canadian federal election</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	2.3K	127	2.2K	4.6K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Maxime Bernier fera campagne contre la « tyrannie » sanitaire</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	4.4K	98	0	4.5K
<u>Maxime Bernier chef du PPC exclu des débats des chefs</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	3.3K	11	0	3.3K
<u>En coulisses, Justin Trudeau est à la recherche de « grandes idées »</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1.4K	329	102	1.9K
<u>Maxime Bernier manifeste son désaccord avec les mesures sanitaires</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Noovo</i>	1.6K	7	0	1.6K
<u>Retour au travail: 10 jours de congés payés pour les employés fédéraux, promet Trudeau</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	1.4K	1	0	1.4K
<u>«Dictature», «tyrannie sanitaire»: Maxime Bernier, rageur, ne fait pas l'unanimité</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	1.3K	4	0	1.3K
<u>Maxime Bernier fait campagne sur la gestion de la COVID-19</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	1.3K	12	0	1.3K
<u>Plus de chances d'avoir l'usine de Moderna au Québec avec le Bloc, selon le chef</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	996	175	0	1.2K
<u>Maxime Bernier exclut des débats des chefs</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	1.2K	6	0	1.2K
<u>Fédérales 2021 : Maxime Bernier ne participera pas aux débats des chefs</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>Journal de Montreal</i>	1.1K	9	0	1.1K

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total engagement ⁴
<u>G7 外长要求塔利班保证</u> (G7 foreign ministers' ask Taliban for assurances)	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Global Times</i> (state media)	100K
<u>谁上台加拿大房价都会崩?! 3 大党都出狠招: 完全禁止外国人买房, 还要征税 20%! (Whoever comes to power, Canadian housing prices could collapse? The 3 major parties have all come up with tough moves: a total ban on foreigners buying homes, and a 20% tax!)</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>Canada Talks</i> (local media)	37K
<u>房市难了! 加拿大势要打压房价, 这个党出招最狠: 外国人买房征税 20%! (The housing market is hard to get into! Canada is trying to crack down on house prices, and this party has the most vicious moves: a 20% tax on foreigners who buy homes!)</u>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>51.ca</i> (local media)	25K
<u>刚刚! 加拿大宣布一项福利: 送打工人 10 天带薪休假! 这些行业受益! (Just now! Canada announced a new benefit: 10 paid days vacation! That's certainly a benefit!)</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>51.ca</i> (local media)	21K
<u>特鲁多: 若胜选送这两个福利! 加拿大机场开放乱成一团, 大批乘客行李弄丢 10 天找不回! (Trudeau: If I win, you'll see these 2 benefits! Canadian airport sees chaos after passengers lose their luggage for 10 days!)</u>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>Superlife</i> (local media)	6.7K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not automatically calculate the number of comments and likes an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Global Times article and petition:

- On August 20, the petition was [shared on Douyin](#) by the Chinese Communist Party-linked *Beijing News*. Over the August 21-22 reporting period, The *Global Times*' petition was not widely shared on Chinese social media platforms (Weibo, WeChat and Douyin); there were no new posts from party-state media outlets (*The People's Daily, Global Times, Reference News*) calling on users to sign the petition.
- The petition had very minimal engagement on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit during the August 20-22 reporting period.
- RRM Canada has not detected any social media posts that link the launch of the *Global Times* petition to the federal election.

User engagement with English-language online media

- With the exception of one article, the majority of English-language stories shared on social media for the August 20-22 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets, or registered third parties with Elections Canada (*Press Progress*).
- Of note: An anonymous U.S. website called "Maga Conservatives" published a high-engagement article titled "[Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau Comes Clean, Says He Spoke with Hillary Clinton About Afghanistan](#)" on August 20.
- The website does not list the owner or the main editor. According to Newsguard, an organization that provides trust ratings for online news sites, Maga Conservatives [does not produce](#) original reporting, but aggregates news stories and commentary from outlets like Fox News and Breitbart. During the U.S. 2020 election, the site carried a number of articles that alleged widespread voter fraud in key swing state for the U.S. presidency.

U.S. political pundits comment on GE44 campaign

- A number of U.S. political commentators, including [Sebastian Gorka](#), [Michael Malice](#) and [Laurence Fox](#), tweeted about a campaign video featuring the LPC leader. The video features the line: "If you don't want to get vaccinated, that's your choice. But don't think you can get on a plane or a train beside vaccinated people and put them at risk." Commentary on the tweet was later shared in r/conspiracy, a Reddit community that questions the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines and the use of masks in public spaces.

U.S. Alternative media outlet comments on the situation in Afghanistan

- A US Alternative media outlet reported that Prime-Minister Justin Trudeau had discussed the situation in Afghanistan with former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The article appears directed towards US audiences and did not discuss Canadian elections or politics.
- The articles primary focus was on the Biden admirations handling of the situation in Kabul and alleged lack of consultations or coordination with US allies on the US withdrawal from the country.
- RRM Canada notes that several other US and Canada based alternative media outlets covered the Trudeau-Clinton conversation following the Prime-Ministers August 18th remarks on Afghanistan and his call with Hillary Clinton.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

User engagement with French-language online media

- All of the of most shared French-language stories for the August 20-22 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- Aside from minor coverage of the G7 meeting by the *Global Times*, the majority of Canadian political and election news for the August 20-22 reporting period originated from recognizable Sinophone Canadian media outlets.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 23.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- *Sputnik News* published a piece about Twitter's decision to label a tweet by LPC candidate Chrystia Freeland as "manipulated media." It has not received high engagement. Overall, Russian state-media outlets in English (including *Russia Today*, *Sputnik* and *TASS*) have not published widely on GE44.
- AnOmaly, a U.S. influencer with a high follower count on Youtube (243K followers), Facebook (1.6M followers) and Instagram (331K followers) known for sharing false information about vaccines, recently interviewed a Canadian Instagram user who claimed that the proposed inter-provincial vaccine mandate was comparable to "China's social credit system" and that the LPC leader called the election because Canadians are "petulant". He adds that "Canadians don't want to be free" and that they are "being dragged out of their home" for not getting vaccinated. The video is likely intended for a U.S. audience, but a number of users in the comment section claim they are Canadian and that they enjoyed the video. The video received a combined 330K views across Youtube, Instagram and Facebook.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, August 23, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM August 20, 2023 – 8:00PM August 23, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, WeChat, Weibo

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Treat drug addiction as health, not criminal issue, O'Toole says in plan to tackle opioid crisis</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	2.3K	198	13.7K	16.2K
<u>Twitter adds warning label to tweet from Liberal candidate Chrystia Freeland</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	6.6K	2.9K	2.5K	11.9K
<u>FAKE NEWS: Trudeau Liberals share manipulated video about Conservative campaign</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	6.4K	83	0	6.4K
<u>NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh to end oil, gas subsidies if elected</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	552	65	4.7K	5.3K
<u>Jagmeet Singh: Much has changed in the 10 years since we lost Jack Layton, but the message of his life endures</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	<i>Toronto Star</i>	924	303	3.8K	5.0K
<u>John Ivison: Trudeau goes on attack as polls show Liberals losing ground</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	3.8K	287	301	4.4K
<u>Twitter flags Liberal campaign video featuring O'Toole as 'manipulated media'</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.9K	188	70	3.1K
<u>EDITORIAL: Don't let Trudeau 'reset' Canada</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	2.5K	341	63	3.0K
<u>Trudeau outlines billions to hire family doctors, bring down health-care wait times</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	2.7K	54	33	2.8K
<u>O'Toole: Conservatives will support unvaccinated travellers, respect provincial COVID passports</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	2K	32	0	2.0K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Le Bloc veut notamment taxer les plus riches et abolir la Loi sur les Indiens	Aug. 22, 2021	Radio-Canada	824	9	0	833
Les libéraux veulent injecter 9 G\$ en santé, mais selon certaines conditions	Aug. 23, 2021	Radio-Canada	824	0	9	833
Les 38 promesses du Bloc québécois pour contrer une majorité libérale	Aug. 22, 2021	Le Devoir	813	17	0	830
Débats des chefs À qui profite l'exclusion de Bernier ?	Aug. 22, 2021	La Presse	741	69	0	810
Le Bloc réunit en congrès avant le dévoilement de sa plateforme	Aug. 22, 2021	Journal de Montréal	769	24	0	793
Tournée des provinces de l'Atlantique: Justin Trudeau de passage à Miramichi	Aug. 22, 2021	Acadie Nouvelle	771	1	0	772
Plateforme électorale Justin Trudeau se défend de manquer d'idées	Aug. 22, 2021	La Presse	663	42	0	705
Le Bloc réuni en congrès avant le dévoilement de sa plateforme	Aug. 22, 2021	TVA Nouvelles	625	0	0	625
Le Parti conservateur a-t-il changé?	Aug. 22, 2021	Journal de Montréal	596	7	0	603
Plateforme libérale: «c'est pas les idées qui manquent», dit Trudeau	Aug. 22, 2021	Journal de Montréal	605	17	0	622

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total engagement⁴
<u>孟晚舟 赢了!! 这就是中国的血性, 全世界都沸腾了!</u> (Meng Wanzhou wins! This is the courage and uprightness of China! The whole world is abuzz!)	Aug. 23, 2021	CA Daily (local media)	39K
<u>华人雄起! 2021 加拿大大选: 自由党/保守党华裔候选人登场!</u> Ethnic Chinese stand up! 2021 Election: LPC/CPC candidates of Chinese descent take the stage!	Aug. 23, 2021	iToronto Life (local media)	2.0K
<u>重磅! 中国终止 286 个中外合作办学项目, 魁省学校名列其中! 留加成本增加, 留学生望而却步!</u> (Heavy! China terminates 286 China-foreign cooperative school agreements, Quebec schools among them! The cost of staying in Canada is going up, and international students are discouraged!	Aug. 23, 2021	Ninety Miles (local media)	1.0K
<u>保守党完整竞选计划! 重点提到就业和经济</u> (CPC releases their campaign plan! The focus is on jobs and the economy!	Aug. 23, 2021	York BBS (local media)	840
<u>加拿大副总理出糗了!</u> (Canada's deputy prime minister makes a fool of herself!)	Aug. 23, 2021	51.ca (local media)	570

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

User engagement with English-language online media

- The majority of English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 23 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- AnOmaly, a U.S. influencer with a high follower count on Youtube (243K followers), Facebook (1.6M followers) and Instagram (331K followers) known for sharing false information about vaccines, recently interviewed a Canadian Instagram user who claimed that the proposed inter-provincial vaccine mandate was comparable to “China’s social credit system” and that the LPC leader called the election because Canadians are “petulant”. He adds that “Canadians don’t want to be free” and that they are “being dragged out of their home” for not getting vaccinated. The video is likely intended for a U.S. audience, but a number of users in the comment section claim they are Canadian and that they enjoyed the video. The video received a combined 330K views across Youtube, Instagram and Facebook.
- *Sputnik News* published a piece about Twitter’s decision to label a tweet by LPC candidate Chrystia Freeland as “manipulated media.” It has not received high engagement. Overall, Russian state-media outlets in English (including *Russia Today*, *Sputnik* and *TASS*) have not published widely on GE44.

User engagement with French-language online media

- The majority of French-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 23 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- Following a lull in postings over the weekend, the *Global Times* (30M followers) and the *People’s Daily* English edition (1M followers) re-upped a petition on Weibo calling on Amb. Barton to release Meng Wanzhou. The *Global Times* claims to have received over 14 million signatures for the petition.
- Gu Yan Mu Chan, a Weibo user (6.4M followers) with links to the PRC troll army “Diba”, shared two videos of protests against old-growth logging in Fairy Creek, BC. She wrote: “The Fairy Creek incident continues to unfold, but new information and local media are being silenced! Indigenous Canadians and environmentalists are working to save trees at Fairy Creek, an event that began a few days ago, but a large RCMP presence is there to deal with the Indigenous peoples.” The post is likely not related to GE44, but likely a response to Canada’s position on human rights’ issues in China. The posts received over 200K views, and 3.1K engagements. Gu Yan Mu Chan was also active during GE43. She called on Diba members to flood the comment section of the Dalhousie University Student Union Facebook page, following the student union’s support of the 2019 Hong Kong pro-democracy protests.
- The majority of Canadian political and election news on WeChat for the August 23 reporting period originated from recognizable Sinophone Canadian media outlets, including *51.ca* (1M followers), *iToronto Life* (395K followers) *CA Daily* (371K followers), *York BBS* (360K followers).

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Treat drug addiction as health, not criminal issue, O'Toole says in plan to tackle opioid crisis</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	2.3K	198	13.7K	16.2K
<u>Twitter adds warning label to tweet from Liberal candidate Chrystia Freeland</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	6.6K	2.9K	2.5K	11.9K
<u>FAKE NEWS: Trudeau Liberals share manipulated video about Conservative campaign</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	6.4K	83	0	6.4K
<u>NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh to end oil, gas subsidies if elected</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	552	65	4.7K	5.3K
<u>Jagmeet Singh: Much has changed in the 10 years since we lost Jack Layton, but the message of his life endures</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	<i>Toronto Star</i>	924	303	3.8K	5.0K
<u>John Ivison: Trudeau goes on attack as polls show Liberals losing ground</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	3.8K	287	301	4.4K
<u>Twitter flags Liberal campaign video featuring O'Toole as 'manipulated media'</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.9K	188	70	3.1K
<u>EDITORIAL: Don't let Trudeau 'reset' Canada</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	2.5K	341	63	3.0K
<u>Trudeau outlines billions to hire family doctors, bring down health-care wait times</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	2.7K	54	33	2.8K
<u>O'Toole: Conservatives will support unvaccinated travellers, respect provincial COVID passports</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	2K	32	0	2.0K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Le Bloc veut notamment taxer les plus riches et abolir la Loi sur les Indiens</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	Radio-Canada	824	9	0	833
<u>Les libéraux veulent injecter 9 G\$ en santé, mais selon certaines conditions</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	Radio-Canada	824	0	9	833
<u>Les 38 promesses du Bloc québécois pour contrer une majorité libérale</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	Le Devoir	813	17	0	830
<u>Débats des chefs À qui profite l'exclusion de Bernier ?</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	La Presse	741	69	0	810
<u>Le Bloc réunit en congrès avant le dévoilement de sa plateforme</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	Journal de Montréal	769	24	0	793
<u>Tournée des provinces de l'Atlantique: Justin Trudeau de passage à Miramichi</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	Acadie Nouvelle	771	1	0	772
<u>Plateforme électorale Justin Trudeau se défend de manquer d'idées</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	La Presse	663	42	0	705
<u>Le Bloc réuni en congrès avant le dévoilement de sa plateforme</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	TVA Nouvelles	625	0	0	625
<u>Le Parti conservateur a-t-il changé?</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	Journal de Montréal	596	7	0	603
<u>Plateforme libérale: «c'est pas les idées qui manquent», dit Trudeau</u>	Aug. 22, 2021	Journal de Montréal	605	17	0	622

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total engagement⁴
<u>孟晚舟 赢了!! 这就是中国的血性, 全世界都沸腾了!</u> (Meng Wanzhou wins! This is the courage and uprightness of China! The whole world is abuzz!)	Aug. 23, 2021	CA Daily (local media)	39K
<u>华人雄起! 2021 加拿大大选: 自由党/保守党华裔候选人登场!</u> Ethnic Chinese stand up! 2021 Election: LPC/CPC candidates of Chinese descent take the stage!	Aug. 23, 2021	iToronto Life (local media)	2.0K
<u>重磅! 中国终止 286 个中外合作办学项目, 魁省学校名列其中! 留加成本增加, 留学生望而却步!</u> (Heavy! China terminates 286 China-foreign cooperative school agreements, Quebec schools among them! The cost of staying in Canada is going up, and international students are discouraged!	Aug. 23, 2021	Ninety Miles (local media)	1.0K
<u>保守党完整竞选计划! 重点提到就业和经济</u> (CPC releases their campaign plan! The focus is on jobs and the economy!	Aug. 23, 2021	York BBS (local media)	840
<u>加拿大副总理出糗了!</u> (Canada's deputy prime minister makes a fool of herself!)	Aug. 23, 2021	51.ca (local media)	570

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

User engagement with English-language online media

- The majority of English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 23 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- AnOmaly, a U.S. influencer with a high follower count on Youtube (243K followers), Facebook (1.6M followers) and Instagram (331K followers) known for sharing false information about vaccines, recently interviewed a Canadian Instagram user who claimed that the proposed inter-provincial vaccine mandate was comparable to “China’s social credit system” and that the LPC leader called the election because Canadians are “petulant”. He adds that “Canadians don’t want to be free” and that they are “being dragged out of their home” for not getting vaccinated. The video is likely intended for a U.S. audience, but a number of users in the comment section claim they are Canadian and that they enjoyed the video. The video received a combined 330K views across Youtube, Instagram and Facebook.
- *Sputnik News* published a piece about Twitter’s decision to label a tweet by LPC candidate Chrystia Freeland as “manipulated media.” It has not received high engagement. Overall, Russian state-media outlets in English (including *Russia Today*, *Sputnik* and *TASS*) have not published widely on GE44.

User engagement with French-language online media

- The majority of French-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 23 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- Following a lull in postings over the weekend, the *Global Times* (30M followers) and the *People’s Daily* English edition (1M followers) re-upped a petition on Weibo calling on Amb. Barton to release Meng Wanzhou. The *Global Times* claims to have received over 14 million signatures for the petition.
- Gu Yan Mu Chan, a Weibo user (6.4M followers) with links to the PRC troll army “Diba”, shared two videos of protests against old-growth logging in Fairy Creek, BC. She wrote: “The Fairy Creek incident continues to unfold, but new information and local media are being silenced! Indigenous Canadians and environmentalists are working to save trees at Fairy Creek, an event that began a few days ago, but a large RCMP presence is there to deal with the Indigenous peoples.” The post is likely not related to GE44, but likely a response to Canada’s position on human rights’ issues in China. The posts received over 200K views, and 3.1K engagements. Gu Yan Mu Chan was also active during GE43. She called on Diba members to flood the comment section of the Dalhousie University Student Union Facebook page, following the student union’s support of the 2019 Hong Kong pro-democracy protests.
- The majority of Canadian political and election news on WeChat for the August 23 reporting period originated from recognizable Sinophone Canadian media outlets, including *51.ca* (1M followers), *iToronto Life* (395K followers) *CA Daily* (371K followers), *York BBS* (360K followers).

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 24.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- *The China Daily* – a newspaper owned by the CCP Central Committee’s publicity department – produced a 6-minute video about the history of residential schools for Indigenous Peoples in the U.S. and Canada, and shared it on their respective YouTube (46K followers), Instagram (1.3M followers) and Facebook (104M followers) accounts. The video did not touch on GE44, and has not received high levels of engagement on social media.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, August 24, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM August 24, 2023 – 8:00PM August 24, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, WeChat, Weibo

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Singh focuses on environment in Montreal, as NDP runs 'targeted' Quebec campaign</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	1.3K	116	20K	21.4K
<u>It's Not Just Their 'Manipulated Media' Tweet. The Entire Trudeau Campaign Is Built On Lies</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>Spencer Fernando</i>	6K	467	0	6.5K
<u>Tom Mulcair: O'Toole has knocked Trudeau off his stride and it's starting to show</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	5K	355	821	6.2K
<u>JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S REPORT CARD</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Canada Proud</i>	5.3K	0	0	5.3K
<u>Latest poll shows Bernier's PPC surge past Bloc Québécois, Green Party</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>True North News</i>	4.9K	443	0	5.3K
<u>Justin Trudeau Vows Two-Year Ban on Foreign Home Buyers in Canada Election</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Bloomberg</i>	5	66	5K	5.0K
<u>Liberals, Conservatives in dead heat as Trudeau's popularity dips: election poll</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	4.1K	161	586	4.8K
<u>Conservatives gain as O'Toole's momentum grows, Nanos survey suggests</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	3.7K	162	909	4.8K
<u>Vast majority of Canadians believe Trudeau could have waited a year until calling election seen as a 'power grab'</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	2.5K	521	1.3K	4.4K
<u>WATCH: Joe Rogan slams Justin Trudeau over viral 'shecession' video</u>	Aug. 23, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	4.2K	43	0	4.2K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Le NPD mettrait fin aux subventions aux énergies fossiles	Aug. 23, 2021	Radio-Canada	1.7K	14	0	1.7K
Le Parti populaire veut éliminer le déficit en un mandat	Aug. 23, 2021	Journal de Montréal	1.5K	56	0	1.6K
Trudeau dévoile une « charte des droits » pour les nouveaux acheteurs	Aug. 24, 2021	La Presse	758	19	51	828
Twitter ajoute un avertissement sur un tweet de Chrystia Freeland	Aug. 23, 2021	Radio-Canada	642	130	28	800
Des projections inquiétantes pour les Libéraux	Aug. 24, 2021	TVA Nouvelles	695	4	0	699
Yves-François Blanchet s'engage sur le terrain de l'éthique	Aug. 23, 2021	Radio-Canada	629	14	0	643
Justin Trudeau promet neuf milliards pour aider en santé	Aug. 23, 2021	La Presse	557	15	0	572
Le Bloc Québécois veut faire évoluer les mœurs en matière d'éthique	Aug. 23, 2021	L'Hebdo Journal	544	0	0	544
Voici l'enjeu prioritaire de 34 233 utilisateurs de la Boussole électorale	Aug. 24, 2021	Radio-Canada	356	56	124	536
Les libéraux veulent faciliter l'achat d'une première maison	Aug. 24, 2021	Journal de Montréal	448	9	0	457

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total engagement ⁴
<u>重磅！杜鲁多宣布 7 大措施严打房市：征收炒房税！禁止外国人在加拿大买房！</u> (Heavy! Trudeau announces 7 measures to crack down on the housing market: A tax on speculation! Ban foreigners from buying houses in Canada!)	Aug. 24, 2021	51.ca (local media)	16.0K
<u>特鲁多又承诺要大笔给钱了！这次是福利买房者！但炒房的要哭了</u> (Trudeau promises to give out big bucks again! This time it's to buy a home! But real estate speculators are about to cry!)	Aug. 24, 2021	Superlife (local media)	14.0K
<u>阿富汗难民入境，不检查护照，无新冠测试！第一批难民开始正常生活，有孕妈生娃并获得加籍！</u> (Afghan refugees enter the country! No passport checks, no COVID-19 tests! The first refugees are beginning normal lives, with pregnant mothers having babies and getting Canadian citizenship!)	Aug. 24, 2021	York BBS (local media)	4.8K
<u>厉害了！自由党出狠招：若当选就禁止外国买家买房！4 年新建 140 万套房</u> (Amazing! The Liberal Party makes a tough move: If elected, they will ban foreigners from buying homes! 1.4 million new apartments in 4 years!)	Aug. 24, 2021	Super Canadian (local media)	2.2K
<u>特鲁多危险了？若当选就禁止外国买家买房，征重税压房价！中国人申请签证难.....</u> (Is Trudeau in danger? If elected, he would ban foreign buyers and impose heavy taxes to suppress housing prices! Chinese people will have difficulties applying for visas....)	Aug. 24, 2021	York BBS (local media)	2.2K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

User engagement with English-language online media

- The majority of English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 24 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- A [survey](#) by Canada Proud that asks users their opinion about the LPC leader has received high levels of engagement on Facebook (5.3K engagement). The survey also requests users to provide their email and consider donating to the organization. Canada Proud is a registered third party with Elections Canada for GE44.
- Podcaster Joe Rogan commented on the LPC leader's use of the word "she-cession" during a campaign event. Rogan did not advise his listeners on who to vote for, or what candidate or party to support. According to [Spotify rankings](#), the *Joe Rogan Experience* is the most popular podcast in Canada.

User engagement with French-language online media

- The majority of French-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 24 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The majority of Canadian political and election news on WeChat for the August 24 reporting period originated from recognizable Sinophone Canadian media outlets, including *51.ca*, *Superlife*, *York BBS* and *Super Canadian*.
- *The China Daily* produced a 6-minute video about the history of residential schools for Indigenous Peoples in the U.S. and Canada, and shared it on their respective YouTube (46K followers), Instagram (1.3M followers) and Facebook (104M followers) accounts. The video did not touch on GE44, and has not received high levels of engagement on social media.
 - The paper interviewed a residential school survivor for the video. The reporters' in the video note that Indigenous Peoples in the U.S. and Canada have suffered "a century of mistreatment" by settler peoples, and that "Western countries always bring a sense of superiority with the rest of the world" and that they "force their will and its way of doing things on others." They conclude the video by saying "Canada and the U.S. should own up to their failures and stop projecting them onto others."
 - The video accrued a total of 5.5K views across all major platforms.
 - *The China Daily* is owned by the CCP Central Committee's Publicity Department.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 25.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- Chinese Communist Party-backed media outlets reported on the LPC leader's announcement that Canadian troops may stay in Afghanistan past August 31st, but offered no commentary on the decision. The outlets did not comment on the election in their reports.
- High-profile figures in U.S. alternative media (including Jack Posobeic, Andy Ngo and Ben Shapiro) commented on LPC candidate Maryam Monsef's use of the word "brothers" in her appeal to the Taliban for safe passage to those who wish to leave Afghanistan. They did not link their comments to GE44, nor called on Canadians to vote for a specific candidate or party.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, August 25, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM August 25, 2021 – 8:00PM August 25, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Social Bearing, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Weibo

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Justin Trudeau Vows Two-Year Ban on Foreign Home Buyers in Canada Election</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Bloomberg</i>	502	180	20.2K	20.9K
<u>Canada's Justin Trudeau Pledges Two-Year Ban on Foreign Home Buyers</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>The Real Deal</i>	0	9	11.6K	11.7K
<u>Vast majority of Canadians believe Trudeau could have waited a year until calling election seen as a 'power grab'</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	3.9K	683	3.3K	7.9K
<u>Trudeau promises new incentives worth billions and a tax on 'flipping' to help Canadians buy a home</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	3.9K	880	1.6K	6.4K
<u>Opinion: O'Toole's GST holiday is the Christmas present our economy needs</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	6.1K	50	0	6.2K
<u>NDP makes 'aggressive' push for progressive voters to ditch Trudeau for something new</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	974	89	4.2K	5.2K
<u>Liberal Housing Plan to Criminalize Hardworking Families</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Ontario Realtors</i>	3.6K	395	7	4.0K
<u>Liberals' Maryam Monsef calls Taliban 'our brothers'</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	1.7K	683	1.5K	3.9K
<u>Trudeau vows 2-year ban on foreign homebuyers, end to blind bidding if re-elected</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	2.7K	40	1.2K	3.9K
<u>O'Toole says he wants more private 'innovation' in health care but supports 'the system we have'</u>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	1.4K	935	543	2.9K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
La ministre fédérale des Femmes sème la polémique en parlant de «nos frères, les talibans»	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.7K	152	80	2.0K
Voici l'enjeu prioritaire de 34 233 utilisateurs de la Boussole électorale	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1.1K	87	146	1.4K
La majorité s'éloigne de plus en plus pour Justin Trudeau	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	1.3K	4	0	1.3K
Achat d'une 1re maison au Canada : Trudeau présente son plan	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>NarCity</i>	1.1K	0	0	1.1K
Sondage: la majorité s'éloigne de plus en plus pour Justin Trudeau	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1K	47	0	1.1K
La ministre fédérale des Femmes sème la polémique en parlant de «nos frères, les talibans»	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	831	147	63	1.0K
Logement Trudeau dévoile une « charte des droits » pour les nouveaux acheteurs	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	948	24	56	1.0K
Troisième lien : Blanchet se dit « sensible » aux arguments des gens de la rive-sud	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	937	4	13	954
Bernier accuse Trudeau et Legault de diviser la population	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>La Tribune</i>	773	118	0	891
Troisième lien à Québec Yves-François Blanchet « convaincu » que le projet peut être écologique	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	562	162	127	851

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total engagement⁴
<u>加拿大军队不撤? (No withdrawal of Canadian troops?)</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Reference News</i> (state media)	63.5K
<u>快讯! 特鲁多: 完全禁止外国人在加拿大买房, 已购房者征税! 温哥华, 多伦多楼市要崩? (Trudeau: Completely ban foreigners from buying houses in Canada, and tax those who have already bought a house! Will the Vancouver and Toronto housing markets collapse?)</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Canada Talks</i> (local media)	47.0K
<u>重磅! 杜鲁多宣布 7 大措施严打房市: 征收炒房税! 禁止外国人在加拿大买房! (Heavy! Trudeau announces 7 major measures to crack down on the housing market: a tax on speculation! Ban foreigners from buying homes in Canada!)</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>51.ca</i> (local media)	35.0K
<u>特鲁多又承诺要大笔给钱了! 这次是福利买房者! 但炒房的要哭了 (Trudeau promises to give away big money! This time it's welfare for buyers! But housing speculators will cry)</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Superlife</i> (local media)	26.0K
<u>特鲁多: 加拿大军事人员准备在 8 月 31 日后留在阿富汗 (Trudeau: Canadian military personnel ready to stay in Afghanistan after August 31)</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>People's Daily</i> (state media)	16.6K
<u>重磅! 加拿大缺钱了! 杜鲁多宣布加税: 每年多征\$25 亿! (Heavy! Canada is short on money! Trudeau announces a tax increase: \$2.5 billion more per year)</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>51.ca</i> (local media)	12.5K
<u>12 架飞机, 超千名阿富汗难民入境加拿大, 不检查护照, 无新冠测试! 魁省将接受 300 难民! (12 planes, over a thousand Afghan refugees entering Canada, no passport checks, no COVID tests! Quebec will accept 300 refugees!)</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>MTL New Media</i> (local media)	11.0K
<u>【有趣】向杜鲁多叫板? 加拿大共产党崛起党员数量激增...怎么莫名有点想笑... (Challenging Trudeau? The rise of the Canadian Communist Party...why do I inexplicably want to laugh...)</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Canada Today</i> (local media)	4.3K
<u>加拿大房市大变天? 特鲁多: 禁止外国人买房! 反炒房税! 竞价全透明! (Canada's housing market seeing a big change? Trudeau: Ban foreigners from buying homes! Anti-speculation taxes! Bidding in full transparency!)</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Ottawazine</i> (local media)	3.9K
<u>厉害了! 自由党出狠招: 若当选就禁止外国买家买房! 4 年新建 140 万套房 (Great! The LPC makes a tough move: if elected, they will ban foreigners from buying homes!)</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>MTL New Media</i> (local media)	1.8K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

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G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

User engagement with English-language online media

- A number of high-profile figures in U.S. alternative media commented on LPC candidate Maryam Monsef's use of the word "brothers" in her appeal to the Taliban for safe passage to those who wish to leave Afghanistan. Post Millennial editor Andy Ngo (894K followers) and Jack Posobiec (1.3M followers) tweeted the video without comment, while Ben Shapiro (3.5M followers) of the Daily Wire tweeted that Monsef's comments were "she-prehensible."
- The tweets by Posobiec, Ngo and Shapiro all received high engagement. Ngo's tweet alone received over 1.9K retweets, and over 5.5K total engagements (likes, shares and comments combined).
- None of the figures called on Twitter users to vote for a particular candidate, nor commented on GE44 in any manner.
- According to an [investigation](#) by *Rolling Stone*, Ngo has close links with the far-Right Patriot Prayer.
- Posobiec is known as one of the [main promoters](#) of the 2016 PizzaGate conspiracy theory. He was also a key player in [distributing](#) the 2017 Macron email leaks.
- The majority of English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 25 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- With the NDP, LPC and CPC releasing their respective policy proposals to lower the cost of housing, a number of Canadian and U.S. real estate news organizations weighed in. Two articles on the topic (one from *The Real Deal*, a U.S. site, and one from Ontario Realtors, a Canadian lobby group) received high levels of engagement on Reddit and Facebook.

User engagement with French-language online media

- The majority of French-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 25 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- Chinese Communist Party-backed media outlets reported on the LPC leader's announcement that Canadian troops may stay in Afghanistan past August 31st, but offered no commentary on the decision. The outlets did not comment on the election in their reports.
- The majority of Canadian political and election news on WeChat for the August 25 reporting period originated from recognizable Sinophone Canadian media outlets.

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G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 26.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- News sites linked to the Chinese Communist Party likely acted in coordinated manner to push user interest in the topic “Meng Wanzhou has been unlawfully detained by Canada for 1000 days.” The news sites claim the Meng Wanzhou extradition trial is a case of “political persecution against a Chinese citizen, planned by the U.S. and carried out by its accomplice, Canada.” The Meng Wanzhou case became one of the top trending topics on Weibo, WeChat and Douyin. The news sites did not link the Meng case to GE44, and did not mention any political party or candidate.
- A talk show program on Russia state-affiliated network *RT* interviewed a guest for a video entitled “Canada’s dark imperialist secret”; the guest and host commented on Canada’s role in Afghanistan, and claimed a parliamentary committee report on human rights abuses in Xinjiang featured research from the “C.I.A.-cut out organization, the National Endowment for Democracy.” The guest and the host did not link their comments to GE44, nor encouraged viewers to vote for a particular party or candidate.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, August 26, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM August 26, 2021 – 8:00PM August 26, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Social Bearing, Tweetdeck, Newrank, WeChat, Weibo, Douyin

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G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>BREAKING: Trudeau Chased Out of Neighbourhood by Angry Crowd</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Bright Light News</i>	15.2K	384	18	15.6K
<u>Canada Pulls Out Of Afghanistan, Leaving Canadians Behind</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Daily Wire</i>	15.0K	10	0	15.0K
<u>'They tear at our souls': Canada ends Kabul evacuation effort as many left behind</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	9.7K	124	255	10.1K
<u>KINSELLA: Trudeau's campaign in critical condition</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	13K	802	239	14.1K
<u>SULTANI: Shame on Monsef for calling Taliban 'our brothers'</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	5.8K	2K	10	7.8K
<u>Liberals' Maryam Monsef calls Taliban 'our brothers'</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	3.2K	1K	3.5K	7.8K
<u>Protesters chase Prime Minister Trudeau out of British Columbia event</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	7.6K	2	0	7.6K
<u>Corbella: Jagmeet Singh against oil and gas subsidies that don't exist</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Calgary Herald</i>	5.8K	658	130	6.6K
<u>BREAKING: Trudeau booed, chased by protestors during campaign stop in BC</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	6.5K	141	0	6.6K
<u>Canada's airlift mission from Kabul ends, leaving many behind</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	3.6K	281	623	4.5K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>La ministre fédérale des Femmes sème la polémique en parlant de «nos frères, les talibans»</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Journal de Montreal</i>	2.5K	269	209	2.9K
<u>Bernier accuse Trudeau et Legault de diviser la population</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>La Tribune</i>	2.1K	119	0	2.2K
<u>La campagne centralisatrice de Justin Trudeau</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	977	146	0	1.1K
<u>Élections fédérales: la position du chef du Bloc québécois sur le 3e lien Québec-Lévis consterne les écologistes</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	422	49	273	744
<u>Justin Trudeau s'engage à augmenter le Supplément de revenu garanti</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	690	0	0	690
<u>Justin Trudeau se pète le genou sur un pot de fleur en débarquant de l'autobus</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Informe Toi</i>	559	0	0	559
<u>Maxime Bernier périclité rapidement!</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	566	5	0	571
<u>La candidate du parti de Maxime Bernier dans Manicouagan se désiste</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Le Nord-Côtiér</i>	441	0	0	441
<u>Élections fédérales: Legault présente ses demandes aux chefs fédéraux</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	435	1	0	436
<u>Des électeurs veulent l'Internet haute vitesse en région rurale rapidement</u>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	402	2	0	404

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total engagement ⁴
<u>1000 天了！中国大使同孟晚舟通话</u> (1000 days! The Chinese ambassador spoke with Meng Wanzhou by phone)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	100K
<u>第 1000 天，外交部表态！</u> (On the 1000 th day, MOFA speaks out!)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	100K
<u>孟晚舟被无理拘押 1000 天，外交部表态！</u> (Meng Wanzhou has been wrongfully detained for 1000 days, MOFA speaks out!)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>People's Daily</i>	100K
<u>1000 天了！中国大使同孟晚舟通话</u> (1000 days! The Chinese ambassador spoke with Meng Wanzhou by phone)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>People's Daily</i>	100K
<u>加拿大驻华大使鲍达民先生，您有一封来自环球时报的信，请注意查收</u> (Amb. Barton, you have a letter from the Global Times, please read it carefully)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	100K
<u>孟晚舟被囚禁的 1001 个日夜</u> (1001 days and nights of captivity for Meng Wanzhou)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>College Daily</i>	48.0K
<u>我驻加大使同孟晚舟通话：请坚定信心</u> (Chinese ambassador to Meng: please keep the faith)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Reference News</i>	43.4K
<u>孟晚舟被拘押 1000 天，中国大使电话慰问</u> (Chinese ambassador calls to condole Meng Wanzhou after 1000 days in detention)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Reference News</i>	42.4K
<u>突发！杜鲁多又撒钱了！个人发\$500，夫妇发\$750！200 万人受益！</u> (Unexpected! Trudeau is giving away money again! 500 for individuals, 750 for couples! 2 million will benefit!)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>51.ca</i>	24.1K
<u>678 例！第 4 波可能持续整冬！特鲁多又承诺发钱！单身\$500 夫妻\$750！老年人能领</u> (678 cases! The fourth wave could last all winter! Trudeau promises money again! Individuals get 500, couples get 750! Old people are able to receive it)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Superlife</i>	15.6K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for Russian-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit⁵

Article title⁶	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Канада: 'наши братья' Талибан</u> (Canada: 'our brothers' Taliban)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Anna Van Densky</i>	36	0	0	1.7K
<u>Трюдо запретит иностранцам покупать недвижимость в Канаде</u> (Trudeau will ban foreigners from buying property in Canada)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Torontovka</i>	173	0	0	173
<u>Канада завершила операцию по эвакуации людей из Афганистана</u> (Canada completes operation to evacuate people from Afghanistan)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Sotnik TV</i>	2	3	0	5
<u>Великобритания, США, Канада и еще несколько стран создадут фонд в поддержку Украины: чем будут помогать</u> (Five countries announced the creation of a fund to support Ukraine: how they will help)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Obozrevatel</i>	3	2	0	5
<u>Зеленский уволил посла Украины в Канаде</u> (Zelensky fired Ukraine's ambassador to Canada)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>UNIAN</i>	2	0	0	2

⁵ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period.

⁶ Article titles translated by RRM Canada.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

User engagement with English-language online media

- *Redacted Tonight*, a satirical news program that broadcasts on Russia state-affiliated network RT, published a [video](#) entitled Canada's "Dark Imperialist Secret" on its Youtube (239K subscribers) and Facebook (78K followers) accounts. In the video, the host Lee Pace and a guest comment on Canadian foreign policy topics:
 - The guest says that Canada's role in Afghanistan is to "support the continued invasion" of the country and that the Canadian media acts as "lap dogs of the military-industrial complex"
 - The guest says that a Canadian parliamentary committee report on human rights abuses against Uyghurs in Xinjiang was dominated by researchers funded by the "C.I.A. cut-out National Endowment for Democracy (NED)"
 - The guest and the host do not comment on GE44, nor do they suggest viewers to vote for a specific candidate or party
- With the exception of a news story from *Bright Light News* that has very high levels of engagement, the majority of English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 26 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- A *Bright Light News* story titled "[Trudeau Chased Out of Neighbourhood by Angry Crowd](#)" received the highest level of online engagement for August 26 (15K engagements). In addition, a [video](#) featured in the *Bright Light News* story has been widely shared on the niche platform Rumble (141K views).
- Bright Light News describes itself as "a non-partisan, independent media organization shining a light on the science and data of COVID-19." The website features a [number](#) of [articles](#) that play down the efficacy of vaccines.

User engagement with French-language online media

- The majority of French-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 26 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- *FDESouche*, a French website affiliated with the Rassemblement national – the political party led by Marine Le Pen – [reported](#) on Maryam Monsef's comment on the Taliban. The publisher did not offer any commentary. The article received some engagement (190 engagements).

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- On August 26, between 0300 and 0500 EST (1500 to 1700 Beijing Time), *The People's Daily*, *The Global Times*, *Guancha Syndicate*, *Xinhua*, and other party-state media outlets simultaneously released content related to Meng Wanzhou's "unjustifiable" or "unlawful" detention across all major Chinese social media platforms.
- This is likely a coordinated online campaign by China party-state media to boost user interest in the topic of "Meng Wanzhou detained by Canada for 1000 days" on WeChat, Weibo and Douyin.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- All of the posts featured comments from MOFA spokesperson Wang Wenbin, with the words: “The Meng case is a political persecution against a Chinese citizen planned by the U.S. and carried out by its accomplice, Canada,” and “where has Canada’s repeated claims of defending human rights disappeared to? Canada’s approach of taking chestnuts out of the fire for the U.S. is detrimental to others and will do more harm than good”
- There was no mention of GE44 in any of the posts, nor was there any mention of Canadian political parties or candidates.
- On WeChat, the *Global Times*, the *People’s Daily*, and *Reference News* shared a post authored by the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Canada. The embassy writes that Amb. Cong Peiwu spoke with Meng to express his “deep sympathy on the occasion of her 1000th day of arbitrary detention.”
- Posts by the *Global Times*, *Reference News* and *People’s Daily* about the Meng case all received 100K page views each (the maximum amount of page views the platform will count).
- On Weibo, there was a sharp rise in popularity for the hashtag #孟晚舟被加拿大非法拘押 1000 天# (Meng Wanzhou has been detained illegally by Canada for 1000 days).
- According to Weibo site analytics for August 26 9am EST, the hashtag was viewed 390 million times, discussed 320,000 times, and 2933 original posts have been written on the topic of Meng Wanzhou.
- On Douyin, there was a sharp rise in popularity for the topic 外交部回应孟晚舟被拘押 1000 天 (MOFA responds to Meng Wanzhou’s 1000 days in detention).
- According to Douyin site analytics for August 26, the topic is the number two “hot” topic on the platform. Posts on the topic have received a combined 62 million views.

User engagement with Russophone online media

- The majority of Russian-language stories about Canadian political and election news for August 26 do not originate from Canada, but do not reflect Russian state media perspectives.
- A Russian-language speaker in Belgium produced a YouTube video to comment on Maryam Monsef’s comment on the Taliban. The Youtuber is likely making a genuine attempt to achieve influencer status, and is likely not commenting directing on GE44.
- A post by the Toronto-based Russian-language website *Torontovka* that comments on the LPC leader’s campaign promise on housing received some engagement.
- State media *TASS* [reported](#) on Maryam Monsef’s comment on the Taliban, but the posts received little or no engagement on social media. Russian state-affiliated media outlets (such as *RT* and *TASS*) also reported on the Canadian Armed Forces’ last plane from Kabul airport, and Meng Wanzhou’s 1000 days of detention.
- Russian media in Ukraine reported on the “Partnership for a Strong Ukraine” – a fund established by the UK, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S..

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 27 to 29.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- A *Hill Times* interview with Chinese Amb. to Canada Cong Peiwu received some attention from Twitter and Facebook users (990 engagements). Users mostly reacted to Cong's statement that some politicians are putting their own "political interests" ahead of the Canada-China relationship. However, the Chinese embassy did not translate Cong's comments on Canadian politicians putting "political interests" over Sino-Canadian relations in its [official statement](#) about the *Hill Times* interview. An [article](#) by the *Global Times* about the interview also did not report on Cong's comments on Canadian politicians.
- *Sputnik* and *Russia Today's* coverage of Maryam Monsef's comments on the Taliban received some attention from users (22 engagements) but no comments or shares.
- Russian state-linked RT as well as Chinese Communist Party linked *Global Times* published articles about angry protests and the cancelled LPC campaigns event in Bolton, Ont.

Scan performed at: 9:00PM, August 29, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM August 27, 2021 – 9:00PM August 29, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Social Bearing, Tweetdeck, Newrank, WeChat, Weibo, Douyin

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Trudeau campaign rally cancelled over security concerns amid protests</u>	Aug. 27, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	26.2K	1.5K	2.5K	30.3K
<u>Singh seen as most likeable leader in election as Trudeau's popularity craters: poll</u>	Aug. 27, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	8.1K	269	12.2K	20.6K
<u>Trudeau campaign event breaks Ontario's COVID gathering restrictions</u>	Aug. 27, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	9.6K	1.4K	4.7K	15.6K
<u>Liberals cancel Trudeau election campaign event in Ontario due to safety concerns</u>	Aug. 27, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	14.6K	74	0	14.7K
<u>Rex Murphy: Trudeau's handling of Afghanistan is our great national shame</u>	Aug. 27, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	12K	1.4K	0	13.4K
<u>Trudeau Doesn't Get To Divide The Country And Then Pretend He's The Victim</u>	Aug. 28, 2021	<i>Spencer Fernando</i>	9.2K	1.2K	0	10.4K
<u>Trudeau campaign rally cancelled over safety concerns from angry anti-vaccine protesters</u>	Aug. 27, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	10K	174	70	10.2K
<u>John Ivison: At cancelled Trudeau rally, a level of anger not seen before</u>	Aug. 28, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	6.2K	535	1.2K	7.9K
<u>Justin Trudeau rally cancelled after angry protests</u>	Aug. 28, 2021	<i>BBC News</i>	5.7K	182	690	6.5K
<u>O'Toole Conservatives now lead Trudeau Liberals 37 points to 31: Poll</u>	Aug. 28, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	5.8K	110	0	5.9K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Discours annulé pour des raisons de sécurité Justin Trudeau : « Je n'ai jamais vu ce niveau de colère »	Aug. 27, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	5.9K	129	0	6.0K
Sondages: les libéraux de Trudeau dépassés par les conservateurs	Aug. 28, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	4.1K	49	0	4.2K
Un événement de Justin Trudeau en Ontario annulé pour des raisons de sécurité	Aug. 27, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	2.1K	121	0	2.2K
[Pétition] L'annulation de la suspension des vols en provenance du Maroc vers le Canada	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Les Lignes Bougent</i>	2.1K	3	0	2.1K
Le Canada suspend les vols directs en provenance du Maroc	Aug. 28, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	1.8K	13	0	1.8K
Sondages nationaux Les conservateurs devancent les libéraux	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	1.4K	8	0	1.4K
Une élection surréaliste	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.3K	55	0	1.3K
Transports Canada suspend les vols en provenance du Maroc jusqu'au 29 septembre`	Aug. 28, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1K	35	0	1.0K
Les libéraux promettent 1G\$ pour aider les provinces à implanter le passeport vaccinal	Aug. 27, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	905	77	0	982
Élections fédérales 2021 On gagne à rester sur Tinder	Aug. 28, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	698	102	36	836

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

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G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<u>鲍大使，让加拿大赶紧回信！</u> (Ambassador Barton, tell Canada to hurry up and return our letter!)	Aug. 27, 2021	Global Times	100K
<u>没想到！特鲁多被恨成这样了</u> (Who would have thought? Trudeau is hated like this)	Aug. 28, 2021	Global Times	63.9K
<u>特鲁多：完全禁止外国人在加拿大买房，已购者征税！温哥华，多伦多楼市要崩？</u> (Trudeau: Ban foreigners from buying homes in Canada, tax those who have already bought! Will the Vancouver and Toronto housing market go bust?)	Aug. 29, 2021	Canada Talks	36.7K
<u>加拿大版“特朗普”？保守党党魁奥图尔扬言：如果当选，将致力与中国对抗</u> (Canada's version of Trump? CPC leader O'Toole vows to stand up to China if elected)	Aug. 28, 2021	York BBS	27.3K
<u>特鲁多再次开启疯狂撒钱模式！单身每年发\$500，夫妻\$750！</u> (Trudeau is giving away money like crazy again! \$500 year for bachelors, \$750 for couples!)	Aug. 28, 2021	Canada Talks	7.0K
<u>重磅突发！加拿大批准青少年打莫德纳 2 剂有效率达 100%！特鲁多撒 10 亿支持疫苗护照！</u> (Big breaking news! Canada approves youth to take 2 doses of Moderna, with 100% efficacy! Trudeau rolls out 1 billion in spending to support the vaccine passport!)	Aug. 28, 2021	CAC News.ca	6.1K
<u>惨烈 13 名美军阵亡 200 多人死伤！喀布尔机场遭自杀式爆炸袭击！多图全景...</u> (Tragic 13 U.S. troops killed in action, more than 200 dead and wounded! Kabul airport attacked by suicide bomber! Multi-picture panorama)	Aug. 28, 2021	Lahoo Canada- News	6.0K
<u>特鲁多惨遭下流咒骂 被狂竖中指 背后原因太扯了！</u> (Trudeau was subjected to obscene curses and gestures, the reason behind it all is ridiculous!)	Aug. 28, 2021	CAC News.ca	4.6K
<u>加拿大国企与中国国企合同被曝，各党对此态度不一，保守党：这是不可接受的！</u> (A contract between Canadian and Chinese state-owned enterprises has been exposed, and the parties have different attitudes towards this. The CPC: This is unacceptable!)	Aug. 29, 2021	York BBS	2.9K
<u>惨烈！喀布尔机场恐袭爆炸已 200 多死伤！特鲁多：这是非常艰难的一天</u> (Tragic! Kabul terror attack has left more than 200 dead & injured! Trudeau: this is a difficult day)	Aug. 28, 2021	York BBS	2.7K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for Russian-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit⁵

Article title⁶	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Предвыборный митинг Трюдо был сорван из-за протестующих</u> (Trudeau's campaign rally disrupted by protesters)	Aug. 28, 2021	<i>Vancouverok</i>	98	1	0	99
<u>Выборы 2021: что партии Канады говорят об иммиграции</u> (Election 2021: What Canada's parties say about immigration)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Vancouverok</i>	55	1	0	56
<u>В Госдуме оценили планы по созданию антироссийского фонда на Украине</u> (State Duma assesses plans to create an anti-Russian fund in Ukraine)	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>RIA Novosti</i>	21	0	0	21
<u>Зеленский уволил Шевченко с должности посла Украины в Канаде</u> (Zelensky dismisses Shevchenko from the post of Ukrainian ambassador to Canada)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Vesti-ua.net</i>	10	0	0	10
<u>Канада завершила операцию по эвакуации людей из Афганистана</u> (Canada completes operation to evacuate people from Afghanistan)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Sotnik-tv</i>	2	8	0	10

⁵ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period.

⁶ Article titles translated by RRM Canada.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

On our radar

User engagement with English-language online media

- The majority of English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 27 to 29 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with French-language online media

- The majority of French-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 27 to 29 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- A [petition](#) authored by “Marocains du Canada MDC” that expresses concern about Transport Canada’s decision to suspend flights from Morocco to Canada received considerable attention among French-language Facebook users (2.3K engagements). Hosted on the website Les Lignes Bougent, the petition notes that suspension of flights generates “enormous problems” leading some to lose their jobs or being unable to begin school on time. “Cette suspension surprise et sans préavis, empêchera plusieurs de se réunir avec leurs proches et porte une atteinte de droit humain” writes the author. The petition has received 5,851 signatures and 2228 comments.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- A *Hill Times* interview with Chinese Amb. to Canada Cong Peiwu received some attention from Anglophone Canadian Twitter and Facebook users (990 engagements). Users mostly reacted to Cong’s statement that some politicians are putting their own “political interests” ahead of the Canada-China relationship.
- However, the Chinese embassy did not translate Cong’s comments on Canadian politicians putting “political interests” over Sino-Canadian relations in its [official statement](#) about the *Hill Times* interview. An [article](#) by the *Global Times* about the interview also did not report on Cong’s comments on Canadian politicians.
- However, the *Global Times* published a [report](#) about the LPC campaigns’ cancelled event in Bolton, Ont. The article author quotes Twitter users who say the LPC leader is “dividing the country” and that “Canadians everywhere are protesting Trudeau.” The article received over 63K page views.
- A Canadian-based WeChat news account (*York BBS*) that [harassed Toronto supporters](#) of Hong Kong’s 2019 pro-democracy protests published an article claiming CPC leader Erin O’Toole would “ban WeChat.” The author notes that “WeChat is an essential app for Chinese people to keep in touch with family and friends” and that “many ethnic Chinese would oppose such a ban.” The article received over 27K page views. It is unclear what comments made by the CPC leader the author is referring to.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

User engagement with Russophone online media

- The most engaged Russian-language stories about Canadian political and election news for August 27 to 29 originated from a recognizable Canadian website – [Vancouverok](#).
- A *RIA Novosti* story that claims the newly announced Partnership for a Resilient Ukraine would be a “feeding trough for Kiev” received some attention from Facebook users (21 engagements) but no comments or shares.
- *Soapbox Stand*, an RT account, [posted a photo](#) on Instagram that purported to show every mining operation in Africa that belonged to a Canadian company. The caption reads: “75% of mining companies globally are now Canadian. Canada is a great source of corporate neocolonialism expansion.” This is the second time in a week that an RT account discussed the topic of “Canadian imperialism.” The photo received 3.6K likes.
- *Sputnik* and *Russia Today*’s coverage of Maryam Monsef’s comments on the Taliban received some attention from users (22 engagements) but no comments or shares.
- *Russia Today*’s [coverage](#) of a cancelled LPC campaign event received some interest from Canadian Facebook users (331 engagement); the article was [shared](#) in a partisan Canadian politics discussion group (less than 700 followers).

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 30.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- WeChat news accounts in Canada continue to post an article that the CPC leader would “ban WeChat” if elected.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, August 30, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM August 30, 2021 – 8:00PM August 30, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Weibo, Douyin

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Ukrainian troops rescue Canada-bound Afghans in daring operation</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	13.9K	4.4K	3.1K	21.5K
<u>Trudeau met with another protest at campaign stop in Cambridge, Ont.</u>	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	0	292	7.7K	8.0K
<u>Vancouver Liberal candidate Taleeb Noormohamed flipped 21+ homes since 2005</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	<i>City News 1130</i>	515	932	6.3K	7.8K
<u>Trudeau says he won't 'back down' to protesters at rallies, despite safety concerns</u>	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	6.6K	82	0	6.7K
<u>Trudeau says he won't back down after protesters hurl death threats, racist and sexist slurs</u>	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	0	1.6K	3.8K	5.4K
<u>LILLEY: Trudeau's wild claims show he will say anything to get elected</u>	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	3.2K	1.2K	58	4.5K
<u>'Their hearts are not in it.' Liberals in Atlantic Canada accused of being unfocused</u>	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	3.4K	484	38	3.9K
<u>Canada to start negotiations with Taliban to bring citizens, Afghans back: Garneau</u>	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2K	358	591	3.0K
<u>Trudeau vows to regulate oil and gas emissions, electric car sales</u>	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.1K	64	372	2.5K
<u>Trudeau climate promises interrupted by angry crowd in Ontario</u>	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	2.4K	23	0	2.4K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Manifestation antivaccin Des opposants « en train de se radicaliser »	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	2K	31	114	2.1K
Une foule enragée contre Trudeau se pointe encore le nez en Ontario	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	1.7K	43	0	1.8K
Une foule enragée contre Trudeau se pointe encore le nez en Ontario	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.7K	31	0	1.8K
Sondages nationaux Les conservateurs rebondissent	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	1.6K	9	0	1.7K
Justin Trudeau a révolutionné le Canada	Aug. 30, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.8K	60	0	1.8K
« Je ne reculerai pas », lance Justin Trudeau aux manifestants	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1.5K	18	0	1.5K
Cinq chefs, une élection : des questions serrées avant les débats à venir	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	601	255	7	863
Trudeau enterré par les manifestants en marge d'une annonce sur le climat	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	803	8	0	811
Une application en développement pour diagnostiquer la COVID-19 à partir de la toux	Aug. 30, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	672	15	0	687
Le troisième lien plombe la campagne du Bloc, selon le PQ	Aug. 29, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	338	58	162	608

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<u>加拿大要变天，特鲁多悬了！中国人申请签证速度再延后，现在时间为... (Canada is about to change, Trudeau is just hanging on! Visa applications for Chinese are delayed again, and now it's time for...)</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	Canada Talks (local media)	28.1K
<u>刚刚传来！杜鲁多危险了：这样下去，总理宝座肯定不保！ (Just in! Trudeau is in danger! If this continues, the PM will lose his job!)</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	51.ca (local media)	26.3K
<u>又一个特朗普！加拿大保守党党魁要封杀微信，誓与中国对抗到底！ (Another Trump! The CPC leader wants to block WeChat, vows to confront China to the end!)</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	VanPeople (local media)	10.9K
<u>迷茫 特鲁多乱局：他揭开了盖子，但却不知道放出了怎样的火焰 (Confusing Chaos for Trudeau: He lifted the lid, but doesn't know how to contain the flame)</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	CanadaNews (local media)	4.8K
<u>又到一年大选时，亚裔平权之路漫长，海外华人参政意识应觉醒！ (Another year of elections, and there's a long road to equal rights for Asian people, the political awareness of overseas Chinese needs to be awakened!)</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	York BBS (local media)	3.0K
<u>特鲁多要凉?! 各省支持率大跌！保守党全国支持率首次领先！ (Is Trudeau cooling down? Provincial support is plummeting! Support for the CPC is ahead for the first time!)</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	iToronto Life (local media)	2.9K
<u>毛骨悚然！加拿大 ISIS 信徒隐藏三年！铁锤砸碎华人女头骨！假扮留学生计划恐怖袭击 (So creepy! Canadian ISIS believer had been in hiding for 3 years! A Chinese woman's skull smashed in with a hammer! Posing as a foreign student, and planning a terrorist attack!)</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	Vansky (local media)	2.3K
<u>日增 870！特鲁多支持率暴跌！拉票被反对者围堵狂喷，差点打起来！ (growing to 870! Trudeau's approval ratings plummet! While campaigning for office he was booed by protesters, and almost came to blows!)</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	VanPeople (local media)	2.1K
<u>[炸了]杜鲁多刚刚被喷上热搜！抗议者爆发冲突：高声咒骂，狂竖中指！ (Explosive! Trudeau getting booed is trending! Protests erupt in clashes! Swearing, and flipping middle fingers!)</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	Lahoo (local media)	1.8K
<u>保守党支持率持续攀升 超过自由党达 2.5%！他快追上杜鲁多了！ (CPC's approval ratings continue to climb, surpassing the LPC by 2.5%! He's catching up with Trudeau!)</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	Dushi-ca (local media)	1.6K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for Russian-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit⁵

Article title⁶	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>In Canada, a woman lost a year's worth of hunger due to a stroke and lost more than 10 pounds - the first time doctors have encountered such a symptom</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	<i>Snob.ru</i>	210	2	0	212
<u>U.S. troops must leave Afghanistan on Tuesday</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	<i>Kommersant.ru</i>	28	0	0	28
<u>GOLOS publishes fakes about violations in Russia, State Duma says</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	<i>RIA Novosti (state media)</i>	0	4	0	4
<u>Ukraine special forces saved Afghan families from the Taliban: the U.S. and Canada failed</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	<i>Glavred.info</i>	4	0	0	4
<u>China's demand for Canadian authorities: Release Meng Wanzhou</u>	Aug. 30, 2021	<i>NewsRu.ca (local media)</i>	0	0	0	0

⁵ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period.

⁶ Article titles translated by RRM Canada.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

On our radar

User engagement with English-language online media

- The majority of English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for August 30 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with French-language online media

- The majority of French-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for August 30 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- Radio-Quebec, an online show hosted by Alexis Cossette-Trudel on Rumble, posted a video titled “Transfert de virus: Trudeau complice de crime contre l'humanité?” The video description asks whether the LPC leader is “withholding information about the transfer of virus samples to China” and whether he is “complicit in a crime against humanity?” The video was viewed over 38K times. Cosette-Trudel frequently discusses false or disproven theories about Covid-19, or topics related to the Q Anon conspiracy. In Oct. 2020, [Facebook and Youtube banned](#) Cosette-Trudel from broadcasting on their platforms for repeatedly violating the companies’ COVID-19 disinformation policies.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The majority of Chinese-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for August 30 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets, including *Canada Talks*, *51.ca*, *VanPeople*, *Lahoo*, and *York BBS*.
- *VanPeople*, a local media account on WeChat, posted an article that the CPC leader would “ban WeChat” if elected. The article received considerable user interest (over 10K page views). The article is a re-post of a previous article that appeared on *York BBS* on August 29.

User engagement with Russophone online media

- The majority of Russian-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for August 30 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets, including *NewsRu.ca*.
- *RIA Novosti*, along with other Russian state-affiliated media, [claimed](#) that the election monitoring organization GOLOS had published unverified and fake information in the run up to the Sept. 2021 State Duma elections. GOLOS is the only Russian electoral integrity monitor that is independent of the Russian government. The RIA Novosti article notes that GOLOS is funded by “foreign NGOs” and “a number of states like Australia, Canada and the USA”. The article did not receive any engagement on Facebook, Twitter or Reddit.
- Other popular topics include:

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- A number of outlets in Ukraine and Russia reported on the Ukrainian military and the *Globe and Mail's* coordinated efforts to bring Afghan translators to Canada.
- An article about a Canadian woman who suffered a stroke and lost her feeling of hunger for 15 months. The article attracted a fair amount of attention on social media (212 engagements).

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 01.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- Rumors that the CPC leader would ban WeChat if elected continue to feature prominently on the WeChat platform.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 01, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 01, 2021 – 8:00PM September 01, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Liberal candidate allowed to run for re-election despite past claims of inappropriate behaviour</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	0	8.2K	1.6K	9.8K
<u>First Nations leaders endorse Liberal candidate while at an NDP event</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	3.6K	2.2K	1.8K	7.6K
<u>Rex Murphy: Trudeau is a one-man lighthouse of virtue-signalling for faults not his own</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	5.6K	916	76	6.6K
<u>Sabrina Maddeaux: Laugh all you want, but Erin O'Toole's pets plan is actually serious policy</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	4.8K	216	211	5.2K
<u>Matthew Lau: Canada's woke emperor has no clothes</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	4.4K	708	0	5.1K
<u>Canada calls for "gendered" approach to combatting terrorism in UN submission</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>True North News</i>	4.3K	423	0	4.7K
<u>Liberal election platform vows \$78B in new spending, no plans to balance budget</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	3.5K	342	32	3.9K
<u>Kathryn Marshall: Trudeau's zero tolerance for sexual misconduct shamefully dissolves for Liberal candidate</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	2.6K	551	437	3.6K
<u>LILLEY: Trudeau stands by candidate accused of sexual misconduct</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	2.2K	1.3K	0	3.4K
<u>Ottawa says 1,250 Canadians and family members still stranded in Afghanistan</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	1.9K	1.2K	93	3.2K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Surprise, Trudeau pourrait perdre!</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	3.6K	231	0	3.8K
<u>Des Chinois rêvent d'un pont de 600 millions\$ à Tadoussac</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	2.4K	34	0	2.4K
<u>Près de 11 000 Canadiens seraient coincés au Maroc</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	1K	0	0	1.0K
<u>Ottawa confirme que 5000 Afghans évacués par les États-Unis seront réinstallés au Canada</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	674	49	0	723
<u>Yves-François Blanchet refuse de laisser une candidate répondre aux journalistes</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	389	69	95	553
<u>Interdiction des vols en provenance du Maroc: le Canada a laissé tomber ses voyageurs</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	521	5	0	526
<u>Trois fois plus de dépenses que de revenus, Trudeau se dit « ambitieux »</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	483	33	0	516
<u>Blanchet empêche la candidate Ensaf Haidar d'expliquer son appui à Maxime Bernier en 2018</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	395	24	0	419
<u>Trudeau prêt à refuser des projets pétroliers pour le climat</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	352	36	0	388
<u>Bassin Peel Des logements sociaux avant le stade de baseball, plaide Singh</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	199	33	149	381

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total views⁴
<u>保守党奥图尔称：一旦当选下届加总理，先禁微信再打压华为！誓和中国对抗到底！</u> (O'Toole: Once elected, I'll first ban WeChat and pummel Huawei! Vows to fight China to the end!)	Aug. 31, 2021	CEIC	15.1K
<u>太拼了！杜鲁多公布自己的手机号码，短信必回！</u> (So hardworking! Trudeau announces his phone number! He has to text back too!)	Sep. 1, 2021	51.ca	3.9K
<u>刚刚！特鲁多宣布选举政纲：再狂撒\$780 亿，但没提人人\$2000 基本收入</u> (Just now! Trudeau announces his election platform: another \$78 billion, but no mention of \$2000 UBI)	Sep. 1, 2021	Superlife	3.4K
<u>炸锅了！特鲁多自由党候选人炒房 30 套，狂赚\$500 万加元</u> (Explosive! A Trudeau LPC candidate speculated on 30 houses and made \$5 million!)	Sep. 1, 2021	Superlife	3.1K
<u>特鲁多刚刚公开自己的手机号！欢迎发短信，“有时间肯定回！”</u> (Trudeau just made public his phone number! You're welcome to send him a text "I'll reply back when I have time!")	Sep. 1, 2021	Superlife	2.5K
<u>重磅！加拿大与美国达成协议，美军撤离的 5000 名阿富汗人将安置在加拿大</u> (Heavy! Canada and the U.S. reach agreement to evacuate 5,000 Afghans to Canada)	Sep. 1, 2021	York BBS	2.4K
<u>事实核查：奥图尔到底有没有说要在加拿大封禁微信？</u> (Fact check: Did O'Toole actually say he was going to ban WeChat in Canada?)	Sep. 1, 2021	Canada Bidu	1.7K
<u>[唏嘘]加拿大高质量男性大概率蝉联总理？选举终究是看流量的</u> (Sigh! Will a high-quality Canadian man be likely to win a 2 nd term as PM? Elections are ultimately about engagement)	Sep. 1, 2021	Lahoo	1.4K
<u>炸了！温哥华自由党候选人被质疑炒房 17 年卖 42 套房狂赚 490 万！</u> (Blow up! Vancouver LPC candidate questions about speculating on 42 homes over 17 years, raking in 4.9 million!)	Sep. 1, 2021	Real Estate Week 360	1.1K
<u>重启以房价飞涨！自由党候选人炒房 21 套！多伦多网友吐槽：晚一年买房多花了 40 多 W！</u> (Reboot on soaring house prices! LPC candidate flips 21 homes! Toronto web users spit take: We're a year late to buy a house worth more than 400,000!)	Sep. 1, 2021	Beimei Youth	1.0K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for Russian-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit⁵

Article title⁶	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Canada will accept up to 5 thousand Afghan refugees who were evacuated by the U.S.</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Antikor.com.ua</i>	0	1	0	1
<u>In Canada, scientific fact devalued Redko's loud statement on vaccination</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>U-F.ru</i>	0	1	0	1
<u>Ukraine expressed a desire to know the US plans for the settlement in Donbass</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>RIA Novosti (state media)</i>	0	0	0	0
<u>What are the prospects for Ukraine joining NATO with an unresolved conflict in Donbass?</u>	Aug. 31, 2021	<i>RT (state media)</i>	0	0	0	0
<u>Toronto voters trust Trudeau more than others</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Russian-Week.ca</i>	0	0	0	0

⁵ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period.

⁶ Article titles translated by RRM Canada.

On our radar

User engagement with English-language online media

- The majority of English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 01 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with French-language online media

- The majority of French-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 01 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The majority of Chinese-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 01 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets, including *51.ca*, *Superlife*, *York BBS* and *Lahoo*.
- A story that claims CPC leader Erin O’Toole would “ban WeChat” if elected continues to trend among Canadian WeChat news accounts. On Aug. 31, the WeChat account for Cantrust Education & Immigration Centre (CEIC) published an article suggesting CPC leader Erin O’Toole is “President Trump 2.0” and has “inherited his mantle.” CEIC repeated the claim that O’Toole would “ban WeChat” and reproached his support for calling the unlawful detainment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang as “genocide.”
- The article received considerable user attention on WeChat (over 15K total page views), and was the most viewed Canadian politics-related new story on WeChat for the Aug. 31 – Sept 1 period.
- Meanwhile, some WeChat news accounts have published “fact check”-type articles to rebut the claims that O’Toole would ban WeChat. Wechat accounts *51.ca* and *Canada Bidu* [reviewed](#) the initial claims made by *York BBS* and did not find a definitive statement that O’Toole would take such an action. The Canada Bidu fact-checking article received 1.7k page views.

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for September 01.
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media by total engagements include:
 - Ukrainian mainstream media discussed a proposal from a presidential advisor to rename Ukraine’s country name.
 - News that the Pentagon promised \$60 million USD in military aid to Ukraine

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 02.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- Chinese Communist Party media outlets (including the Global Times, People's Daily and CCTV) shared widely a story that "Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor collected China's state secrets) on Weibo, Wechat and Douyin. The stories did not mention GE44, or discuss any political party or candidate by name.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 02, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 02, 2021 – 8:00PM September 02, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>KINSELLA: Questions around sexual assault loom over Trudeau campaign</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	5.3K	2K	0	7.3K
<u>Liberal election platform vows \$78B in new spending, no plans to balance budget</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	6.4K	645	32	7.0K
<u>Kathryn Marshall: Trudeau's zero tolerance for sexual misconduct shamefully dissolves for Liberal candidate</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	5.3K	732	690	6.7K
<u>Don Martin: It's all about him -- and that's why Trudeau is in trouble</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	4.4K	1.2K	145	5.8K
<u>Liberals fall, Conservatives steady as election race remains neck-and-neck: poll</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	3.7K	200	205	4.1K
<u>Joe Oliver: There's one thing Trudeau has right: This could be a transformative election</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	3K	345	3	3.3K
<u>Conservatives push for Trudeau ethics probe, claim 'troubling' ties between PM and foundation</u>	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	1.6K	1.1K	379	3.1K
<u>Rough reception at the doors for Liberals, and a tough scrum for Jagmeet Singh</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Maclean's</i>	3K	13	0	3.1K
<u>Liberal candidate facing \$1.5-million lawsuit over pandemic mask-making business</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	1.1K	924	751	2.8K
<u>The Liberal Election Platform: Government Picks Internet Regulation Over Internet Affordability</u>	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Michael Geist's blog</i>	0	143	2.6K	2.7K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Opposition aux mesures sanitaires La radicalisation en trois questions</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	1.5K	58	25	1.6K
<u>Trois fois plus de dépenses que de revenus, Trudeau se dit « ambitieux »</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	885	50	0	935
<u>Les libéraux dévoilent leur plateforme électorale</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	877	2	9	879
<u>Des logements sociaux avant le stade de baseball, plaide Singh</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	334	68	250	652
<u>Blanchet demande aux chefs de « ne pas entraver » l'application de la loi 101</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	551	82	12	645
<u>Le calvaire de Justin Trudeau</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	519	12	0	531
<u>Les libéraux promettent 13 G\$ en nouveaux investissements d'ici 2022</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	419	29	0	448
<u>Le « rigoureux » processus de sélection des candidats du PPC mis à rude épreuve</u>	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	337	11	0	348
<u>Un mauvais procès fait à Yves-François Blanchet</u>	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	220	90	0	310
<u>La vaccination non requise pour le personnel des élections provoque des désistements</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	297	3	0	300

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total views⁴
<u>重磅！他们刺探中国国家秘密细节曝光！</u> (Blockbuster! Details of their spying on China and the state secrets they gathered, revealed!)	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	100K
<u>加拿大，拿去</u> (Canada, take this)	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	100K
<u>重磅！他们刺探中国国家秘密细节曝光！</u> (Blockbuster! Details of the state secrets they collected from China, revealed!)	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Communist Youth League</i>	82.0K
<u>拼了！特鲁多公布自己手机号码，短信必回！小编打了，验证结果...</u> (So hardworking! Trudeau announces his phone number, and returns your texts! I tried it myself, here's how it went)	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Canada Talks</i> (local media)	25.8K
<u>康明凯、迈克尔刺探中国国家秘密细节曝光，外交部回应！</u> (Kovrig and Spavor collected China's state secrets, details revealed, Foreign Ministry responds!)	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>CCTV4</i>	25.5K
<u>重磅！他们刺探中国国家秘密细节曝光！</u> (Blockbuster! The state secrets they collected from China, revealed!)	Sept. 2, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	15.6K
<u>外交部：加拿大人康明凯、迈克尔刺探中国国家秘密犯罪铁证如山！</u> (Foreign Ministry: Iron-clad evidence that Canadians Kovrig and Spavor collected state secrets from China!)	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>People's Daily</i>	8.3K
<u>【真并】杜鲁多为竞选拼了：公布自己手机号 短信必回！又公布完整政纲：学生老人打工者有新福利！</u> (Trudeau announces his phone number, and will return your texts! He also announced his complete platform: students, the elderly and workers all get new benefits!)	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Canada Today</i> (local media)	3.6K
<u>重磅！加拿大与美国达成协议，美军撤离的 5000 名阿富汗人将安置在加拿大</u> (Blockbuster! Canada and the U.S. reach an agreement to resettle 5,000 Afghans evacuated by U.S. troops to Canada)	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Tor Life</i> (local media)	3.1K
<u>笑喷！特鲁多一本正经宣布发钱支持心理健康！结果被一只松鼠抢镜了</u> (Hilarious! Trudeau solemnly announced money for mental health! But he was upstaged by a squirrel)	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Superlife</i> (local media)	2.0K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for Russian-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit⁵

Article title⁶	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Protests against COVID passports and compulsory vaccination in Canada</u>	Sep. 2, 2021	<i>Actualno</i>	18	0	0	18
<u>Canada will accept 5 thousand refugees from Afghanistan</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Canadetz</i> (local media)	0	1	0	1
<u>Trudeau defends a candidate accused of sexual harassment</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Torontovka</i> (local media)	0	0	0	0
<u>Canada will accept 5 thousand refugees from Afghanistan</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>Torontovka</i> (local media)	0	0	0	0
<u>Toronto voters trust Trudeau more than others</u>	Sep. 1, 2021	<i>RussianWeek</i> (local media)	0	0	0	0

⁵ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period.

⁶ Article titles translated by RRM Canada.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

User engagement with French-language and English-language online media

- The majority of French-language and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 02 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- Some of the most viewed stories on WeChat originated from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts. However, the top-ranking WeChat news stories about Canadian political topics for September 02 originated from Chinese Communist Party (CCP) media outlets, including the *Global Times*, *the People's Daily*, *the Communist Youth League*, and *CCTV*.
 - CCP media outlets published widely on the topic “Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor collected China’s state secrets” across the three most popular Chinese social media apps – WeChat, Weibo and Douyin.
 - WeChat and [Weibo](#) articles on this topic received considerable attention from WeChat users (over 100K page views).
 - Videos from the [Global Times](#) and [CCTV](#) on this topic received considerable attention from Douyin users (500K+ engagements).
 - None of the media produced on the topic of the two Michaels on September 02 mentioned GE44 or any Canadian political parties or candidates.
- A [Global Times English-language article](#) that claims “Spavor was a key informant of Michael Kovrig, and provided him with information over a long period” received little attention from Facebook, Twitter and Reddit users (80 engagements total).
 - The English article does not mention GE44, or any Canadian political parties or candidates.
 - The article was shared among Canadian public Facebook groups that view Chinese foreign policy favorably, and groups that support the 2019 Hong Kong pro-democracy protests.
- Canadian WeChat news accounts continue to share what appears to be a false story that the CPC leader Erin O’Toole would “ban WeChat” if elected.
 - *Beimei Youth* writes that former U.S. President Donald Trump “failed to ban [WeChat], would O’Toole be successful?”
 - The article received 360 views, considerably less than other WeChat accounts who published on the topic; a similar article from WeChat account *CEIC* published on August 31 received over 15K page views.

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for September 02. Topics of interest in global Russian-language media by total engagements include:
 - A Russian [tabloid called](#) the Ukrainian leader “President Lewinsky” to mock President Zelensky’s recent meeting with U.S. President Biden;
 - Russian mainstream media [covered](#) President Putin’s remarks on developing the Russian Far East.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 03 to 06.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- On Sept 6, Chinese Communist Party media accounts on WeChat shared widely Chinese Amb. Cong Peiwu's comments that "a small number of people in Canada are hyping the so-called 1,000 days detention of the two Michaels."
 - Cong said that Minister Garneau's remarks that the two Michaels were held in arbitrary detention and subject to opaque judicial processes were a "gross interference in China's judicial sovereignty" and that China expresses "strong dissatisfaction and condemnation"
 - Cong did not mention GE44, or any other political parties or candidates.

Scan performed at: 9:00PM, September 06, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 03, 2021 – 9:00PM September 06, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>'The ultimate selfishness': Doctors grow frustrated as anti-vaxxers protest hospitals</u>	Sept. 3, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	21.3K	207	1.4K	22.9K
<u>Doctors frustrated with 'selfishness' of unvaccinated people, protesters</u>	Sept. 3, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	15.1K	492	1.5K	17.2K
<u>Canada election: Singh pledges federal dental care program for Canadians</u>	Sept. 4, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	0	3	16.7K	16.7K
<u>In first leaders debate, Trudeau hints at another election in 18 months if denied majority</u>	Sept. 3, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	12K	1.3K	50	13.3K
<u>BREAKING: The Federal Court will hear our lawsuit against Trudeau TOMORROW!</u>	Sept. 6, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	10.2K	1.1K	0	11.3K
<u>'You don't want us to be powerful': Bernier says he and the PPC aren't going away</u>	Sept. 4, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	8.7K	725	1.2K	10.7K
<u>Early Canada election call backfires on Trudeau, who now trails in polls</u>	Sept. 3, 2021	<i>Reuters</i>	5.9K	403	3.8K	10.1K
<u>Federal election polling: Conservatives open 5-point lead, O'Toole ahead of Trudeau</u>	Sept. 3, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	8.4K	776	653	9.8K
<u>LILLEY: O'Toole plan to tackle gun crime tops Trudeau's empty rhetoric</u>	Sept. 3, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	8.3K	766	258	9.4K
<u>O'Toole reverses course on guns, will maintain Liberal ban during review of classifications</u>	Sept. 5, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	2.7K	1K	4.6K	8.3K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Manifestation contre la « vaccination obligatoire » dans le Vieux-Montréal	Sept. 5, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	6.3K	72	385	6.8K
Une manifestation contre le passeport vaccinal dans le Vieux-Montréal irrite les restaurateurs	Sept. 5, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	5.9K	29	0	5.9K
Accusé d'avoir contourné le BAPE: «Fais-toi pousser une colonne», répond Blanchet à Trudeau	Sept. 3, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	2.5K	23	0	2.5K
Maxime Bernier assure que son PPC est là pour rester	Sept. 4, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	1.3K	4	0	1.3K
Le NPD promet de payer les soins dentaires des familles moins nanties	Sept. 4, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1.3K	11	0	1.3K
Les voyageurs étrangers pourront venir au Canada dès le 7 septembre	Sept. 3, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.2K	18	0	1.2K
Un autre gouvernement minoritaire pourrait ne durer que 18 mois, dit Trudeau	Sept. 3, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1.1K	42	42	1.1K
« Où est le Canada? » L'attente et l'angoisse des évacués afghans	Sept. 4, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1K	15	0	1.0K
Une hausse d'impôts pour soutenir le programme national de soins dentaires, dit Singh	Sept. 4, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	924	7	0	931
Les libéraux promettent de durcir les lois sur les armes à feu	Sept. 4, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	788	105	0	893

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<u>中方绝不屈服!</u> (China will never give in!)	Sept. 6, 2021	<i>Guancha Syndicate</i>	100K
<u>中方绝不屈服!</u> (China will never give in!)	Sept. 6, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	100K
<u>中方“报复”？外交部回应!</u> (“Retaliation” from China? MOFA’s response!)	Sept. 3, 2021	<i>People’s Daily</i>	100K
<u>疯了! 特鲁多最后一搏? 3天后加拿大将对全球旅客开放入境! 谭咏诗: 每日新增将达15000! 大家自求多福吧... (Crazy! Is this Trudeau’s last gamble? 3 days from now, Canada will reopen to global travellers! Tam: We’re about to reach 15K cases per day! Good luck everyone...)</u>	Sept. 5, 2021	<i>Canada Talks</i>	38.7K
<u>疯了! 再过4天, 加拿大就对全球旅客重开国门! 谭咏诗警告: 又要封城了! (Crazy! In just 4 days, Canada will reopen to global travellers! Tam warns: the city will shut down again!)</u>	Sept. 4, 2021	<i>51.ca</i>	31.1K
<u>“难道加方人员还高人一等?” 网友为汪文斌的回应又加了一句话 (Are Canadians somehow superior? A web user adds a line to Wang Wenbin’s response)</u>	Sept. 4, 2021	<i>China Daily</i>	17.5K
<u>安省急剧反弹! 周六新增944例! 紧急关头加拿大却正式向全球游客开放入境, 3天后国门大开! (Dramatic rebound in Ontario! 944 new cases on Saturday! Canada will officially open its door to global tourists in 3 days!)</u>	Sept. 5, 2021	<i>York BBS</i>	16.6K
<u>尴尬了! 46%选民: 特鲁多为胜出大选会答应任何事情! 全部候选人不会遵守承诺 (Embarrassing! 46% of voters: Trudeau will do anything to win the election! None of the candidates will keep their promises)</u>	Sept. 6, 2021	<i>Superlife</i>	8.5K
<u>【反制】孟晚舟归期未定, 中企开始抵制加拿大并撤资? (Hitting back) Meng Wanzhou’s return isn’t fixed, will Chinese businesses start boycotting Canada and withdrawing investments?)</u>	Sept. 5, 2021	<i>Canada Today</i>	5.2K
<u>【告急】又出一个变种病毒, 名叫Mu! 疫情急剧反弹! 紧急关头加拿大却开放全球游客入境! (State of emergency) Another variant, Mu! The pandemic rebounds! Canada opens the door to global tourists!)</u>	Sept. 5, 2021	<i>Canada Today</i>	4.3K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article’s page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 03 to 06 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- The topics with the most user engagement for the reporting period include:
 - Reports on anti-vaccine protests in Ontario and Quebec by *Global News*, *CTV News*, *La Presse* and *Le Journal de Montréal* received considerable user interest.
 - According to data analytics tool Crowdtangle, Facebook groups and pages located in Canada – such as groups for local affiliates of *Global News* and *CTV News* – were responsible for driving engagement for these stories.
 - RRM Canada assesses it is likely domestic social media users who are engaging with the topic, not foreign actors.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- Two of WeChat's most popular news accounts (*Guancha Syndicate* and the *Global Times*) shared widely comments made by Amb. Cong Peiwu that “a small number of people in Canada are hyping the so-called 1,000 days detention of the two Michaels.”
 - Cong's comments in Chinese media did not identify the “small number”, but later mentioned Minister Marc Marneau
 - Amb. Cong's comments were also published on the Embassy of the PRC in Canada WeChat account, but received comparatively less engagement (1.2K views). Cong's comments on *Global Times* and *Guancha Syndicate* received over 100K views each.
 - The *Global Times* and *the Guancha Syndicate* are the 1st and 7th most subscribed WeChat accounts.
 - Researchers of Chinese Communist Party media have called the *Global Times* and *Guancha Syndicate* part of a “new nationalist movement predicated on anti-Western sentiment”
- The *People's Daily* and the *China Daily* carried an article about Chinese MOFA spokesperson Wang Wenbin discussing whether the arrest of the two Michaels was “retaliation” for the arrest of Meng Wanzhou.
 - Wang said it was not retaliation, and that Canada was “hyping” the case of the two Michaels.
 - Wang asked for the safe return of Meng to China, and cited that over “15 million people signed a [Global Times] petition demanding Canada to release her”
 - Wang did not mention GE44, or any political party or candidate in his comments.
 - Both the *People's Daily* and the *China Daily* articles received considerable attention from users (over 100K views each).
 - The *People's Daily* and the *China Daily* are the 4th and 56th most subscribed accounts on WeChat.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- Some groups on Gettr were active in mobilizing others to take part in the September 4 anti-vaccine passport rally in Toronto, including the Himalaya Supervisory Organization, a political lobby group created by former Donald Trump advisor Steve Bannon, and funded by fugitive Chinese billionaire Miles Guo.
 - The Himalaya movement funds a network called “the New Federal State of China” with groups in the U.S., U.K., Australia and New Zealand. The groups frequently attend rallies that protest the Chinese government, or oppose the use of vaccines to treat Covid-19.
 - According to a May 2021 report from Graphika, Guo is the center of a “vast network of interrelated media” that “disseminates online disinformation” and is a “prolific producer” of claims of voter fraud during the U.S. 2020 election.
 - The rally attendees connected to Guo mostly chanted slogans to “take down the CCP” and did not appear to support a particular candidate or party.

- Group with supposed links to China’s “united front” work invites WeChat users to a Vancouver East LPC campaign event
 - The Facebook page for the Vancouver Hong Kong Forum Society published screengrabs from a WeChat group with members of the Chinese Benevolent Association (CBA) of Vancouver chat that shows what is purported to be an offer of a free lunch to support a candidate who “cares about the issues of the Chinese people”. The CBA message further encourages solidarity among Chinese voters as a counter to Indian voter solidarity.
 - The Vancouver Hong Kong Forum Society claims the offer for free lunch comes from a well-known group with links to China’s United Front Work Department, a unit that seeks to influence elite individuals and organizations in China’s favour.
 - A number of journalists have made similar claims about the group’s connection to the United Front, including the South China Morning Posts’ Ian Young, the National Post’s Tom Blackwell, and Alliance Canada HK.
 - The WeChat invitation from the well-known group says that “the Chinese community and Chinese people have long been neglected. This LPC candidate in Vancouver East is running for the first time. We the Chinese people need to show our voting power to politicians. Indian people already have huge influence. The Chinese people should also show solidarity.” The group then invites WeChat users to “bring some friends” and there’s “no need to pay”
 - Vancouver Hong Kong Forum Society believes this is an instance of “vote buying” and is “in violation of the Elections Act”
 - The Facebook post inspired a heated debate on the r/Vancouver Reddit board, with many users questioning if the offer constitutes vote buying, and whether the group’s supposed links to the CCP constitute foreign interference.

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 03-06 reporting period

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - a Russian-based tabloid mocking the results of Ukrainian Pres Zelenskyi's visit to the U.S.
 - Putin announcing a new tax regime for businesses in the Kuril Islands.
 - A likely Russian grey site citing a U.S. poll about Biden's falling popularity.
 - Belarussian media reported on Canadians protesting vaccine passports
 - State-media outlet RIA Novosti reported on the LPC's chance of winning the most seats; the article received low engagement.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 07.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- CPC media and officials continue to comment on Minister Garneau calling the arrest of the two Michaels arbitrary detention.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 07, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 03, 2021 – 8:00PM September 07, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Weibo, Douyin

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Trudeau says he was hit by gravel, condemns rock throwing as 'unacceptable'</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	7.2K	48	0	7.3K
<u>John Ivison: Trudeau drops the sunny ways and treads into dangerous territory</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	3.8K	693	119	4.6K
<u>Justin Trudeau hit by stones on campaign trail</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>BBC News</i>	2.6K	42	281	2.9K
<u>Trudeau swarmed again in Ontario, protestors throw gravel and debris at prime minister</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	2.5K	5	0	2.5K
<u>Justin Trudeau pelted with gravel by protestors at campaign stop</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>CNN</i>	1.9K	125	2	2.1K
<u>MALCOLM: How Trudeau is losing the support of voters</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>True North News</i>	1.9K	101	0	2.0K
<u>BREAKING: Trudeau says he will not allow 'anti-vaxx mobs' to interfere with campaign</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	1.6K	1	0	1.6K
<u>Protestors throw gravel at Trudeau, news media at Ontario campaign stop</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>CityNews Toronto</i>	1.3K	8	0	1.4K
<u>LILLEY: Safety doesn't come first in Trudeau's approach to gun crime</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	453	628	123	1.2K
<u>Justin Trudeau Hit With Gravel at Anti-Vax Protest</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>Business Insider</i>	950	24	0	974

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Des écoles détruisent 5000 livres jugés néfastes aux Autochtones, dont Tintin et Astérix</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	Radio-Canada	0	2.5K	1.3K	3.9K
<u>Justin Trudeau encore pourchassé par des manifestants antivaccins</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	La Presse	2.4K	93	30	2.6K
<u>Trudeau souhaite protéger les entreprises qui exigeront un passeport vaccinal</u>	Sep. 6, 2021	Journal de Montréal	1.8K	10	0	1.8K
<u>Ce que veut dire vivre avec le virus</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	Journal de Montréal	1.7K	18	0	1.8K
<u>La réforme de Québec sur la langue française contestée</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	Journal de Montréal	681	184	32	897
<u>Trudeau «ne veut pas reculer» face aux manifestants antivaccins</u>	Sep. 6, 2021	Journal de Montréal	842	7	0	849
<u>Dans la tête de Justin Trudeau</u>	Sep. 7, 2021	Journal de Montréal	568	116	0	684
<u>Armes d'assaut : les volte-faces conservatrices suscitent confusion et inquiétudes</u>	Sep. 6, 2021	Radio-Canada	427	41	1	469
<u>Élections fédérales: la question des armes d'assaut colle à Erin O'Toole</u>	Sep. 6, 2021	Le Devoir	462	2	0	464
<u>Le Bloc réclame une « réforme en profondeur » de l'assurance-emploi</u>	Sep. 6, 2021	La Presse	306	12	0	318

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total views⁴
<u>突发！特鲁多被碎石击中 (Breaking! Trudeau struck by rubble)</u>	Jan. 7, 2021	<i>Global Times</i> (party media)	100K
<u>特鲁多因祸得福！自由党民调一夜反超！3 巨头手表大 PK，劳力士 IWC 闪瞎眼 (Trudeau blessed by disaster! LPC polls improve overnight! 3 big watches square off! Blinding others with an IWC Regulateur)</u>	Jan. 7, 2021	<i>Superlife</i> (local media)	9.1K
<u>特鲁多遭抗议者围堵 被碎石砸中 (Trudeau was surrounded by protesters and hit by debris)</u>	Jan. 7, 2021	<i>People's Daily</i> (party media)	6.9K
<u>杜鲁多又撒钱了！承诺推出一项巨额福利：\$4 万免税额度，买房更容易！ (Trudeau is giving out money again! Promises of huge benefits: \$40K tax credits, buying a house is easier!)</u>	Jan. 7, 2021	<i>51.ca</i> (local media)	6.4K
<u>突发！特鲁多遭袭 (Breaking! Trudeau is attacked)</u>	Jan. 7, 2021	<i>Ca-1Canada1</i> (local media)	5.3K
<u>为了竞选拼了！承诺 20 元最低工资 10 天带薪病假 (Singh is working so hard for the campaign! Promising a \$20 minimum wage, and 10 days paid sick leave)</u>	Jan. 7, 2021	<i>Dushi-ca</i> (local media)	1.5K
<u>加拿大总理被小石头砸中肩膀！ (Canadian PM was hit by a small stone on the shoulder!)</u>	Jan. 7, 2021	<i>51.ca</i> (local media)	1.3K
<u>罕见！特鲁多竞选时遭愤怒抗议者扔碎石击中 (Rare! Trudeau is hit by angry protesters throwing rocks during the campaign)</u>	Jan. 7, 2021	<i>Super Canadian</i> (local media)	1.0K
<u>【最新】特鲁多在竞选中遭愤怒抗议 被石头击中！三党公布对华政策 首重国安监督人权 (Latest: Trudeau hit by rocks during the campaign. The 3 parties unveil their China policies, focus on security and human rights)</u>	Jan. 7, 2021	<i>Canada Today</i> (local media)	1.0K
<u>聚头条 特鲁多及自由党的支持率再度领先，塔利班组建阿富汗新政府 (Latest: Trudeau and the LPC lead again in polls, as Taliban forms new government)</u>	Jan. 7, 2021	<i>Toronto News</i> (local media)	450

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 07 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- The topics with the most user engagement for the reporting period include:
 - News stories about spectators throwing rocks at the PM at an LPC campaign event in London, ON received considerable user interest on all major platforms (over 17K engagements overall).
 - A Quebec Catholic School Board's decision to remove 5,000 children's books that portray First Nations peoples in racist or stereotypical portrayals received considerable user interest on all major platforms (nearly 4.0K engagements).

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- Following comments by Minister Garneau that the two Michaels were "arbitrarily detained" and that Canada "strongly condemns the lack of a transparent legal process", Chinese Communist Party (CCP) media published a statement from PRC ambassador Cong Peiwu that the Minister's remarks were a "gross interference in China's judicial sovereignty and a serious violation of the spirit of the rule of law."
 - RRM Canada reported that the statement could be found on WeChat, but can now confirm that it was published across all major Chinese platforms (Weibo and Douyin) during the same time interval on September 06.
 - On Weibo, CCP newswire service *Xinhua* [published a hashtag](#) called #The PRC Embassy in Canada counters the erroneous statement made by the Canadian Foreign Minister #. (#驻加拿大使馆就加外长错误声明发表谈话#)
 - The hashtag briefly trended on the platform. According to Weibo's in-site analytics, the hashtag was seen over 821K times.
 - A similar hashtag published by the *People's Daily* also trended on the platform, and was viewed 46M times.
 - Users who click on the hashtag are brought to a Weibo landing page to see Cong's full response to Minister Morneau's remarks
 - The response was shared by some of Weibo's most subscribed CCP media accounts, including *Xinhua News* (86M followers) and *Reference News* (21M followers).
 - Many of the posts included the following statement from Cong: "Nationality is not a 'talisman' to escape legal sanctions; China is a country governed by the rule of law, and anyone who violates the law in China will certainly be sanctioned by Chinese law."
 - Cong does not comment on GE44, or name any other parties or candidates in his statement.
- Most of the most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 07 originated from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts.
- An apparently false rumor that CPC leader Erin O'Toole would "ban WeChat" if elected has not been re-shared by WeChat news accounts since September 02.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- The *Global Times* and the *People's Daily* reported on the PM being struck by rocks at an LPC rally. The writers did not add any color commentary to the report, and did not discuss any other candidates or parties.
 - The GT WeChat account is the most subscribed on the platform, and the article received high levels of user interest (100K+ views).

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 07 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - An [article](#) about Canada lifting travel restrictions for fully vaccinated individuals.
 - An [article](#) from a Russian “grey news site” that notes the volume of mortgage loans issued in Canada has exceeded the size of the economy
 - A Russian [tabloid story](#) reporting on recent developments in Dagestan
 - An [investigatory report](#) by Ukrainian media looking at who the Ministry of Defense awards personal pistols to and why
 - A Ukrainian [media report](#) about the dismantling of two monuments in Russian-occupied Crimea
 - There is also some reports from Russian state media looking at GE44-related news stories, such as coverage of spectators throwing stones at the LPC leader

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 09.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- A *Global Times* [editorial commented](#) on the CPC's platform in an article titled: "A campaign platform that "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China"! Is the US about to get another loyal dog?"
 - The author notes that if "the CPC comes to power, its policy is likely to be more hard-line and arbitrary compared to Trudeau's", that "it is not likely to sever diplomatic relations" but would likely "cooperate more actively with the U.S. to contain China at all levels"
 - The author does not urge Canadians of Chinese heritage to vote for a particular candidate or party
 - The editorial does not mention a long-running rumor that O'Toole would "ban WeChat"
- *Today Commercial News*, a Chinese-Canadian newspaper that publishes the *People's Daily* overseas edition in Canada, [posted a WeChat](#) story that a bill introduced by the CPC's Kenny Chiu would require "all individuals or groups with ties to China" to register as agents of the Chinese government. The story urges users to "spread the word" about Chiu's bill that "suppresses the Chinese community."

Scan performed at: 9:00PM, September 09, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 09, 2021 – 9:00PM September 09, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Weibo, Douyin

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Anti-logging protest becomes Canada's biggest ever act of civil disobedience</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>The Guardian</i>	6.8K	935	7.4K	15.2K
<u>Jagmeet Singh seen as most competent and trustworthy leader by Vote Compass users</u>	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	0	215	5.2K	5.4K
<u>'IT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO DO': Liberal candidate says housing tax coming</u>	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	2K	2K	405	4.4K
<u>BREAKING: Trudeau calls Rebel News 'disinformation' responsible for stoking 'anger' in Canada</u>	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	3.9K	154	0	4.1K
<u>Canada election: Trudeau says Rebel News needs to 'take accountability' for increasing polarization</u>	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	0	13	3.9K	3.9K
<u>BREAKING: Trudeau's debates commission REFUSES to accept our journalist's negative COVID test</u>	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	3K	492	0	3.5K
<u>Canada Election: Trudeau Pelted With Stones on Campaign Trail</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Breitbart</i>	2.9K	77	175	3.1K
<u>Rex Murphy: It's a hollow election without national purpose</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	2.5K	411	120	3.0K
<u>CTV National News: Election violence</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	2.7K	5	0	2.7K
<u>Erin O'Toole is the most Liberal leader the Conservatives have ever had</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	1.5K	193	828	2.5K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Trudeau est «inquiétant» selon Legault, qui espère un gouvernement minoritaire conservateur</u>	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Journal de Quebec</i>	2K	248	13	2.3K
<u>Application du passeport vaccinal: tolérance zéro à compter du 15 septembre, prévient Guilbault</u>	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	2.3K	19	0	2.3K
<u>Le Québec serait mieux servi par un gouvernement minoritaire, dit Legault</u>	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	2.1K	31	45	2.2K
<u>Un candidat embarrassant pour Justin Trudeau dans Laurentides-Labelle</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1K	137	15	1.2K
<u>La violence contre Justin Trudeau fait craindre le pire</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1K	18	0	1.0K
<u>La Vérif : les chefs ont-ils dit toute la vérité pendant le débat?</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	861	47	0	908
<u>Le parti de Maxime Bernier lié à l'attaque aux pierres contre Justin Trudeau?</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	803	26	0	829
<u>Caucus libéral L'ex-ministre Gaétan Barrette souhaite un retour à la Santé</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	699	38	84	821
<u>Livres brûlés au Canada : la chercheuse à l'origine du mouvement aurait menti sur ses origines</u>	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Valeurs</i>	693	76	0	769
<u>Canada : Des livres brûlés dans des écoles, dont Tintin et Astérix au nom du "respect des premiers autochtones"</u>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Radio Classique</i>	647	10	0	657

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total views⁴
<u>竞选纲领“几乎会导致与中国断交”！美国又要多一条忠狗了吗？</u> (Campaign platform “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China”! Is the US about to get another loyal dog?)	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Buyidao / Global Times (state media)</i>	36.7K
<u>突发！特鲁多被石头击中.....事发后却“因祸得福”？！</u> (Sudden! Trudeau was hit by a rock ... is this a blessing in disguise?)	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Canada Talks</i>	27.9K
<u>竞选纲领“几乎会导致与中国断交”！美国又要多一条忠狗了吗？</u> (Campaign platform “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China”! Is the US about to get another loyal dog?)	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>CHN Li Yi</i>	8.8K
<u>31次提到中国！保守党“几乎”要和中国断交！</u> (Mentions China 31 times! The CPC “almost” wants to break ties with China)	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>York BBS</i>	6.1K
<u>请广传！保守党国会议员赵锦荣提「外国势力注册」法案打压华人社区</u> (Please share! CPC MP Kenny Chiu is calling for a “Foreign Influence Registry Act” that would crack down on the Chinese community)	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Canada TCN News</i>	4.6K
<u>疯了！为大选保守党放绝招，特鲁多也慌了！若当选，加拿大人餐厅吃饭政府掏钱！外出旅游政府也给买单……</u> (Crazy! Trudeau is in a panic over the CPC’s election tactics! If elected, the government will pay for Canadians to eat in restaurants! They’ll also pay for travel...)	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>This is Vancouver</i>	3.3K
<u>吓到惨华人！演讲31次提华！没想到，保守党对华态度竟如此强硬！</u> (Scaring Chinese to death! A speech mentions China 31 times! Who would expect the CPC to be so tough on China!)	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>GTA Life</i>	1.5K
<u>联邦自由党拉票又撒钱，大温教师吐槽真相</u> (the LPC is campaigning and throwing out money, a Vancouver teacher spits out some hard truths)	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Westca.com</i>	550
<u>联邦大选辩论激烈，特鲁多发怒高呼：我是魁北克人！乐高力挺保守党</u> (During an intense leaders’ debate, Trudeau shouts out: I am a Quebecer! Legault backs the CPC)	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>News Beimei</i>	460
<u>保守党突然承诺：餐馆吃饭政府埋单50%，连续1个月，人人发钱\$150旅游</u> (The CPC suddenly promises the government would pay 50% of your restaurant bill, and that would everyone would get \$150 for monthly travel expenses)	Sep. 9, 2021	<i>Edojia</i>	365

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article’s page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 09 originated from recognizable Canadian, French and Belgian media outlets.
- The topics with the most user engagement for the reporting period include:
 - A *Guardian* article about old-growth logging protesters at Fairy Creek participating in Canada's "biggest ever act of civil disobedience" received considerable user interest (over 15K engagements). The article was mostly shared by U.S. and U.K.-centric environmental news groups.
 - A number of niche (*Rebel Media*) and mainstream outlets (*Global News*) covered the LPC leader's comments to Rebel Media during the Leader's Debate scum.
 - Premier Legault's comments that QC would be better served by a minority government received considerable user interest (over 6.5K engagements).

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- With the exception of a high-engagement editorial from the *Global Times*, the most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 09 originated from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts.
- *Buyidao*, a popular *Global Times* WeChat account that publishes anonymous editorials, posted an article about CPC leader Erin O'Toole's proposed China policies. The editorial notes:
 - If the "CPC comes to power, its policy is likely to be more hard-line and arbitrary compared to Trudeau's"
 - That if the CPC "of course, is not likely to sever diplomatic relations" but would likely "cooperate more actively with the U.S. to contain China at all levels"
 - The CPC has "its flexible side" and that Stephen Harper dropped his promise to boycott the 2008 summer Olympics, and then went on to visit in China on an "ice-breaking trip"
 - The author does not urge Canadians of Chinese heritage to vote for a particular candidate or party
- *Today Commercial News*, a Chinese-Canadian newspaper that signed a cooperation agreement with the *People's Daily* to publish its overseas edition, posted a WeChat story that a bill introduced by the CPC's Kenny Chiu would require "all individuals or groups with ties to China" to register as agents of the Chinese government.
 - The story urges users to "spread the word" about Chiu's bill that "suppresses the Chinese community"
 - In a *Business in Vancouver* article on September 8, Chiu said a WeChat message that claimed any individual "attending events hosted by the Chinese consul general" would be added to Chiu's proposed Foreign Influence Registry Act"

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G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- The *Today Commercial News* article received considerable user interest (4.7K page views) and a number of disparaging comments towards Chiu, including “does anyone know his address? Leave it here” and “race traitor.”
- Canadian WeChat news account York BBS carried a Global Times story that O’Toole and the CPC “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China.” York BBS credits the quote to a Hill Times interview with Jocelyn Coulon, however, the content of the article is very similar to a September 8 Global Times article.
- The author adds:
 - the CPC’s platform contains “many references that are unacceptable to most Chinese people” including the “idea that China is committing genocide against the Uyghurs” and “greater cooperation with Taiwan”
 - The CPC’s request for China to release the two Michaels is “a challenge to the Chinese people!”

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 08 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - RT published a story on Suzy Kies stepping down from the LPC’s Indigenous People’s Commission following an investigation that she lied about her Indigenous ancestry. The article received some user interest (78 total engagements).
 - RT published an op-ed by UK professor Frank Furedi on an Ontario school board’s decision to remove library books that featured racist or controversial content. The article does not mention GE44, and received little user interest (28 total engagements).

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 10 to 12.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- WeChat news accounts in Canada continued to post a false claim that a Kenny Chiu-sponsored private member's bill (C-282 An Act to establish the Foreign Influence Registry) would require "all individuals or groups with ties to China would be required to register."
- A *Global Times* WeChat article that suggested the CPC "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China" is now being actively shared among Canadian WeChat news accounts. The Canadian versions resemble the *Global Times* article in format and tone, and question whether Canadians of Chinese heritage should vote for the CPC.

Scan performed at: 10:00PM, September 12, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 10, 2021 – 9:00PM September 12, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Douyin

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Trudeau Has Canada's Economy Humming	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Bloomberg</i>	52.3K	1	0	52.3K
'In that moment, I knew he wanted me to lie.' Jody Wilson-Raybould recalls a tension-filled meeting with Justin Trudeau	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	16.2K	11.7K	4.8K	32.8K
Diane Francis: Time to toss out the pretty boy and make Erin O'Toole our prime minister	Sep. 10, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	24.9K	1.5K	59	26.5K
Rupa Subramanya: The People's Party of Canada's rise is more complicated than anti-Trudeau rage	Sep. 10, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	6.4K	848	22	7.2K
Former Liberal MP Celina Caesar-Chavannes throws support behind Tory candidate in election	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	4.5K	1.5K	250	6.3K
The farce of Canada's televised federal leader's debate is an insult to viewers and voters	Sep. 10, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	1.9K	1.2K	2.9K	6.0K
Jody Wilson-Raybould's memoir is devastating for Justin Trudeau: 'He wanted me to lie'	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	5.7K	13	0	5.7K
Rex Murphy: Trudeau's sham election is not what our war dead gave their lives for	Sep. 10, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	5.1K	492	0	5.6K
New treatment plant ends Shoal Lake 40 First Nation's 24-year boil water advisory - Winnipeg	Sep. 10, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	3.8K	1K	639	5.5K
'I did not want her to lie': Trudeau rejects Wilson-Raybould's claims about SNC-Lavalin talk	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	4.2K	680	569	5.5K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Manifestation contre les mesures sanitaires à Montréal</u>	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	4.7K	43	0	4.7K
<u>Accusé Blanchet, levez-vous !</u>	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	3.8K	270	438	4.5K
<u>Grâce à Mme Kurl, je choisis le Bloc</u>	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	3.2K	270	82	3.5K
<u>Le Canada, ce pays qui nous hait et nous attaque</u>	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	2.8K	249	0	3.1K
<u>Yves-François Blanchet fustige l'animation après le débat en anglais</u>	Sep. 10, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	2.9K	107	0	3.0K
<u>Tintin, Astérix... On vous explique la polémique autour des 5 000 livres détruits par un groupe scolaire catholique</u>	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>France TV Info</i>	2.5K	58	62	2.7K
<u>Oui, M. Blanchet, elle est discriminatoire, la loi 21</u>	Sep. 10, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	2.4K	149	13	2.6K
<u>Des chefs combatifs dans un débat en anglais tendu</u>	Sep. 10, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	2.2K	109	0	2.3K
<u>Jody Wilson-Raybould tend un piège à Trudeau</u>	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.4K	104	0	1.5K
<u>Loi 21 : Blanchet ne pourra pas arrêter Justin Trudeau</u>	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Journal de Quebec</i>	992	23	0	1.0K

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total views⁴
<u>"加拿大比中国小, 但我们是巨人"</u> ("Canada is smaller than China, but we are a giant")	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>CCP Youth League</i>	100K
<u>"加拿大比中国小, 但也是巨人"</u> ("Canada is smaller than China, but we are a giant")	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	100K
<u>"加拿大比中国小, 但也是巨人"</u> ("Canada is smaller than China, but we are a giant")	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Guancha Syndicate</i>	71.5K
<u>"加拿大比中国小, 但也是巨人"</u> ("Canada is smaller than China, but we are a giant")	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Zhanhao</i>	53.6K
<u>美国兵揭露美国丑闻, 加拿大: 不许你来!</u> (Soldier exposes U.S, scandals, Canada: You're not allowed in!)	Sep. 10, 2021	<i>CCP Youth League</i>	33.5K
<u>一夜大逆转! 特鲁多胜率暴升至 73%! 但最后关头后院却起火了</u> (An overnight reversal! Trudeau's chance of winning shoots up 73%! But at the last minute, there's a fire in the backyard)	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Superlife</i>	17.3K
<u>前非诚勿扰女嘉宾, 曾将中国称为"祖国", 现在来当保守党候选人?</u> (Former guest of 'If You Are the One' who once called China "the motherland" is now running for the CPC?)	Sep. 09, 2021	<i>Canada Bidu</i>	15.9K
<u>中国驻蒙特利尔总领馆回应 "加拿大鹅" 被罚事</u> (Chinese Consulate in Montreal responds to Canada Goose being fined)	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>China News</i>	14.6K
<u>党领辩论 针对加中关系他们说了什么?</u> (Leaders' debate: What did they have to say about Canada-China relations?)	Sep. 11, 2021	<i>Canada123</i>	4.4K
<u>吓到惨华人! 演讲 31 次提华! 没想到, 保守党对华态度竟如此强硬!</u> (Chinese are scared! Mentions China 31 times! Who would expect the CPC to be so tough on China!)	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>iToronto Life</i>	3.3K
<u>[聚焦]他 31 次提及中国, "几乎要与中国断交"</u> ([Focus] He mentioned China 31 times, "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China")	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Lahoo</i>	2.4K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 10 to 12 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 10 to 12 originated from a mix of recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts and CCP media outlets.
- Chinese Communist Party media outlets (including the *Global Times* and *Guancha Syndicate*) published a news story about the English-language leaders' debate and what each of the leader's said about China-Canada relations. The article was relatively neutral in tone, but highlighted one line in particular by CPC leader Erin O'Toole: "We may be smaller than China in terms of population and economic size, but we are a giant when it comes to our commitment to human rights, dignity and the rule of law."
- A *Global Times* WeChat article that suggested the CPC "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China" is now being actively shared among Canadian WeChat news accounts.
 - WeChat news accounts *iToronto Life* (416K followers), *Vancouver Headlines* (203K followers), *GTALife* (134K followers) shared a story with the headline "Chinese are frightened! Mentioned China 31 times! Who would expect the CPC to be so tough on China!" The article received 1.5 to 3.5K page views each.
 - The Canadian versions resemble the *Global Times* article in format and tone
 - The *iToronto Life* and *GTALife* articles write that the CPC platform contains "many references that are unacceptable to most Chinese people" that "challenge the Chinese people's bottom lines!" The article ends with the line "My fellow countrymen, when you see such a situation, will you still support the CPC?"
- WeChat news accounts in Canada continued to post an apparently false claim that a Kenny Chiu-sponsored private member's bill (C-282 An Act to establish the Foreign Influence Registry) would require "all individuals or groups with ties to China would be required to register."
 - Canadian WeChat account *Canada123* [writes](#) that the bill "would become law if Chiu is re-elected" and that anyone with ties to China "would be considered spokespersons for the Chinese government."
 - The article received significant user engagement (4.4K views).
- Canadian commentators reacted to a *Global Times* English edition editorial that claims the CPC platform "caters to toxic atmosphere against Beijing" and is "unusually hostile."
 - The [editorial](#) is likely prompted by a *Hill Times* piece that analyzes the China-Canada relations policies of the LPC, CPC and NDP.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- GT editors write that “hyping China” during an election is a “lip-service tactic” to attract voters, but if the CPC were to “put hawkish words into action, it will invite counterstrikes from China, and Ottawa is the one to suffer.”
- The article appears to bridge [comments](#) made by Chinese Ambassador Cong Peiwu that “some Canadian politicians [put] personal political interests above Canada-China relations” to the CPC leader.
- Li Haidong, a professor at a university administered by China’s MOFA, says the CPC has “very few cards to play, and lacks good policies to appeal to voters” and that they “dare not stand up so hostile against China after taking office.”
- Li adds that regardless of the election result, Canada will “continue to serve as the US’ toady to confront China.”
- Some users on Twitter and Reddit [interpreted](#) the editorial to mean that “the Chinese Communist Party wants the Trudeau Liberals to win”
- Chinese Communist Party media accounts on Douyin (the Chinese-version of Tiktok) have published videos that repeat a *Global Times* headline published on September 8 that suggest the CPC’s platform would lead China to break off relations with Canada
 - *Xinhua*’s Douyin account (26 million followers) shared a [video](#) that the CPC’s platform mentions China “31 times” and that an “expert” says the CPC “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China.” The video received over 29K engagements. *Xinhua* is China’s official state-run press agency.
 - A number of Douyin accounts have posted similar videos about O’Toole and the CPC platform, but alter small details. For example, a Douyin video by *PLA DYJQ* (20 million followers) [claims](#) O’Toole “smeared” China 31 times.

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 08 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - Articles from Russian-state media (including *RIA News* and *TASS*) that claim the LPC leader is “splitting the country” for power
 - Russian mainstream media outlets (*RBC Group*) [reported](#) on remarks made by Ukrainian President Zelensky that there is a “likelihood” of war with Russia
 - *RBC Group* [reported](#) on a recent meeting between Presidents of Russia and Belarus to discuss integration between the two countries
 - *RBC Group* [reported](#) on the mayor of Moscow’s comments to public accusations connecting the easing of COVID restrictions with upcoming Parliamentary elections

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem on September 13.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- Canadian WeChat news accounts continue to share a story originally published by the *Global Times* that Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole “mentioned 31 times” in the party platform, and “almost wants to break relations with China” but received minimal engagement (avg. 550 page views).
- The *Global Times* published two articles about the Canadian government’s direction for state-owned China Mobile to divest from a Canadian telecom company. The articles quoted a spokesperson from the Chinese embassy in Canada who says: “Some Canadian politicians have been maliciously speculating on China-related issues”, that a “few political party leaders have made unwarranted attacks on China's human rights during the Leaders’ debate” and “violently interfering in China's internal affairs.” The articles received considerable user interest (over 200K page views).
- An alternative Russian-news site called the “Russian News Agency, of the Russian Public Movement” shared a story about a newly founded Canadian militia group that made its introduction on YouTube. The article received some engagement on Twitter (81 engagements).

Scan performed at: 9:00PM, September 13, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 13, 2021 – 9:00PM September 13, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Canada ethics professor questions vaccine mandate in video	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>The Blaze</i>	14.9K	385	0	15.3K
Wilson-Raybould says Trudeau should let RCMP probe possible obstruction of justice in SNC-Lavalin affair	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	11.5K	2.5K	663	14.7K
NP View: Justin Trudeau Liberals pose a direct threat to free speech in Canada	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	10.3K	2.2K	256	12.8K
Former Liberal MP Celina Caesar-Chavannes throws support behind Tory candidate in election	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	8K	2.3K	426	10.7K
COVID-19 hospital protests 'a morale blow' to Canada's exhausted health-care workers	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	9.2K	107	347	9.7K
Warnings issued ahead of expected protests at hospitals across Canada	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	8.4K	83	0	8.5K
LILLEY: Trudeau shouldn't be rewarded for bad behaviour	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	4.1K	1.3K	0	5.4K
'It's not right': Trudeau vows to criminalize blocking access to hospitals amid protests	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.6K	23	1.6K	4.2K
Toronto frontline workers gather to protest vaccine mandate at Queen's Park	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>CityNews Toronto</i>	3.7K	163	167	4.1K
Kelly McParland: For Trudeau, it is always the women, like Wilson-Raybould, who are to blame	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	3.9K	145	33	4.0K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Les libéraux tentent de convaincre les Québécois</u>	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.7K	17	0	1.7K
<u>Loi 21: une intervention fédérale n'est pas écartée par Justin Trudeau</u>	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.6K	132	0	1.7K
<u>Progression du Parti populaire du Canada: les chefs fédéraux amenés à réagir</u>	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.1K	12	0	1.1K
<u>Autodafés au Canada: «L'obscurantisme se manifeste encore une fois du côté progressiste»</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Le Figaro</i>	786	276	0	1.1K
<u>Les libéraux reprennent les devants dans les sondages</u>	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	874	39	0	913
<u>Trudeau et Singh tapent sur le Québec pour faire des gains au Canada, selon Blanchet</u>	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	675	10	0	685
<u>Qui est le vrai Justin Trudeau?</u>	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	607	33	0	640
<u>Justin Trudeau à l'offensive en territoire bloquiste</u>	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	470	14	0	484
<u>La relation du Québec avec la France est à rebâtir, estime Blanchet</u>	Sep. 12, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	388	48	0	436
<u>Justin Trudeau, l'icône progressiste canadienne en perte de vitesse</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Valeurs Actuelles</i>	335	75	0	410

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<u>加拿大刁难中国通信商，中企反击！</u> (Canada is making things difficult for Chinese telecom vendors, Chinese companies fight back!)	Sep. 13, 2021	Global Times Online Edition	92.4K
<u>加拿大刁难中国通信商，中企反击！</u> (Canada is making things difficult for Chinese telecom vendors, Chinese companies fight back!)	Sep. 13, 2021	Global Times	67.3K
<u>突发！多伦多医院大门外堵满人人！这一幕太令人心痛！</u> (Sudden! Toronto hospital is jammed with people outside the main gate! A heartbreaking scene!)	Sep. 13, 2021	51.ca	23.3K
<u>加拿大态度强硬，命令这家中国企业 90 天内关门走人！太欺负人了！</u> Canada took a hard line and ordered a Chinese company to close in 90 days! What a bully!)	Sep. 13, 2021	VanPeople	9.7K
<u>引发中国网友群骂！加拿大移民局官宣，这 10 类人签证申请“作废”！</u> (Triggered some angry Chinese web users! Canadian Immigration announces these 10 visa categories are “invalid”!)	Sep. 13, 2021	Canada Talks	7.7K
<u>疯狂 特鲁多政府要求中国移动退出加拿大！理由竟然是.....</u> (Crazy The Trudeau government asks China Mobile to pull out of Canada! The reason is...)	Sep. 13, 2021	Canada News	3.9K
<u>注意：只有这个政党只字不提反种族主义</u> (Take note: Only this party doesn't mention a word about anti-racism)	Sep. 13, 2021	Canada 123	3.6K
<u>加拿大爆发全国性大游行，渥太华也有！省长、市长怒发警告，警力升级！</u> (Protests break out across Canada, even in Ottawa! Premiers, mayors are furiously issuing warnings, and the police are stepping up!)	Sep. 13, 2021	Ottawazine	2.6K
<u>提前投票最后一天！自由党支持率狂涨，特鲁多笑了</u> (Last day of early voting! Trudeau is all laughs as LPC support soars)	Sep. 13, 2021	York BBS	2.5K
<u>大逆转！特鲁多胜率暴升至 73%！党领辩论后风向变了</u> (Big reversal! Trudeau's victory rate soars to 73%! The winds are changing after the Leaders' debate)	Sep. 13, 2021	Hancan Media	1.6K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 13 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- Some notable topics of interest include:
 - *Blaze Media*, an alternative online news site founded by Glenn Beck, posted an article about a University of Western Ontario professor who claims she is being unduly coerced to receive a vaccine by her employer. The article received considerable attention from U.S.-based social media users, but little attention from Canadians (more than 15K engagements).

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 13 originated from a mix of recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts and CCP media outlets.
- The *Global Times* published [two articles](#) about the Canadian government's direction for state-owned China Mobile to divest from a Canadian telecom company.
 - In one of the article's paragraph, the author discusses the events of GE44: "A spokesman for the Embassy said that recently, some Canadian politicians have been maliciously speculating on China-related issues, and a few political party leaders have also made unwarranted attacks on China's human rights and rule of law during the debate, violently interfering in China's internal affairs, which China resolutely opposes." The article received considerable user attention (nearly 200K combined views).
- WeChat news account *Canada123* published a [story](#) that claims the Conservative Party of Canada is the only "party doesn't mention a word about anti-racism" in its platform.
 - The author says "anti-racism should be Chinese voters biggest consensus" and that is "in the best interest of Chinese-Canadians to vote for a party that upholds multi-culturalism and opposes racism." The article received some user engagement (3.6K page views).
- Canadian WeChat news accounts continue to share a story originally published by the *Global Times* that Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole "mentioned 31 times" in the party platform, and "almost wants to break relations with China."
 - Posted by the Chinese-language *Winnipeg Express*, the [article](#) adds additional commentary, saying the Conservatives' platform "challenges the Chinese people's bottom line" and calls on "fellow countrymen" to reconsider their support for the Conservatives.
 - The article received only 580 views, considerably less than similar articles posted on this topic.

User engagement with Russophone online media

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G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 13 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - An alternative Russian-news language site called “Russian News Agency” of the “Russian Public Movement” shared a story about a newly founded Canadian militia group that made its introduction on YouTube. The article received some engagement on Twitter (81 engagements).
 - A Russian media outlet connected to the country’s Ministry of Defense discussed historical evidence, trial proceedings, and current status of former SS officer and Canadian resident Helmut Oberlander.
 - Ukrainian opposition media reported on possible plans for President Zelensky to visit the U.S. again to attend UNGA meetings
 - *Sputnik Armenia* reported on remarks made by a Russian senator that it would defend Armenia’s recognized borders as its own

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any clear evidence of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem on September 14. However, Chinese State media continues to take interest in GE44 in general and the perceived China policies of the Conservative Party of Canada in particular.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- Chinese Communist Party media outlets continue to share an article on Chinese news aggregators that the Conservatives “almost want to cut diplomatic relations with China.”
 - The volume of articles on this topic continue to increase, but it is not clear what levels of engagement these articles receive from users and what audiences are being targeted.
 - For example, during the Sept 14 reporting period, the media outlets who shared the articles, including *Strait Consumer Digest*, and *MNW.net*, are based in Fujian province, and report primarily on cross-strait news and issues. It appears these outlets are sharing the GT article because it suggests the Conservative Party would pursue “greater political cooperation with Taiwan.” It is unlikely that Canadians would see these articles, and are likely produced for news consumers based in Fujian province, Southern China.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 14, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 14, 2021 – 8:00PM September 14, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Douyin, Weibo

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Trudeau to protesters: 'Isn't there a hospital you should be going to bother right now?'</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	9.3K	557	4.5K	14.3K
<u>Warnings issued ahead of expected protests at hospitals across Canada</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	9.9K	86	0	10.0K
<u>COMMENTARY: The U.S. anti-vax movement is contaminating Canada</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	8K	377	1.2K	9.6K
<u>'I wish I had never met you,' Wilson-Raybould told Trudeau, she reveals in her new book</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	5.9K	550	217	6.7K
<u>Days after schools open, COVID-19 outbreaks force many across Canada to close</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	6.2K	39	0	6.2K
<u>Politicians, medical groups condemn protests outside hospitals across Canada</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	5.1K	235	322	5.6K
<u>Canada's 'hospitals are building barricades': COVID-19 pandemic reaches ugly height with anti-vaxx protests</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Yahoo! News</i>	0	26	4.8K	4.9K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Moving from fringe to 4th place, PPC complicates the Conservatives' path to power</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	1.3K	265	2.5K	4.1K
<u>NDP Dental Care Plan Fills 'Significant' Gap in Health System, Internal Health Canada Report Says</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Press Progress</i>	2.6K	266	620	3.5K
<u>Trudeau, Singh want to criminalize protests that block hospitals. But can they?</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	3.2K	25	61	3.2K

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Un infirmier refuse le vaccin afin de relever un défi personnel</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	3K	8	0	3.1K
<u>Troisième lien: Québec a changé, estime Catherine Dorion</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.9K	4	49	2.0K
<u>Lettre à mon premier ministre</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.8K	121	0	2.0K
<u>Comment décoloniser sa bibliothèque sans faire scandale</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	1.4K	32	0	1.4K
<u>Question controversée: montée du Bloc après le débat en anglais</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	928	60	0	989

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Bernier cherche des « patriotes » pour agir comme scrutateurs</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	805	12	29	846
<u>Réplique à un manifestant « Tout le monde a ses limites », dit Trudeau</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	589	14	0	603
<u>Manifestations contre les hôpitaux: Trudeau promet de sévir avec un projet de loi</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	596	2	0	598
<u>Les opposants aux mesures sanitaires influenceront-ils le résultat des élections?</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	552	16	0	568
<u>Trudeau « s'accroche au pouvoir en divisant le pays », accuse O'Toole</u>	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	494	7	0	501

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<u>特鲁多护妻回怼抗议者，争议来了！</u> (Trudeau protects his wife from angry protesters, a controversy is coming!)	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	24.6K
<u>引发中国网友群骂！加拿大移民局官宣，这 10 类人签证申请“作废”！</u> (Triggered a group of angry Chinese web users! Canadian immigration announces 10 visa categories are “invalid”!)	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Canada Talks</i>	17.7K
<u>老婆惨被辱骂**，特鲁多忍无可忍，当场拉下口罩骂回：去医院吧</u> (Trudeau’s wife was called a **, Trudeau couldn’t bear it, he took off his mask at a campaign and said: “go to a hospital”)	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Superlife</i>	11.5K
<u>疯狂！特鲁多政府要求中国移动退出加拿大！理由竟然是.....</u> (Crazy Trudeau government asks China Mobile to withdraw from China! The reason is...)	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Canada News</i>	7.5K
<u>全网怒赞！杜鲁多第一次摘下口罩回怼抗议者 因为妻子被骂了！</u> (The whole internet approves! Trudeau took off his mask to yell at a protester who swore at his wife!)	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Dushi-ca</i>	3.3K
<u>疯了！反疫苗、反口罩 全加拿大 10 省爆发大游行！街头被挤爆 多家医院遭围堵 特鲁多怒了：判刑</u> (Crazy! Anti-vaxxers and anti-masker protests broke out in all 10 provinces! Trudeau is angry: It’s jail time!)	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Ca-1Canada1</i>	2.7K
<u>忍无可忍！杜鲁多终于回击了：有人当面辱骂他的妻子！</u> (Unbearable! Trudeau hits back: Someone insulted his face to his face!)	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>51.ca</i>	2.6K
<u>加国大选投票时千万别做这些事！后果很严重</u> (Don’t do these things when voting in a Canadian election! The consequences are serious!)	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Westca.com</i>	1.7K
<u>华人愤怒！中加紧张！特鲁多政府要求中国移动退出加拿大！</u> (Chinese people are angry! China-Canada tensions! Trudeau government asks China Mobile to leave Canada!)	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Dushi-ca</i>	1.6K
<u>你怎么看？保守党承诺提高 EI 父母假福利，每月可赚取\$1,000 收入</u> (What do you think? Conservatives promise to raise EI parental leave benefits to earn \$1000 a month)	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>York BBS</i>	1.5K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article’s page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 14 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- Some notable article during the reporting period include:
 - Broadbent Institute media arm *Press Progress* claims that an internal memo from Health Canada tacitly approved of the NDP's proposed dental care plan, and that it would address "significant barriers" for uninsured Canadians. The article received considerable interest from users (3.6K engagements overall)
 - Media outlet *Canadaland* questioned the Institute's claim that it has "no formal link" with the federal NDP and that *PressProgress* articles "run parallel with NDO talking points."
 - The Broadbent Institute is not registered as a third party for GE44 with Elections Canada.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 14 originated from a mix of recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts and CCP media outlets.
- Chinese Communist Party media outlets continue to share an article on Chinese news aggregators that the Conservatives "almost want to cut diplomatic relations with China." The volume of articles on this topic continue to increase, however, it is not clear what levels of engagement these articles receive from users. Data analytics tools BuzzSumo and Crowdtangle reveal no significant user engagement on Facebook, Twitter or Reddit.
 - The articles repeat the content and tone of the original Global Times piece on the topic, and do not add any new commentary on GE44.
 - RRM Canada did not discover the article being shared on WeChat or Weibo -- the two main platforms for Chinese internet users to share and comment on news stories.
 - The media outlets who shared the articles, including *Strait Consumer Digest*, and *MNW.net*, are based in Fujian province, and report primarily on cross-strait news and issues. It appears these outlets are sharing the GT article because it suggests the Conservative Party would pursue "greater political cooperation with Taiwan."
- The *Global Times* reported on an incident at a BC campaign event where the LPC leader retorted to a protester "isn't there a hospital you should be going to bother right now?" after said protester insulted the LPC leader's wife.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- The *Global Times*' claims the retort "did not endear the public, with many web users finding the response inappropriate" and that it may "indirectly encourage protesters to continue to make trouble." The GT author screenshots three tweets from various Twitter users who say they disapprove of Justin Trudeau's retort. The article received some user attention (24K views).
- *Xinhua* (26M followers) and the *China Daily* (34M followers) Douyin accounts shared two popular videos about Canada "ordering China Mobile to withdraw from the Canadian telecom market on so-called 'national security' grounds."
 - The videos did not link the order to GE44.
 - The videos received considerable engagement (over 185k likes and 5.2K shares combined).

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 14 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - Russian state media outlets (*RT* and *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*) shared news stories about an Ontario Catholic School Board's decision to burn "prohibited" books.
 - Russian mainstream media site *RBC Daily* reported on the Governor of Moscow closing down a hostel after migrant tenants' were accused of murdering a local woman.
 - *RBC Daily* reported on Putin's self-isolation due to the spread of COVID among those working closely with him
 - Ukrainian opposition media *News One* carried a story dealing with an ATIP to disclose available information about President Zelensky's itinerary during his recent U.S. trip, as well as information about a proposed "Transformation Plan" for the Ukrainian economy.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant evidence of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 15. However, Chinese state media continue to take interest in GE44 and the Conservative Party of Canada's proposed China policies.
- A *Postmedia* editorial as well as MacDonald-Laurier Institute's DisinfoWatch commented on what they characterised as examples of Chinese foreign interference during GE44, including: a campaign event for the LPC Vancouver-East candidate that promised a free lunch hosted by a pro-Beijing individual with connections to China; a perceived campaign on WeChat accusing Conservative MP Kenny Chiu of seeking to "suppress the Chinese community" through his private members bill to create a foreign agents registry; recent Chinese Communist Party media outlet Global Times (GT) articles claiming the Conservative Party caters to Canada's "toxic anti-China atmosphere" and a perceived warning of "counterstrikes" should the Conservative Party win. No reaction yet from Chinese media and government officials.
- Provincial media outlets in China continue to publish headlines that the Conservative Party of Canada and leader Erin O'Toole "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China." The articles appear on popular Chinese news aggregators from Baidu and Tencent. Because of the closed nature of these aggregators, RRM Canada is unable to verify for coordinated inauthentic behaviour.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 15, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 15, 2021 – 8:00PM September 15, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Douyin

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Trudeau says Canadians know he has 'thick skin,' but protestor made misogynist comments to his wife</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	45.7K	10	0	45.7K
<u>Trudeau to protesters: 'Isn't there a hospital you should be going to bother right now?'</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	10.5K	593	4.7K	15.8K
<u>'I wish I had never met you,' Wilson-Raybould told Trudeau, she reveals in her new book</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	11.5K	702	282	12.5K
<u>Canada: Alberta healthcare system on verge of collapse as Covid cases and anti-vax sentiments rise</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>The Guardian</i>	6.7K	1.5K	1.5K	9.8K
<u>Moving from fringe to 4th place, PPC complicates the Conservatives' path to power</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	4.8K	374	3.5K	8.6K
<u>Trudeau defends retort to heckler who targeted wife: 'He went after my family'</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	5.8K	99	2K	7.9K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Every news media who secretly took Trudeau's \$61M pre-election pay-off	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	5.4K	268	0	5.7K
Unions oppose O'Toole, some call for members to vote 'anything but Conservative'	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.1K	161	4.3K	6.5K
Tasha Kheiriddin: Why Maxime Bernier's rise could secure Trudeau's re-election	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	4.6K	101	0	4.7K
KINSELLA: Trudeau's misadventures in past week tell the story	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	4.1K	458	0	4.6K

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Le Canada en train de se séparer du Québec	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.9K	108	0	2.0K
Le Québec et le Canada font chambre à part	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.2K	28	0	1.2K
Question controversée: montée du Bloc après le débat en anglais	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.1K	60	0	1.2K
Erin O'Toole: le loup déguisé en mouton	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Journal de Quebec</i>	843	73	0	916

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Élections fédérales: les opposants aux vaccins unissent les chefs</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	806	4	0	810
<u>Garderies: lisez la lettre qu'Erin O'Toole a envoyée à François Legault</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	709	57	0	766
<u>Débat en anglais: Trudeau, O'Toole et Singh appuient la demande d'excuses au consortium</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Quebec</i>	630	76	0	706
<u>Vaccins, youtubeurs et rébellion: la stratégie de Maxime Bernier en ligne</u>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	682	2	0	684
<u>Jean Chrétien tire à boulets rouges sur Blanchet et O'Toole</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	527	64	19	610
<u>Pourquoi je vais voter pour le Bloc Québécois</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	425	168	0	593

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
老婆惨被辱骂**，特鲁多忍无可忍，当场拉下口罩骂回：去医院吧 (His wife was insulted a **, Trudeau couldn't stand it, quickly pulled off his mask and retorted back: Go to the hospital)	Sep. 14, 2021	Superlife	25.9K
视频疯传! 为了老婆 特鲁多在大温和人当街对骂 最后没吵赢 网友狂点赞! (Viral video! For the sake of his wife, Trudeau among a GVA crowd retorted back, in the end, he didn't win the argument, but web users went wild!)	Sep. 14, 2021	West Canada Weekly	16.9K
护妻狂魔发飙了! 男子当众对着特鲁多大骂“你老婆是妓女”，他立马拉下口罩机智回击! 网友怒赞 (The wife-protector is on a rampage! When a man shouted “your wife is a whore, Trudeau pulled his mask down, and made a smart remark! Web users furiously commented)	Sep. 15, 2021	Vancouver-ca	4.1K
华人太TM憋屈! 云尚米线第三次被砸! 一晚上四店被毁 却集体选择不报警?! Ethnic Chinese are so 'effing frustrated! Yushang Rice Noodles' window smashed for 3rd time! Four stores destroyed in one night, but collectively chose not to call the police?!)	Sep. 14, 2021	Vansky	3.1K
老婆被辱骂“ji女”，特鲁多当场摘下口罩怒怼：有病去医院吧! (His wife was insulted a “whore”, Trudeau quickly took off his mask to express his anger: go to the hospital!)	Sep. 14, 2021	VanPeople	2.6K
[疯狂]加拿大要求中国移动退出本国市场! 理由竟然是..... (Crazy Canada demands China Mobile to get out of the domestic market! The reason is...)	Sep. 14, 2021	Lahoo	2.3K
【观点】加拿大大选该选谁? 看谁对咱中国好! (Opinion Who should I vote for in the election? Let's see who's good for China?)	Sep. 14, 2021	Canada News Today	1.0K
竞争异常激烈! 保守党领呼吁：为这次不必要也不需要的选举惩罚特鲁多! (Competition is fierce! “Punish Trudeau for an unnecessary election,” say the Conservatives)	Sep. 14, 2021	BC Bay	1.0K
专访 加拿大联邦自由党候选人莉雅泰勒：我希望看到更多女性参政 (Interview LPC candidate Leah Taylor Roy: I want to see more women in politics)	Sep. 15, 2021	Canada Bidu	600
聚头条 保守党支持率再度反超，83%TDSB 教师完全接种疫苗 (Spotlight the CPC rebounds, 83% of TDSB teachers are fully vaccinated)	Sep. 15, 2021	Toronto News	550

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 15 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- In an editorial that appeared in all *Postmedia* publications, Terry Glavin writes that China is “coming close to violating Canadian laws intended to safeguard federal elections from foreign interference.”
 - Glavin cites examples of Amb. Cong Peiwu’s comments in the *Hill Times* on Aug. 25, and WeChat users in the greater Vancouver area receiving private messages urging them not to vote for Conservative Party or NDP candidates. A *National Post* edition of the [editorial](#) received some attention on social media (949 total engagements)
 - CCP media or Chinese government officials on Twitter do not appear to have reacted to the *Postmedia* article.
- MacDonald-Laurier Institute fellow Marcus Kolga [writes](#) in *Disinfo Watch* that “CCP and actors aligned with it appear to be targeting the credibility of Chinese-Canadian federal candidates and CPC leader Erin O’Toole.”
 - The article references a September 9 English-language *Global Times* editorial that calls the Conservative’s platform “unusually hostile” and caters to a “toxic anti-China atmosphere” in Canada.
 - The article also notes that an “anonymous article posted on WeChat accused [Conservative candidate] Kenny Chiu of seeking to suppress the Chinese community through [Bill c-282 An Act to establish the Foreign Influence Registry].
 - Kolga asks whether the Critical Election Incident Public Protocol (CEIPP) had responded to the potential threat of foreign interference, and called on Twitter to remove a tweet from the *Global Times* that shared the September 9 editorial.
 - CCP media or Chinese government officials on Twitter do not appear to have reacted to the *Disinfo Watch* article.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 15 originated from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts.
- Small-scale anonymous media outlets in China continue to publish headlines that the Conservative Party of Canada and leader Erin O’Toole “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China.”
 - The articles appear on popular Chinese news aggregators from Baidu and Tencent. Because of the nature of the closed nature of these aggregators, RRM Canada is unable to verify for coordinated inauthentic behaviour.
 - The articles are not being shared on Facebook and Twitter.
 - The publishers appear to be linked to provincial media outlets in [Fujian](#) and [Qinghai](#).
- Douyin accounts linked to the Beijing CCP committee propaganda department posted videos about Toronto police officers protesting “vaccine passports” at Queen’s Park.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- Although the Douyin account in question, *Qianlongwang*, has over 2.13 million followers, the video did not receive much attention from users (under 150 engagements).

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 15 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - Russian state media outlets covered a number of GE44 related topics; *TASS* covered the high number of voters at advance polls, while *Sputnik* reported on the verbal attack against the PM's wife at an LPC rally and the "surging poll numbers" for the PPC.
 - A non-mainstream Ukrainian outlet published a story about an anti-vaccine passport rally in Canada.
 - Ukrainian independent outlet *Gordonua* published an interview with outlet's owner about a lawsuit against him by former Ukrainian president Poroshenko.
 - Russian mainstream outlet *RBC Daily* reported on the British foreign minister Dominic Raab losing his post.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 16. However, Chinese State media continues to take interest in GE44 and the Conservative Party of Canada's proposed China policies.
- A headline in the Chinese press that the Conservative Party "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China" appears to have finally ended circulation. Articles with the headline in question appeared continuously between September 8 and 15, and received considerable user attention. As of September 16, RRM Canada could not locate any new publishers sharing the headline.
- In a *Vancouver Sun* article, Conservative Party of Canada candidate Kenny Chiu says the false messages and personal attacks his campaign has received were "beyond [his] expectation." The article did not generate any comment from Chinese media or Chinese officials.
- The *Global Times* reacted to a Toronto Sun story that claims Canada had been intentionally excluded from a new partnership between the U.K., the U.S., and Australia, and also reacted to CPC leader Erin O'Toole's response to being left out of the partnership. The GT author suggests O'Toole "just wants Canada to spend more on the military" and quotes a Twitter user "Why do you want to go to war with China? Did we not lose enough lives in Afghanistan?" The article was not published in English, and did not receive any attention on U.S. social media platforms.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 16, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 16, 2021 – 8:00PM September 16, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Disgust growing over vaccine protesters' Holocaust comparisons</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	0	443	43.3K	43.7K
<u>Alberta to launch proof-of-vaccination program, declares health emergency amid surge in COVID-19 cases</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	16.8K	1.4K	1.8K	20.1K
<u>Canada: Alberta healthcare system on verge of collapse as Covid cases and anti-vax sentiments rise</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>The Guardian</i>	12.1K	2K	4.1K	18.2K
<u>Alberta adds COVID-19 measures, vaccine passport in effort to prevent health-care system's collapse</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	12.3K	250	0	12.5K
<u>Alberta imposing provincewide COVID-19 restrictions, vaccine passport system amid surge in cases, hospitalizations</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Edmonton Journal</i>	8.2K	291	568	9.0K
<u>Unions oppose O'Toole, some call for members to vote 'anything but Conservative'</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.9K	180	5.7K	8.8K
<u>B.C. PPC candidate slammed over flyer comparing vaccine passports to residential schools</u>	Sep. 16, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	4.3K	51	0	4.4K
<u>What Jason Kenney's 'mission accomplished' moment has reaped for Alberta</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Maclean's</i>	1.6K	2K	243	3.9K
<u>Corbella: Wilson-Raybould's book paints an ugly portrait of Trudeau</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Calgary Herald</i>	3.6K	315	0	3.9K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Trudeau defends 400-person indoor rally, says it followed COVID-19 protocols</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.5K	85	809	3.4K

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>L'Alberta annonce l'imposition d'un passeport vaccinal</u>	Sep. 16, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	2.3K	121	133	2.6K
<u>Vaccination obligatoire au 15 octobre Au moins 20 000 travailleurs de la santé risquent d'être suspendus</u>	Sep. 16, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	2K	73	462	2.6K
<u>Le Québec et le Canada font chambre à part</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.4K	33	0	1.4K
<u>COVID-19 : Jason Kenney tiendra une conférence de presse à 18 h</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1K	27	0	1.1K
<u>Débat en anglais: Trudeau, O'Toole et Singh appuient la demande d'excuses au consortium</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Québec</i>	860	85	0	944
<u>La fracture entre le Québec et le Canada s'élargit</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	766	58	0	824
<u>Le Canada des deux peuples fondateurs est mort</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	758	54	0	812

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Jean Chrétien tire à boulets rouges sur Blanchet et O'Toole</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	675	69	20	764
<u>Brian Mulroney manifeste son appui au conservateur Erin O'Toole</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	666	11	0	677
<u>Débat des chefs : Trudeau et O'Toole réclament des excuses au consortium</u>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	460	10	0	470

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<u>加拿大：盟友不信任特鲁多了吗？</u> (Canada: Do allies not trust Trudeau?)	Sep. 16, 2021	Global Times	26.4K
<u>炸锅了！特鲁多搞 400 人大型室内集会疯狂拉票，现场人挤人！</u> (Explosive! Trudeau stages a 400-person large indoor rally, the scene was crowded with people!)	Sep. 15, 2021	Superlife	7.1K
<u>【最新】杜鲁多自传中文版，外国出版社资助，保守党促操守专员进行解释！</u> (New The Chinese edition of Trudeau's autobiography was funded by foreign publishers, the CPC urges the Ethics Commissioner to investigate!)	Sep. 15, 2021	Canada News Today	1.5K
<u>网红还是政客？起底新民主党的“头巾哥” 驹勉诚</u> (Internet celebrity or politician? A bio of "turban brother" Jagmeet Singh)	Sep. 16, 2021	York BBS	1.1K
<u>专访 加拿大自由党候选人蒋振宇：老警官转型政治新秀，为下一代华裔铺路</u> (Interview LPC candidate Paul Chiang: A retired police officer transforms into a political rookie, paving the way for the next generation of Chinese)	Sep. 16, 2021	Canada Bidu	1.0K
<u>加拿大选举局透露：大选结果将最多延期 5 日公布</u> (Elections Canada announces the results may be delayed by up to 5 days)	Sep. 16, 2021	York BBS	1.0K
<u>【重磅】美英澳组成新联盟对付中国！加拿大被排除在外！</u> (Heavy US, UK and Australia form a new alliance against China! Canada is excluded!)	Sep. 16, 2021	Canada News Today	695
<u>保守党党首奥图尔形象多变，难道他想靠颜值打败特鲁多？</u> (CPC leader Erin O'Toole is changing his image, does he want to beat Trudeau in the looks category?)	Sep. 16, 2021	Canada Bidu	450
<u>炸锅了！特鲁多搞 400 人大型室内集会疯狂拉票，现场人挤人！</u> (Explosive! Trudeau stages a 400-person large indoor rally, the scene was crowded with people!)	Sep. 16, 2021	Mengchenghui	415
<u>独家 加拿大政治将在联邦大选之后重新洗牌，什么结果能让各位现任党领保住饭碗？</u> (Exclusive Canadian politics will reshuffle after the election, what result will allow the incumbent party leaders to keep their jobs?)	Sep. 16, 2021	Rise News	215

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 16 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 16 originated from a mix of recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts and Chinese Communist Party media outlets.
- A headline in the Chinese press that the Conservative Party “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China” appears to have finally ended circulation.
 - Articles with the headline in question appeared continuously between September 8 and 15, and received considerable user attention. As of September 16, RRM Canada could not locate any new publishers sharing the headline.
- In a *Vancouver Sun* [article](#), Conservative Party of Canada candidate Kenny Chiu says the false messages and personal attacks his campaign has received was “beyond [his] expectation.” The article received some attention from registered GE44 third parties like Canada Proud and prominent China scholars like Charles Burton (900 overall engagements). The article did not solicit any comment from Chinese media or Chinese officials.
 - The article’s author notes three incidents that RRM Canada had documented last week – an editorial from the Global Times that called the Conservatives “unusually hostile” and the party’s platform “hostile” to China, an article from the Chinese-language Today Commercial News that claims Chiu’s private member bill (C-282) would require all Canadians of Chinese heritage who have attended a Chinese consulate event to register for a foreign agent registry, and private WeChat and Whatsapp messages circulating in Chiu’s electoral district that make false claims about the candidate and C-282.
 - Chiu adds that he does not want to speculate “whether the Chinese government or its agents are behind” the false messages and that “China and its agents are the most experienced infiltrators. They have done it for so many years. They’re not going to get caught.”
 - Chiu discusses a number of narratives that RRM Canada has not encountered, including: referring to O’Toole as “vomit” because his surname sounds similar to the Mandarin word for it; false claims that Conservatives would not only ban WeChat, but all Chinese social media apps like QQ, Weibo, Xiaohongshu and Alipay; and suggesting it is “ridiculous for Chinese to vote for an anti-China party.”
- The *Global Times* [reacted](#) to a Toronto Sun story that claims Canada had been intentionally excluded from a new partnership between the U.K., the U.S., and Australia, and also reacted to CPC leader Erin O’Toole’s response to being left out of the partnership.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- The GT author suggests O'Toole “just wants Canada to spend more on the military” and quotes a Twitter user “Why do you want to go to war with China? Did we not lose enough lives in Afghanistan?”
- The article received some engagement (less than 30K views).
- The article was not published in English, and did not receive any attention on U.S. social media platforms.
- A *Globe and Mail* report that discovered Justin Trudeau’s memoir was re-published by a Chinese state-owned publishing house has not been reported by Chinese Communist Party media. However, some WeChat accounts that service Canadian users reported on the event.
 - *Canada News Today* provided a relatively direct translation of the *Globe and Mail* article, but did not add any additional commentary on the piece. The article received some engagement (1.5K views).

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 16 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - Russian state-media *TASS* and *RIA News* reported on Canada’s possible inclusion in the newly announced security alliance between the U.S., the U.K., and Australia.
 - Russian mainstream media outlet *RBC Daily* reported on French reactions to the announced defence partnership between AU, UK and the US.
 - *RBC Daily* reported on Putin’s self-imposed quarantine and inability to personally attend the CSTO Summit.
 - Ukrainian mainstream media outlet *Obozrevatel* published an interview with former Ukrainian Deputy Minister who suggested Putin wants to cut off Ukraine from the seas and produce “republics.”

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 17 to 19.
- Chinese Communist Party media outlets have not published further stories about GE44. Canadian WeChat news accounts have not published further editorials urging Canadians of Chinese heritage to vote for a specific candidate or party.
- Russian state-media outlet RT published a podcast hosted by George Galloway that discussed GE44 with strong anti-LPC sentiments. Galloway and an *RT* journalist claimed Canada has changed from a “popular, gentle country” to one that is “playing a controversial role in the world,” citing Canada’s role in Afghanistan and mass graves at Canadian residential schools. Galloway is one of RT’s most popular hosts on social media; however, he has not shared this episode of his podcast on his social media feeds, and it is not clear what level of engagement it is receiving.

Scan performed at: 9:00PM, September 19, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 17, 2021 – 9:00PM September 19, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Erin O'Toole - Whatever happened in Winnipeg?	July 2, 2021	<i>Will & Ruth</i>	14.2K	93	0	14.3K
Opinion: The Liberals say we can't risk a Conservative government. So why call an election?	Sep. 17, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	1.2K	457	12.5K	14.2K
Amazon Facing Teamsters Unionization Push in Canada	Sep. 17, 2021	<i>The Street</i>	11.4K	3	4	11.4K
Hillary Clinton endorses her 'friend' Justin Trudeau for Prime Minister	Sep. 17, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	10K	30	0	10.1K
Majority of federal Conservative candidates won't disclose COVID-19 vaccination status	Sep. 18, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	2.7K	5.6K	1K	9.4K
Nanos poll: Latest tracking shows Liberals in winning territory	Sep. 17, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	5.6K	741	1.1K	7.4K
Sabrina Maddeaux: Canada is an angrier more divided place and Trudeau is to blame	Sep. 18, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	6.1K	671	321	7.0K
Diane Francis: Justin Trudeau's track record of failure	Sep. 17, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	5.9K	785	0	6.7K
Trudeau says he remains 'open' to electoral reform if Liberals re-elected	Sep. 18, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	1.9K	377	4.1K	6.4K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Amazon faces Teamsters union drive at nine Canadian sites	Sep. 17, 2021	Reuters	3.0K	82	3K	6.1K

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
 Crainte du vaccin: «la désinformation l'a tuée»	Sep. 17, 2021	Journal de Montréal	2.2K	34	0	2.2K
Fort appui des Québécois sur la vaccination obligatoire des travailleurs de la santé	Sep. 18, 2021	Le Devoir	2.2K	5	0	2.2K
Trudeau a déjà perdu	Sep. 17, 2021	Journal de Montréal	1.7K	171	0	1.9K
Le nouveau logo du PPC: le Parti populaire de Maxime Bernier se trompe d'érable	Sep. 18, 2021	Journal de Montréal	1.4K	60	21	1.5K
Le «Quebec bashing», un acharnement persistant et sans retenue	Sep. 18, 2021	Le Devoir	1.2K	63	259	1.5K
Blanchet pense voir un Québec souverain de son vivant	Sep. 17, 2021	Le Devoir	1.2K	5	0	1.2K
Jagmeet Singh a le soutien de Bernie Sanders, Justin Trudeau celui d'Hillary Clinton	Sep. 17, 2021	Radio-Canada	866	10	0	876

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Nouvelle mise en garde de Legault à la veille des élections fédérales</u>	Sep. 19, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	766	26	0	792
<u>Yves-François Blanchet demande la balance du pouvoir aux Québécois</u>	Sep. 18, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	719	15	0	735
<u>Trudeau « ouvert » à une réforme électorale, mais avec conditions</u>	Sep. 18, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	522	88	0	610

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<u>笑翻！杜鲁多烫嘴普通话火遍全网！祝华人们中秋快乐，一度忘词笑场！(Trudeau's Mandarin gaffe goes viral! Wishing a Happy Mid-autumn Day, everyone laughed when he flubbed)</u>	Sep. 18, 2021	51.ca	32.9K
<u>闹心！华人移民持 PR 卡上海回加拿大，中国护照被盖章注销？！还要求取消户口 (Nerve-wracking! A Chinese immigrant returning to Canada with their PR card in Shanghai had their Chinese passport cancelled? They also demanded their hukou cancelled)</u>	Sep. 18, 2021	BCBay	19.2K
<u>数十位华人被拒登机！花了近 4 万无法回国，滞留机场挨冻！“外国人登机，我们不行？” (Dozens of ethnic Chinese were denied boarding! They spent 40K to return home, but were left stranded in the cold! Foreigners can board, but we can't?)</u>	Sep. 19, 2021	Mengchenghui	10.0K
<u>枫叶卡和中国户口只能 2 选 1？拿 PR 的加国华人在上海转机时被告知护照遭注销，瞬间成无国籍人士 (You can only choose your PR card or your hukou? A Chinese with a PR card was told his passport had been cancelled after changing planes in Shanghai, leaving them stateless)</u>	Sep. 18, 2021	Vansky	6.7K
<u>PR 华人返回加拿大，护照竟被海关盖了注销章？还被要求下次出境时出示户口取消证明！是否对下次回国有影响？ (A Chinese with PR returned to Canada, but their passport was cancelled by customs? They were also asked to show a certificate they cancelled their hukou!)</u>	Sep. 19, 2021	Mengchenghui	6.7K
<u>[哇塞]特鲁多的罗曼史 (Wow! Trudeau's romance)</u>	Sep. 18, 2021	Vancouver Headlines	6.0K
<u>加拿大谎报多起老人因新冠死亡事件，真实原因令人愤怒 (Canada falsely reported many deaths of elderly people due to Covid-19, but the real cause is infuriating)</u>	Sep. 17, 2021	People's Daily Overseas	5.1K
<u>笑翻！杜鲁多烫嘴普通话火遍全网！祝华人们中秋快乐，一度忘词笑场！(Trudeau's Mandarin gaffe goes viral! Wishing a Happy Mid-autumn Day, everyone laughed when he flubbed)</u>	Sep. 18, 2021	Canada News (Lahoo)	4.5K
<u>特鲁多胜率 73%，发出终极一击：投 NDP=投保守党！奥图尔急了：投 PPC=投自由党 (Trudeau's odds of winning rose 73%, and delivers an ultimate blow: A vote for NDP is a vote for CPC! O'Toole is nervous: a vote for the PPC is a vote the LPC)</u>	Sep. 19, 2021	Superlife	4.2K
<u>美英澳建立新伙伴关系，没带加拿大！(The U.S., U.K., and Australia establish a new partnership, without Canada!)</u>	Sep. 18, 2021	People's Daily Overseas	3.7K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 17 to 19 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- However, the most shared story on Facebook for the time period was a two-month old Conservative Party video from an anonymous Vimeo account.
 - The video features CPC leader Erin O'Toole discussing two scientists in a Winnipeg government laboratory who allegedly shared virus research information with the Chinese military. The video received 77.8K views.
 - The video was shared in Facebook groups that share similar political leanings, including "Hold Trudeau Accountable (14K followers), Ontarians for a Recall Election to Replace Trudeau Liberal (9.1K followers), and Millions of Canadians Despise Justin Trudeau (8.5K). According to Facebook's ad transparency analytics tools, all of these pages are administered by a Facebook user in Canada.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 17 to 19 were a mix of stories from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts and CCP media accounts.
- On the eve of Election Day, Chinese Communist Party media outlets have not published any stories about GE44. Canadian WeChat accounts have also not published any editorials urging Canadians of Chinese heritage to vote for a specific candidate or party.
- Topics of interest on WeChat include:
 - The *People's Daily Overseas* edition covered two Canadian politics related stories, a report on the newly established AUKUS trilateral security pact, and a report claiming that a Canadian LTC facility "faked" the deaths of elderly residents who actually died of neglect. Neither story mentioned GE44.
 - Canada WeChat accounts, such as *BCBay* and *Vansky*, published stories about a Chinese citizen with a Canada permanent resident card who asked to cancel their "hukou" (household registration in China) by Chinese immigration authorities. The articles do not mention GE44.
 - Canadian WeChat accounts, such as *51.ca* and *Lahoo*, published on Justin Trudeau's attempt to say "Happy Mid-Autumn Festival" in Mandarin Chinese. The accounts take a neutral political stance, and do not criticize the LPC leader for flubbing the line.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 17 to 19 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - In an *RT* podcast, presenter George Galloway discussed GE44 and claimed LPC leader Justin Trudeau has “triggered an unnecessary election” and has in recent years, changed from a “popular gentle country” to one that is “playing a controversial role in the world.” The guests’ on the podcast mentioned a number of events or incidents that occurred under the LPC government, and carried strong anti-LPC sentiment. The podcast did not rank on Chartable, and it is not clear what level of engagement the podcast received. Although Galloway is one of RT’s most visible personalities on social media (369K Twitter followers), he did not share the podcast on his social media accounts.
 - *RIAFAN*, a website that amplifies Russian state-media, reports that Justin Trudeau may lose the PM seat if the LPC campaign does not garner a majority of seats.
 - *Rossaprimavera* reports that Justin Trudeau was booed outside Quebec City hall during a campaign event. *Rossaprimavera* is a site belonging to the conservative ‘Essence of Time’ movement led by S. Kurginyan.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 20.
- Chinese Communist Party media outlets did not comment on the LPC minority government projection. Canadian WeChat accounts carried neutral commentary pieces on the results of GE44.
- Russian state media outlet Russia Today commented on the CBC's decision to call the election for the LPC while "incredulous" electors were still waiting in line to cast their ballot. The article received little attention from social media users.

Scan performed at: 11:00PM, September 20, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 20, 2021 – 11:00PM September 20, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Previously unseen photo of Justin Trudeau in blackface emerges on eve of election night</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	3.6K	1.4K	0	5.0K
<u>First photo in colour of Trudeau donning blackface emerges on eve of election night</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	2.2K	477	19	2.7K
<u>New colour photo emerges of Justin Trudeau in blackface</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	2K	454	0	2.4K
<u>Trudeau's Liberals on track to win Canadian election</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Reuters</i>	1.8K	202	68	2.1K
<u>Nanos poll: Race remains very close between Liberals and Conservatives on eve of 44th federal election</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	1.4K	34	487	1.9K
<u>O'Toole's campaign chair says holding Trudeau to a minority would be a win for the Conservatives</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Toronto Star</i>	0	402	1.5K	1.9K
<u>Sabrina Maddeaux: How Trudeau drove away younger voters no longer seduced by empty celebrity</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	1.6K	151	60	1.8K
<u>338Canada: The final polls are in, and they point to a slim Liberal victory</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Maclean's</i>	1.2K	106	243	1.5K
<u>LILLEY: Another blackface photo embarrassing to Trudeau</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	1K	242	76	1.4K
<u>Canadians surge to the polls as the 36-day election campaign comes to a close</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	1K	156	140	1.3K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Élections fédérales : les Canadiens appelés aux urnes	Sep. 20, 2021	Radio-Canada	289	22	0	311
Toutes les émissions annulées ce soir à cause de la soirée des élections au Canada	Sep. 20, 2021	Narcity	298	0	0	298
Canada : une nouvelle photo de Justin Trudeau effectuant un blackface fait scandale	Sep. 20, 2021	FDESouche.com	0	271	0	271
« Armez-vous de patience », prévient Élections Canada	Sep. 20, 2021	Radio-Canada	254	7	0	261
Justin Trudeau à la recherche de son aura perdue	Sep. 20, 2021	Le Point	182	10	0	192
Elections législatives au Canada : Justin Trudeau joue son avenir politique	Sep. 20, 2021	Le Monde	128	26	0	154
Les conservateurs accusent Trudeau d'avoir anticipé les élections pour dissimuler la collaboration du laboratoire de Winnipeg avec l'armée chinoise	Sep. 20, 2021	Epoch Times	139	4	0	143
Jour d'élections: le moment de choisir est arrivé	Sep. 20, 2021	Journal de Montréal	113	2	0	115
Aux urnes !	Sep. 20, 2021	La Presse	81	3	25	109
Élections fédérales : suivez la soirée électorale	Sep. 20, 2021	Radio-Canada	0	107	0	107

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total views⁴
<u>刚刚！特鲁多赢了！多伦多、万锦、列治文山等华人区全部翻红！但奥图尔这样说...</u> (Breaking! Trudeau wins! The GTA and other Chinese areas turn red! But O'Toole said...)	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Superlife</i>	19.6K
<u>突发！自由党稳爆！多伦多华人区全红！杜鲁多将连任加拿大总理！</u> (Breaking! LPC is steady! GTA Chinese areas are all red! Trudeau will be re-elected as PM!)	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>51.ca</i>	16.6K
<u>决战时刻！加拿大全民出动 大排长龙为投票 华人空前踊跃 特鲁多 1 家 5 口被围！</u> (The decisive battle! The entire country is lining up to vote, unprecedented Chinese turnout, Trudeau's family of 5 surrounded while in line!)	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>West Canada Weekly</i>	6.8K
<u>快讯！联邦大选：特鲁多再次成功连任加拿大总理</u> (News flash! Election: Trudeau successfully re-elected as PM again!)	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>ZaiMengCheng</i>	4.4K
<u>杜鲁多赢了！自由党锁定执政 保守党紧追 多数政府悬！</u> (Trudeau wins! The LPC are locked in power, the CPC in hot pursuit, majority government hangs in the balance!)	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Dushi-Ca</i>	3.2K
<u>加拿大大选日，我们现场采访了选民，问他们支持和反对特鲁多的原因，回答很有趣</u> (Election day, we interviewed voters on site and asked them why they support or oppose Trudeau, the answers were interesting)	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Canada Bidu</i>	2.3K
<u>【关注】加拿大联邦今晚结束！重要性堪比史上三次关键大选！</u> (Focus: Canadian election ends tonight! The importance of the election is comparable to 3 key historical elections!)	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Canada News Today</i>	2.3K
<u>特鲁多连任加拿大总理！自由党执政，但多数党政府悬了！与魁省省长周日演讲相悖！</u> (Trudeau was re-elected as PM! The LPC back in power, but a majority hangs by a thread! Contrary to the Quebec Premier's speech on Sunday!)	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Mengchenghui</i>	2.2K
<u>排队排疯了！今天多伦多投票站出现长队！看不到尽头！网友：排 1 个多小时才投到</u> (Crazy long line! Long lines at Toronto polls today! No end in sight! Web users: it took more than an hour to cast a ballot)	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Superlife</i>	1.9K
<u>刚刚！联邦大选结果出炉，杜鲁多再次成功连任！</u> (Breaking! The election results are in, and Trudeau has been re-elected!)	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>TorLife</i>	1.9K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 20 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 20 came from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts.
- Topics of interest on WeChat include:
 - Chinese Communist Party media outlets did not comment on the LPC minority government projection.
 - Canadian WeChat accounts carried neutral commentary pieces on the results of GE44.

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 20 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - Russian state media outlet *Russia Today* commented on the CBC's decision to call the election for the LPC while "incredulous" electors were still waiting in line to cast their ballot. The article received little attention from social media users.
 - *Russia Today* also covered a shooting in Toronto.
 - Russian state news agency *TASS* and *Sputnik* reported on the Russian government extending counter-sanctions on Western countries, including Canada.
 - *TASS* also covered the events of Election Day in Canada.

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G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 21.
- Chinese Communist Party media outlet the *Global Times* [reported](#) on the election day tally of GE44 but offered little commentary on the results. The author writes that electors did not vote for the Conservative Party of Canada because several “MPs were reluctant to clarify whether they were vaccinated” and were “unwilling to take a clear stance on racial issues.” The article received considerable attention on WeChat, but no engagement on Facebook or Twitter.
- Conservative Party candidate Kenny Chiu discussed his GE44 campaign and what impact false information played in his defeat.
 - Commenting in *Sing Tao*, Chiu [said](#) “slander and false attack against him on WeChat and WhatsApp caused harm to his candidacy.” He adds that “Canadian intelligence agencies have long confirmed that China interferes with Canadian society, and the smearing of me may be part of it.”
 - Commenting in *Radio Free Asia*, Chiu [said](#) it was a “pity” that electors are affected by false information, and that there are “blind spots” in Canada’s national security system: “what CSIS does is only analyze and judge whether there is foreign influence, but it has no enforcement power. Who is the law enforcement responsible for Canada’s national security?”

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 21, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 21, 2021 – 8:00PM September 21, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Liberals projected to form minority government; Trudeau bills win as 'clear mandate'</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	16.8K	782	0	17.6K
<u>Canada federal election results: CTV News declares Liberal minority</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	116	325	13.9K	14.3K
<u>Canadians have re-elected a Liberal minority government</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	8.9K	1.1K	445	10.5K
<u>New photo of Justin Trudeau in blackface at Arabian Nights party</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Daily Mail</i>	5.8K	2.4K	30	8.3K
<u>Canada election results: Justin Trudeau's gamble backfires but he clings onto power</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>CNN</i>	5K	740	330	6.0K
<u>CTV News declares Maxime Bernier defeated in Beauce</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	3.9K	66	2.1K	6.0K
<u>Canada election: Trudeau's Liberals win minority for third term of government</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Axios</i>	5.2K	20	0	5.2K
<u>Another Justin Trudeau Blackface Picture Leaks Before Canadian Election</u>	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Breitbart</i>	5.1K	22	2	5.1K
<u>Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party wins Canada election, but misses majority</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>NBC News</i>	4.1K	350	305	4.8K
<u>Justin Trudeau's Liberals win the most seats in 2021 federal election</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>CityNews</i>	3.7K	120	175	4.0K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Les libéraux restent au pouvoir	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	9.8K	2	0	9.8K
« Ca ne vous tente plus qu'on parle de politique ou d'élections », constate Trudeau	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	4.8K	183	0	5.0K
Parti populaire du Canada « Nous avons fait l'histoire », dit Maxime Bernier	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	3.4K	35	0	3.4K
Maxime Bernier est défait en Beauce	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	3.4K	10	0	3.4K
Élections canadiennes 2021 : Le Parti libéral de Justin Trudeau reste au pouvoir	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Narcity</i>	2.3K	0	0	2.3K
Défait, Maxime Bernier promet un retour en force aux prochaines élections	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	2.2K	5	0	2.2K
Justin Trudeau obtient un troisième mandat	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	2.0K	25	0	2.0K
Tous les détails de l'élection fédérale : « je suis prêt à poursuivre le travail » - Justin Trudeau	Sep. 20, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.6K	40	0	1.7K
Fédérales 2021: autre défaite pour Maxime Bernier en Beauce	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Journal de Québec</i>	1.2K	0	0	1.2K
Un recul ne serait pas une défaite, plaident les libéraux	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	1.1K	5	0	1.1K

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<u>特鲁多赢了，但没全赢</u> (Trudeau won, but didn't win everything)	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	132.3K
<u>美国为孟晚舟挖了个陷阱，叫：人月两团圆</u> (The U.S. set a trap for Meng Wanzhou, it's called: mid-autumn festival)	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Youli-Youmian</i>	20.0K
<u>刚刚！特鲁多赢了！多伦多、万锦、列治文山等华人区全部翻红！但奥图尔这样说...</u> (Just in! Trudeau wins! The GTA and Chinese areas turn red! But O'Toole said...)	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Superlife</i>	19.6K
<u>突发！自由党稳爆！多伦多华人区全红！杜鲁多将连任加拿大总理！</u> (Sudden! LPC stays steady! GTA Chinese areas are all red! Trudeau is about to be re-elected PM!)	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>51.ca</i>	16.6K
<u>特鲁多又赢了！可他白忙活了？8名华裔当选，上海移民成功连任...</u> (Trudeau wins again! But what was it all for? 8 ethnic Chinese elected, and a Shanghai immigrant re-elected...)	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>BCBay</i>	10.7K
<u>决战时刻！加拿大全民出动 大排长龙为投票 华人空前踊跃 特鲁多 1 家 5 口被围！</u> (Hour of reckoning! The entire country turned out in long lines to vote; Chinese have never been more enthusiastic! Trudeau's family of 5 were surrounded!)	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>West Canada Weekly</i>	6.8K
<u>白忙一场，特鲁多成功连任！随时可能再大选</u> (A waste of time, but Trudeau is re-elected! And another election is possible any day now)	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>York BBS</i>	6.2K
<u>自由党赢了！杜鲁多成功连任加拿大总理！这些承诺等待兑现！</u> (LPC wins! Trudeau successfully re-elected as PM! These promises are waiting to be fulfilled!)	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>51.ca</i>	4.3K
<u>重磅 加拿大大选揭晓，特鲁多又赢了，但仍是少数政府</u> (Heavy! The results are revealed, Trudeau wins, but it's still a minority government)	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Rise News</i>	4.3K
<u>快讯！特鲁多已连任！但是...</u> (Newsflash! Trudeau is re-elected! But...)	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Canada Talks</i>	4.1K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 21 originated from recognizable Canadian, U.K. and U.S. media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 21 were a mix of stories from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts and CCP media accounts.
- Chinese Communist Party media outlet the *Global Times* reported on the election day tally of GE44 but offered little commentary on the results. The author writes that electors did not vote for the Conservative Party of Canada because several “MPs were reluctant to clarify whether they were vaccinated” and were “unwilling to take a clear stance on racial issues.” The article received considerable attention on WeChat, but no engagement on Facebook or Twitter.
- Conservative Party candidate Kenny Chiu discussed his GE44 campaign and what impact false information played in his defeat:
- Commenting in *Sing Tao*, Conservative Party candidate Kenny Chiu says “slander and false attack against him on WeChat and WhatsApp caused harm to his candidacy.”
 - Chiu notes that the WeChat messages spread a false narrative that Chiu’s proposed private members’ bill (C-282) would “require all groups or individuals connected with China to register as spokespersons for the Chinese government” and may lead “ethnic Chinese to have their freedom of speech curbed, which will have a profound negative impact on the Chinese community.”
 - The WeChat messages also changed the name of C-282 from “an Act to establish the Foreign Influence Registry Act” to “Foreign Interference Registry Act”
 - He adds that “Canadian intelligence agencies have long confirmed that China interferes with Canadian society, and the smearing of me may be part of it.”
 - The article did not receive much engagement, but was shared by prominent Hong Kong-Canada cultural groups on Facebook.
- Commenting in *Radio Free Asia*, Chiu said it was a “pity” that electors are affected by false information, and that there are “blind spots” in Canada’s national security system.
 - He says: “What CSIS does is only analyze and judge whether there is foreign influence, but it has no enforcement power. Who is the law enforcement responsible for Canada’s national security?”
 - He adds: “First there’s no law, second there’s no enforcement agency. All this shows is that Canada has a big loophole in national security.”

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- The article did not receive much engagement.

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 21 reporting period.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 22.
- Conservative Party candidate Kenny Chiu continued to discuss his GE44 campaign and what impact false information played in his defeat.
 - In an interview with the *South China Morning Post*, Chiu said “Communist China endorsed” reports in Chinese-language media had spread “half truths and complete lies” about his position on China and Bill C-282 (An Act to establish the Foreign Influence Registry).
 - The article received some attention from Canadian political pundits on Twitter, with some suggesting Canada should be “more concerned” that “opposing the Chinese government can now make you lose 10-14 seats.”
- Chinese Communist Party outlet *Reference News* [reported](#) on the results of GE44 with the headline “Trudeau’s ‘gamble’ failed.” The outlet suggested the turnout for GE44 was “significantly lower” because electors “refused to vote” as a “protest against Trudeau’s election ‘gamble’ during a health crisis.” It received significant attention on WeChat, but no engagement on Twitter or Facebook.
- *China News Service*, a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) news wire service directed at overseas Chinese, reports that the state-backed Chinese Academy of Science has performed “big data analysis” to discover Covid-19’s “patient zero” originated from Rhode Island in April 2019. The report received considerable user attention on WeChat and Douyin.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 22, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 22, 2021 – 8:00PM September 22, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Taking a stand by taking a seat: First Nations student reprimanded after not standing for O Canada</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	7K	192	0	7.2K
<u>The PPC got more than 800,000 votes in Election 2021, and that should worry all of us</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Maclean's</i>	6.4K	487	2.2K	9.0K
<u>'Our Brothers, The Taliban' Minister Loses Seat in Canadian Snap Election</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Breitbart</i>	8.4K	240	3	8.7K
<u>The election that disappointed everyone</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Maclean's</i>	667	50	6.7K	7.4K
<u>Canada election result: Trudeau wins third term after early vote gamble</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>The Guardian</i>	5.5K	527	58	6.1K
<u>New Image Appears To Show Justin Trudeau Wearing Blackface</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Daily Wire</i>	5.4K	3	0	5.4K
<u>Don Martin: Sooner or later in this status quo mandate, Justin Trudeau will take his walk in the snow</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	3.4K	383	311	4.1K
<u>Clock starts ticking for Canada's Trudeau after bid for majority fails</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Reuters</i>	3.3K	76	24	3.4K
<u>Canada to resume flights from India next week with additional COVID-19 measures</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	3.3K	41	0	3.3K
<u>Supporters of Maxime Bernier and People's Party of Canada Call Election 'Rigged'</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Vice News</i>	1.8K	175	1.2K	3.2K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Voter 15 fois, c'est possible au Canada. On l'a vu de nos yeux.</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Journal Métro</i>	3.2K	318	40	3.6K
<u>Un recul ne serait pas une défaite, plaident les libéraux</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	2.9K	4	0	2.9K
<u>Une loi spéciale dès jeudi pour stopper les manifestations antivaccin</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	2.9K	11	0	2.9K
<u>Le mathématicien radicalisé</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	2.6K	97	0	2.7K
<u>De la "blackface" aux propos sur la liberté d'expression, le pire de Justin Trudeau</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Marianne</i>	2.2K	313	0	2.5K
<u>Montréal-Nord: des militants antivaccins accueillis par des parents mécontents devant une école</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	2.5K	32	0	2.5K
<u>Militants antivaccin: Québec envisage une loi spéciale pour interdire les manifs près des écoles et des hôpitaux</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.8K	25	345	2.2K
<u>Le maire de Saint-Georges soulagé après la défaite de Bernier</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	1.5K	0	0	1.5K
<u>Le Canada est aussi divisé qu'avant</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Journal de Québec</i>	1.2K	8	0	1.2K
<u>Voici où s'est jouée l'élection (ou pas)</u>	Sep. 21, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1.2K	0	0	1.2K

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<u>特鲁多“赌博”失败……</u> (Trudeau's "gamble" fails...)	Sep. 22, 2021	Reference News	72.9K
<u>快讯！加拿大选举结果出炉，特鲁多赢了！然而奇葩的是，随时可能要再重选一次…</u> (The results are in, and Trudeau won! But another election might be around the corner)	Sep. 22, 2021	Canada Talks	43.0K
<u>重磅！杜鲁多承诺 9 大新政+福利！加拿大 18 个月后或再次大选！</u> (Trudeau promises 9 new policies + benefits! Canada may have another election in 18 months!)	Sep. 22, 2021	51.ca	32.7K
<u>特鲁多将组新政府，承诺 8 大福利！9 名华裔胜选！网友：保守党输得不冤，华人区竟没华裔候选人</u> (Trudeau will form government, and promises 8 new benefits! 9 ethnic Chinese MPs are victorious! Web user: the CPC loss wasn't fair, now there's no Chinese candidate in a Chinese area)	Sep. 22, 2021	Superlife	29.3K
<u>大数据溯源：美国新冠“零号病人”大概率 2019 年 4 月出现</u> (Big data tracking: Covid-19 "Patient zero" was an American that appeared in April 2019)	Sep. 22, 2021	China News Service	26.9K
<u>特鲁多又赢了，除了他没失业，这些加拿大与自由党不得不说的事情你都知道吗？</u> (Trudeau wins again, he doesn't lose his job; do you know these facts about Canada and the LPC?)	Sep. 22, 2021	Canada Bidu	6.0K
<u>创纪录！9 华裔当选 特鲁多砸 6 亿成功连任！股市飙升 房价看好 华人获最大胜利！</u> (Nine ethnic Chinese elected, and Trudeau wins the \$600M re-election campaign! The stock markets soar and house prices look good! Ethnic Chinese come out the big winners!)	Sep. 22, 2021	CAC News-ca	5.8K
<u>发几千亿也没用！特鲁多白忙一场！最大的赢家可能是他</u> (A few hundred million won't help! Trudeau wastes our time! The biggest winner might be him...)	Sep. 22, 2021	Superlife	4.6K
<u>[重磅]特鲁多连任成定局！下一步瞄准你我的钱包！</u> (Trudeau's re-election is a foregone conclusion. Next is all of our wallets!)	Sep. 22, 2021	Vancouver Headlines	4.4K
<u>华人被惹急了！列治文翻红显示力量！8 华裔胜出 自由党料再组少数政府</u> (Ethnic Chinese are angry! Richmond turns red! 8 ethnic Chinese are victorious! LPC expected to form government)	Sep. 22, 2021	Dushi-Van	4.2K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 22 originated from recognizable Canadian, U.K. and U.S. media outlets.
- *Journal Métro* [reported](#) on an anonymous individual who registered at 15 Montreal polling stations on election day. The individual did not cast their ballot but claimed they could do so if they wished. The article received considerable user attention on Facebook (3.6K total engagements). Most of the Facebook pages and groups that shared the article appear to be located in Quebec.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 22 were a mix of stories from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts and CCP media accounts.
- Conservative Party candidate Kenny Chiu continued to discuss his GE44 campaign and what impact false information played in his defeat.
 - In an interview with the *South China Morning Post*, Chiu said “Communist China endorsed” reports in Chinese-language media had spread “half truths and complete lies” about his position on China and Bill C-282 (An Act to establish the Foreign Influence Registry).
 - The article received some attention from Canadian political pundits on Twitter. Some expressed interest in “seeing these messages on WeChat” mentioned in the SCMP article, while others wondered if it would lead the Conservatives to “soften their stance on China”? Pollster Bryan Breguet [tweeted](#) Canada should be “more concerned” that “opposing the Chinese government can now make you lose 10-14 seats in Canada.”
- Chinese Communist Party outlet *Reference News* [reported](#) on the results of GE44 with the headline “Trudeau’s ‘gamble’ failed.”
 - The outlet reported on the events and the results of the election in a neutral way, but suggested the turnout for GE44 was “significantly lower” because electors “refused to vote” as a “protest against Trudeau’s election ‘gamble’ during a health crisis.”
 - The article received considerable user interest on WeChat (72.9K page views), but solicited no comments on Twitter or Facebook.
 - The People’s Daily English edition [also reported](#) on the results of GE44 but did so in a neutral way. The report did not elicit any comment on social media.
- *China News Service*, a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) news wire service directed at overseas Chinese, reports that the state-backed Chinese Academy of Science has performed “big data analysis” to discover Covid-19’s “patient zero” originated from Rhode Island in April 2019.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- The report received considerable user interest on WeChat (over 37K views), with some users claiming the U.S. “covered up the case to blame others.”
- *The China Daily*, a CCP media company that targets users in North America, posted a 20-second video on its Douyin account (34.7 million followers) that also claimed “patient zero” first emerged in the U.S. in April 2019. The video also claims that Covid-19 appeared in the U.S., Spain, France, Italy and Brazil much earlier than the first outbreak in China. The video received high user engagement (49K likes).

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 22 reporting period.

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 23.
- Conservative Party candidate Kenny Chiu continued to discuss his GE44 campaign and what impact false information played in his defeat.
 - In an interview on 980 CKNW, Chiu said false information spread in three stages: 1) through WeChat op-eds 2) through WeChat and WhatsApp group chats where additional incendiary remarks were made about Chiu 3) through diaspora radio stations who repeated the false claims.
 - Chiu believes there are “a dozen ridings” in the GTA and GVA where CPC candidates were targeted in a similar manner
- *Buyidao*, an anonymous blog run by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) *Global Times*, reported on the loss of Conservative Party candidates Kenny Chiu and Alice Wong in GE44. The author claims:
 - Chiu’s defeat to an “Indian candidate” (the LPC’s Parm Bains) in a city with the “highest density of Chinese residents” was “disastrous”
 - That ethnic Chinese in Canada have “only one wish – whoever is more anti-China, they must be pulled down! If one political party is more anti-China, than oppose that party!”
 - Chiu’s loss is a success because “there’s ‘less dog food’ among the ethnic Chinese” in Canada
 - The article received some attention from WeChat users (15.6K views) but no engagement on Facebook or Twitter

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 23, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 23, 2021 – 8:00PM September 23, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit¹

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Conservative national councillor launches petition to dump Erin O'Toole as leader</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>True North News</i>	6K	205	0	6.1K
<u>PPC to run three candidates for Alberta senate election in October</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>True North News</i>	3.9K	287	0	4.1K
<u>Canada to resume flights from India next week with additional COVID-19 measures</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	3.9K	42	0	3.9K
<u>Trudeau Glitches While Working His Way Through Woke Alphabet Soup</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>Charlie Kirk Show (Rumble)</i>	3.3K	0	0	3.3K
<u>Canada left out as US calls Australia its closest and 'most reliable' ally</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	2.9K	33	0	2.9K
<u>After Monday's vote, the federal Conservative caucus will be 95 per cent white</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	1.2K	673	654	2.5K
<u>Andrew Richter: Under the Liberals, Canada has effectively disappeared as an international actor</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	2.1K	159	38	2.3K
<u>Former top adviser to Harper blasts O'Toole for losing "winnable election"</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>True North News</i>	2.1K	108	0	2.2K

¹ Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Defeated Conservative MP fears attacks by pro-Beijing forces swung votes against him</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	1.3K	685	92	2.0K
<u>What the rise of the PPC says about Canada in 2021</u>	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	1.7K	229	72	2.0K

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Mon défi aux antivax!</u>	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	2.8K	32	0	2.8K
<u>Manifestations contre les mesures sanitaires Québec dépose sa loi</u>	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	1.6K	42	36	1.6K
<u>Deux jours après le scrutin, le bloquiste René Villemure l'emporte dans Trois-Rivières</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1K	66	165	1.2K
<u>Les manifestations anti-mesures sanitaires seront tenues à distance</u>	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.2K	50	0	1.2K
<u>Question sur le « racisme » au Québec Une « hystérie » injustifiée, dit Angus Reid</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	879	195	116	1.2K
<u>Les délinquants du français</u>	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	660	97	58	815

² Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Que penser du duo Trudeau-Singh pour quatre ans?</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	706	43	0	750
<u>Propagation du virus Des préposés estiment qu'Élections Canada les a exposés à un risque</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	419	8	0	427
<u>Le glamour de la marque Trudeau est fini</u>	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	183	150	0	333
<u>Yves-François Blanchet réclame un sommet fédéral sur les transferts en santé aux provinces</u>	Sep. 22, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	227	5	0	232

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title³	Date	Account	Total views⁴
<u>华裔政客打反华牌，失灵了？</u> (Ethnic Chinese playing the anti-China card... failed?)	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>Buyidao (Global Times)</i>	15.6K
<u>杜鲁多连任总理，深情致谢两个女人！不会再留大胡子了！</u> (Trudeau is re-elected as PM, and fondly thanks two women! And he won't grow a beard again!)	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>51.ca</i>	6.1K
<u>OMG，印度大军浩浩荡荡要来了！加拿大从下周开始，全面恢复印度的直飞航班！</u> (OMG, the Indian army is back! From next week, Canada will resume direct flights to India!)	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>VanPeople</i>	3.1K
<u>大选还没结束！13个选区仍在计票... 会不会有反转？</u> (The election isn't over yet! 13 districts are still counting votes... will there be a reversal?)	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>Dushi-Ca</i>	2.7K
<u>妻子背着他打疫苗 加拿大一男子闯进接种室殴打护士</u> (Canadian man assaults nurse after his wife gets vaccinated behind his back)	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>People's Daily Overseas</i>	2.1K
<u>还有悬念？大选尚未结束，九个选区仍在计票，自由党邮寄选票数远超其他政党</u> (Still in doubt? The election isn't over, nine riding are still counting ballots, the LPC have far more mail-in ballots than any other party)	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>TorLife</i>	1.5K
<u>尘埃落定！利好华人移民的自由党再次连任！移民政策从此放宽！</u> (The dust has settled! The LPC, which favors Chinese immigrants, has been re-elected! Immigration policy has since relaxed!)	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>VanPeople</i>	1.4K
<u>黑！加拿大政府文件：中国小留学生很多被忽悠上了劣质私校！中介为挣快钱</u> (Government documents: many Chinese young people were fooled into poor quality private schools! Intermediators did it to make quick money)	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>Mengchenghui</i>	1.0K
<u>华人力量！加拿大9位华裔胜选创纪录，列治文翻红！</u> (The force of ethnic Chinese! 9 Chinese Canadians claim victory, Richmond turns red!)	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>North American Observer</i>	1.0K
<u>西岛选区一片红 自由党地位难以撼动！</u> (West Vancouver turns red, the LPC's position will be hard to break!)	Sep. 23, 2021	<i>West Island Life</i>	1.0K

³ Article titles translated by RRM Canada

⁴ Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 23 originated from recognizable Canadian, U.K. and U.S. media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 23 were a mix of stories from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts and CCP media accounts.
- *Buyidao*, an anonymous blog run by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) *Global Times*, reported on the loss of Conservative Party candidates Kenny Chiu and Alice Wong in GE44. The author writes:
 - Chiu's defeat to an "Indian candidate" (the LPC's Parm Bains) in a city with the "highest density of Chinese residents" was "disastrous."
 - Chiu's private members bill C-282 would require "any individual or group connected with China be regarded as a spokesperson of the Chinese government" and that Chiu "completely ignored the sentiment of Chinese Canadians."
 - The Chinese community in Canada "do not have much political ideals, but only one wish – whoever is more anti-China, they must be pulled down! If one political party is more anti-China, than oppose that party!"
 - "The results of the election to the Chinese community is simple, there's 'less dog food' among ethnic Chinese!"
 - That CPC leader Erin O'Toole is "Canada's version of Trump who threatened to work against China if elected."
 - Ethnic Chinese need a "spokesperson who represent their interests"
 - "CPC candidates in Chinese-speaking areas are dancing to an 'anti-China' tune and will only end up being abandoned by Chinese voters."
 - The article received some attention from WeChat users (15.6K page views) but did not elicit any discussion on Facebook or Twitter.
- Conservative Party candidate Kenny Chiu continued to discuss his GE44 campaign and what impact false information played in his defeat.
 - In a 20-minute [interview](#) with Jas Johal on 980 CKNW, Chiu said a campaign began against him "just before the advance poll date" and focused on his private members' bill C-282. Chiu said he faced an "information tsunami" during his campaign, and that most of the messages appeared on WeChat and WhatsApp.
 - Chiu said there were "three pillars to the misinformation":
 - "Official letters or commentators" who produce "op-eds"

UNCLASSIFIED
G7 RRM CANADA
Monday, October 18, 2021

- WeChat groups and discussion channels will broadcast and add more color commentary to the op-eds
- “On-air CRTC-regulated radio stations” will then “repeat the same false accusation” and “attack myself and my party”
- Chiu was asked if he viewed the media outlets who broadcasted false information about his campaign as “proxies” of the CCP, in which he replied “some of them” could be, and that ethnic Chinese radio stations in Vancouver were “hesitant” to invite him onto their programs to discuss C-282
- When asked what Canada should do about the situation, Chiu said “failing to understand nuances and complexities” of the ethnic Chinese diaspora “could hurt our national unity” and that members of both the mainland Chinese and Hong Kong community supported his campaign
- Chiu believes there are “a dozen ridings” in the GTA and GVA that were likely targeted with “one-way” information. He adds that the Chinese diaspora is “not reading the same newspaper or listening radio station” as the rest of Canada, suggesting that some Sinophone speakers in Canada are receiving biased information about the election.
- Political pundits on Twitter also commented on allegations of an information operation against Chiu and the Conservatives:
 - MacDonald-Laurier Institute Director Aaron Wudrick said there should be a “serious investigation” into the allegations, but suggested the LPC would not review the incident because it “happened to an opposition MP.”
 - A Facebook group run by Canada Strong and Proud -- a GE44 registered third party – said that the information operation against Chiu was “disturbing” and also claimed that “CCP money filtered into Canada in some kind of election interference.” The post received 153 engagements.

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 23 reporting period.

-IOL

From: [REDACTED] -IOL
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 8:17 PM
To: Dobner, Gallit -IOL; [REDACTED] -IOL
Cc: [REDACTED] -IOL; [REDACTED] -IOL; [REDACTED] -IOL; [REDACTED] IOL
Subject: RE: Follow up on WeChat stories

Hi Gallit, here's what I've been able to find from the various sources in the email. Some of the stories attached are ones RRM Canada has documented in the past, others are totally new. I'll address each one, instead of as a group, because they appear to have different circumstances in each case:

Item 1: (IMG_1111) Political ad at a Foody Mart



- There's a reflection on the screen, so I couldn't make out some of the Chinese characters, but here's a quick translation, partly using DeepL to speed things along:
 - o "O'Tooles's Conservatives Want to Put Dangerous Weapons Back on the Streets. O'Toole's Conservatives is in cahoots with gun interests while putting your children and seniors at risk of **** school violence. Not only did O'Toole do nothing in the face of anti-Asian hatred and racism, but he voted in the House of Commons to encourage then-Conservative MP Derek Sloan to actually say it. Do you think the Conservative Party cares about us?"
- The ad appeared on a digital ad board at Foody Mart, a supermarket chain in the GTA that stocks food items from East and Southeast Asia. They have a location in Scarborough and one in Unionville.
- Based on key words and the text of the ad, I was not able to find a similar ad online through a search engine.
- I don't have any idea at all who published the ad. Based on this one photo, there's nothing in the content of the ad that indicates who is the original publisher. If it was a political party, they would of course be subject to some requirements from EC, including a disclaimer that it was authorized by the official agent. Since this is a digital (but perhaps not online) platform, there are also requirements for the company that is hosting the ad, such as establishing a registry of all the ads it hosts on its platforms.
- Some of the text of the ad resembles LPC sponcon in Canadian Chinese language press on Sept. 07; see examples of said ad here: ([51.ca](#), [CC Info](#), [CFC News](#))

- **Thoughts:** I would need more info before making a definite conclusion, but my hunch is this an LPC political ad, not FI.

Item 2: WeChat Article 1-6 (WeChat private message screengrabs of Zhang Bo article)



- Based on the interface, this is very likely a private chat message or group chat message in WeChat. It appears the WeChat user has copied a Sept. 8 editorial by a writer named “Zhang Bo (张波)” from a publication called *Canadian Chinese Media News* (加拿大华文融媒体新闻) on September 8th; I haven’t been able to find any information about who this Zhang Bo person is.
- the editorial content is somewhat similar in tone to a Sept. 9th editorial from the Chinese-language Today Commercial News warning voters not to vote for CPC candidate Kenny Chiu. I’ve translated some of the excerpts of the message into English below:
 - o Title: Talk about the crisis in the Chinese community. A Call to Action to Save Ourselves: Stop the Extremist Conservatives!
 - o “Conservatives are several times tougher than the Liberals in their attitude towards China, and this is a crisis for us Chinese... In the history of China-Canada relations, we have never experienced politicians pushing for a general deterioration of China-Canada relations, the consequences of which are unpredictable for the Chinese in Canada.”
 - o If Trump is elected to power in Canada, what happens to the Chinese in the U.S. is a preview of our future.
 - o As a Chinese person, no matter what your usual political views are, and no matter how much you like or dislike the parties and their leaders, you should not vote for the Conservative Party, which is promoting an all-out anti-Chinese agenda, at a time when the survival and fate of the Chinese people will change dramatically.
 - o Multiculturalism has always been the foundation of our survival in Canada. Chinese people are in danger, so save yourself. Please take action and mobilize your friends and family to vote for the Liberals in the September 20 election to prevent the extreme anti-Chinese Conservative Party from coming to power.”

- So, the contents of this article was also copied and pasted onto the web version of the York BBS messaging board on Sept 9th. My hunch is the WeChat message above is also from this time period.
- It's unusual that the publication of the editorial (Sept 8th) comes so close to the publication of the one in Today Commercial News on Sept. 9th. I've since found another editorial also on Sep 9th by a sister publication of the 51.ca Wechat account that published a headline "Why the Chinese should oppose the CPC MP Kenny Chiu";
- Final thoughts: there is some unusual coordination between seemingly disparate Chinese-language news outlets publishing "don't vote CPC" or "don't vote for Kenny Chiu" all around the same date, Sept 8th and 9th.
- The Zhang Bo editorial in question originated from a website (*Canadian Chinese Media News*) that does not appear to have any presence on Weibo or Wechat. The content of the WeChat message is identical to the Zhang Bo editorial, but the WeChat message bears no indication that it was copied from the *Canadian Chinese Media News* web page (such as left over html, formatting errors, etc.)
 - o Since news is so siloed between the normal web and Chinese social media apps like WeChat, it's unusual that an article from the normal web makes it into wechat, much less into a private message; it's not impossible, it's just a pain to do it.
 - o Also, the WeChat message has very clean formatting and punctuation; normally if you copy and paste all the text from a web page into a wechat message (or whatsapp) it would really messy. You'd see awkward spacing, lines that don't match up perfectly, and some left over html coding; there's none of that in this wechat message. It's almost as if it was cleaned up specifically to be copied into a wechat private message.
 - o There's also no attempt to drive traffic to the *Canadian Chinese Media News* site (no url to the original article); it appears the message is being shared only to sway the reader
- **Thoughts:** It's unusual that there are so many Chinese language op-eds all published around the same date (sep 8-9) in seemingly disparate publications, and that the contents of one of these op-eds (that does not appear to have much engagement if any on wechat) would suddenly appear in a cleaned-up wechat message. Aside from the Zhang Bo editorial content, however, there is nothing that indicates who the original sender is, and I would hesitate to attribute any FI, based on the screenshots available. Perhaps there is some coordination between the *Canadian Chinese Media News* and the sender of the WeChat message.

Item 3: Wechat Article2 1-3 (WeChat group message: Author is "an 82 year old ethnic Chinese")



- Based on the interface, this is very likely a private chat message or group chat message in WeChat.
- Here's a short rundown of the content:

- The sender is sending a message with a title at the top that reads: (Author: An 82 year old ethnic Chinese) and then address the readers with “my dear countrymen living overseas, there are still more than 2 weeks to go, the federal election that happens every few years is upon us.” The author then says “all three parties have their problems” but “we need to select one that is good for the economy and good for ethnic Chinese interests”
- “We ethnic Chinese have to stick together, and don’t let the fiercely anti-Chinese Conservatives take power. All Chinese should vote for Liberal candidates in their riding, and defeat the Conservatives. Thank you everyone!”
- I could not locate a corresponding web article for this wechat message, and it appears to be a totally original creation made to be shared in wechat group messages.
- **Thoughts:** Like the above message, there is nothing that indicates who the original sender is, and I would hesitate to attribute any FI, based on the screenshots available. However, the timing of the message is unusual. Based on the sender’s own message (“more than two weeks to go for the federal election”), the wechat message would have appeared around the same time as the above op-eds that paint a poor picture of the Conservative’s China policies and Kenny Chiu’s C-282 bill.

Item 4: Canadian version of Trump? The leader of the Conservatives wants to ban WeChat.

- This piece is from York BBS; it’s one we documented when it first appeared on the York BBS WeChat news account in late August/early Sept.
- York BBS appears to be the first account to push this line that ‘O’Toole would “ban WeChat”
- **Thoughts:** After York BBS published the first claim that O’Toole would ban WeChat, accounts like VanPeople shared it as well. However, Chinese state-media did not appear to follow suit; RRM Canada did not detect any outlets like the Global Times, People’s Daily, or Xinhua picking up the story during the writ period. However, York BBS frequently shared pro-Chinese Communist Party narratives and stories throughout the election, and made its position clear that it favoured the Liberals over the Conservatives.

Item 5: Kenny Chiu WeChat message (mainland immigrant = CCP’er?)

- Sadly I wasn’t able to find anything about this story.

Data Analyst

Centre for International Digital Policy | Centre pour la Politique Numérique Internationale

Office of Human Rights, Freedoms and Inclusion | Bureau des droits de la personne, des libertés et de l’inclusion

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Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

RRM Canada Open Data Analysis – Ad Hoc Reports

Table of Contents

The impact of de-platforming on detecting foreign interference.....	1
Foreign Information Manipulation in the 2020 US Elections.....	4
Inauthentic Activity Supporting Pro-Kremlin Navalny Narratives Online.....	11
Website Network Spreading Disinformation Aligned with or Leveraged by Foreign States.....	14
The Establishment [REDACTED] Alternative Platforms.....	26
Shadow Amplification: United Health Professionals Influence Campaign	30
Shadow Network: French Language Websites [REDACTED] Spreading COVID-19 Disinformation	36
Chinese State Media Accounts Spread Narrative that Two Michaels are “Spies” while Chinese Platforms Censor News of Meng Wanzhou DPA.....	45

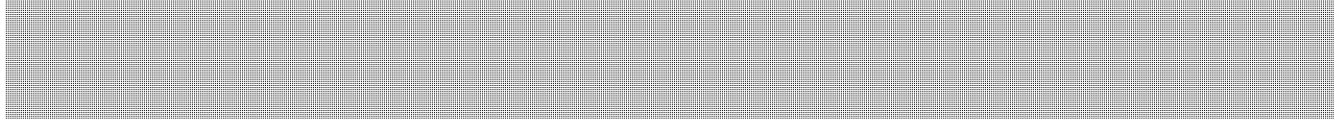
DEEP DIVE

The impact of de-platforming on detecting foreign interference

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Summary

- The recent large-scale de-platforming of President Trump supporters and alternative-media outlets from mainstream social media platforms has implications for monitoring and detecting foreign interference online.



Issue

The actions by large social media companies to de-platform problematic accounts and outlets following the Capitol Hill Riots on January 6 have far-reaching implications for efforts to monitor and detect foreign interference (FI) online. The purpose of this Deep Dive is to outline the most significant implications, briefly assess their impact on the Canadian digital ecosystem, and suggest next steps for open data analysis performed by the Rapid Response Mechanism and data analytics teams across the Government of Canada.

Background

Just after 1 PM on January 6, when President Trump ended his speech to protesters in Washington by calling for them to march on Congress, hundreds of echoing calls to storm the building were made by his supporters online. Calls for violence against members of Congress and for pro-Trump movements to retake the Capitol building had been circulating online for months, culminating in this moment, when online propaganda and disinformation became real-world violence.

48 hours after the events of January 6, Twitter announced that it was permanently suspending President Trump's @realdonaldtrump account "due to the risk of further incitement of violence." Facebook, Instagram, Google, Spotify, Snapchat, Shopify, Reddit, Twitch, YouTube, TikTok and Pinterest all followed suit. The accounts of many Trump supporters, political staff, and reporters were likewise suspended for breach of Terms of Service. These users quickly migrated to Twitter alternative Parler. However, consistent with the actions of other platforms, Google and Apple removed the Parler app from their app stores on January 9. On January 11, Amazon's AWS dropped Parler's hosting services and the site went down. Email, text message and website vendors all refused to host Parler. De-platformed users next made their way to Gab (though its servers are currently unable to handle the influx of new members), Telegram, CloutHub (also struggling with the influx of new subscribers), MeWe, Donald.win, etc.

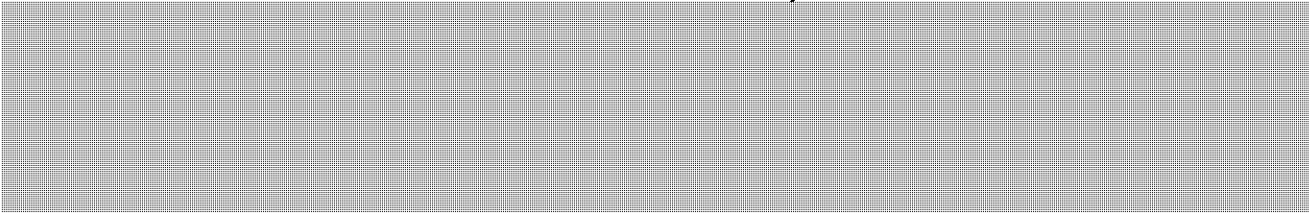
Implications for Detecting Foreign Interference Online

This mass migration of a conservative media audience to alternative platforms has implications for identifying foreign interference online and may result in new threat vectors for exploitation by hostile foreign actors.

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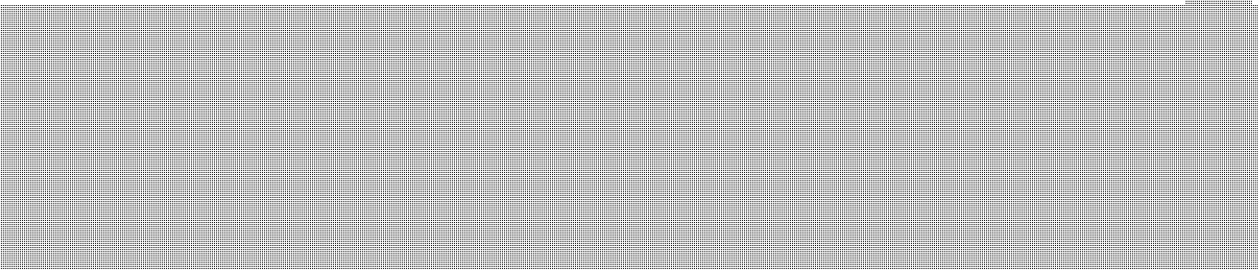
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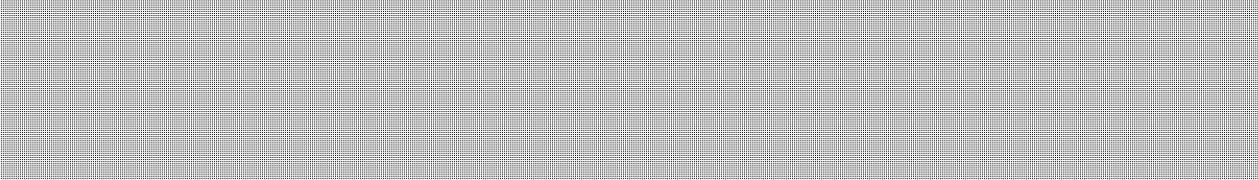


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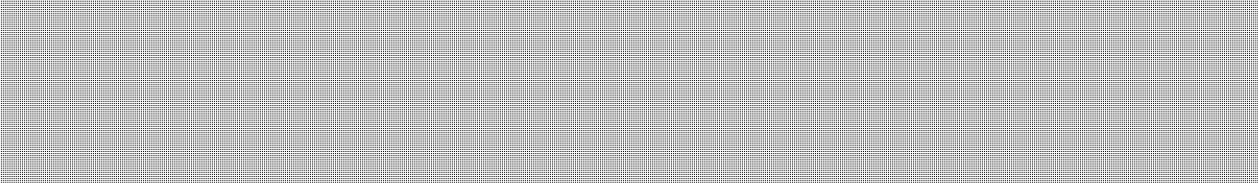
According to Data and Society, data voids occur when “obscure search queries have few results associated with them, making them ripe for exploitation by media manipulators with ideological, economic, or political agendas.”¹



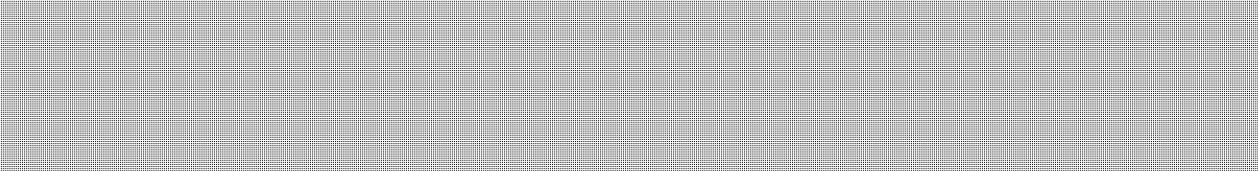
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Implications for Canada

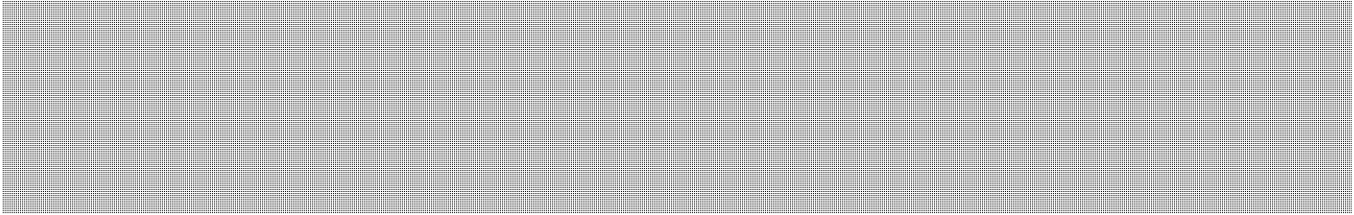
The de-platforming has affected the Canadian digital ecosystem. Elected officials and other Canadian influencers have lost access to their Twitter, Facebook and now Parler accounts.

¹ Data voids are difficult to detect. Generally speaking, data voids are not a liability until something happens that results in an increase of searches on a term. Some are created by media manipulators, and escape notice for long periods of time. Others are the sudden products of a news spike, as millions are prompted to search names or terms for the first time, and misleading or hateful content is created to meet demand. Search-adjacent recommendation systems, like search bar auto-suggestions, further complicate the data voids problem by providing auto-suggestions that can send people down deeply disturbing paths.

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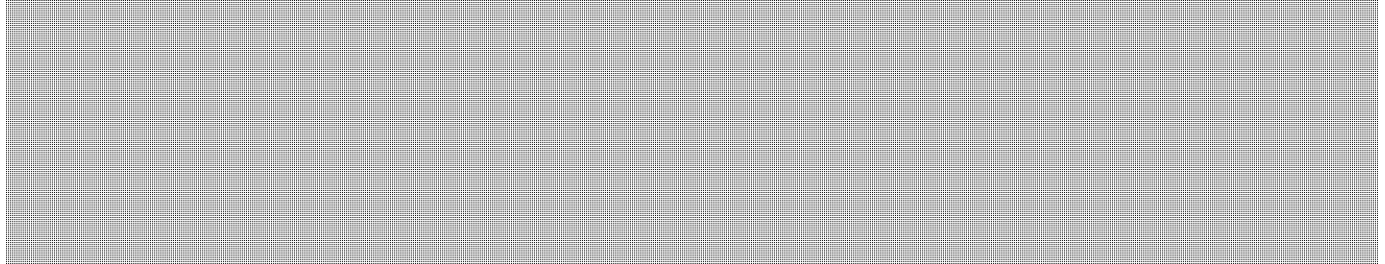
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Next Steps

As the situation continues to unfold, RRM Canada and other relevant teams across the Government of Canada will need to:



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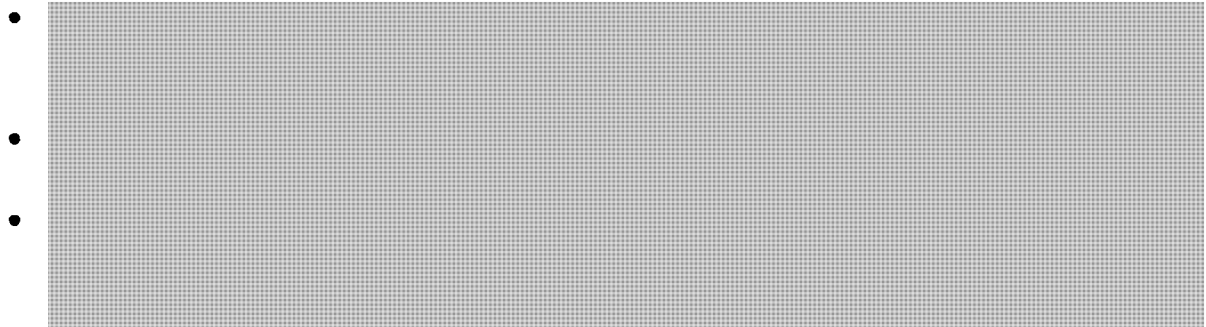
RRM Deep Dive

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Foreign Information Manipulation in the 2020 US Elections

SUMMARY

- The US intelligence community identified cyber-enabled foreign interference in elections, specifically information manipulation and disinformation, as a significant threat to the 2020 US election.
- They subsequently linked three threat actors to this kind of interference activity during the 2020 election, including spear-phishing attacks and a covert social media campaign (China), a hack and leak operation (Russia), and an email disinformation campaign (Iran).



REPORT

This assessment of foreign information manipulation in the 2020 United States elections seeks to contribute to a greater awareness of the threats from foreign information manipulation to Canada's 44th General Election (GE44). It is based on published intelligence assessments of US government agencies and a range of secondary sources.

Foreign Information Manipulation in Elections

Canada, the US and other liberal democracies face a persistent threat from authoritarian adversaries, who seek to undermine democratic values, institutions and processes in order to re-shape the international rules based order to their advantage. In elections, the adoption of electronic and online voting, voter tabulation and voter registration, as well as the growth of online communication and information sharing, have rendered interference easier, cheaper, and harder to detect. Authoritarian states like China, Russia and Iran have used information manipulation in social and traditional media in an effort to shape voters' preferences and perspectives, to shift policies, to increase discord and to undermine confidence in the democratic process. In order to assess the current threat to GE44, and help safeguard against it, it is critical to understand how foreign information manipulation was employed in the 2020 US elections.

2020 US Elections

One hundred days before the 2020 US elections, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence noted that China, Russia and Iran were the primary threat actors of concern,

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seeking to “use influence measures in social and traditional media in an effort to sway U.S. voters’ preferences and perspectives, to shift U.S. policies, to increase discord and to undermine confidence in our democratic process¹.”

The 2020 US elections took place against the background of a global pandemic, which has further exacerbated geopolitical competition between democracies and autocracies and significantly altered domestic politics in many countries across the globe. A combination of misinformation (erroneous) and disinformation (deliberate) propagated by both state and non-state actors has been polluting the information environment since the early days of COVID-19.

These states have employed information manipulation to sow doubt about the origins of the virus and the means required to counter it; discredit democratic responses to COVID-19 while casting their own as superior; and erode confidence in values of democracy and human rights².

The convergence of COVID-19 and the 2020 election was the “perfect superstorm for misinformation” as America’s pre-existing fault lines were further exacerbated by a range of actors seeking to profit, sow discord or promote a political agenda³. While disinformation sponsored by authoritarian foreign state actors has been of particular concern,

China

Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe identified China as the greatest threat America was facing, arguing that China was using a massive and

¹Office of the Director of National Intelligence, “Statement by NCSC Director William Evanina: 100 Days until Election 2020,” July 24, 2020.

²European Commission, Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Tackling COVID-19 disinformation - Getting the facts right, June 10, 2020.

³Sandi Doughton, “COVID-19 meets Election 2020: the perfect storm for misinformation”, Seattle Times, July 5, 2020.

⁴Laura Hazard Owen, “A new study shows how Trump and the RNC duped traditional media into covering mail-in voter fraud,” NiemanLab, October 5, 2020.

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sophisticated influence campaign that dwarfed anything that any country was doing⁵. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] China's role in electoral interference in the US was foreshadowed by its rapidly evolving COVID-19 related disinformation, including against the US, as Beijing faced sustained international criticism for its handling of the outbreak in early 2020 and for its efforts to control the narratives about the pandemic⁶.

Beijing has been linked to activity during the 2020 US election, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Accounts associated with covert pro-Chinese social media campaign dubbed "Spamouflage Dragon" started posting English-language videos critical of American policy and the administration of President Donald Trump in June. Content disseminated through the network focused on the administration's handling of the pandemic, China's policy, and political unrest in the US⁷.

Russia

[REDACTED] The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) has identified 31 elections and seven referendums involving 26 states over the past decade in which Russia allegedly used cyber-enabled foreign interference tactics⁹. The Internet Research Agency (IRA) has been one of the principal players in Russian efforts to pursue information manipulation. Other Russian state organizations, including Russia's military intelligence, the GRU, have also been active.

⁵ Susan Jones, "DNI Ratcliffe: 'China's 'Sophisticated Influence Campaign...Dwarfs Anything That Any Other Country Is Doing' ", CNSNews, August 31, 2020.

⁶ Sarah Cook, "Beijing's Coronavirus Propaganda Has Both Foreign and Domestic Targets," Freedom House, April 20, 2020; European Commission, Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Tackling COVID-19 disinformation - Getting the facts right.

⁷ Ben Nimmo, Camille Francois, C. Shawn Eib and Lea Ronzaud, "Spamouflage Goes to America", Graphika, August, 2020.

⁸ Sarah O'Connor et al., Cyber-enabled foreign interference in elections and referendums, p. 15.

⁹ Ibid., p. 13.

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Recent research by the US interdepartmental Global Engagement Center (GEC) has shed light on Russia's disinformation and propaganda ecosystem, which consists of five mutually reinforcing pillars: official government communications, state-funded global messaging, cultivation of proxy sources, weaponization of social media, and cyber-enabled disinformation. It also focuses specific attention on Russia's tactic of leveraging proxy voices that proliferate pro-Kremlin disinformation and propaganda¹⁰.

According to Alex Stamos, Director of the Stanford Internet Observatory, only a few Russian disinformation efforts succeeded in reaching a wider audience in the 2020 US Election. One such action involved leveraging its state-funded media channel Russia Today (RT) to revive and amplify the 2018 narrative of a "deep state" orchestrated colour revolution against President Trump. Another tactic observed during the 2020 US election was "information laundering," a more covert and potentially dangerous activity whereby Russian intelligence agencies use allies and operatives to place articles, including disinformation, into various fringe websites¹¹.

Finally, Russia has also been linked to a classic hack and leak operation in attempt to discredit then Democratic nominee Joe Biden. In January 2020, a US Security firm assessed that the Ukrainian firm Burisma was compromised by a GRU affiliated hacking group dubbed "Fancy Bear."



This assessment is consistent with the statement of NCSC Director Evanina, who said that Russia had been trying to denigrate Biden's campaign, specifically through a pro-Russia, Ukrainian parliamentarian named Andriy Derkach, who was spreading claims about Biden's corruption, including through publicizing leaked phone calls¹⁴. Notably, the US sanctioned Derkach in September 2020 for his attempt to influence the election; they also sanctioned an associated seven individuals and four entities for their part in a Russia-linked effort to undermine the election in January 2021.

According to NCSC Director Evanina, Russia's persistent objective is to weaken the United States and diminish its global role. Using a range of efforts, including internet trolls and other proxies, Russia continues to spread disinformation in the US that is designed to undermine

¹⁰ U.S. Department of State, GEC Special Report: Pillars of Russia's Disinformation and Propaganda Ecosystem, Global Engagement Center, August 2020, pp. 8-14.

¹¹ Sheera Frenkel and Julian E. Barnes, Russians Again Targeting Americans With Disinformation, Facebook and Twitter Say, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/01/technology/facebook-russia-isinformation-election.html>

¹² Emma-Jo Morris and Gabrielle Fonroque, "Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad", New York Post, October 14, 2020.

¹³ "Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails", October 19, 2020.

¹⁴ Office of the Director of National Intelligence, "Statement by NCSC Director William Evanina: Election Threat Update for the American Public", August 7, 2020.

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confidence in America's democratic process and denigrate what it sees as an anti-Russia "establishment" in America¹⁵.

Iran

According to NCSC Director Evanina: "Iran seeks to undermine US democratic institutions and divide the country in advance of the elections. Iran's efforts center around online influence, such as spreading disinformation on social media and recirculating anti-U.S. content¹⁷."

Lessons learned from observing both Russian and Chinese influence operations, along with partnerships with Moscow and Beijing, has enabled Iran to become a significant threat actor undermining democracy in the US¹⁸.

¹⁵ Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Statement by NCSC Director William Evanina: 100 Days until Election 2020, July 24, 2020.

¹⁶ Jen Kirby, "Yes, Russia is interfering in the 2020 election," Vox, September 21, 2020; Isabelle Niu, Cassie Bracken and Alexandra Eaton, "Russia Created an Election Disinformation Playbook. Here's How Americans Evolved It," New York Times, October 25, 2020.

¹⁷ Office of the Director of National Intelligence, "Statement by NCSC Director William Evanina: 100 Days until Election 2020."

¹⁸ The greater convergence among Russia, China and Iran on TTPs related to information manipulation campaigns is a recent development, and has its roots in the early days of the COVID19 pandemic. During the pandemic, these three actors not only relied on the similar TTPs but also converged around specific narratives, including those that argued that the novel coronavirus was an American biological weapon (source). However, it must be noted that important differences remain. In sharp contrast to the information operations of Russia, which routinely disseminate false stories with the aim of polluting the information environment, Iran makes less use of obvious falsehood. Instead, Iran advances a distorted truth, one that exaggerates Iran's moral authority while minimizing Iran's repression of its citizens and the steep human cost of its own imperial adventures in the wider Middle East. Emerson E Brooking and Suzanne Kianpour, Iranian Digital Influence Efforts: Guerilla Broadcasting for the Twenty-First Century, Atlantic Council, 2020.

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[REDACTED]

Iran was behind a series of intimidating emails sent to registered Democratic voters in Florida, Alaska and Pennsylvania at the end of October 2020²⁰. After a tipoff from the FBI, which announced Iran was behind the email disinformation campaign, Facebook removed the related account on its platform. The US also sanctioned five Iranian groups that it says attempted to interfere in the 2020 presidential election. The US Treasury Department designated Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the IRGC's Quds Force, and the Bayan Rasaneh Gostar Institute "for having directly or indirectly engaged in, sponsored, concealed, or otherwise been complicit in foreign interference" in the November 3 election²¹.

Domestic Information Manipulation

[REDACTED]

First, social media platforms have become more active in denying opportunities to malign actors, including those linked to foreign states, to spread disinformation among US voters²². Social media was an important conduit for [REDACTED] election interference during the 2016 elections²³. Since then, all major platforms have established policies on mis/disinformation, conspiracy theories, or foreign election interference.

[REDACTED]

The post-election period has been of critical

¹⁹ Ariane Tabatabai, Iran's Authoritarian Playbook: The Tactics, Doctrine, and Objectives behind Iran's Influence Operations, Alliance for Securing Democracy, September 17, 2020, pp. 14-19.

²⁰ Shannon Vavra, "US blames Iran for threatening emails sent to Florida voters," Cyberscoop, October 21, 2020.

²¹ "US sanctions Iranian groups for 'attempted election interference'", Aljazeera, October 22, 2020.

²² Carlie Porterfield, "Twitter Shares New Warning Labels For Tweets Prematurely Calling 2020 Election Results," Forbes, November 2, 2020; Siladitya Ray, "Facebook Will Block New Political Ads In The Week Before Election Day," Forbes, September 3, 2020; Siladitya Ray, "Google Will Ban All Election-Related Ads After Polls Close On Nov 3," Forbes, October 27, 2020.

²³ Alex Stamos, "An Update On Information Operations On Facebook," Facebook, September 6, 2017.

²⁴ Julia Carrie Wong, "'Putin could only dream of it': how Trump became the biggest source of disinformation in 2020," The Guardian, November 2, 2020.

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importance this time around as well. Experts have cautioned that the worst may still be yet to come, as foreign actors leverage significant domestic disinformation²⁵. As the US intelligence agencies said in a joint statement in September, “[f]oreign actors and cybercriminals could exploit the time required to certify and announce elections’ results by disseminating disinformation that includes reports of voter suppression, cyberattacks targeting election infrastructure, voter or ballot fraud, and other problems intended to convince the public of the elections’ illegitimacy²⁶.” However, it was domestic actors,

The “Stop the Steal” movement, whose adherents have spread the lie that election officials acted to “steal” the election from President Trump, demonstrates how false narratives have caught on among segments of the population, deepening political polarization and distrust in democratic institutions²⁷.

Implications for Canada

The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security wrote in its 2020 national cyber threat assessment²⁸ that online foreign influence activities were a new normal and that adversaries sought to influence domestic events as well as impact international discourse related to current events. While Canada is a lower-priority target for online foreign influence activity, the Canadian media ecosystem is closely intertwined with that of the US, meaning that when American society is targeted, Canadians become exposed to online influence as a type of collateral damage. This has important implications in the context of US domestic disinformation as well, specifically on the potential for it to impact the Canadian electorate. The fraudulent election narrative is of particular concern, not least because it has a Canadian dimension based on the alleged role of Dominion Voting Systems in manipulating votes to swing the election for President Biden.²⁹

Drafted: IOL/

Approved: IOL/Dobner

Consulted: Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Task Force, NGA

Released: February 3, 2021

²⁵ Laura Rosenberger, “The Real Threat of Foreign Interference Comes After Election Day,” Foreign Affairs, October 26, 2020.

²⁶ Public Service Announcement, “Foreign Actors and Cybercriminals Likely to Spread Disinformation Regarding 2020 Election Results,” FBI & CISA, September 22, 2020.

²⁷ Alistair Somerville and Jonas Heering, “The Disinformation Shift: From Foreign to Domestic,” Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, November 28, 2020.

²⁸ Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, National Cyber Threat Assessment 2020, Communications Security Establishment, November 2020.

²⁹ John Paul Tasker, “Toronto company finds itself at the centre of Trump’s unfounded vote fraud allegations,” CBC News, November 18, 2020.

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OPEN DATA ANALYSIS¹

INAUTHENTIC ACTIVITY SUPPORTING PRO-KREMLIN NAVALNY NARRATIVES ONLINE

Findings

- Russian official media outlets, affiliated websites, and selected Russian official Twitter accounts disseminated narratives discrediting Alexei Navalny and defending the Kremlin position, following the release of a G7 statement condemning Navalny's arrest.
- RRM Canada did not detect any signs of inauthentic or coordinated activity [REDACTED]
- Partner reporting identified likely inauthentic [REDACTED]

Purpose

The purpose of this analysis was to determine if inauthentic and/or coordinated activity accompanied the spread of pro-Kremlin narratives related to the arrest and detention of Navalny, including following a G7 statement condemning these actions.

Methodology

RRM Canada reviewed, analyzed, and compared English-language narratives about Navalny between January 26 and February 3, 2021. The following channels/sources were selected as potential vectors of information manipulation:

- 1) Russian official media outlets
- 2) Websites known to be part of the Russian disinformation ecosystem²

Russian Official Media Outlets

RRM Canada identified the following narratives when reviewing Russian official media outlets:

Narrative	Number of articles
Comments on Navalny are a case of foreign interference	9
Navalny is a criminal who broke his probation	6
Navalny is a nationalist	2
Navalny is an American/Western agent	2
Navalny is the source of an international conspiracy to embarrass Russia	1
Navalny and Julian Assange should receive the same treatment	1

The narratives tended to focus on a legalistic defense of Russian law and Russian independence. However, Russian television network RT released a video, supposedly leaked by Russian intelligence services, showing a

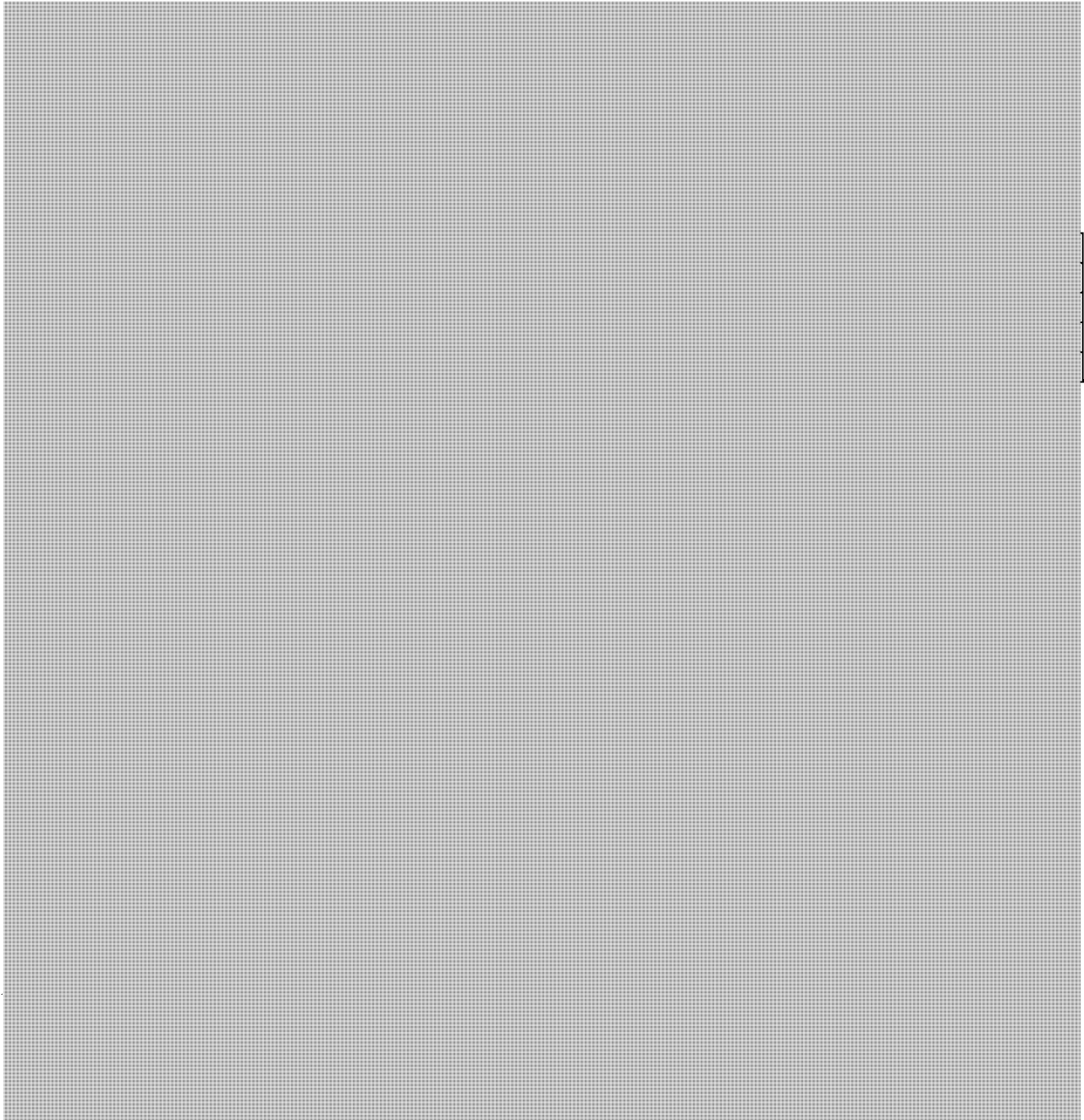
¹ Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada produces Open Data Analysis to chart trends, strategies and tactics in foreign interference. This analysis supports the G7 RRM, an initiative agreed by the G7 in 2018, to strengthen coordination to identify and respond to diverse and evolving threats to G7 democracies, including through sharing information and analysis, and identifying opportunities for coordinated response.

² <https://www.state.gov/russias-pillars-of-disinformation-and-propaganda-report/>

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member of Navalny's Foundation for the Fight against Corruption negotiating with a supposed MI6 agent for funding.³



³ The video is available at <https://youtu.be/k227KvKFYN8>, or on RT (<https://rt.com/russia/514291-navalny-aide-funding-alleged-british-spy/> (link disabled to prevent accidental clicks)).



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Drafted by: RRM Canada
Approved by: IOL/Gallit Dobner
Released: Mar 15, 2021

OPEN DATA ANALYSIS¹

Website Network Spreading Disinformation Aligned with or Leveraged by Foreign States

Key Findings

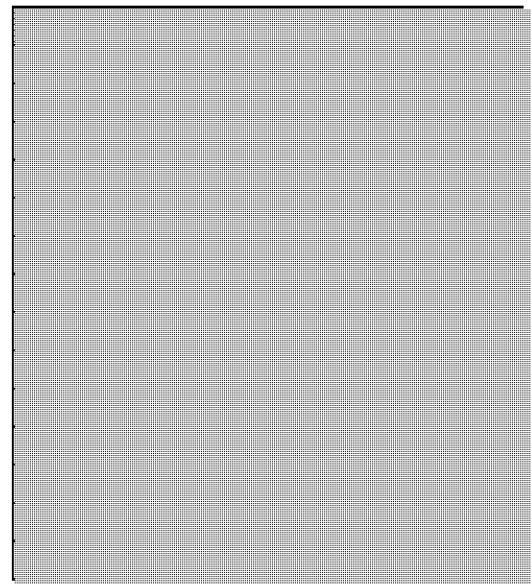
- RRM Canada identified a coordinated transnational network of fourteen websites spreading disinformation and polarizing narratives in multiple languages.
- The disinformation and polarizing narratives are oftentimes aligned with foreign state objectives and/or narratives and, in some instances, leveraged by foreign states.
- The network exhibits indicators of information manipulation, including the following six tactics, techniques and procedures that serve to amplify and legitimize content: cross-pollination, back-linking, geographical targeting, search engine optimization manipulation, domain authority score manipulation and information laundering.

Background

Recent research suggests that malign state and/or non-state actors are fostering a disinformation ecosystem online, using a network of proxies who covertly leverage websites and social media platforms to create and amplify disinformation and polarizing narratives. This ecosystem supports a multiplicity of diverse and often reinforcing information manipulation strategies.

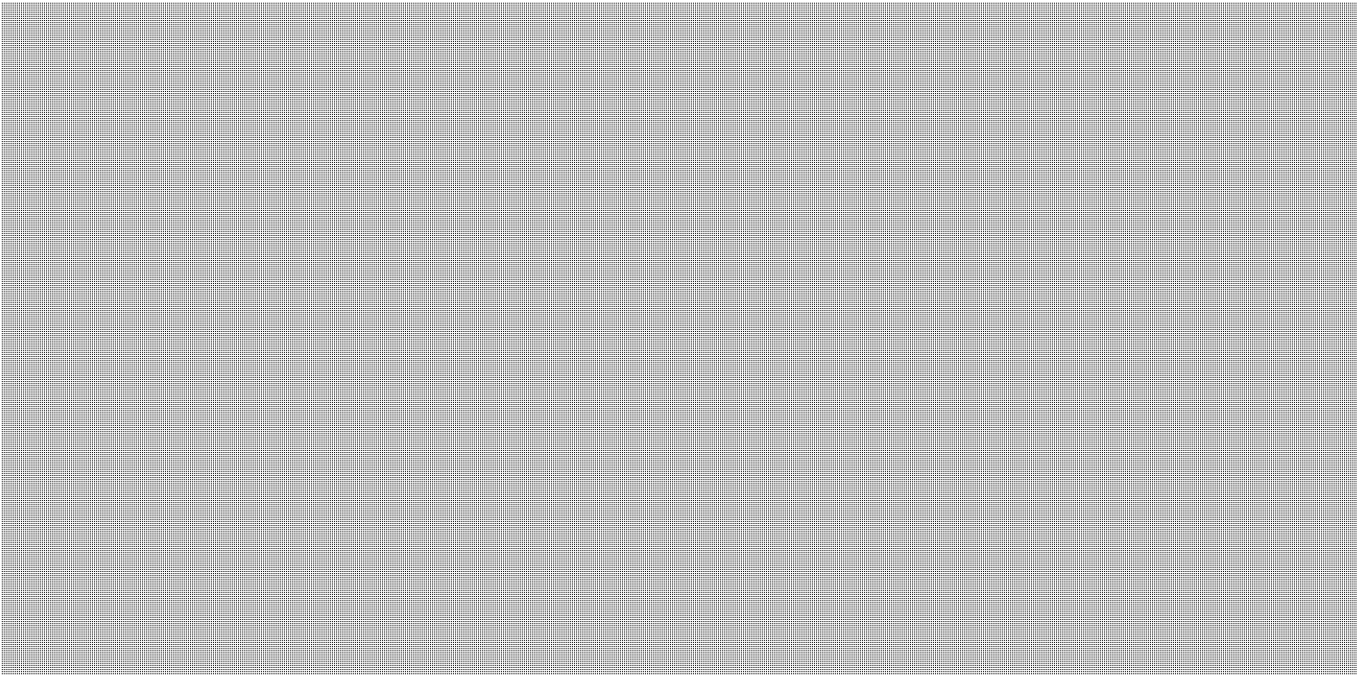
Objective

This report aims to further define the evolving tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) that malign state actors may be adopting to conduct foreign interference operations online. It assesses the reach, role, and impact of a network of fourteen web sites (see Table 1) spreading disinformation online that is aligned with foreign state narratives and, in some instances, leveraged by foreign states. It builds on recent research by the US interagency Global Engagement Center^{xiii}, which analysed seven of these websites^{xiv}. This report demonstrates how these web sites operate in a coordinated fashion to manipulate information, including legitimizing foreign state narratives.



¹ Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada produces Open Data Analysis to chart trends, strategies and tactics in foreign interference. This analysis supports the G7 RRM, an initiative agreed by the G7 in 2018, to strengthen coordination to identify and respond to diverse and evolving threats to G7 democracies, including through sharing information and analysis, and identifying opportunities for coordinated response.

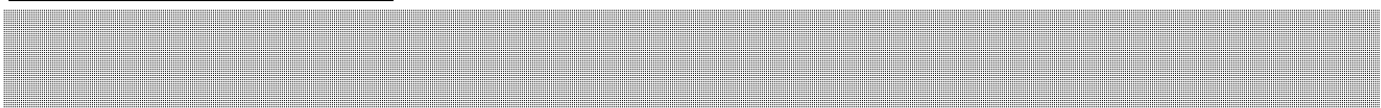
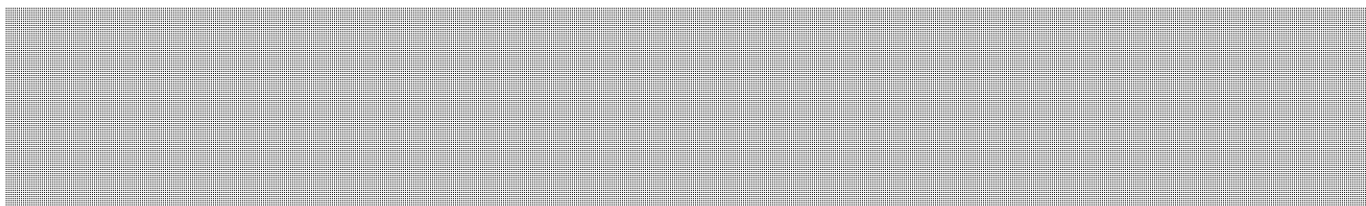
Methodology

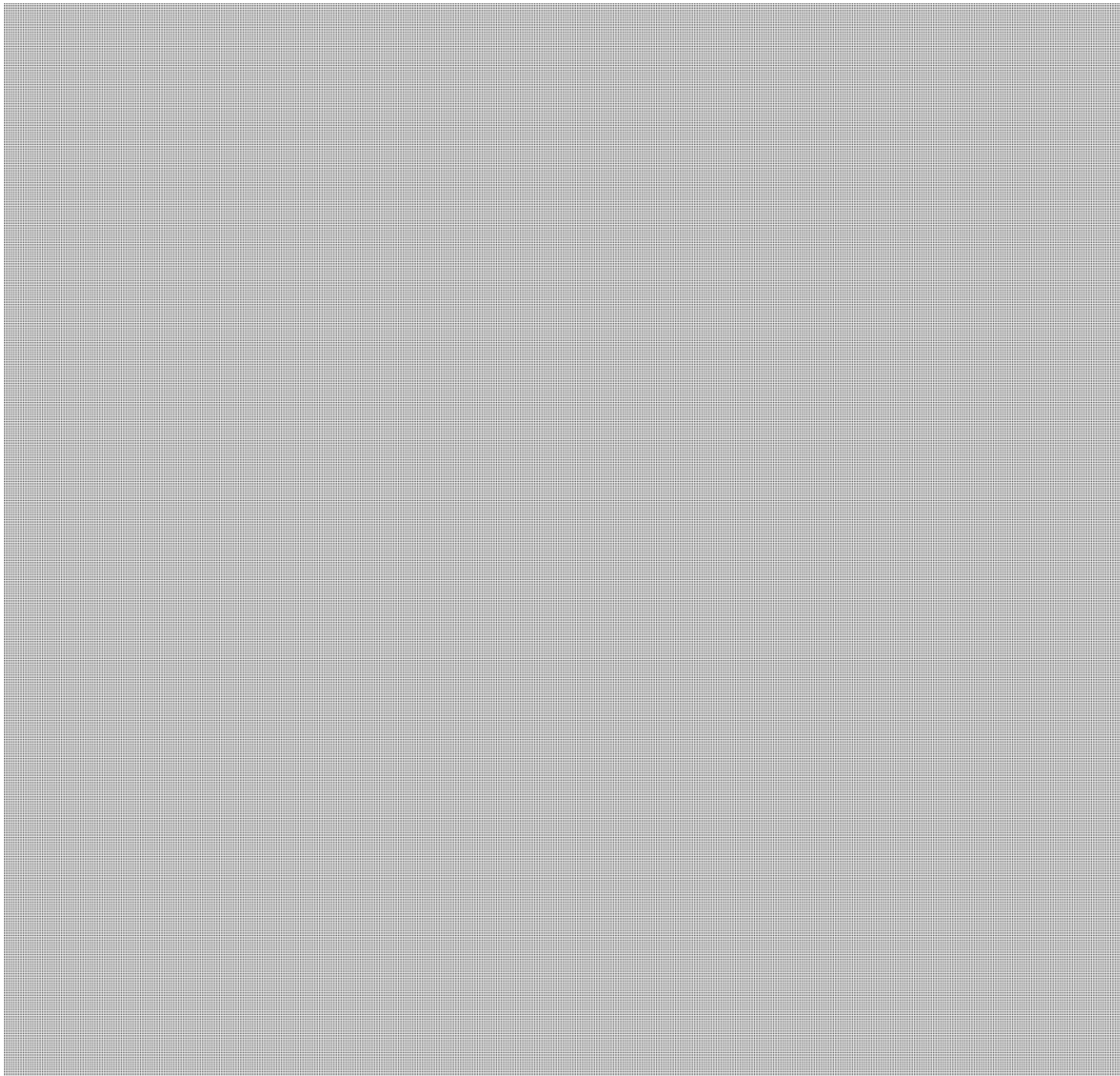


Findings

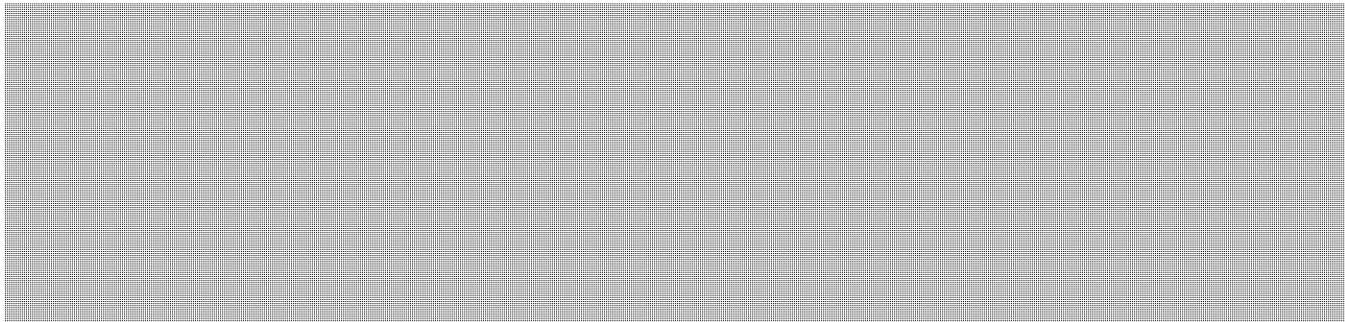
RRM Canada identified six properties that result in the amplification of disinformation and polarizing narratives across this network of fourteen websites in a manner greater than any one site could otherwise achieve on its own.

1) Cross-pollination among Websites



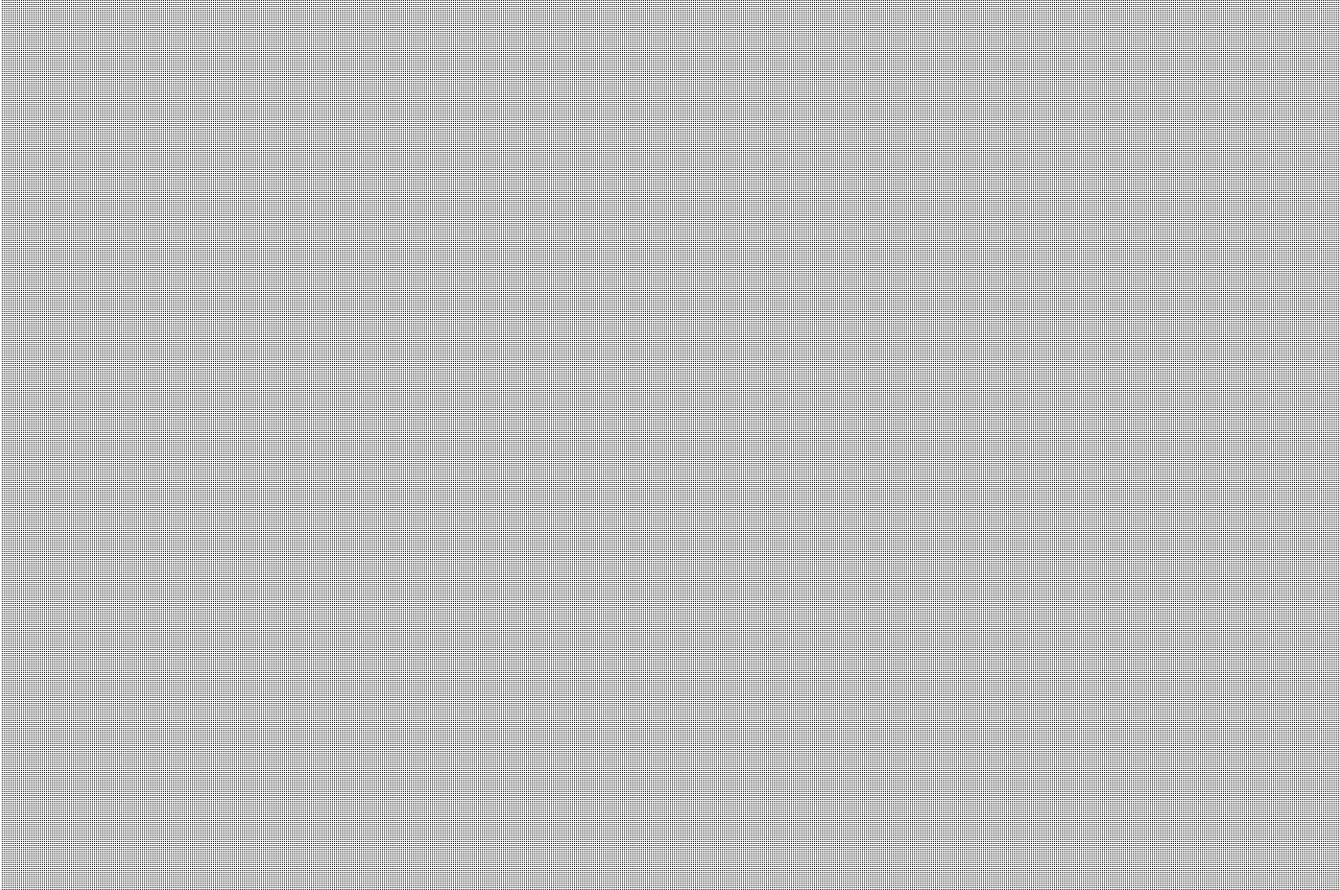


2) Amplification through Backlinks (Citations)

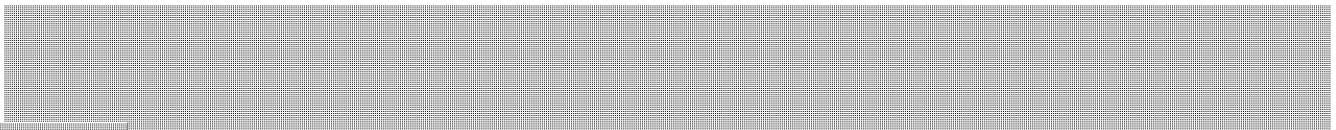




3) Geographical Reach and Targeting



4) Inauthentic Amplification through Manipulation of Search Engine Optimisation



The previously mentioned backlinks are one of the factors that drive the algorithms powering search engines. This is usually accomplished ethically and organically as citations increase the quantity of visitors and level of engagement with a website. However, malign actors have also manipulated SEO algorithms (e.g., through cross-pollination and transnational reach) to ensure desired content appears at the top of search results.^{xx}

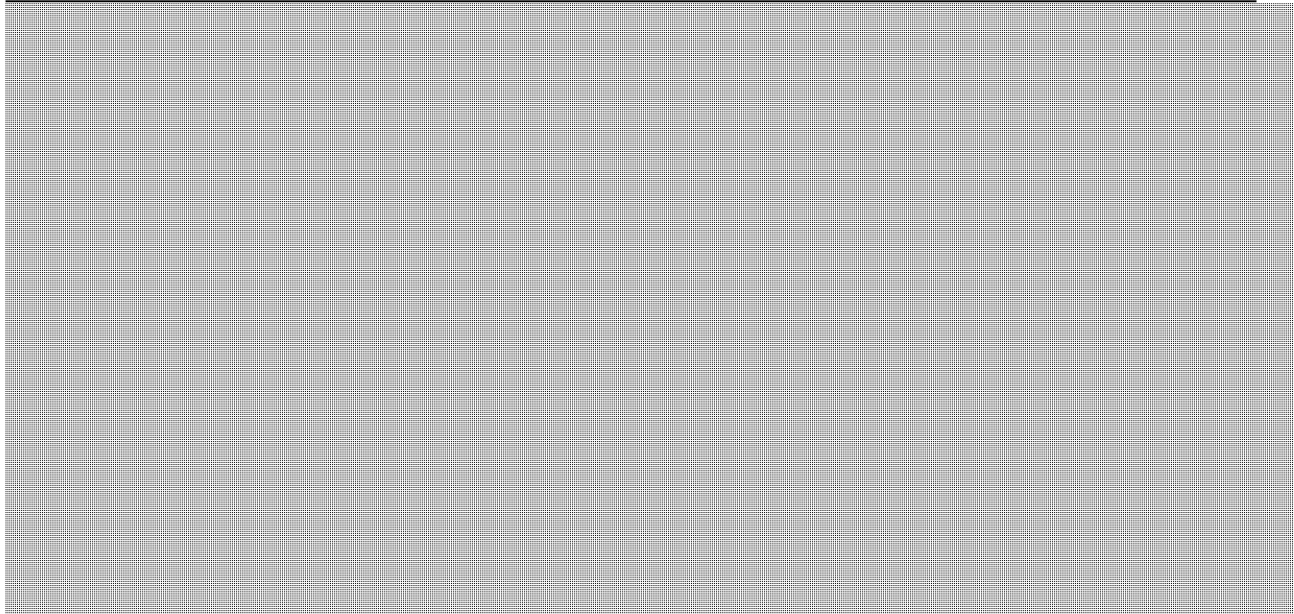
5) Inauthentic Amplification through Manipulation of Domain Authority Score

In addition to backlinks, another important factor driving search engine algorithms is "domain authority score" – a metric of 1-100 that predicts a website's ability to rank on search engine results pages.^{xxi} The higher a website's domain authority score, the better its search engine rank will be and

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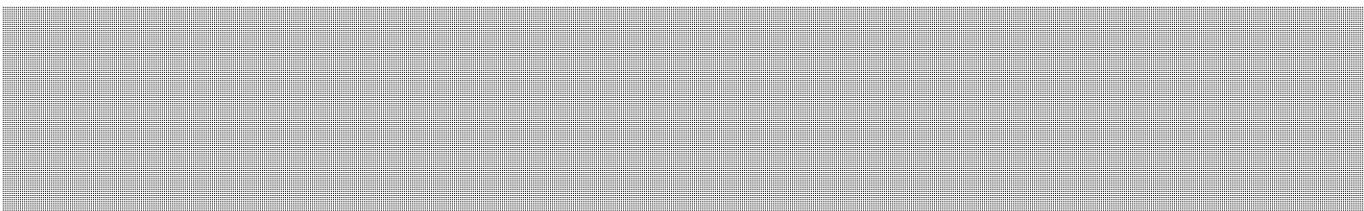
therefore its ability to generate traffic. Websites with high domain authority scores are particularly appealing targets as they ultimately rank higher in actual search results.^{xxii}



For example, a site like InfoBRICS (authority score of 40) would likely receive far better distribution of its content when posted on Globalresearch.ca (authority score of 75). Domains can improve their SEO position through a variety of legitimate or illegitimate techniques. One illegitimate technique that may be used, intentionally or not, is known as link-farming: a collection of websites developed to deliberately inflate the number of links directed at a domain. The crosspollination of links between the initial fourteen websites, as well as their amplification throughout the broader network of 1,924 transnational websites, will improve search rankings. However, RRM Canada cannot confirm or deny any deliberate, coordinated or inauthentic SEO manipulation within this network based on our initial assessment.

6) Information Laundering to Legitimise Content

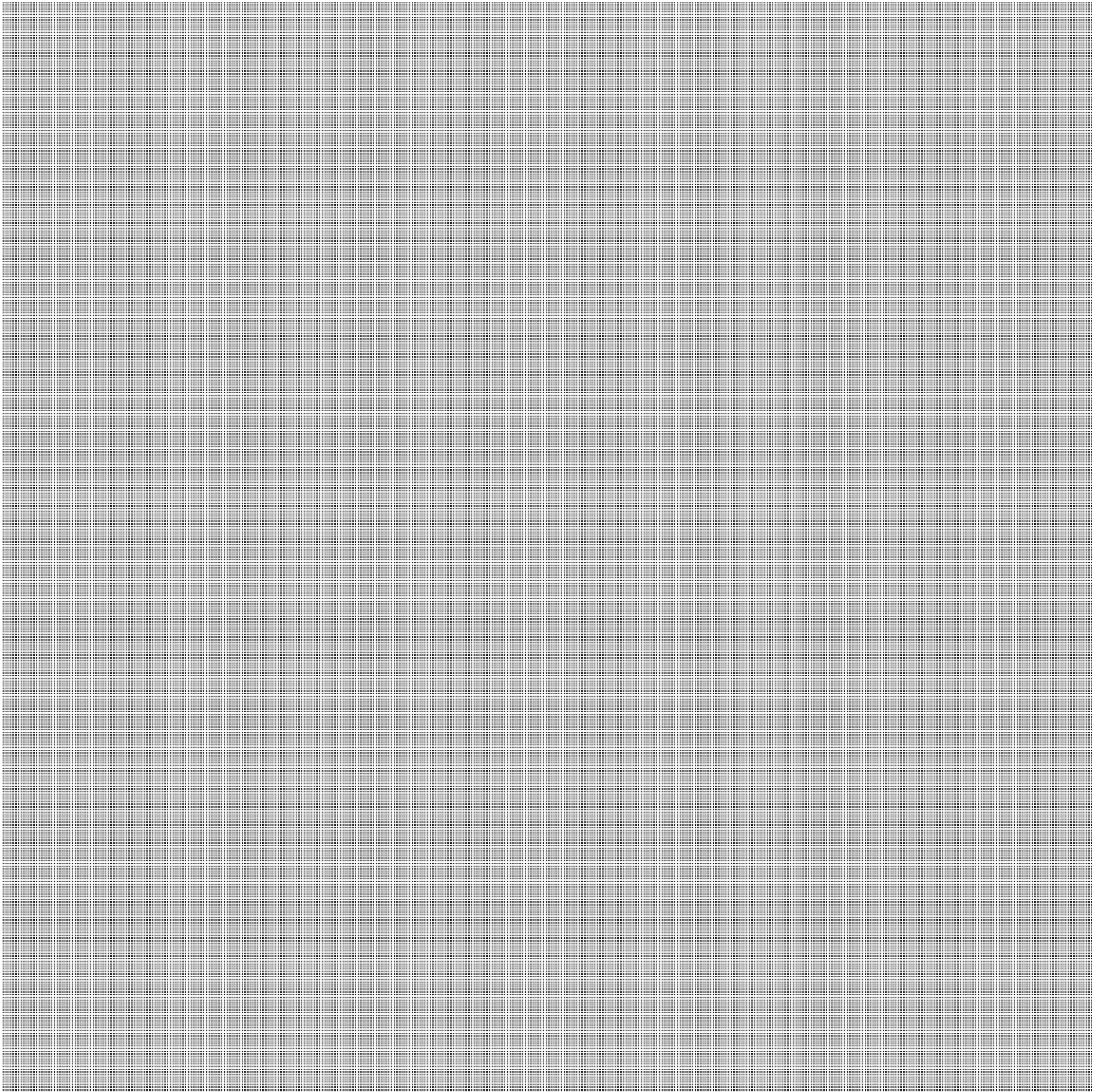
Another technique used to manipulate information, facilitated by a disinformation ecosystem, is information laundering^{xxxiv}. Information laundering is an attempt to signal the legitimacy of a narrative to observers by circulating it through multiple, legitimate-looking organisations. These organisations may be active conspirators or unwitting accomplices. Laundering borrows the legitimacy and reputation of the organisations through which it circulates information.^{xxv}



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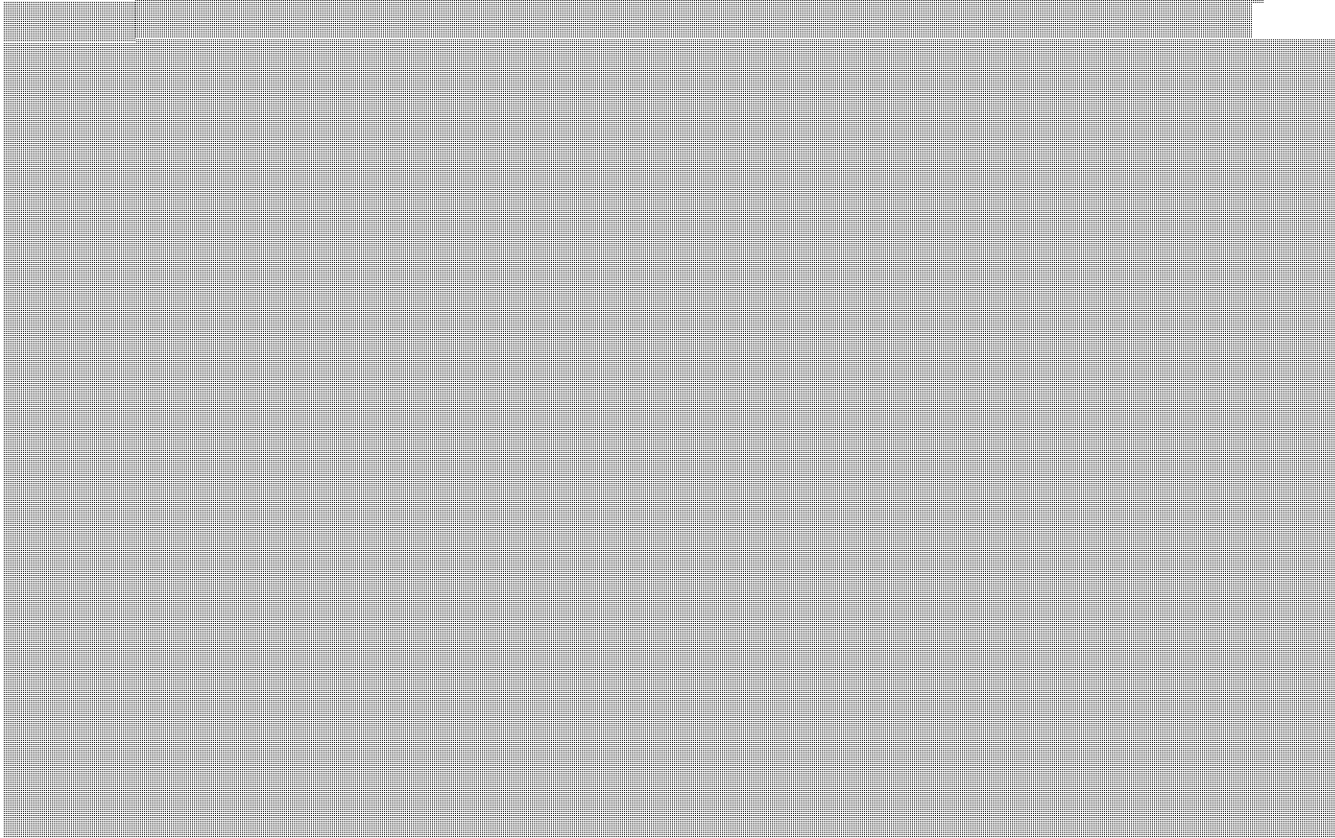
Case Studies from the Broader Network

RRM Canada selected a number of case studies from the broader network [redacted] to highlight some of the findings above.

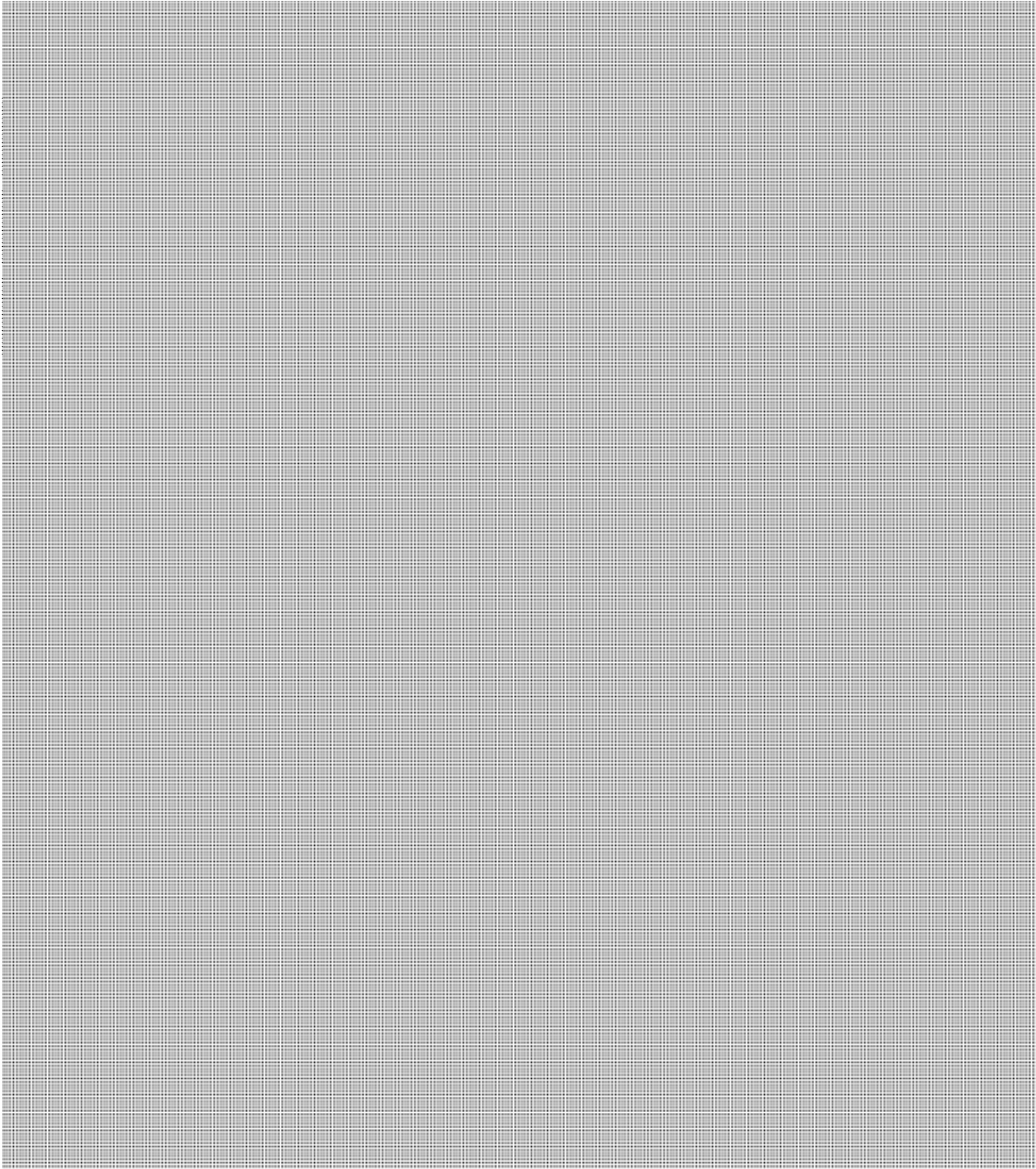


A Disinformation Ecosystem

The TTPs discussed here foster an online ecosystem with emergent properties which can in turn be exploited for the dissemination of state-aligned narratives, polarizing narratives, and other forms of disinformation through the broader digital information environment.



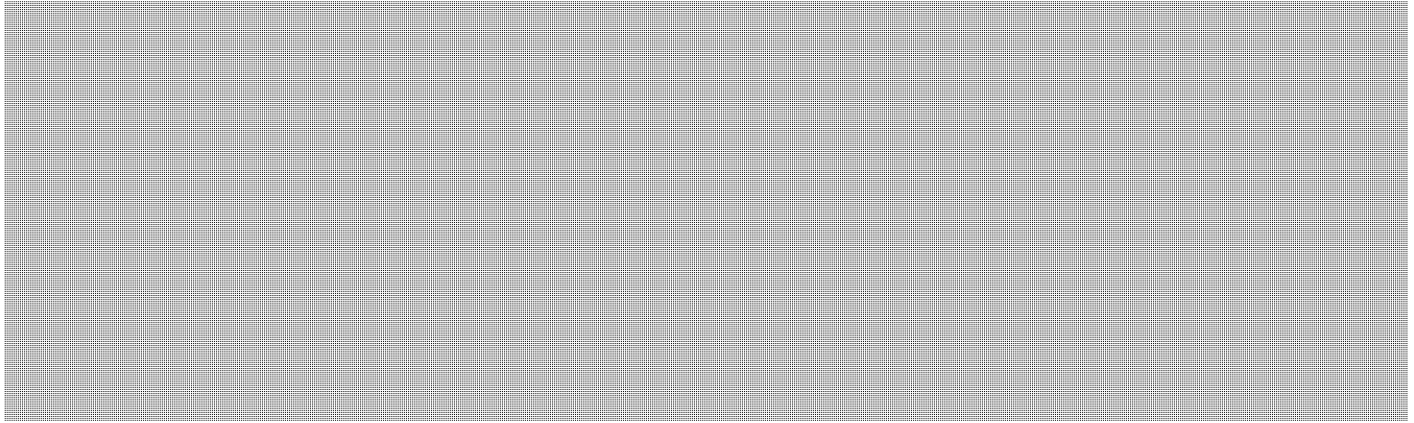
This disinformation ecosystem offers malign actors multiple advantages. It provides the means to introduce multiple variations of the same and/or contradictory disinformation narratives targeting diverse audiences. It enables malign actors to leverage unwitting proxies with a more nuanced understanding of the audiences they seek to engage. It permits multiple sources to provide a compounding effect to information operations, improving reach and potential impact. It creates opportunities to experiment with, test and improve new tactics, techniques and procedures without impacting all information sources in the ecosystem at once. And, finally, it provides much-sought plausible deniability to state actors who may be involved.



Further research is warranted to determine if there is coordinated inauthentic activity and/or a demonstrable link to a foreign state actor.

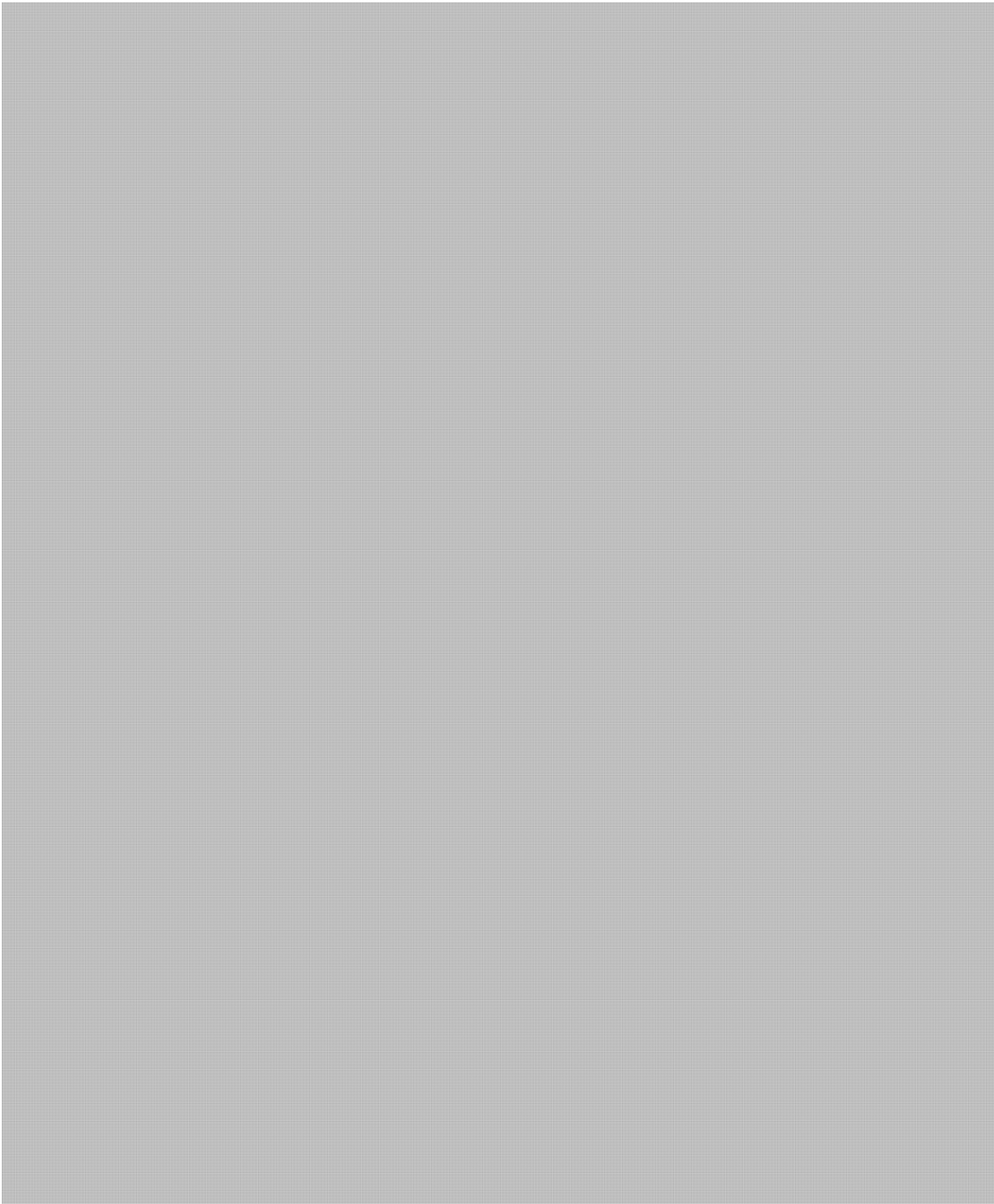
Next Steps

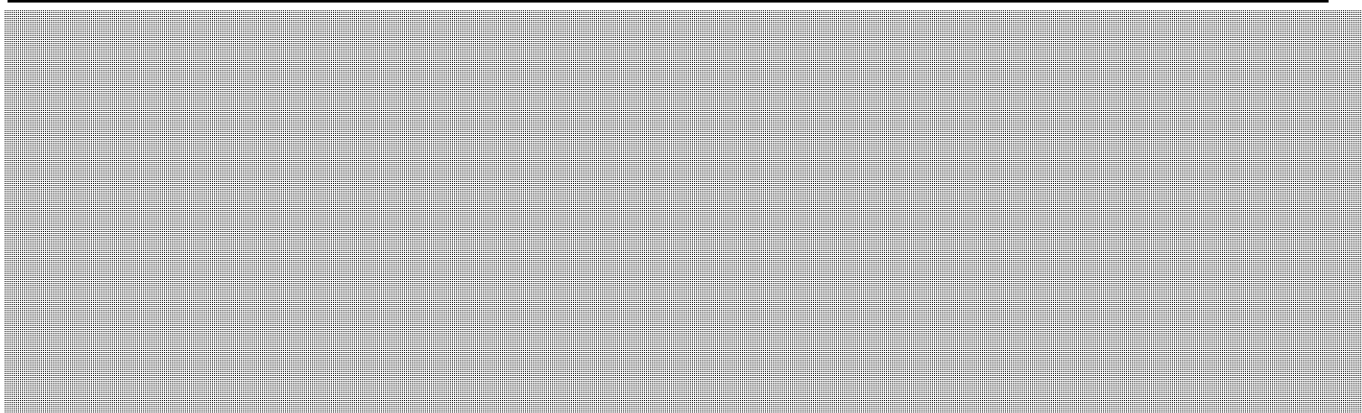
Possible complementary lines of future analysis include:



Drafted by: RRM Canada
Approved: IFM
Released: March 31, 2021

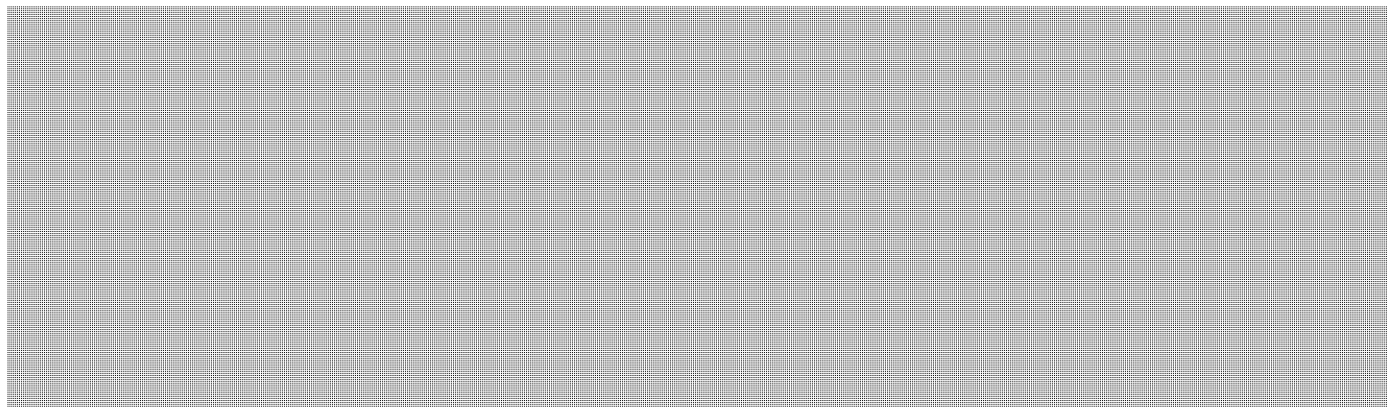
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^{xiii} “Pillars of Russia’s Disinformation and Propaganda Ecosystem”, https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Pillars-of-Russia%E2%80%99s-Disinformation-and-Propaganda-Ecosystem_08-04-20.pdf

^{xiv} The GEC report “Pillars of Russia’s Disinformation and Propaganda Ecosystem”, covered seven of the sites identified by RRM Canda: StratCulture, New Eastern Outlook, Global Research, NewsFront, SouthFront, Geopolitica.ru, and katehon.



^{xx} Study Requested by the LIBE Committee, European Parliament, “Disinformation and propaganda – impact on the functioning of the rule of law in the EU and its Member States”, February 2019, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/608864/IPOL_STU\(2019\)608864_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/608864/IPOL_STU(2019)608864_EN.pdf) p. 121

^{xxi} A domain authority score takes into consideration: the number of referring domains pointing to the site, authority of each referring domain, inbound links, outbound links, number of outbound links from each referring domain, total number of backlinks pointing to the site, number of referring IPs pointing to the site, and number of referring subnets pointing to the site. The value is measured on a scale from 0 to 100, with the latter being the strongest. The final score is measured in relation to the most authoritative domains.

^{xxii} Within the Pagerank algorithm, a website can improve the visibility of it’s content within search results if they have a lot of backlinks to the site, or a smaller number of backlinks from sites with high domain authority scores

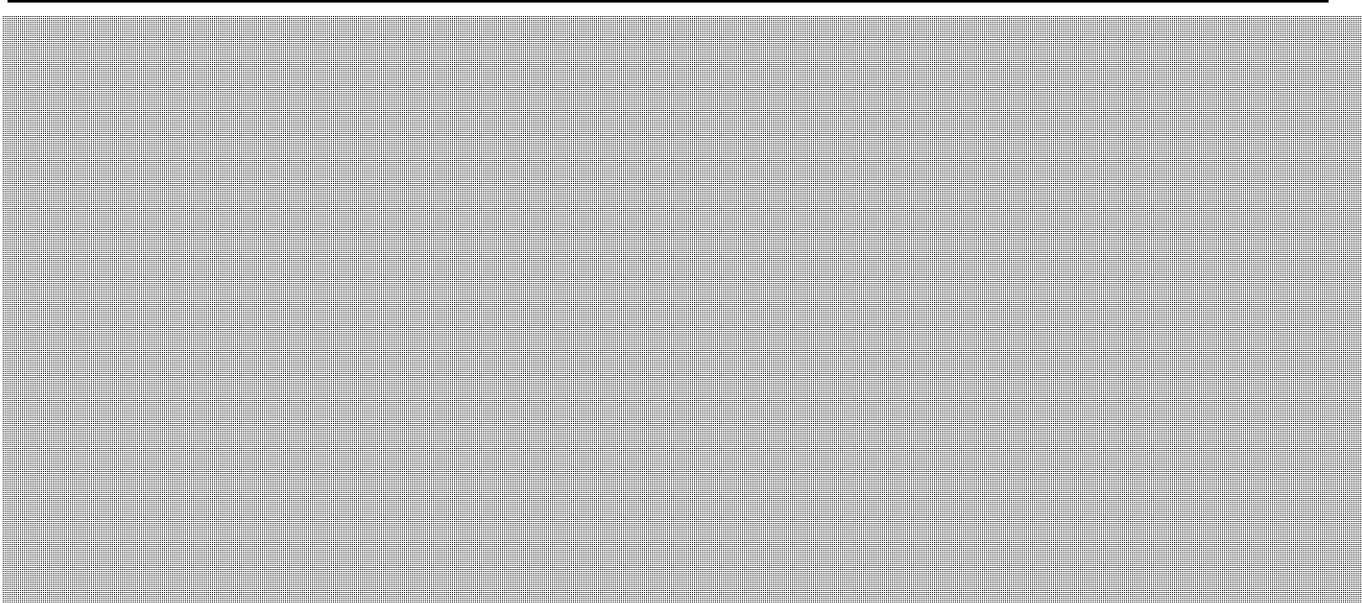
^{xxiii} One reason why VeteransToday ranking is so high could be due to its association with Hire Veterans.com. Hire Veterans is a job-posting platform aimed at US Military veterans. It allows veterans to upload their resumes to apply for US-based jobs and appears legitimate insofar as it facilitates an interaction job seekers and employers. However, RRM Canada assesses it possible that the resumes are collected for hostile intelligence purposes. An administrator claims “there would be no way for foreign states to access veterans’ personal information via their partnerships with Veterans Today.” (MA and MP to adjust language)

^{xxiv} Center for Strategic & International Studies, “Exploring the Information-Laundering Ecosystem: The Russian Case”, August 2017, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/exploring-information-laundering-ecosystem-russian-case>

^{xxv} An example of this is the *Endless Mayfly* case where an Iran-aligned network of inauthentic websites and online personas used to spread false and divisive information primarily targeting Saudi Arabia, the United States, and Israel. The network managed to turn Canadian news organizations into unwitting accomplices in integrating that information into the mainstream—at least for long enough to sow confusion—and then deleted content and redirected web links to further frustrate attempts to track down the information’s original sourcing.

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RRM CANADA DEEP DIVE
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The Establishment [REDACTED] Alternative Platforms: Implications for Countering Disinformation

Summary

- De-platformed assets linked to Russian disinformation operations, [REDACTED] have been re-established on alternative platforms, where they can leverage data voids.
- RRM Canada assesses that [REDACTED] efforts to establish new social media assets on alt-tech platforms might constitute a shift in its TTPs and might be indicative of a broader trend in hostile foreign state information manipulation
- The establishment of foreign hostile state actors on alternative platforms has important implications for detecting and countering disinformation. Foreign hostile state actors:
 1. Are able to advance their narratives without contending with opposing and alternative views;
 2. Face little to no content moderation or efforts to counter disinformation on the part of the alternative platforms, while collecting structured data from these platforms for open source analysis is technically difficult;
 3. Benefit from data voids that are in part facilitated by the insular discourse that occurs on alternative platforms and lack of search results associated with “obscure” search queries¹; and
 4. Facilitate the coalescence of their narratives with those of ideologically motivated violent extremists in a concerning trend that will require vigilance.

Issue

RRM Canada has identified a new tactic employed [REDACTED] a known source of Russian disinformation – to manipulate information online.² [REDACTED] has been establishing social media assets on alternative platforms or alt-tech platforms³ since both its ban from Facebook in Fall 2020, and actions by large social media companies to de-platform problematic accounts and outlets after the Capitol Hill Riots in January 2021. This report 1) outlines this new

¹ According to Data and Society, data voids occur when “obscure search queries have few results associated with them, making them ripe for exploitation by media manipulators with ideological, economic, or political agendas.” The insular discourse occurring on alternative platforms, with its own terminology and rationality, is able to fill these data voids (at least temporarily), by offering its target audiences information that appears “uncontested” and “authoritative.”

² “Pillars of Russia’s Disinformation and Propaganda Ecosystem”, https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Pillars-of-Russia%E2%80%99s-Disinformation-and-Propaganda-Ecosystem_08-04-20.pdf; “Russia’s Disinformation Ecosystem – A Snapshot”, <https://clintwatts.substack.com/p/russias-disinformation-ecosystem>

³ Alt-tech is a term used to describe websites, social media platforms, and internet service providers that position themselves as similar alternatives to mainstream counterparts. Many have become popular among ideologically motivated violent extremists or those who espouse fringe opinions, as they provide less stringent content moderation than mainstream internet service providers.

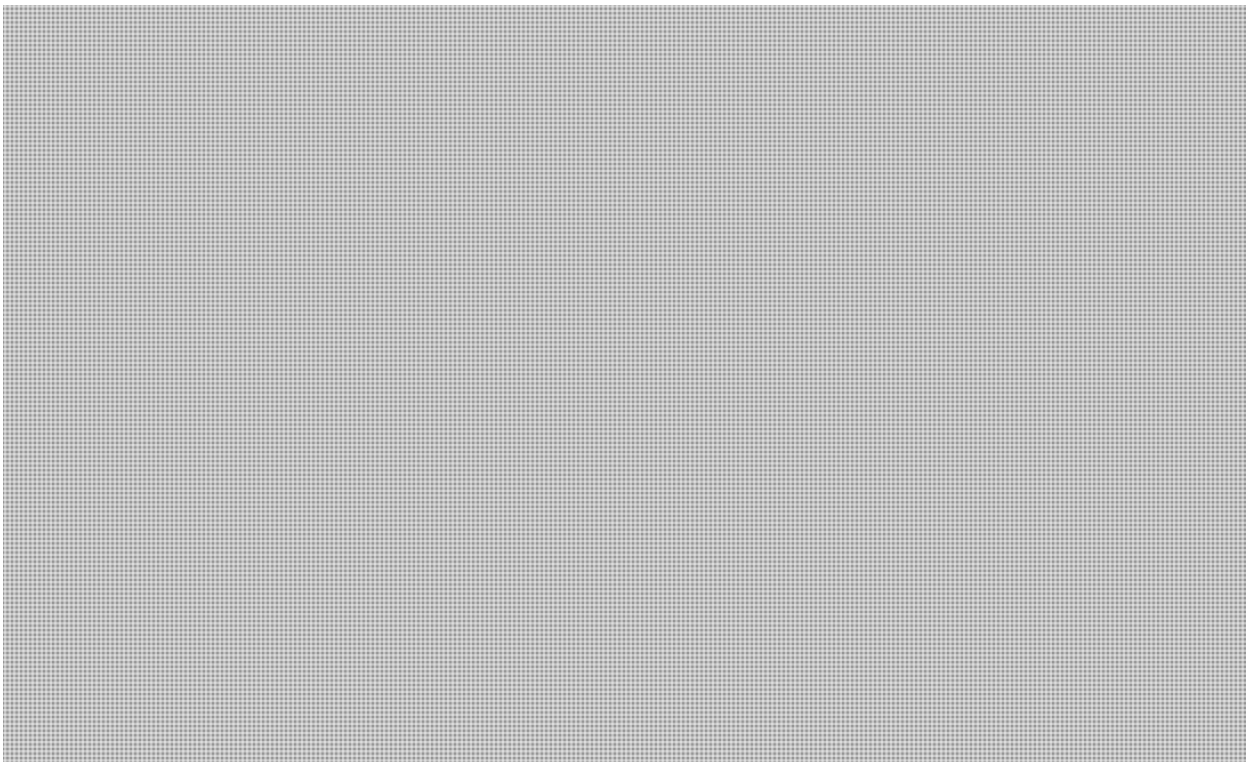
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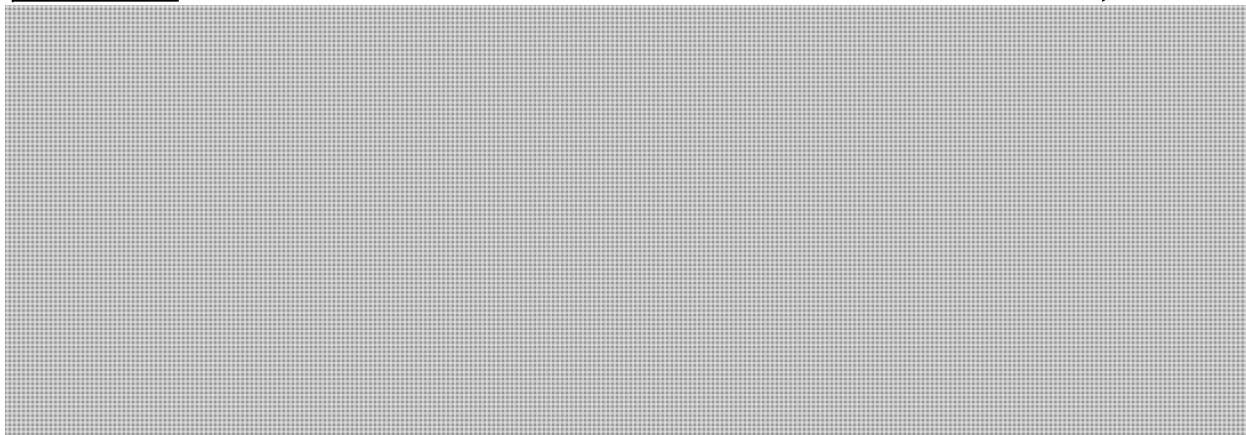
tactic as part of [REDACTED] broader tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs), 2) assesses its implications for detecting and countering disinformation in the digital ecosystem, and 3) suggests next steps for open data analysis.

[REDACTED] Moving to Alternative Platforms



Implications for Detecting and Countering Disinformation Online

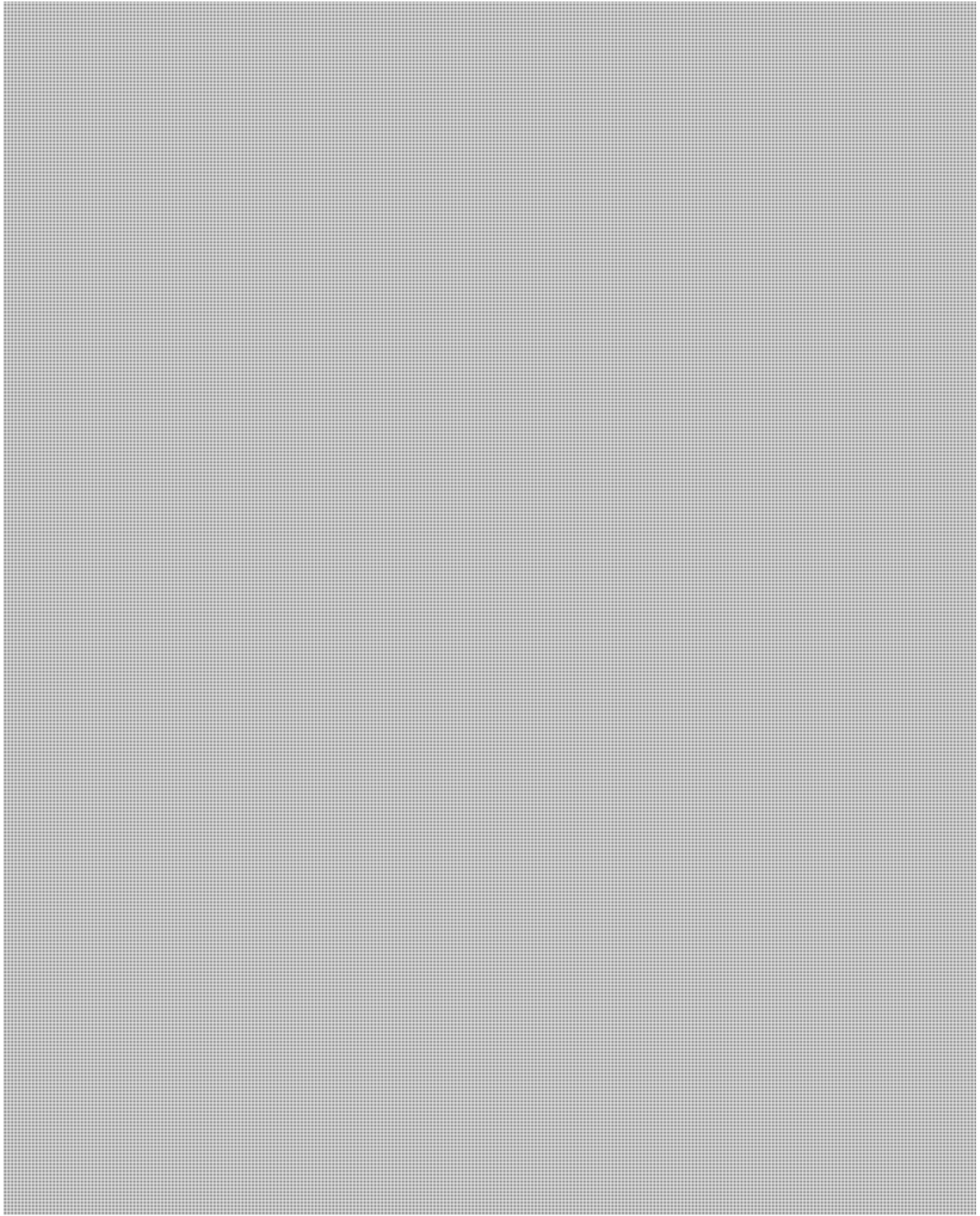
⁴"Removing Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior" <https://about.fb.com/news/2020/09/removing-coordinated-inauthentic-behavior-russia/>



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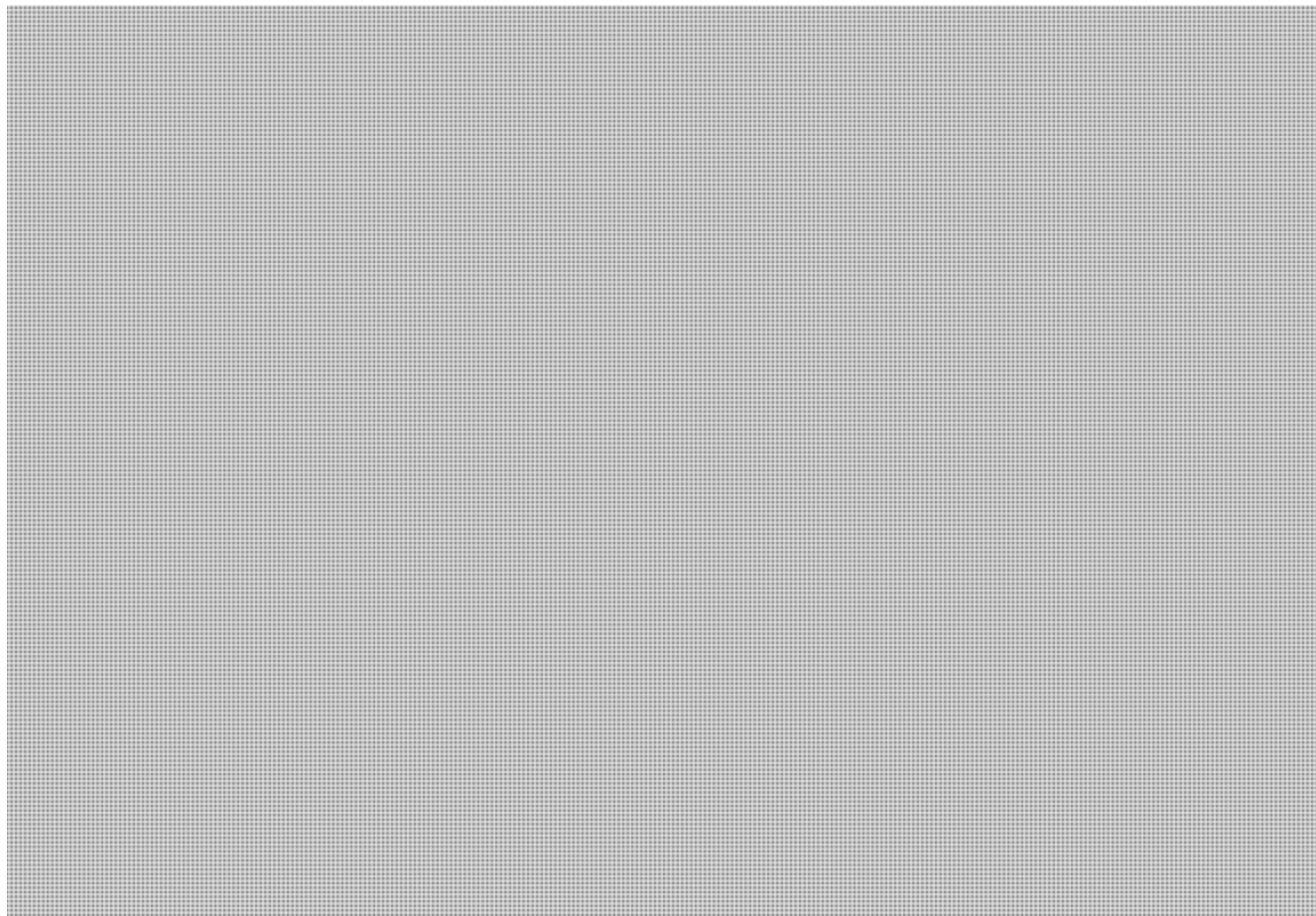
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Next Steps

As the online information ecosystem continues to evolve, RRM Canada analysts and partners will need to:

- Continue to monitor the evolving situation;
- Determine if other foreign hostile state actor assets are being established on alt-tech platforms;
- Determine if other foreign hostile state actors are developing new TTPs to adapt to the evolving digital ecosystem and, if so, their nature and impact; and

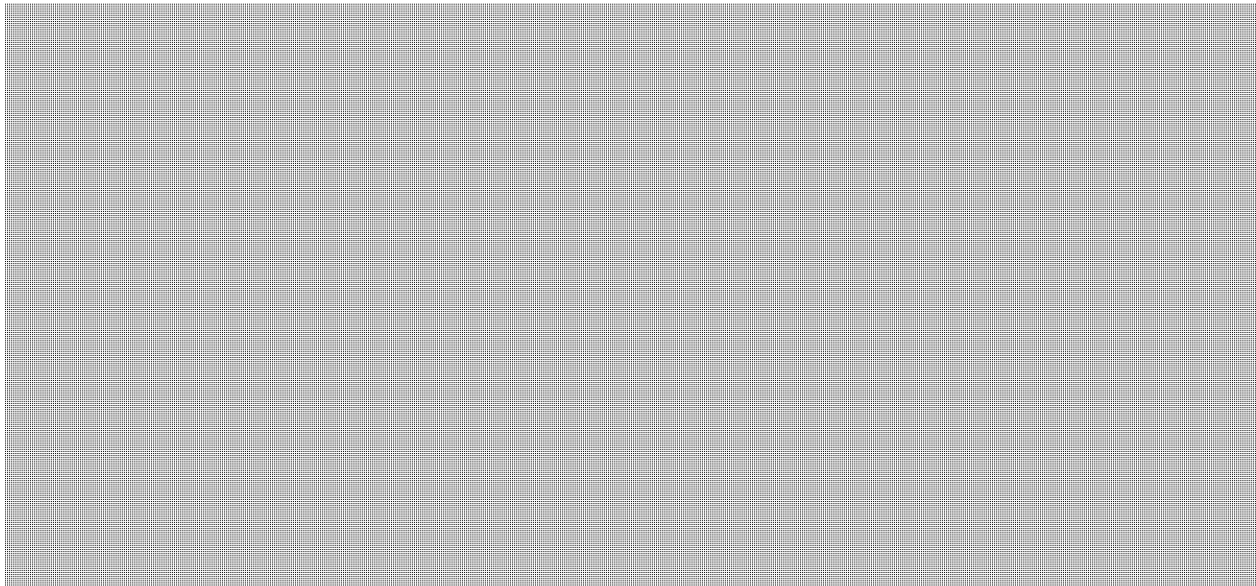
Ascertain the convergence of transnational IMVE actors and influencers with foreign interference operations.

¹¹ Analysts will need to integrate the monitoring of these ecosystems into their workflow, as it is difficult at present to rely on external sources to keep analysts informed of what is occurring in these spaces.

Shadow Amplification: United Health Professionals Influence Campaign

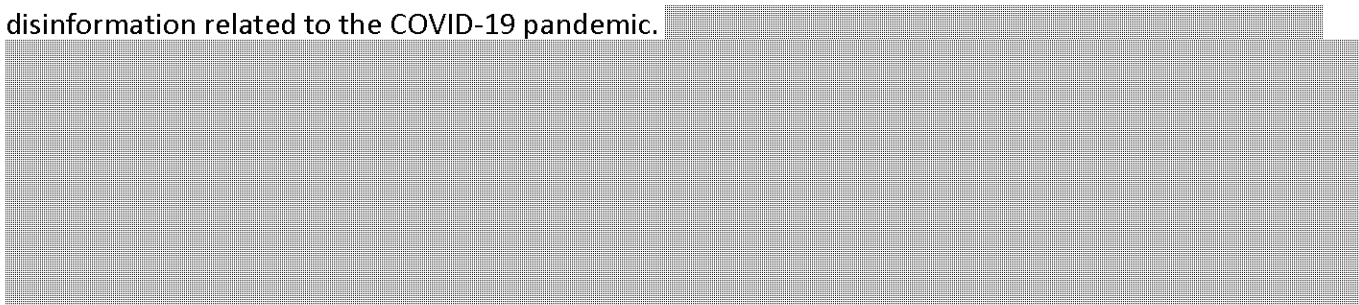
Key Findings

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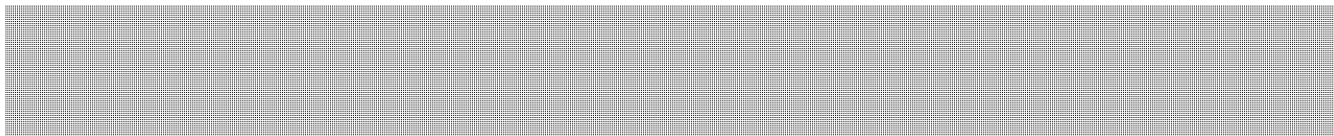


Purpose

This Open Data Analysis¹ is part of Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada's efforts to monitor the digital information environment for signs of foreign state sponsored information manipulation or disinformation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Methodology



Findings

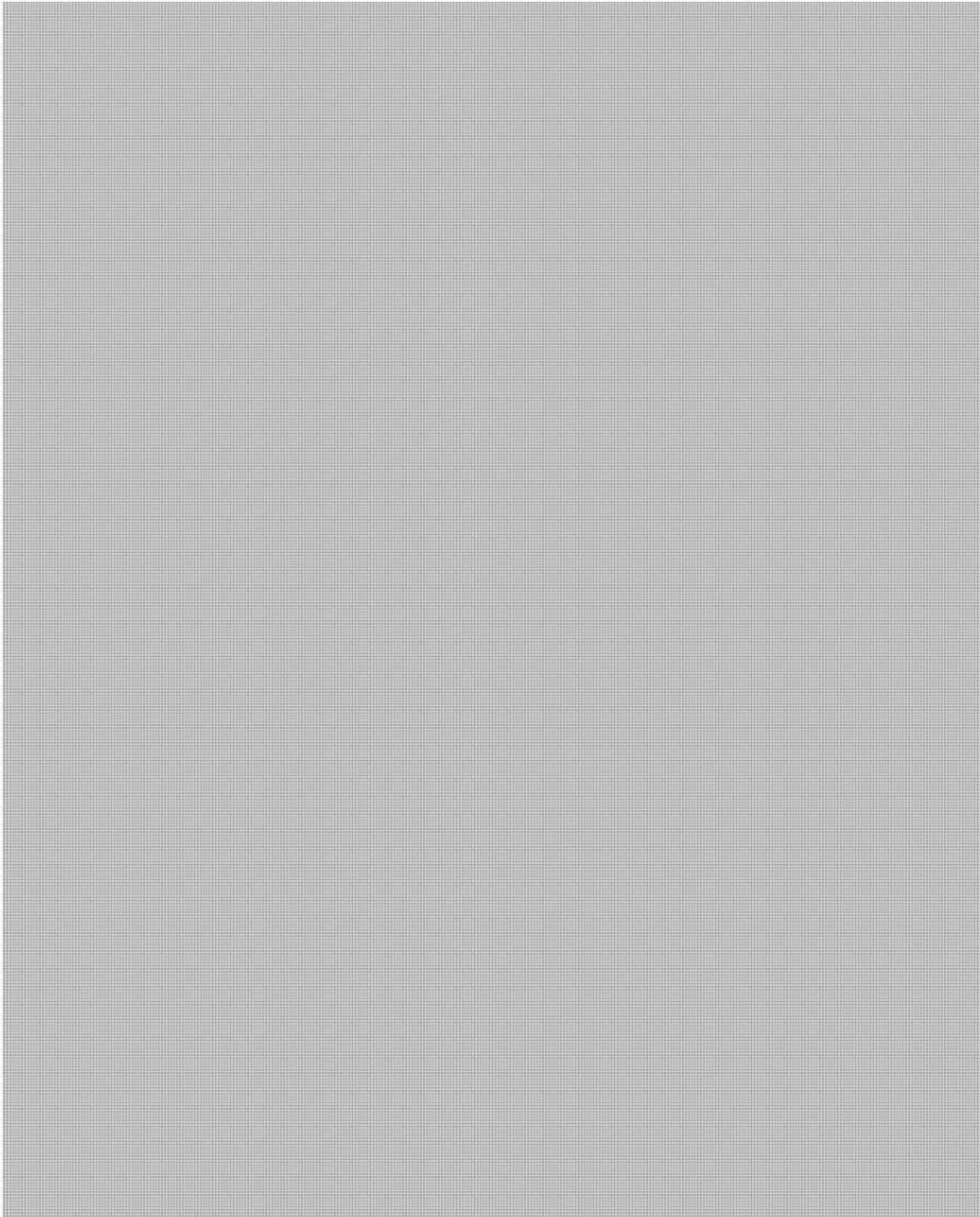


¹ Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada produces Open Data Analysis to chart trends, strategies and tactics in foreign interference. This analysis supports the G7 RRM, an initiative agreed by the G7 in 2018, to strengthen coordination to identify and respond to diverse and evolving threats to G7 democracies, including through sharing information and analysis, and identifying opportunities for coordinated response.

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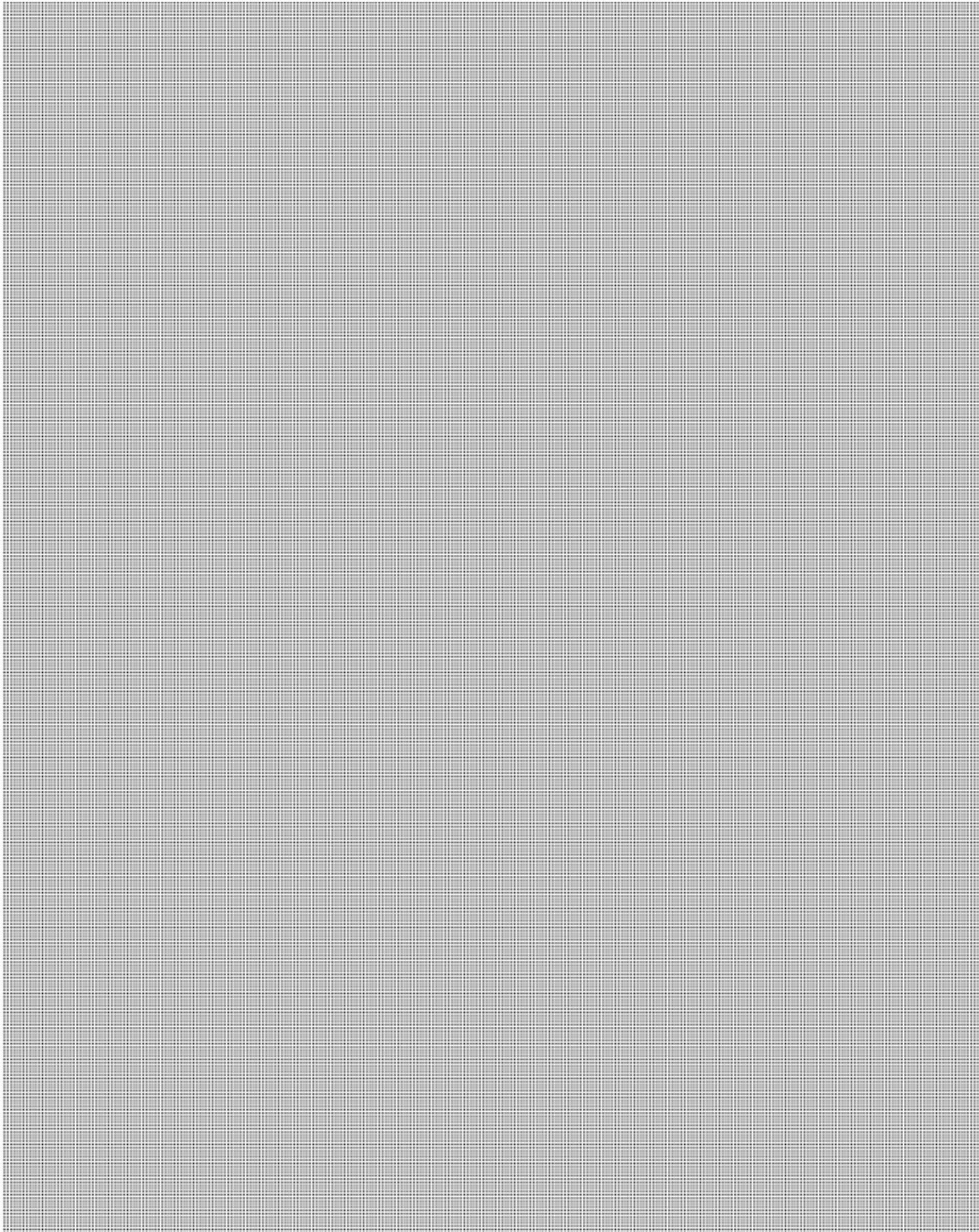
<https://datasociety.net/library/data-voids/>

³ PDF version of the alert message in French can be shared upon request.

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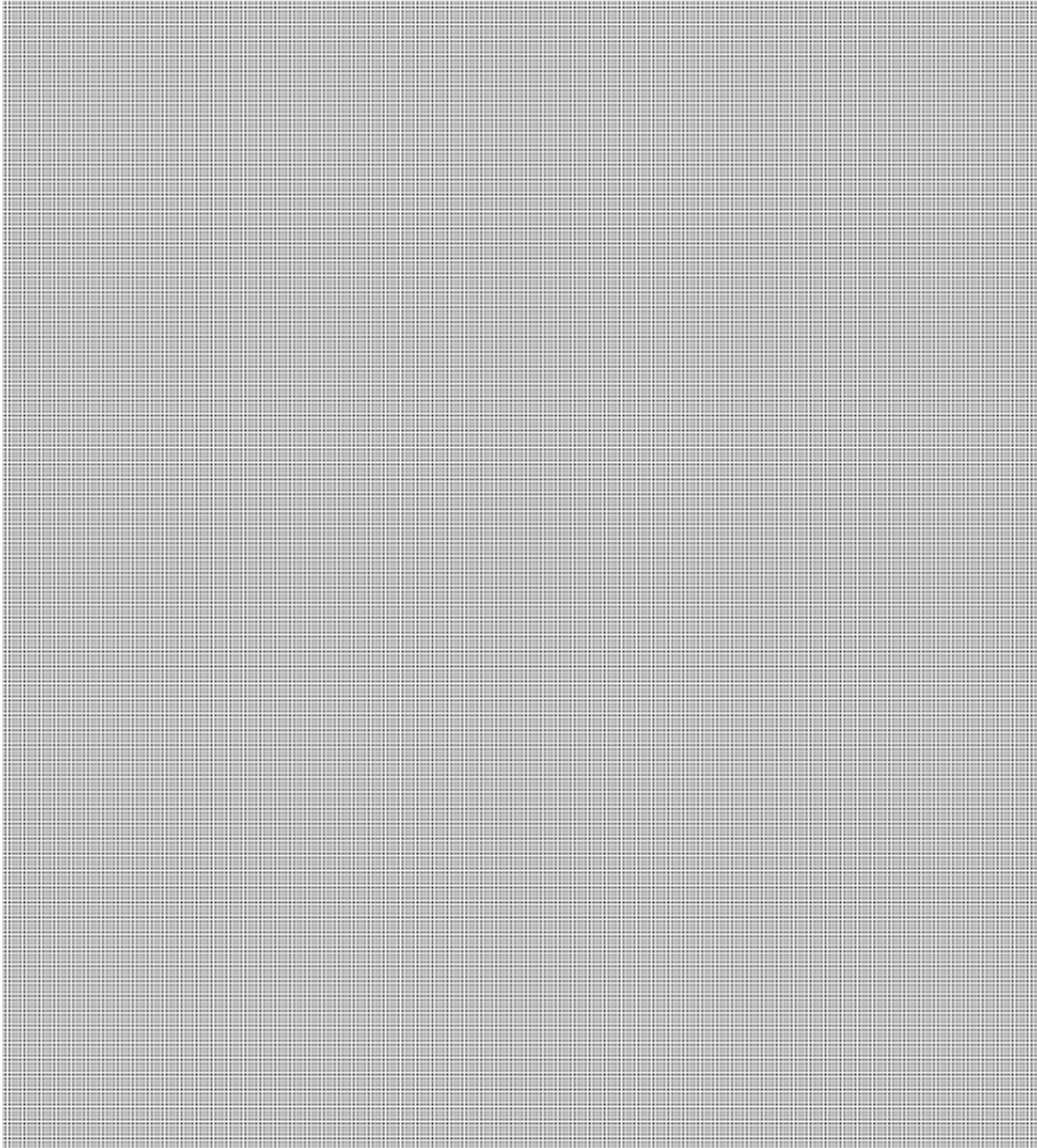


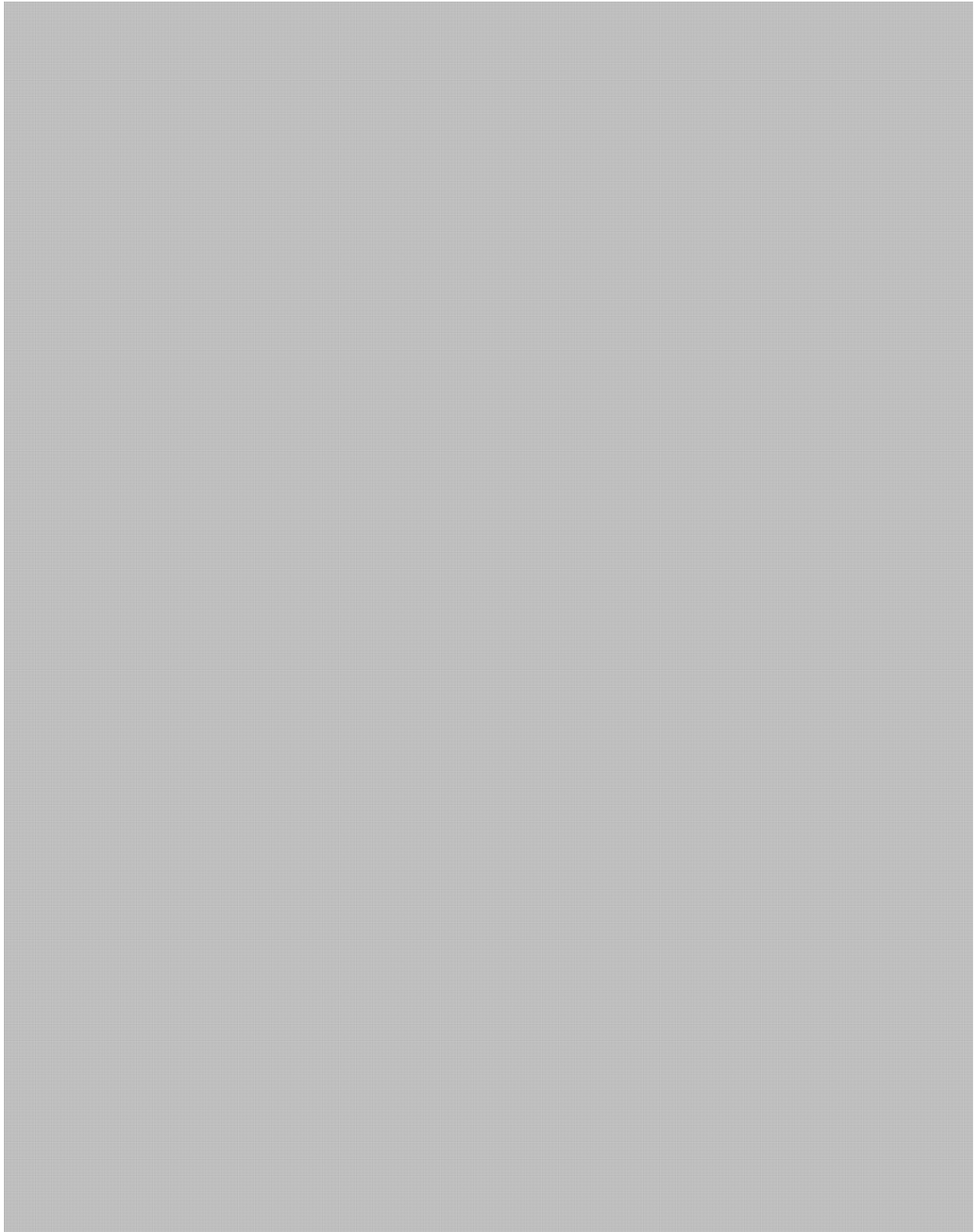
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JUNE 21, 2021

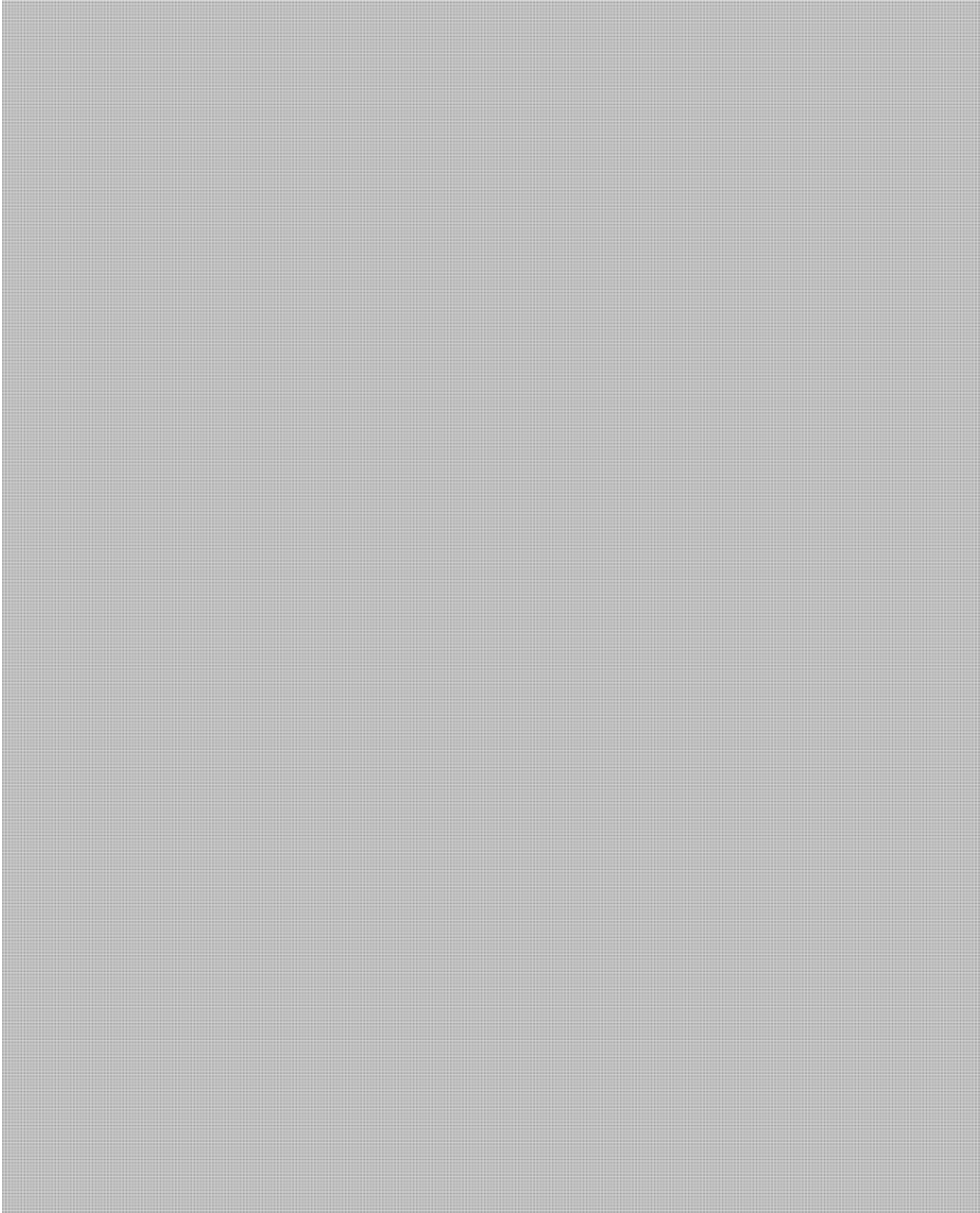




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Shadow Network: French Language Websites Spreading COVID-19 Disinformation

Key Findings

- RRM Canada isolated a network of websites supporting an influence campaign spearheaded

Purpose

In the course of monitoring for foreign state sponsored disinformation related to COVID-19, RRM Canada identified an influence campaign

Methodology

RRM Canada used a mixed methods approach, relying on past experience and partner reporting,

Findings

Summary of Initial Research

RRM Canada identified an influence campaign [REDACTED] in the context of monitoring for foreign state sponsored disinformation related to COVID-19. The campaign's target audiences are domestic conspiracy theorists and anti-lockdown protesters, including in France and Quebec. [REDACTED]

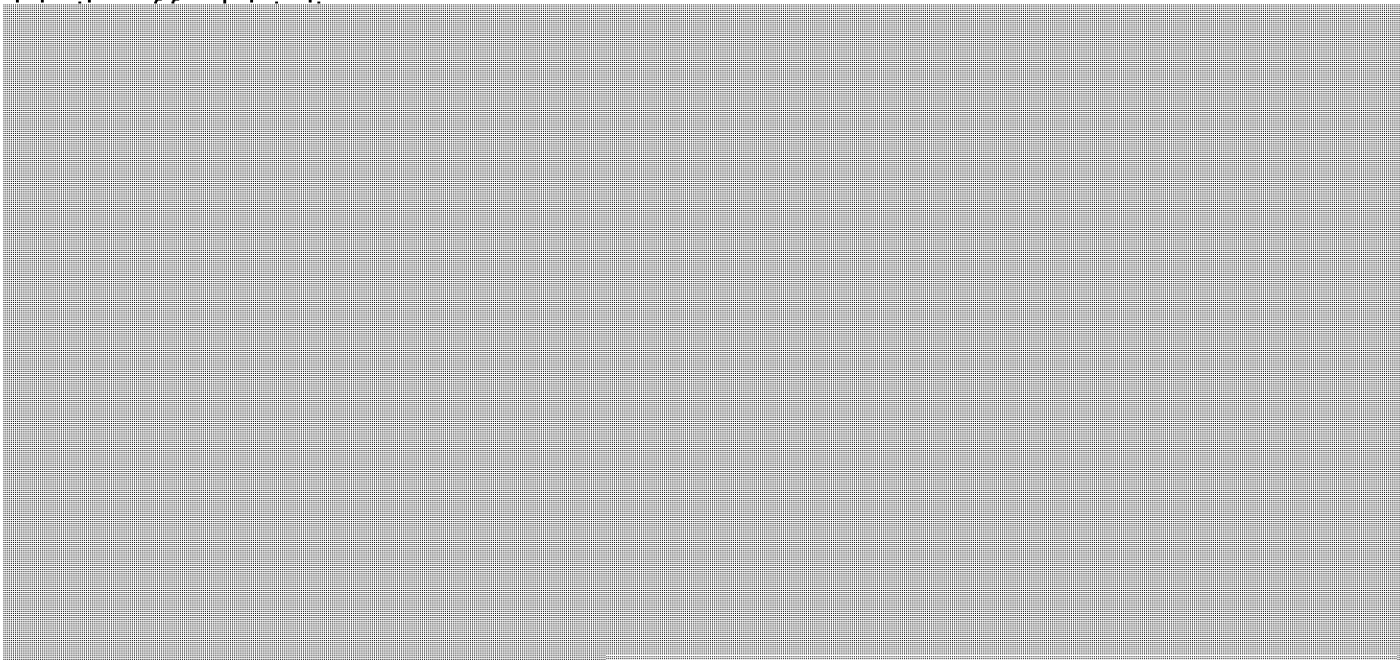
French Language Websites

Initial RRM research identified a network of [REDACTED] websites amplifying [REDACTED] influence campaign. [REDACTED]

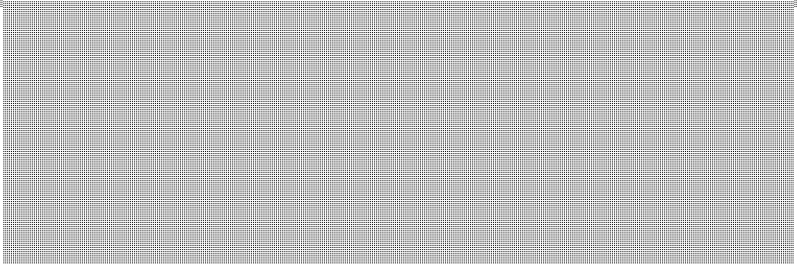
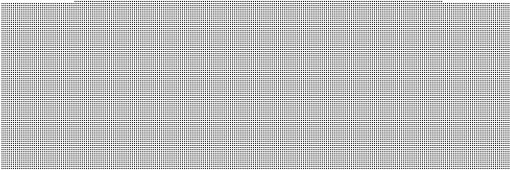
[REDACTED] These [REDACTED] websites are linked to or aligned with various elements of the propaganda apparatus [REDACTED]

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JUNE 22, 2021**

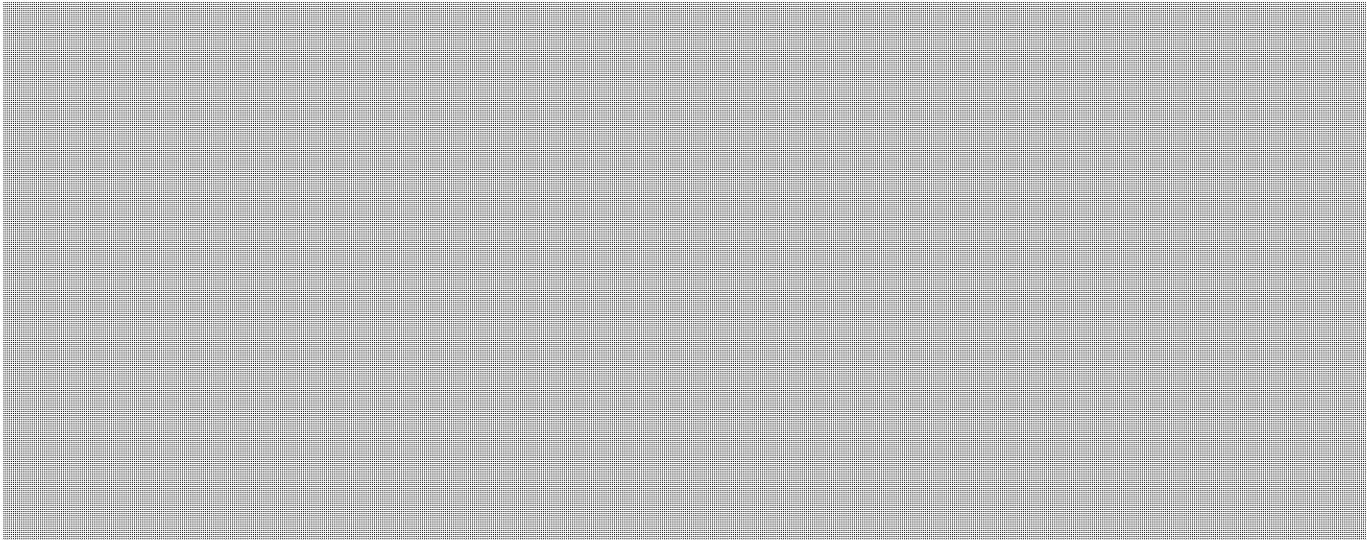
Between February and March
2014, [REDACTED]



An analysis of the authors who
contribute foreign aligned
content to the website shows
that [REDACTED]



Reach and Impact of [REDACTED] Influence campaign



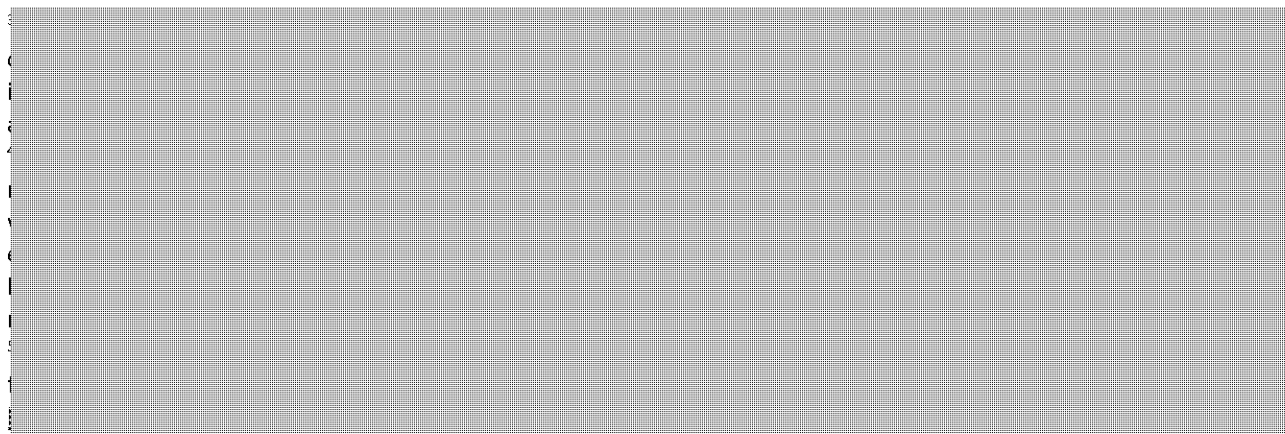
RRM CANADA OPEN DATA ANALYSIS
JUNE 22, 2021

[REDACTED] While there are methodological gaps in performing metrics analysis for these alt-tech platforms, a qualitative assessment by RRM Canada found that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] messaging amplified by these websites did find resonance with conspiracy theorists and anti-lockdown activists.



Canada examined the traffic journey of a user directed to the site. [REDACTED]

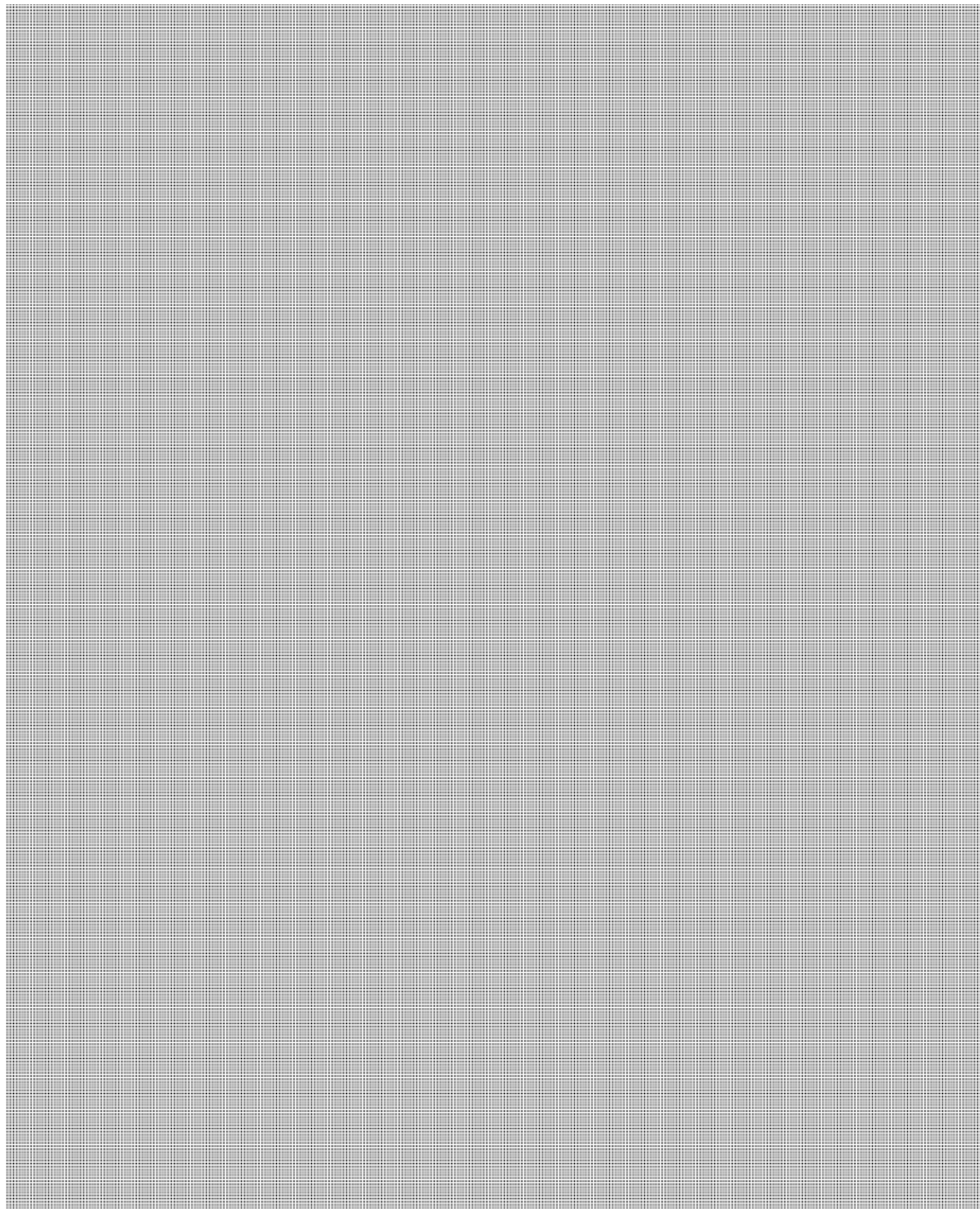
[REDACTED]

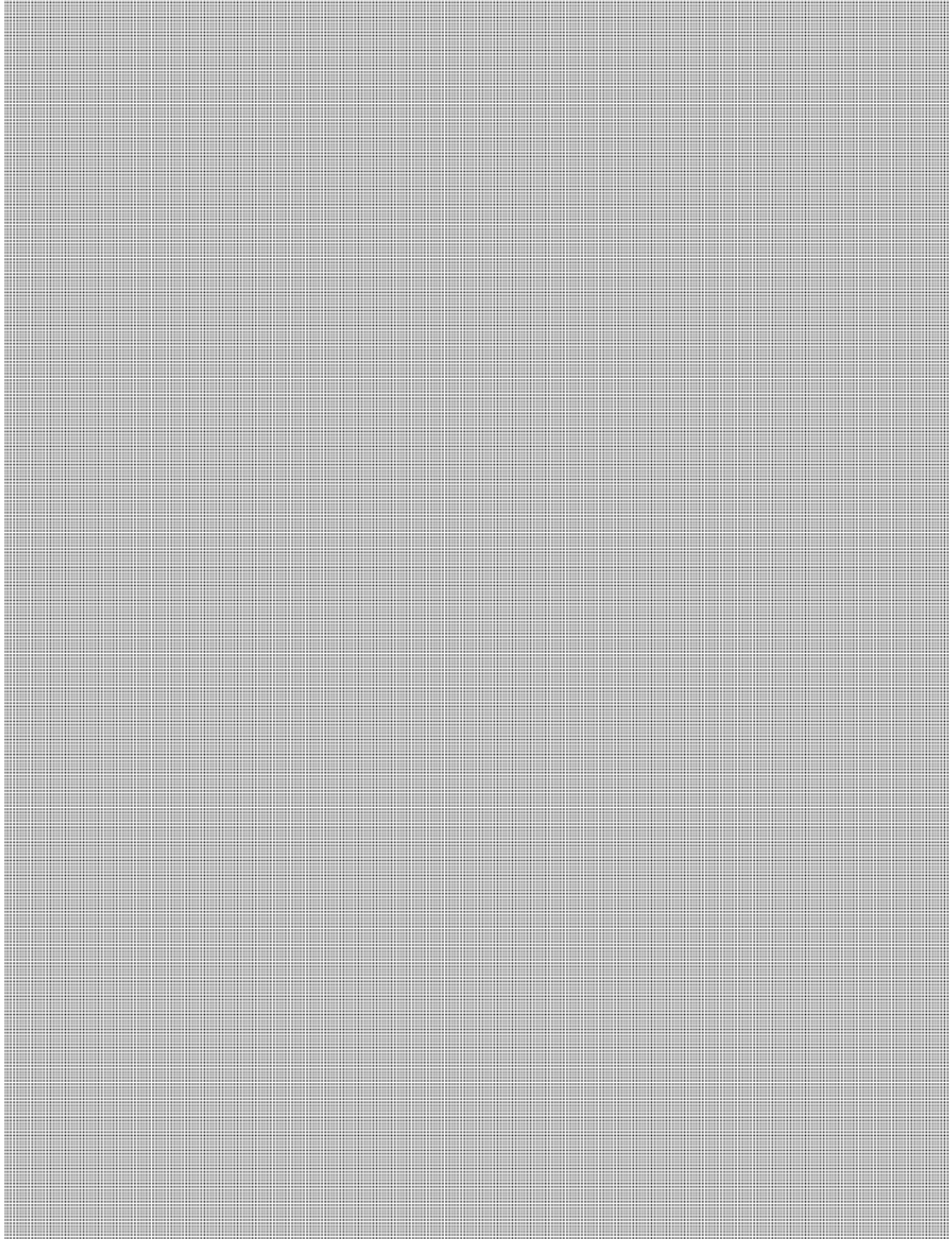


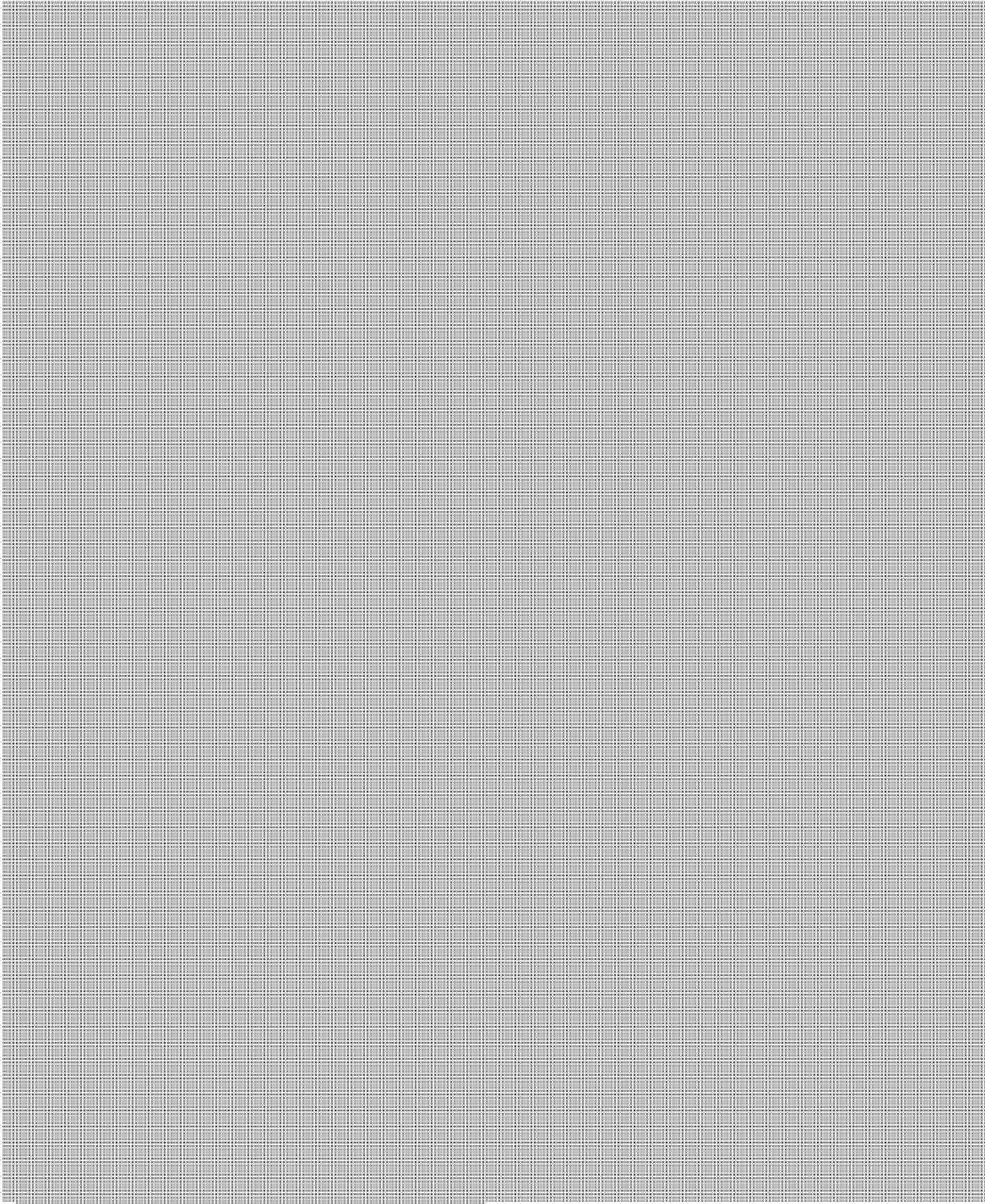
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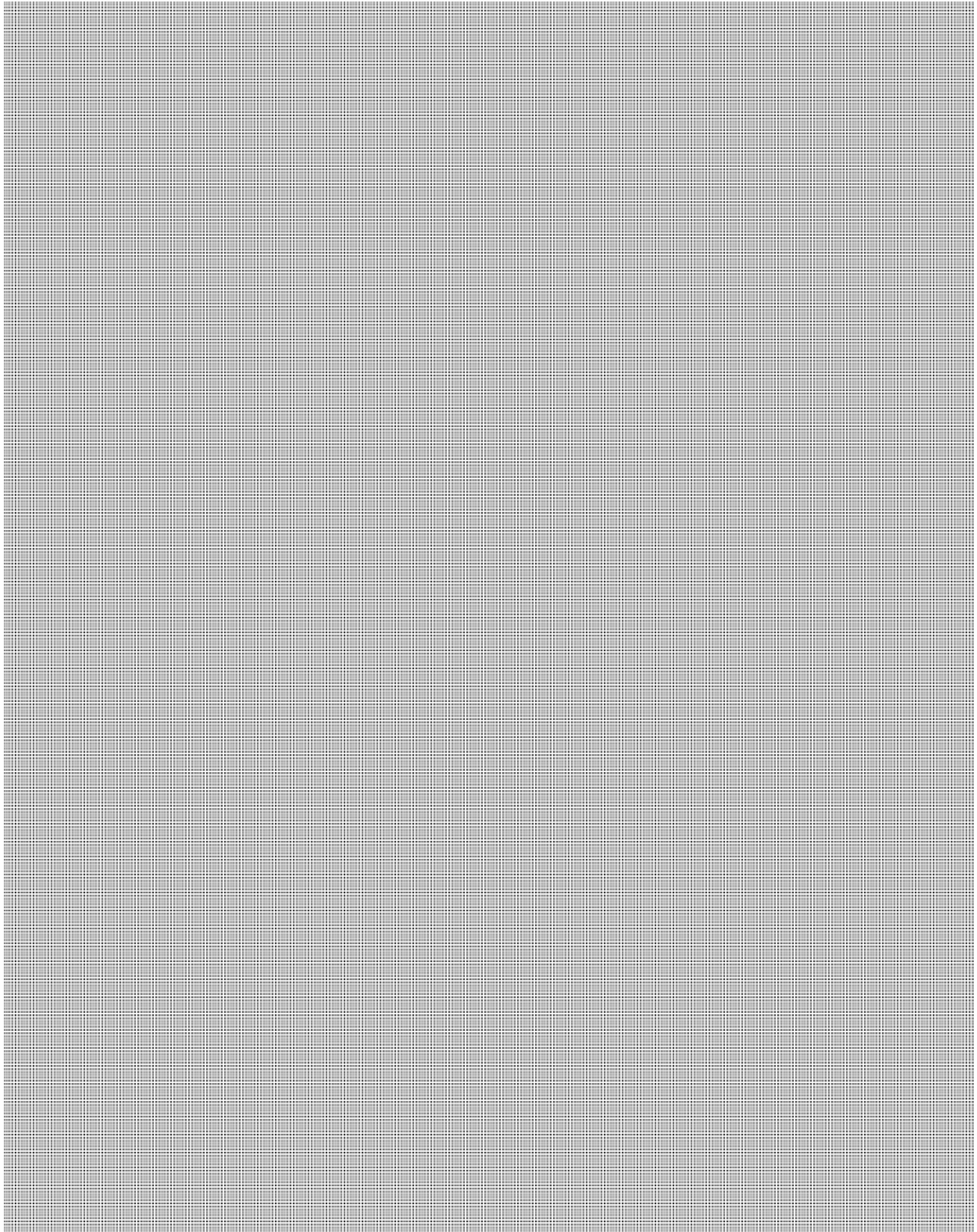






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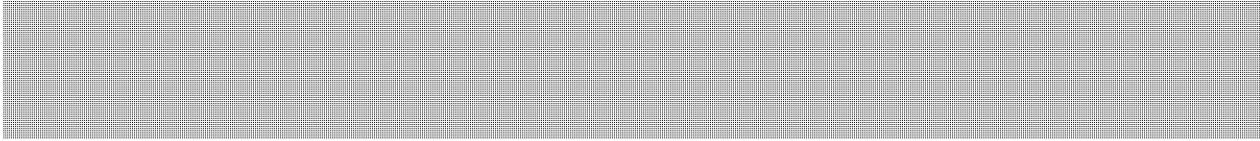
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Next Steps

Following the discovery of this wider French language network of websites, RRM Canada will



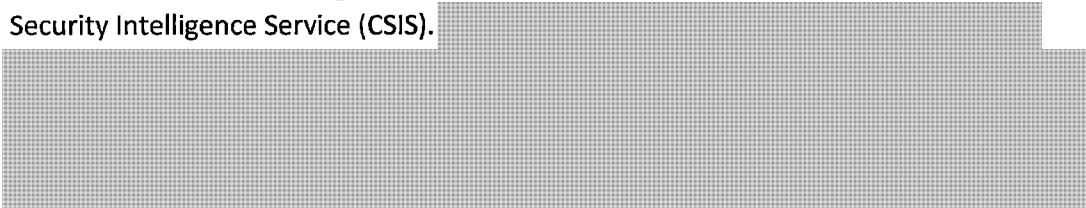
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**RRM CANADA OPEN DATA ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**


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**Chinese State Media Accounts Spread Narrative that Two Michaels are “Spies”
while Chinese Platforms Censor News of Meng Wanzhou DPA**

Key Findings

- RRM Canada has identified what appears to be a coordinated information campaign by Chinese state media outlets, leveraging Chinese and American social media platforms, to control the domestic narrative of the two Michaels’ return to Canada and foster confusion or doubt in Canada and internationally about the two Michaels’ activities in China prior to their detentions in December 2018.
- Chinese state media outlets published stories in English and Chinese that the two Michaels “confessed their guilt” and were inadvertently “exposed as spies” by Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

- Chinese social media platform WeChat took down articles by popular Canadian WeChat news accounts that sought to report the details of the Meng Wanzhou’s Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA) to resolve fraud charges. It is unclear if the content takedown was ordered by China’s Cyberspace Administration or by WeChat owner Tencent.

Purpose

This Open Data Analysis¹ is part of Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada’s efforts to monitor the digital information environment for signs of foreign state sponsored information manipulation. RRM Canada has identified a narrative from Chinese state media outlets that claims the two Michaels have “confessed their guilt”, were “granted bail for medical reasons” and that CSIS has “exposed” them as Canadian spies.


Methodology



¹ Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada produces Open Data Analysis to chart trends, strategies, and tactics in foreign interference. This analysis supports the G7 RRM, an initiative agreed by the G7 in 2018, to strengthen coordination to identify and respond to diverse and evolving threats to G7 democracies, including through sharing information and analysis, and identifying opportunities for coordinated response.

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RRM CANADA OPEN DATA ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

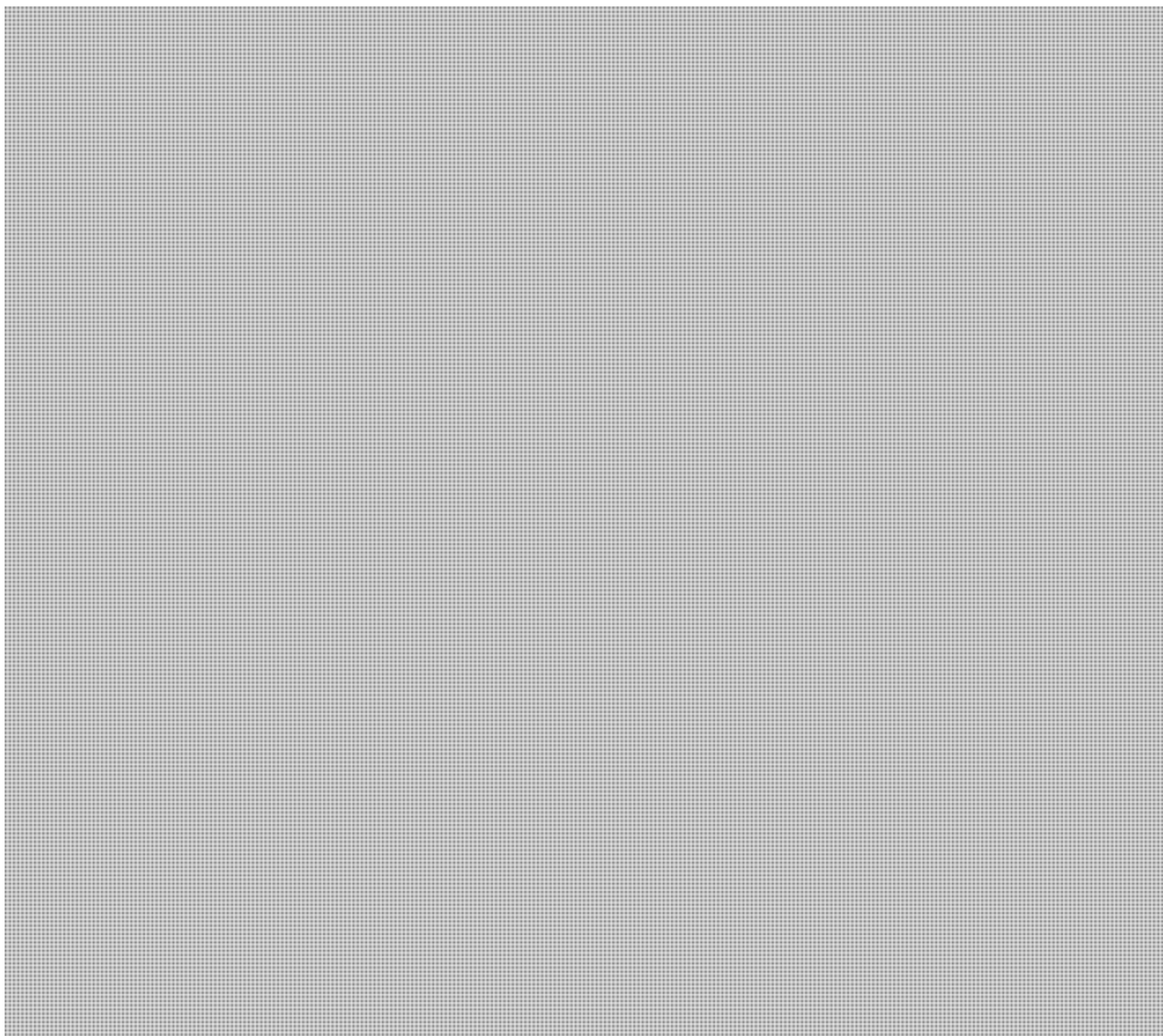
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Findings

Summary of Initial Research

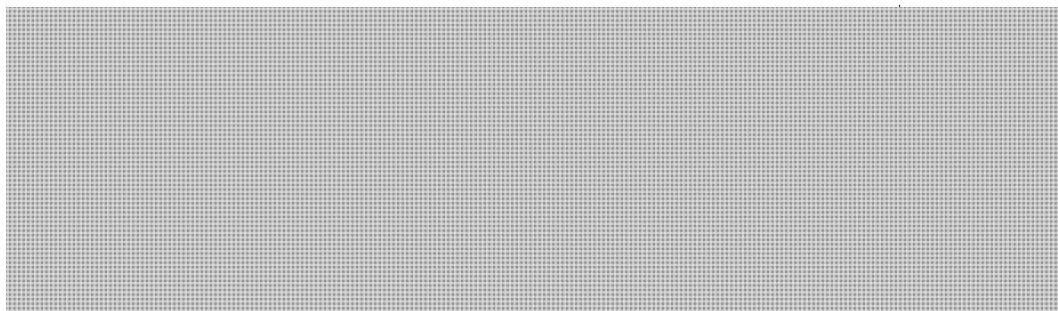
RRM Canada first detected the narrative on September 26, when the *Global Times*, a state media tabloid, published a lengthy English-language article with the headline: "Two Canadians confess guilt, granted bail for medical reasons before leaving China: source." The anonymous report claimed the two Michaels were "released on bail", "confessed to their crimes and wrote confession and repentance letters in their own handwriting," and departed China "in line with legal procedures." The author adds that China's suspicions are not unfounded and points to a recent tweet from CSIS that welcomed the two Michaels back to Canada.



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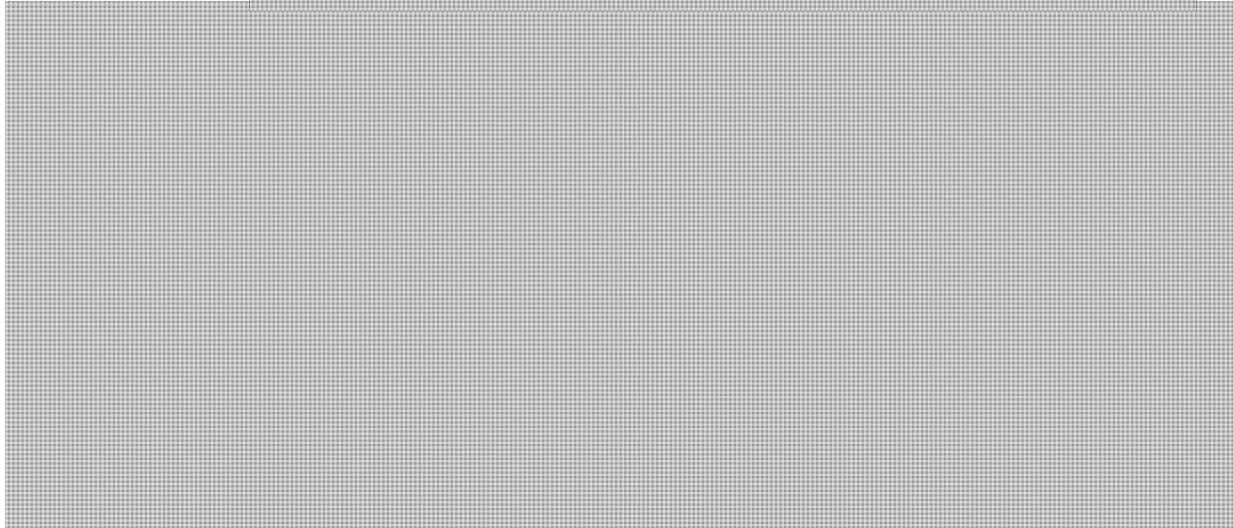


RRM Canada has observed high levels



Other Notable Narratives

Initially, Chinese-language state media outlets did not comment extensively on the two Michaels' release.



Tencent Censors Canadian WeChat Accounts Reporting on Meng DPA

RRM Canada also observed Chinese social media platform WeChat taking down articles by Canadian WeChat accounts that sought to report the details of Meng Wanzhou's DPA to resolve fraud charges.

On September 24, WeChat news accounts reported that Meng would appear in U.S. and Canadian courts on that day and could sign a DPA that would allow her to return to China. Because the full details of the DPA were not clear, Canadian WeChat news accounts reported that she would plead guilty to charges or admit to wrongdoing in misleading a global financial institution. Chinese state media did not include any of this discussion or information in their

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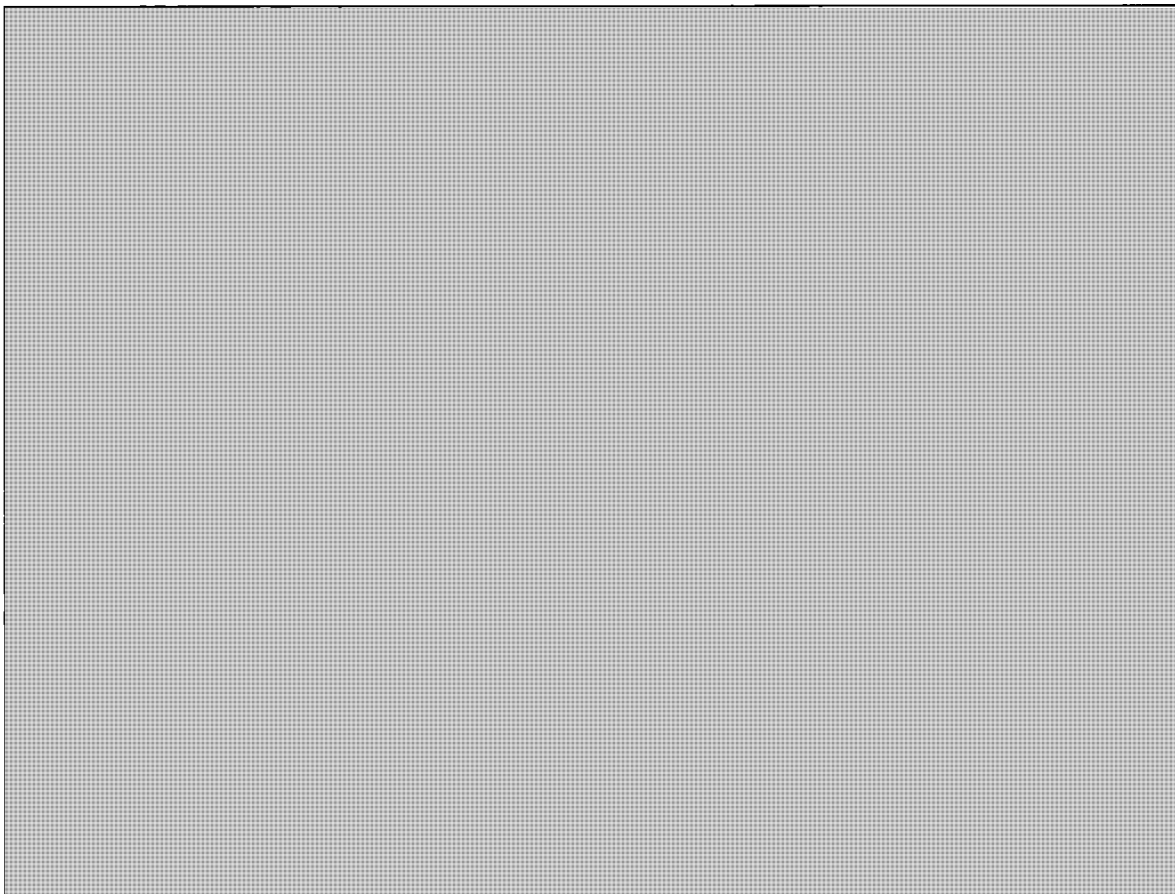
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official narratives of Meng's release. In response, Tencent and Sina, the makers of WeChat and Weibo, forcefully took down most mentions of what Meng agreed to in her DPA.

RRM Canada has discovered at least 10 instances of Tencent taking down news reports by Canadian WeChat news accounts. Over the course of GE44, these 10 accounts were the most likely to publish neutral reporting on the events of the campaign. Following the takedown, WeChat users received an error message from Tencent that read: "unable to view this content because it violates regulations." The error message in question only appears when Tencent or the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) forcefully removes the content from news accounts. RRM Canada is unable to determine if it was Tencent or the CAC that removed the stories.

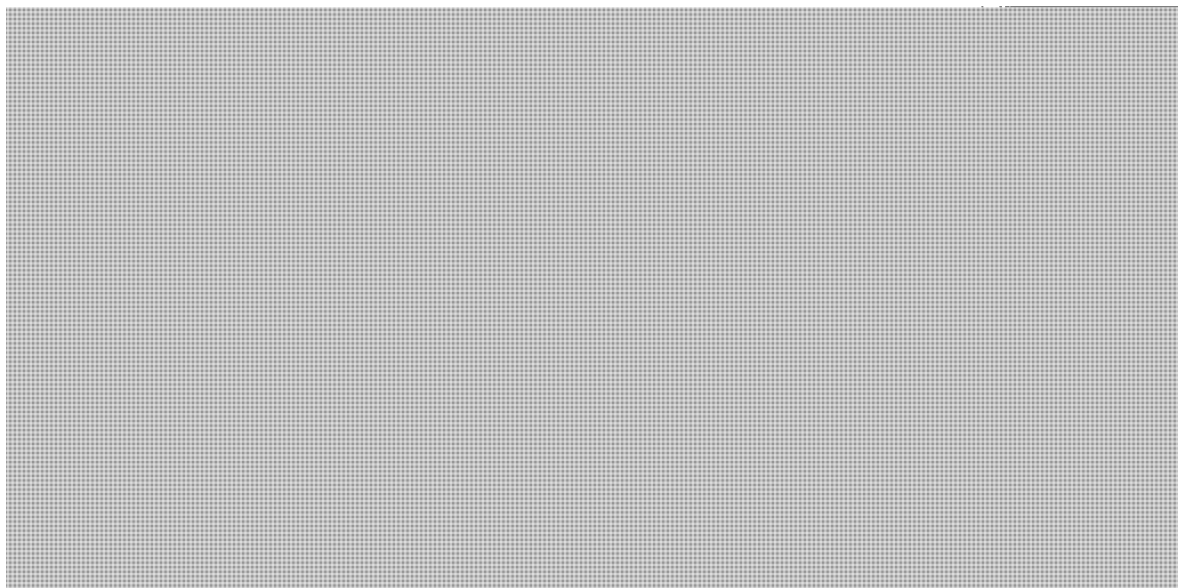
A full list of the Canadian WeChat news accounts affected – as well as the links to the original news articles – can be found in the table below. RRM Canada was able to find archived versions of the censored articles through a news aggregator website called CareerEngine. RRM Canada has reviewed the articles that could be recovered and suggested phrasing or content that may have led Tencent to censor the outlets.



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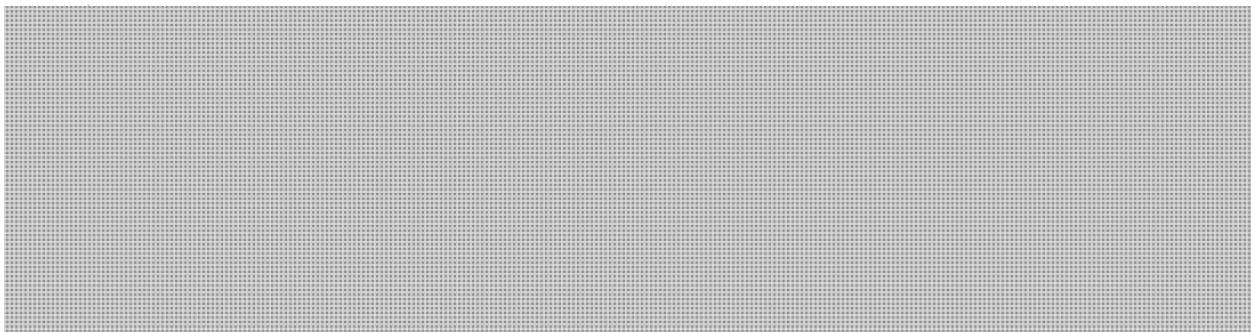
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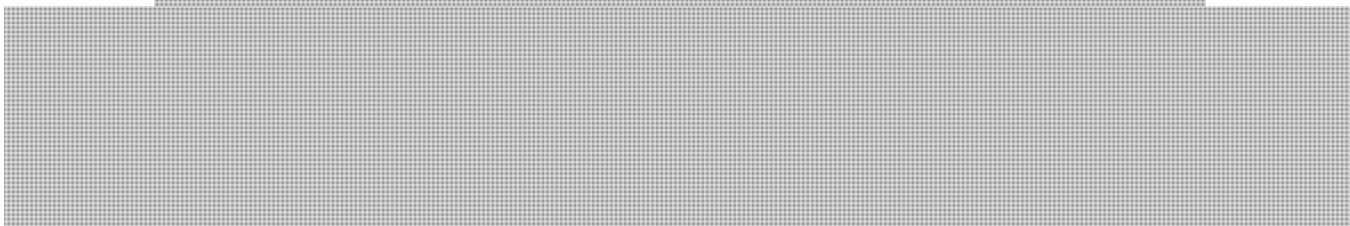
Target Audience

There appears to be different target audiences for each of these operations:



Next Steps

Following the discovery of the narrative related to the two Michaels, RRM Canada increased its observation



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**RRM CANADA OPEN DATA ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

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National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians, among others. Nothing in the present document shall be construed as adding any obligation or normative commitment under international or national law for any G7 member.

RRM Canada Open Data Analysis – Monthly Reports

Table of Contents

Digital Information Ecosystem Report - December 2020.....	1
Digital Information Ecosystem Report - January 2021.....	6
Digital Information Ecosystem Report - February 2021.....	11
Digital Information Ecosystem Report - March 2021.....	18
Digital Information Ecosystem Report - April 2021.....	24
Digital Information Ecosystem Report – May 2021.....	29
Digital Information Ecosystem Report – June 2021.....	35
Digital Information Ecosystem Report – July 2021.....	40
SUMMARY REPORT ON MONTHLY FINDINGS LEADING TO GE44.....	44

Digital Information Ecosystem Report - December 2020

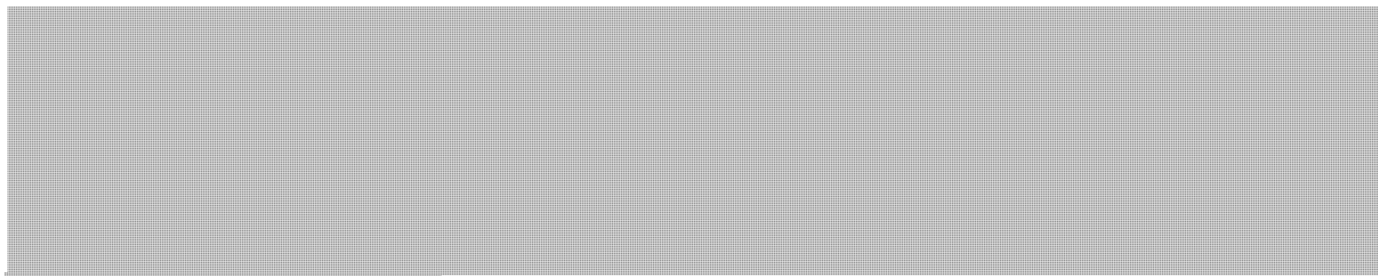
Findings

- Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada did not detect significant indicators of foreign interference (FI) in the Canadian digital information ecosystem in December 2020.

Purpose

This report presents summary findings from research and analysis covering December 2020, aimed at detecting FI in the Canadian digital information ecosystem. It is the first in a series of monthly reports leading up to the 44th Canadian General Election (GE44). This series of reports is designed to establish a baseline of online behaviour to facilitate the identification of anomalies linked to potential FI as the election nears.

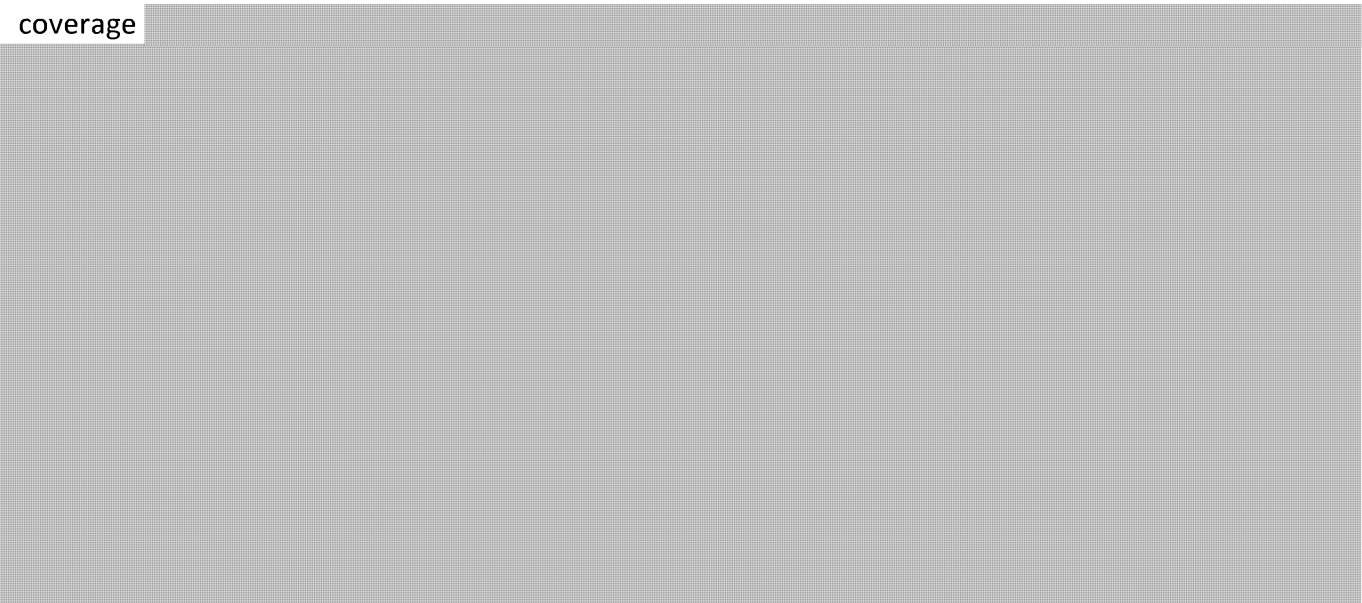
Methodology

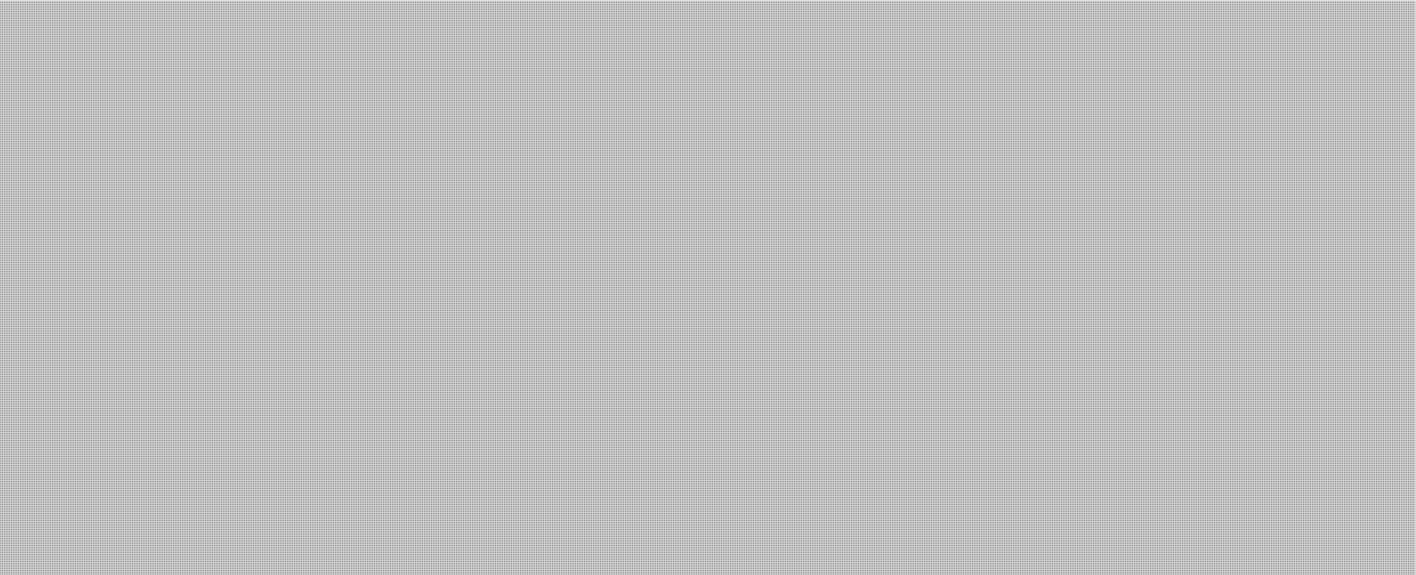


All RRM Canada reporting is subject to an ethical and methodological framework.

December 2020 Baseline

Overview (Engagement, Activity, Volume): RRM Canada monitored national and international news coverage



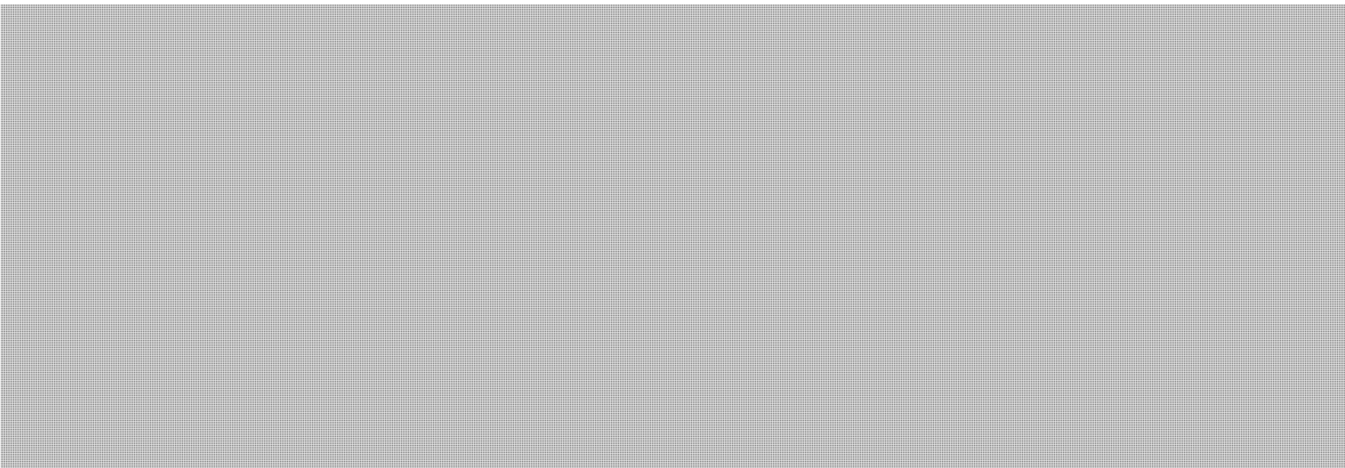


RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem, as it relates to the major themes identified above. Those issues that met RRM Canada's threshold requiring deeper analysis based on primary assessment were: 1) criticism of Canada's politics in the Indian online information sub-ecosystem, and 2) Peoples' Liberation Army winter training in Canada.

Analysis of Notable Issues of Potential Foreign Interference

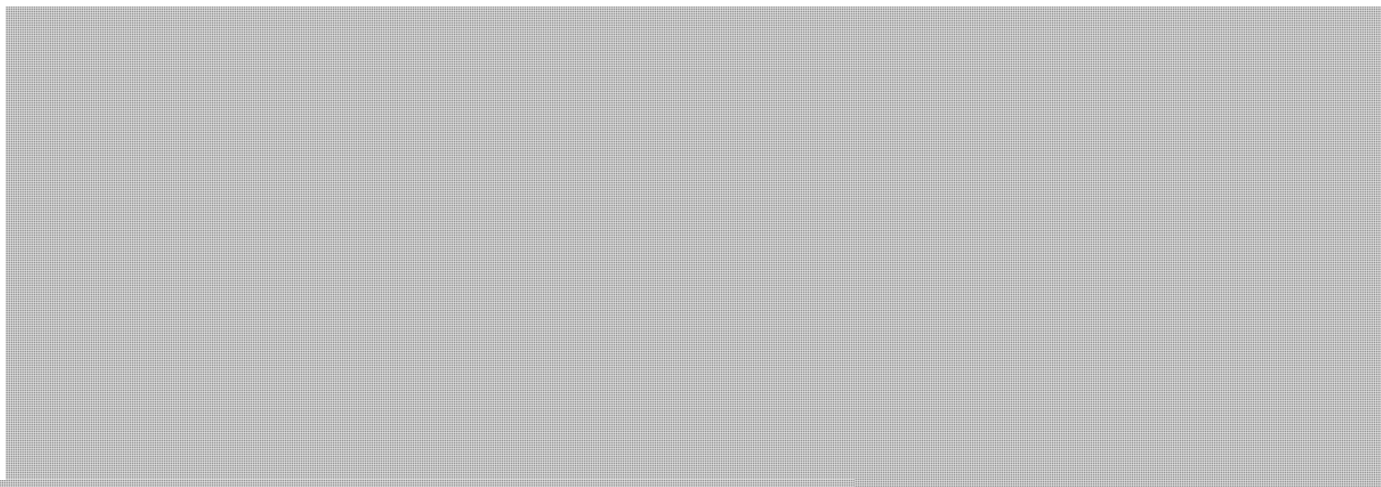
India Farmer Protest and Indian Information Ecosystem⁹

On November 30, 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made comments expressing concern for Indian farmers, primarily from the Indian state of Punjab, who had travelled to Delhi, to protest Indian government farm reforms.¹⁰ Following these comments, RRM Canada observed an increase in the level of interest for Canada in the Indian news ecosystem with various sources publishing negative stories about Prime Minister Trudeau and Canadian politics. RRM Canada observed Indian news media publish



articles critical of PM Trudeau and the Liberal government, including, in some cases, false or misleading narratives about the following subjects:

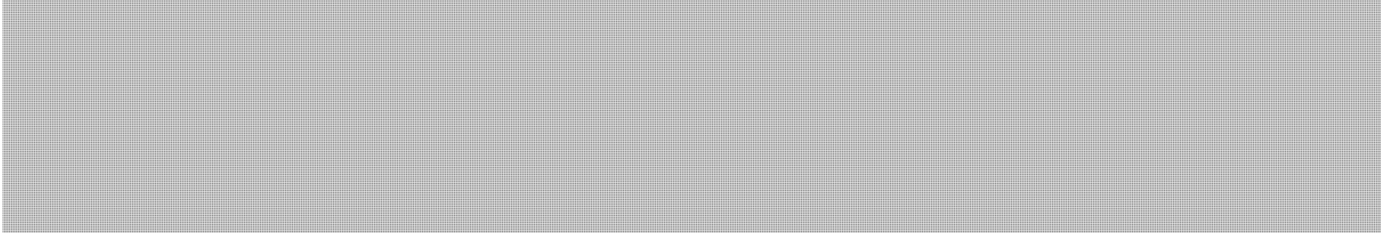
- PM Trudeau's 2018 visit to India;
- Canadian "vote banks" politics attempting to appeal to Sikh/Punjabi diaspora;
- Depicting PM Trudeau as a sympathizer to Khalistani separatists;
- Canada as an overall hub for terrorists;
- Canada-China relations (including recent PLA story); and,
- COVID-19 related federal spending and perceived misuse of public funds.¹¹

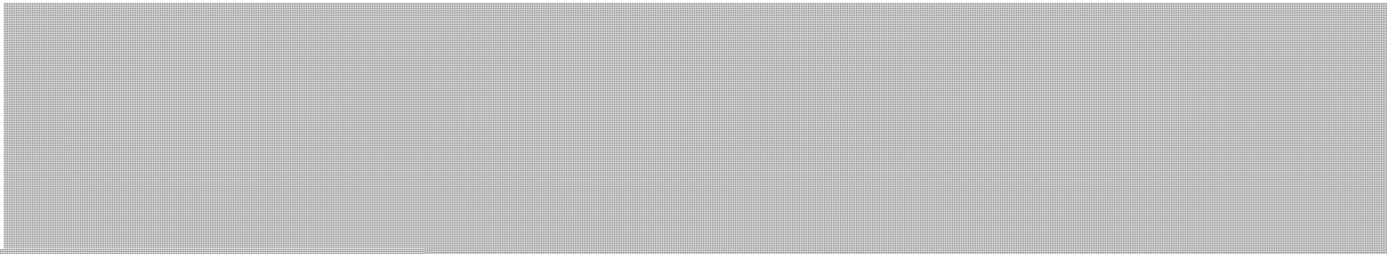


RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference, such as inauthentic coordination, amplification or dissemination of content, targeting the Canadian digital information ecosystem.

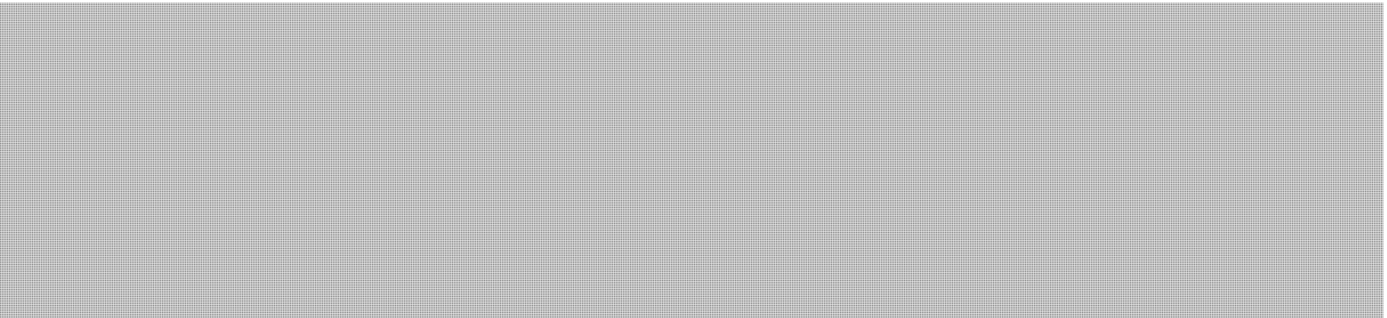
People's Liberation Army Winter Training in Canada

On December 9, 2020, The Globe and Mail published an article on the controversy surrounding the China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) military exercises in Canada.¹⁴ This story subsequently circulated online including on YouTube.





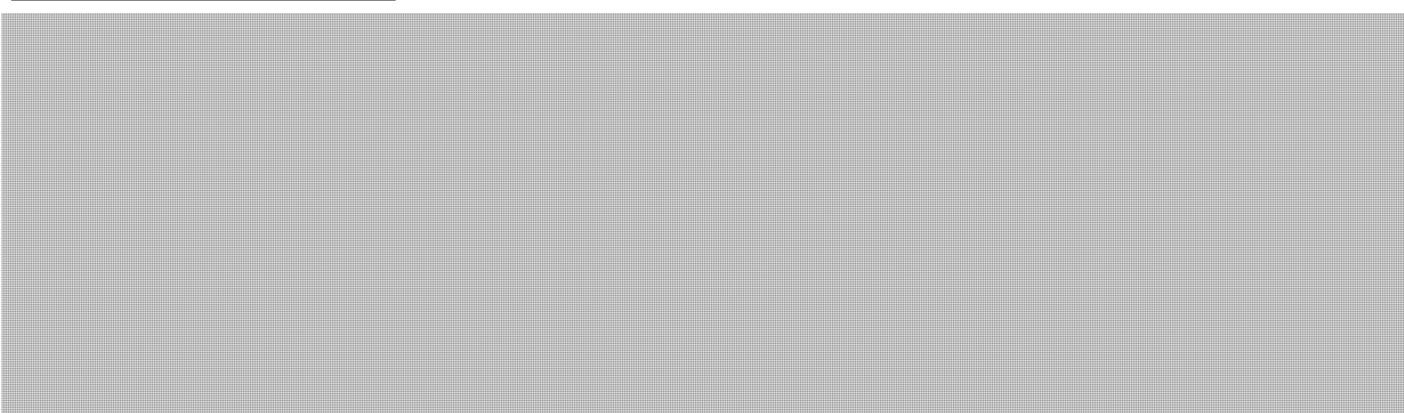
No known Chinese government media sources were observed within this collection. While the bulk of this data was produced by established western sources, RRM Canada observed two news sources from India reporting on the PLA controversy and directing criticism towards PM Trudeau.¹⁸ Analysts also found one channel producing ideologically driven content likely by and for US audiences, and another systematically republishing videos from the Indian news channel Wion.



RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference, such as inauthentic coordination, amplification or dissemination of content, targeting the Canadian digital information ecosystem.

Next Steps

RRM Canada will continue to explore the evolution of issues highlighted in this report, as well as emerging threats and vulnerabilities for information manipulation that have the potential to be exploited by hostile foreign actors.



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Prepared by: IOL/RRM Canada

Approved: IOL/Dobner

Consulted: Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Task Force

Released: February 3, 2021

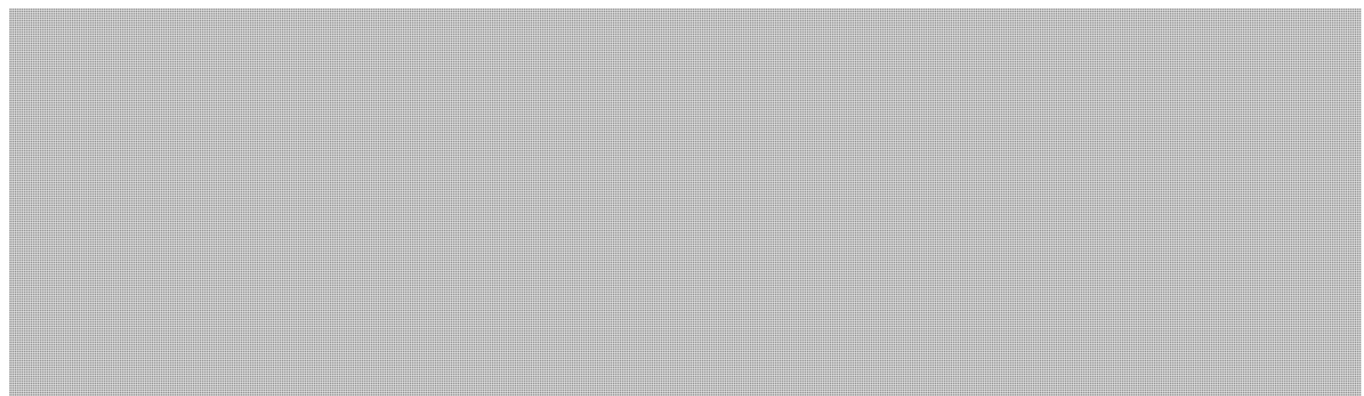
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Digital Information Ecosystem Report - January 2021**Findings**

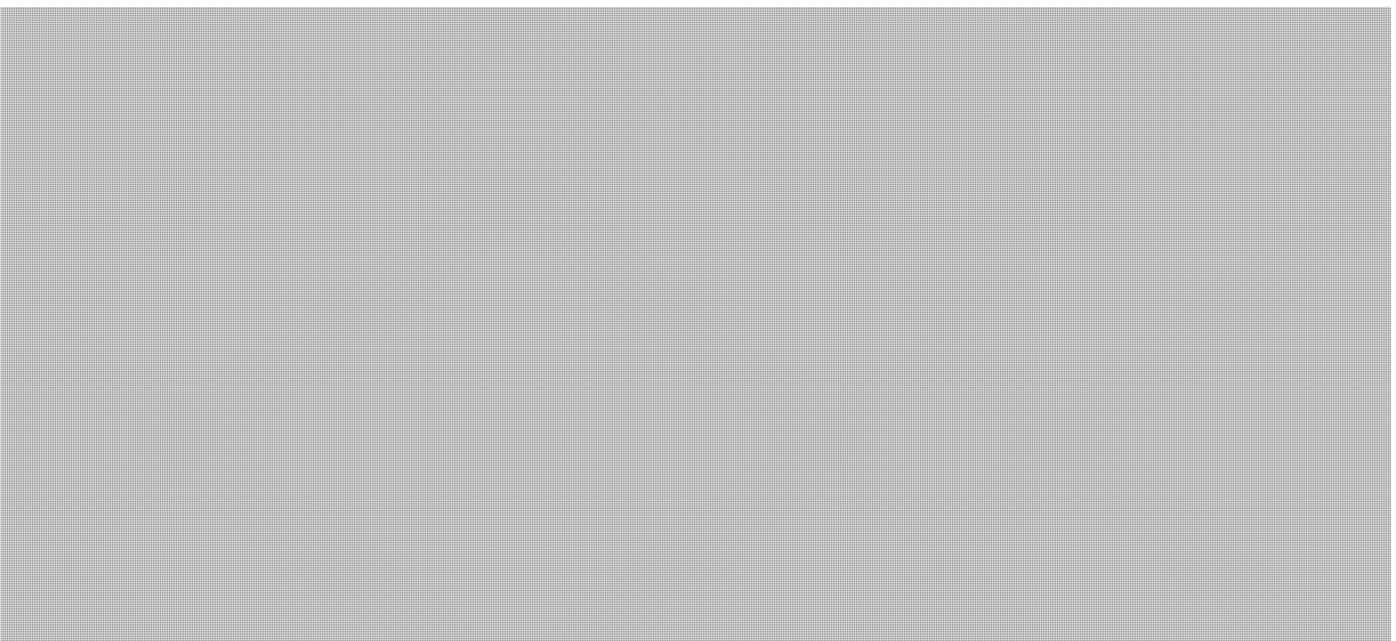
- Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada did not detect significant indicators of foreign interference (FI) in the Canadian digital information ecosystem in January 2021.

Purpose

This report presents summary findings from research and analysis covering January 2021, aimed at detecting FI in the Canadian digital information ecosystem. It is the second in a series of monthly reports leading up to the 44th Canadian General Election (GE44). This series of reports is designed to establish a baseline of online behaviour to facilitate the identification of anomalies linked to potential FI as the election nears.

Methodology

All RRM Canada reporting is subject to an ethical and methodological framework.



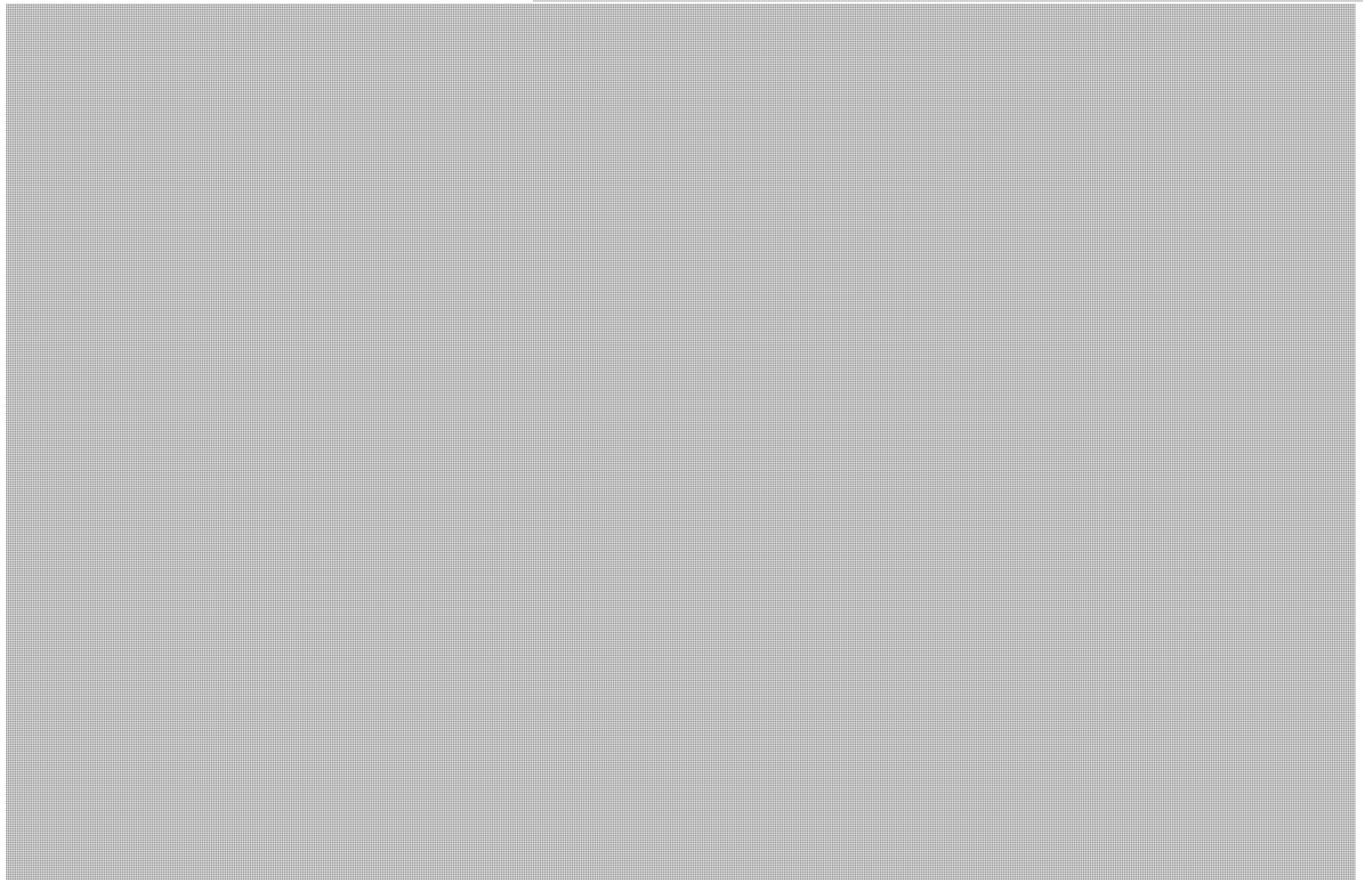
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January 2021 Baseline



RRM Canada also analyzed all submissions



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1. CTV news article discussing the potential decision by the government to list the Proud Boys as a terrorist organization - 3,377 user comments;
2. Article discussing support for universal basic income¹³ - 2,840 user comments; and
3. National Post article discussing new quarantine restrictions for travelers¹⁴ – 2,634 user comments.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the top shared articles about Canadian politics in January included the following stories:

1. The potential decision by the government to list the Proud Boys as a terrorist organization - 4 articles with 528,200 engagements;¹⁵
2. The Prime Minister and other parties' response to Keystone XL cancellation - 2 articles with 222,100 engagements;¹⁶
3. Articles discussing Canadians travelling abroad and for holidays - 2 articles with 135,600 engagements;¹⁷
4. The Prime Minister's statement on the US Capitol riots - 1 article with 124,900 engagements;¹⁸ and
5. The Prime Minister's statement on US President Joe Biden's inauguration - 1 article with 105,800 engagements.¹⁹

Foreign Government Sponsored Accounts

[REDACTED]

RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem, as it relates to the major themes identified above.

Analysis of Notable Issues of Potential Foreign Interference

Intersections between Indian and Canadian media ecosystems

RRM Canada's December 2020 reporting indicated an increase in attention by various Indian news sites to Canadian politics, following Prime Minister Trudeau's November 30, 2020, remarks concerning farmers' protests in India. December reporting also included reference to Indian news sources reporting on Canada Chinese relations. During the January 2021 reporting period, RRM Canada observed government aligned Indian, along with several other foreign alternative media sources, leveraging a Canadian alternative media outlet to further

¹³ <https://cultmtl.com/2021/01/3-in-5-canadians-supports-universal-basic-income-canada-as-high-as-30k-year-quebec/>

¹⁴ <https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/canadian-government-to-force-incoming-travellers-into-hotels-for-quarantine>

¹⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/11/canada-considers-adding-proud-boys-terrorist-list-alongside-isis-al-gaida> , <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/feds-looking-at-declaring-proud-boys-a-terrorist-organization-in-wake-of-u-s-rioting-1.5259790> , <https://canadalive.news/2021/01/07/the-proud-boys-must-be-named-a-terrorist-group-believes-jagmeet-singh/> and <https://globalnews.ca/news/7562953/ndp-proud-boys-terrorist-group/>

¹⁶ <https://globalnews.ca/news/7592405/trudeau-premier-keystone-xl> , <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/justin-trudeau-disappointed-biden-cancel-keystone-xl-pipeline>

¹⁷ <https://globalnews.ca/news/7607191/covid-canada-international-travel-restrictions/> and <https://www.tvnouvelles.ca/2021/01/02/exasperee-par-les-voyages-dans-le-sud-une-intensiviste-interpelle-trudeau>

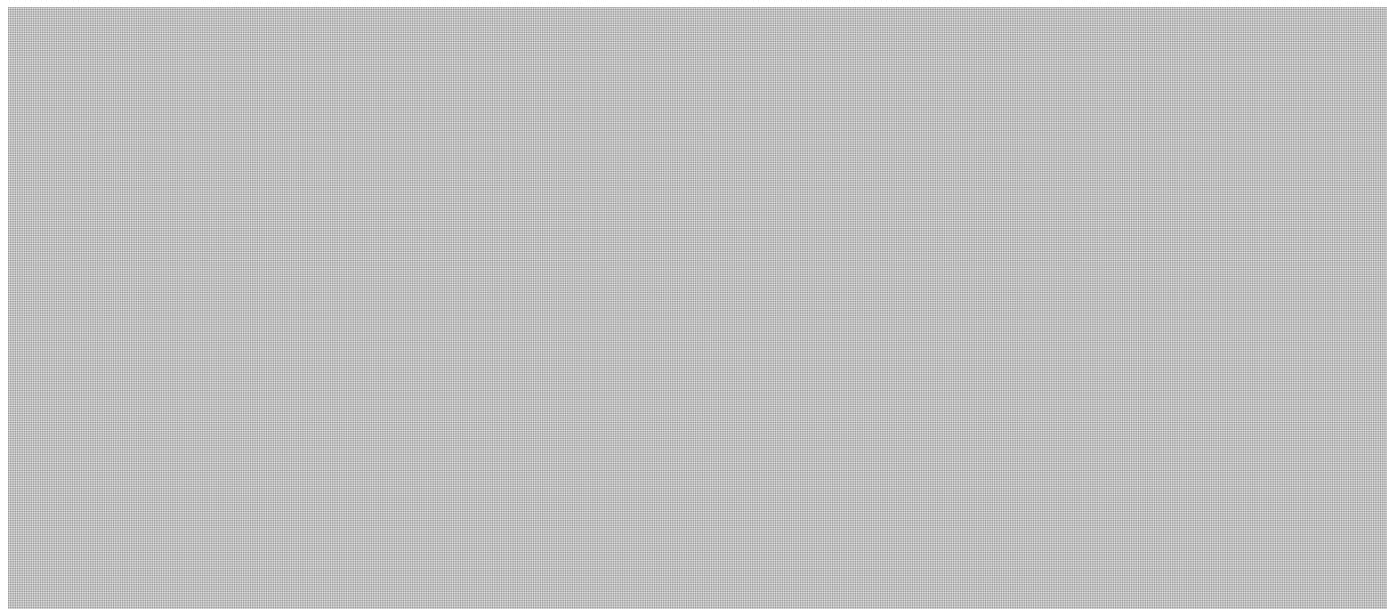
¹⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/riots-washington-capitol-hill-trudeau-trump-1.5866237>

¹⁹ <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2021/01/20/statement-prime-minister-canada-inauguration-joe-biden-president-united>

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the spread of narratives relating to Canada and China internationally. Other Canadian alternative sources have, in turn, cited Indian sources in a kind of self-reinforcing loop.



In all cases, none of the foreign source articles garnered much engagement on social media and RRM Canada did not observe any signs of coordinated activity to spread these articles on-line.³⁰ Nonetheless, many open-source researchers have observed that FI campaigns now typically leverage existing domestic narratives and sources.³¹ RRM Canada notes that these foreign sources quickly reacted [REDACTED]

Given the speed of this spread, and the confluence of mutually reinforcing narratives seen in this case, hostile state actors may judge that leveraging and building upon existing domestic narratives may prove to be an effective way to shape Canadian political discussions. As such, RRM Canada will continue to research the interactions between Canadian and various international and diaspora information ecosystems in order to identify and detect any signs of potential FI campaigns.



³⁰ RRM Canada monitors for foreign, state sponsored disinformation, as such the domestic sources were not examined further.

³¹ This phenomenon has been noted by Both the Atlantic Council's DFR Lab as well as The German Marshall Funds Alliance for Securing Democracy. For examples see here: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/foreign-interference-us-politics-kremlin/> and here <https://securingdemocracy.gmfus.org/foreign-amplification-of-voter-fraud-narratives-how-russian-iranian-and-chinese-messengers-have-leveraged-post-election-unrest-in-the-united-states/>

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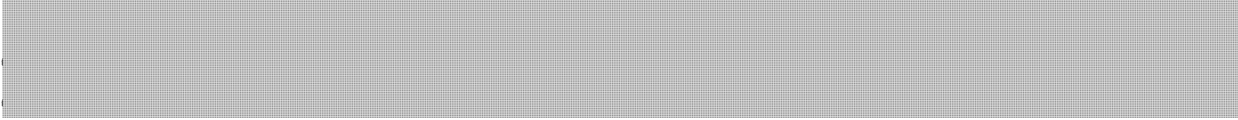

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Prepared by: IOL/RRM Canada
Approved: IOL/Gallit Dobner
Released: Feb 12, 2021

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Digital Information Ecosystem Report - February 2021

Findings

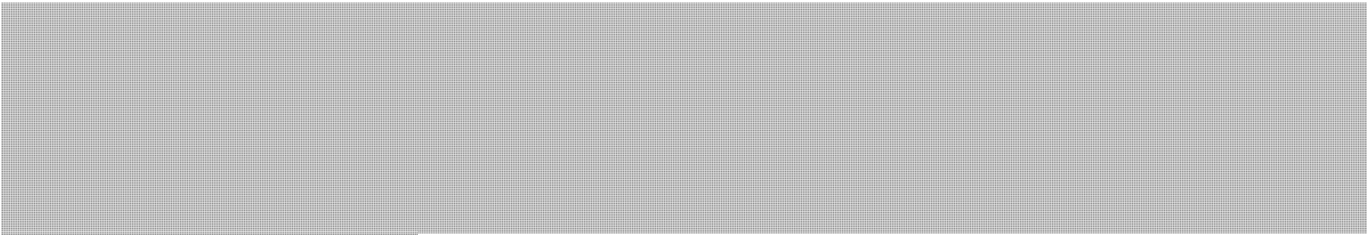
- 
- RRM Canada did not observe any indications of inauthentic amplification specifically targeting the Canada-led Statement against Arbitrary Detention and parliamentary vote on Uighur Genocide, 

Purpose

This report presents summary findings from research and analysis covering February 2021, aimed at detecting foreign interference (FI) in the Canadian digital information ecosystem. It is the third in a series of monthly reports leading up to the 44th Canadian General Election (GE44). This series of reports is designed to establish a baseline of online behaviour to facilitate the identification of anomalies linked to potential FI as the election nears and to alert decision makers to any potential FI activity.

Methodology



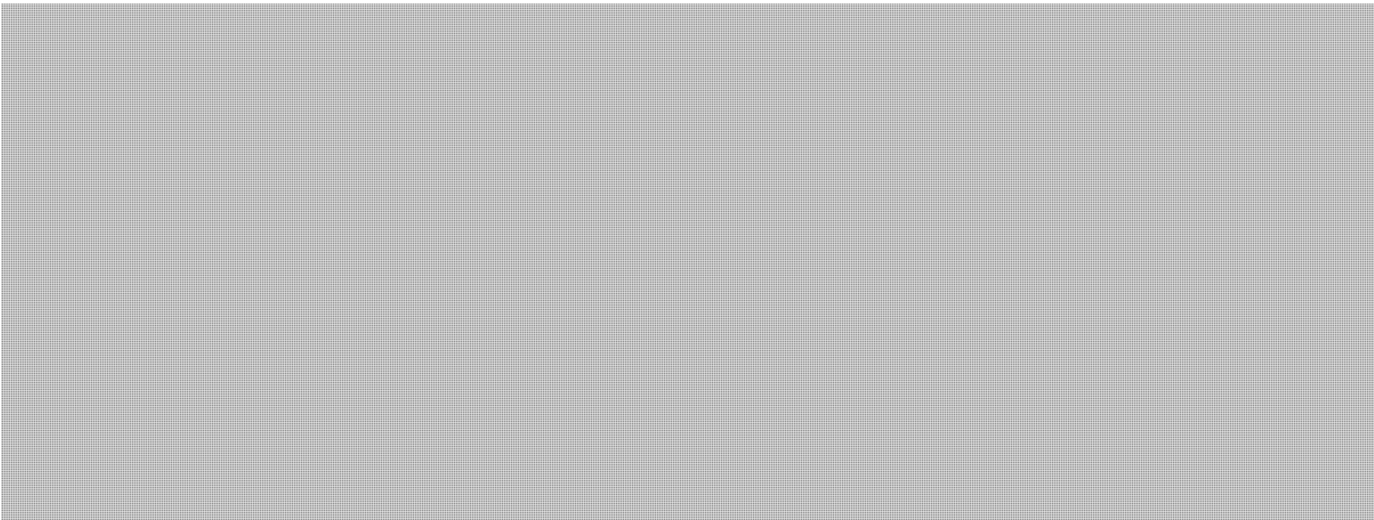


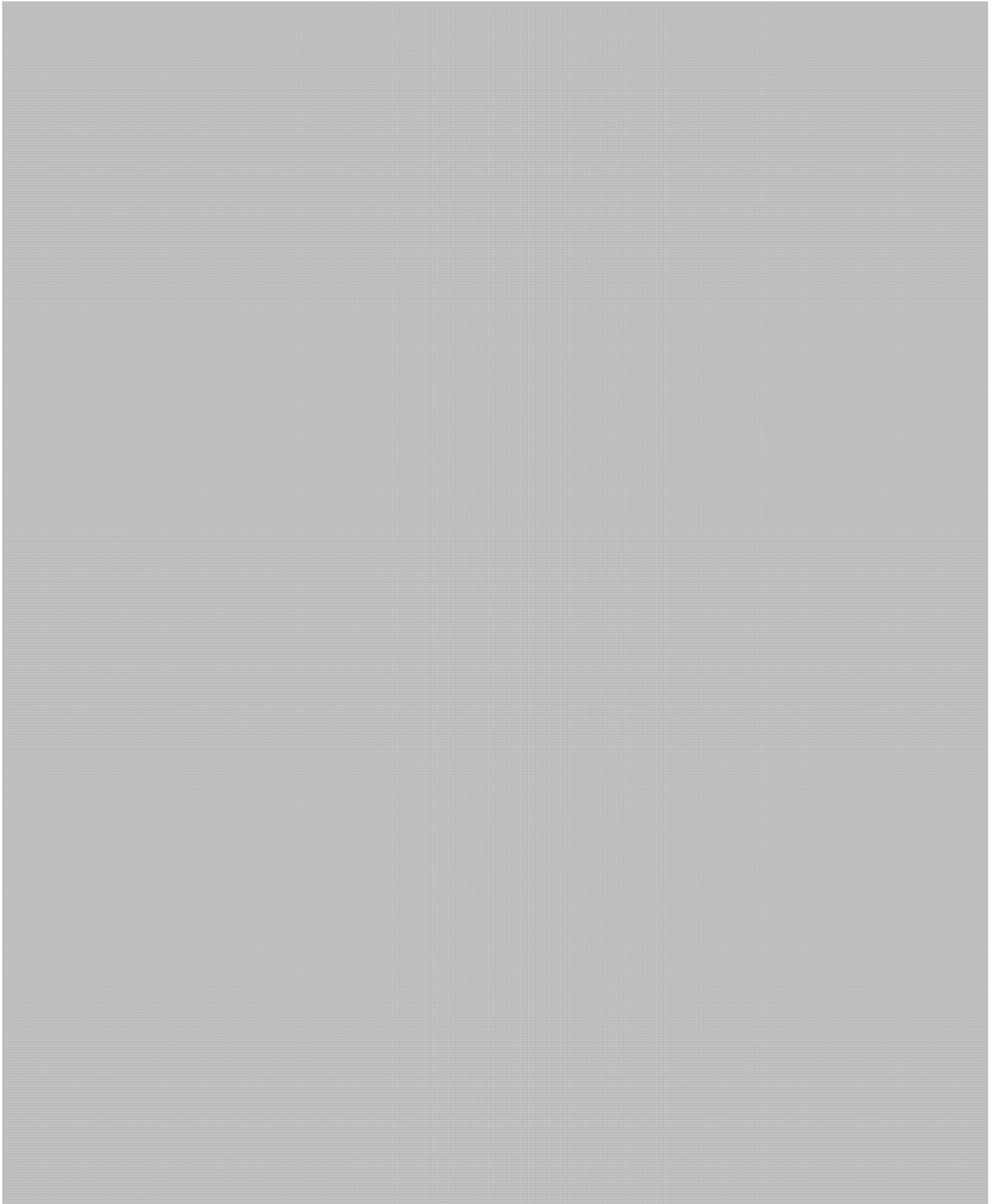
All RRM Canada reporting is subject to an ethical and methodological framework. Partner government organizations and leading non-government partners also inform RRM Canada's reporting.

February 2021 Baseline



RRM Canada also analyzed all submissions





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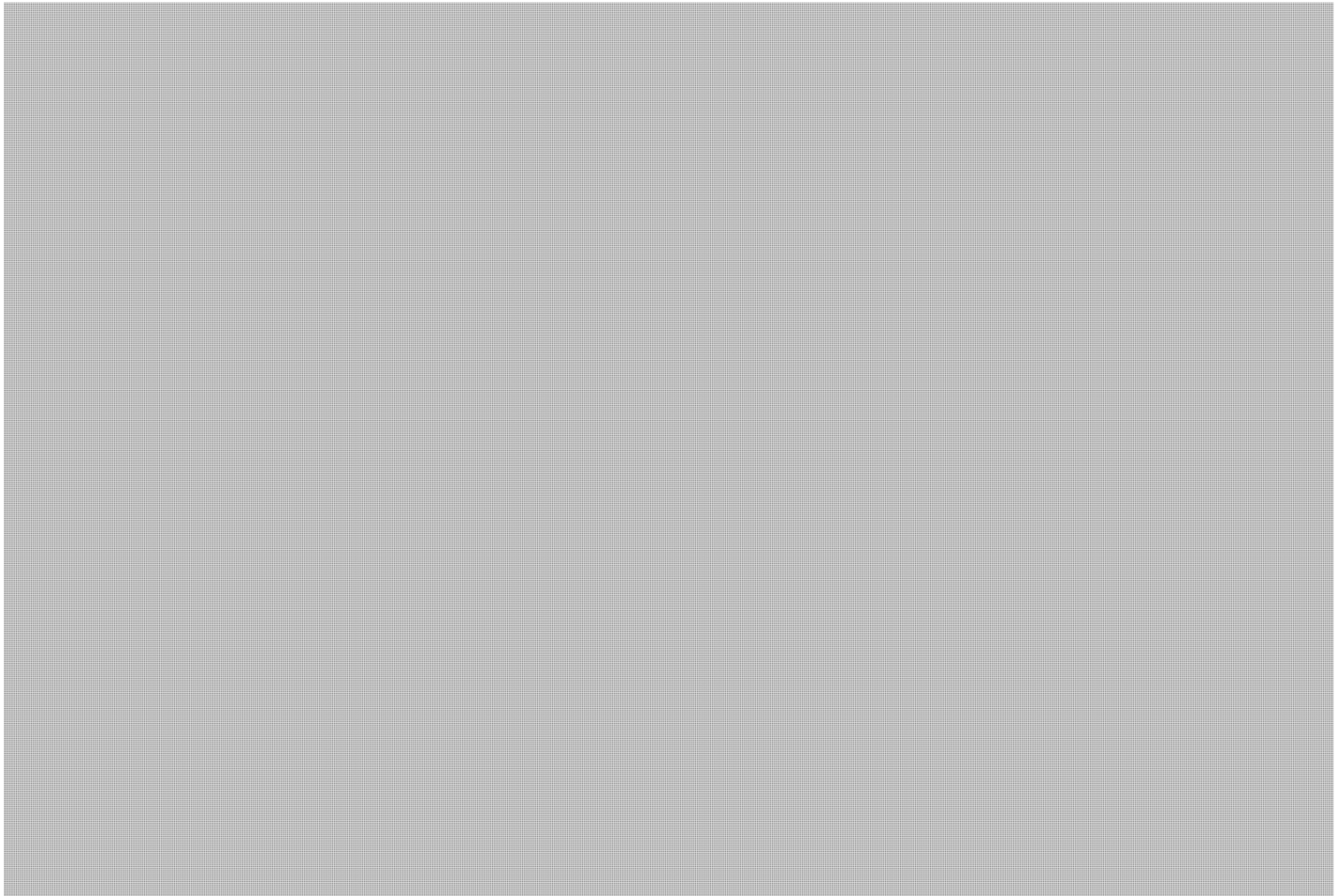
RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem, as it relates to the major themes identified above.

Analysis of Notable Issues of Potential Foreign Interference***Continued and Evolving Interest in Canada from Indian Media Ecosystems***

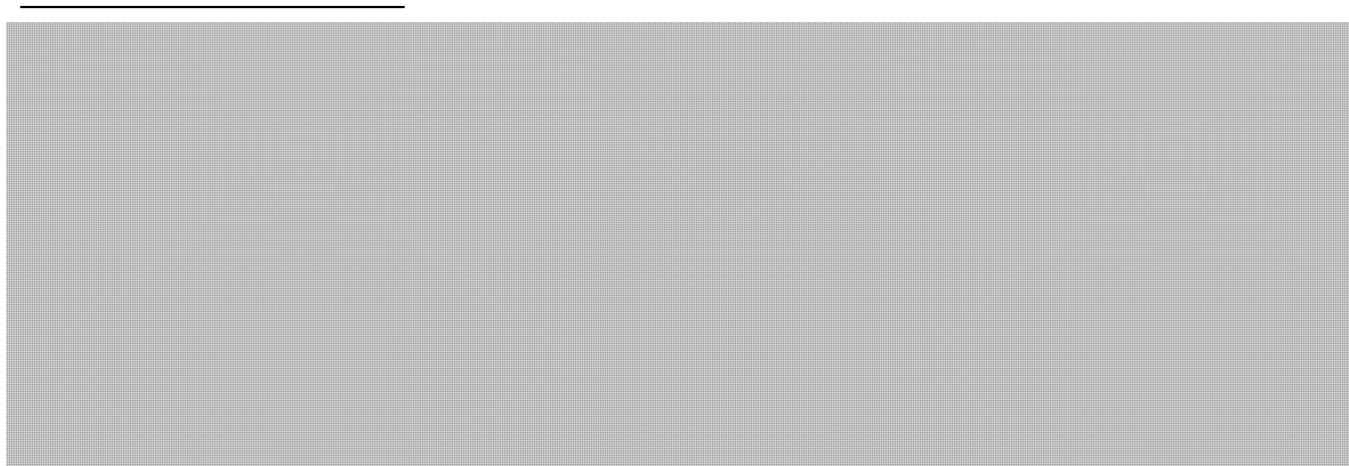
Throughout the February reporting period, RRM Canada observed continued interest in Canada from various Indian news and alternative media outlets. While the December and January reporting periods focused predominantly on critiques of Prime Minister Trudeau's comments in support of ongoing farmer protests, the February reporting period saw a shift in narratives away from the Prime Minister to a focus on a Canadian activist of Sikh heritage.

On February 2, 2021, climate activist and founder of the Fridays for Future (FFF) movement, Greta Thunberg, singer Rihanna, and a number of other celebrities posted on social media about supporting ongoing farmers' protests in India. By February 4, 2021, Indian media were reporting that New Delhi Police were investigating connections between these celebrity endorsements and a Canadian based advocacy group known as the Poetic Justice Foundation (PJF), [REDACTED] Canada-based PR firm Skyrocket, Canada-based advocacy group the World Sikh Organization (WSO), and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh.²¹

²¹ <https://theprint.in/diplomacy/canada-firm-mp-pr-person-suspected-for-farmers-protest-toolkit-tweeted-by-greta-thunberg/599098/>



Given the continued strong interest in Canada and Canadian politics by Indian media sources and the potential for the emerging narratives to serve as vectors of foreign hostile activity,



PRC Reactions to the Statement against Arbitrary Detention and Parliamentary Vote on Uighur Genocide

RRM Canada analysed

[REDACTED]

Along with accusing

Canada of arbitrarily detaining Meng Wang Zhou, Chinese officials and state-linked media outlets also claimed that Canada coerced other countries into signing the declaration or including their signature without their knowledge.³⁷

[REDACTED]

RRM Canada did not observe any indications of inauthentic amplification specifically targeting Canada on either issue.

[REDACTED]

³⁵ On Feb 15, 2021, a coalition of 57 countries supported an international declaration denouncing state-sponsored arbitrary detention of foreign nationals for political purposes. The Canadian led initiative was officially country-agnostic; however, it was widely viewed as a reaction to the detention of two Canadians in China. As details of the declaration came to light, Chinese state news outlets called the declaration “an aggressive and ill-considered attack designed to provoke China.” For examples see here: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-canada-diplomacy-detainees-idUSKBN2AFONV> ; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/18/china-canada-declaration-arbitrary-detention-foreign-citizens> ; and <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/arbitrary-detention-kovrig-spavor-garneau-1.5914382>

[REDACTED]

https://twitter.com/MFA_China/status/1363820903184797701; <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202102/1216143.shtml> ; and https://m.facebook.com/spoxwangwenbin/videos/442958076819430/?refsrc=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F&_rdr

³⁸ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/27/un-rights-chief-decries-abuses-in-xinjiang-arrests-in-china>

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Similar

reporting on a campaign to discredit the UK-based British Broadcasting Corporation for their coverage of systemic rape in Xinjiang internment camps was produced by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI).⁴⁰

Given partner government and ASPI reporting indicating covert and inauthentic social-media campaigns aimed at undermining politicians and organizations critical of China's actions in Xinjiang, RRM Canada will continue to monitor for coordinated information operations aimed at shaping discussions relating to human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

Prepared by: GAC/IOL/RRM Canada

Approved: GAC/IOL/Gallit Dobner

Released: 19 Mar, 2021

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⁴⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/04/chinas-communist-party-ran-campaign-to-discredit-bbc-thinktank-finds>

Digital Information Ecosystem Report - March 2021

Findings

- Canada, among other countries, was likely the target of an overt, well-researched, and coordinated Twitter campaign to call for an end to the Ethiopian government's military operations in Tigray and a UN investigation into possible war crimes in the region.
- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem.

Purpose

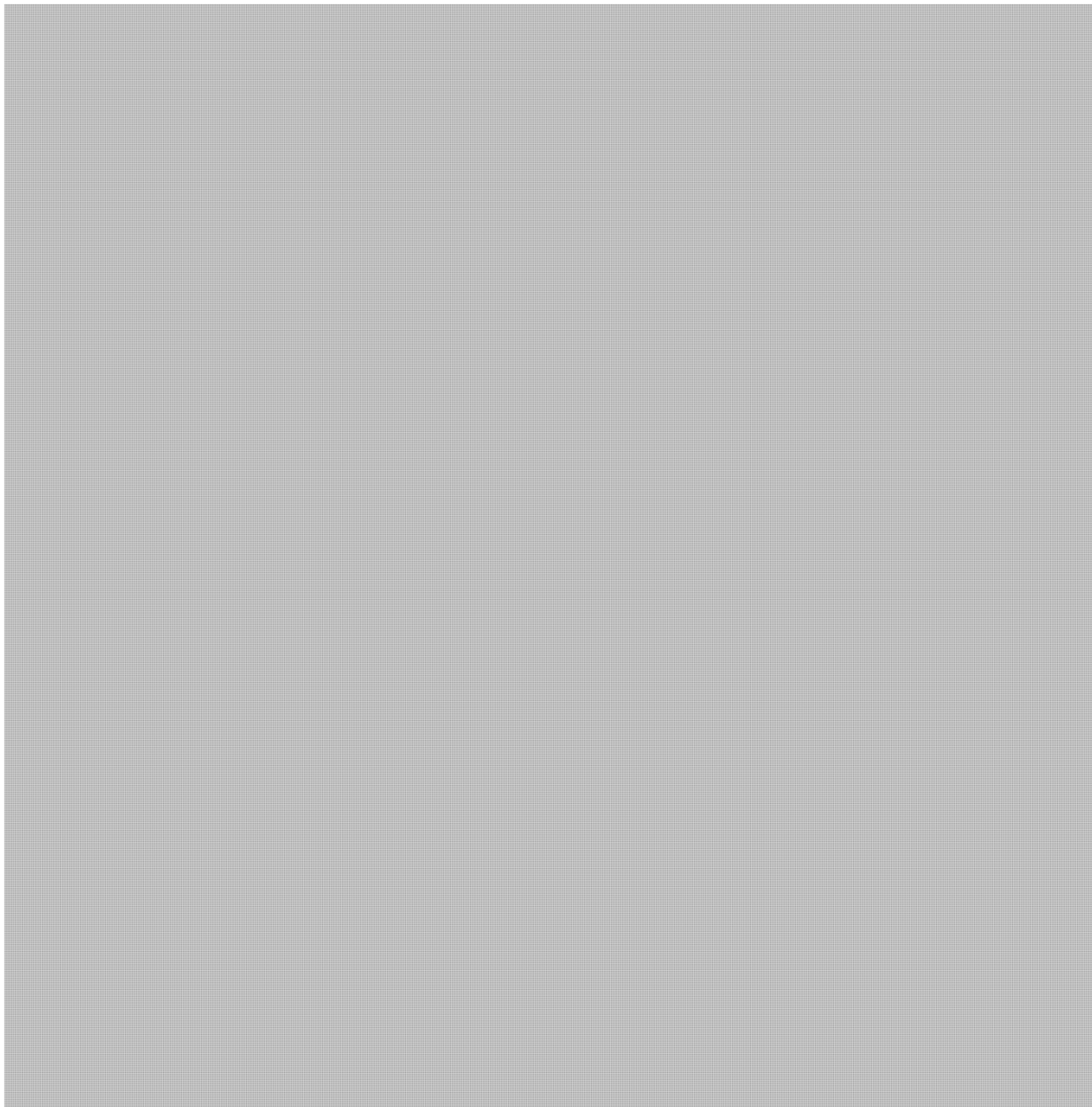
This report presents summary findings from research and analysis covering March 2021, aimed at detecting foreign interference (FI) in the Canadian digital information ecosystem. It is the 4th in a series of monthly reports leading up to the 44th Canadian General Election (GE44). This series of reports is designed to establish a baseline of online behaviour to facilitate the identification of anomalies linked to potential FI as the election nears and to alert decision-makers to any potential FI activity.

Methodology



All RRM Canada reporting is subject to an ethical and methodological framework. Partner government organizations and leading non-government partners also inform RRM Canada's reporting.

March 2021 Baseline

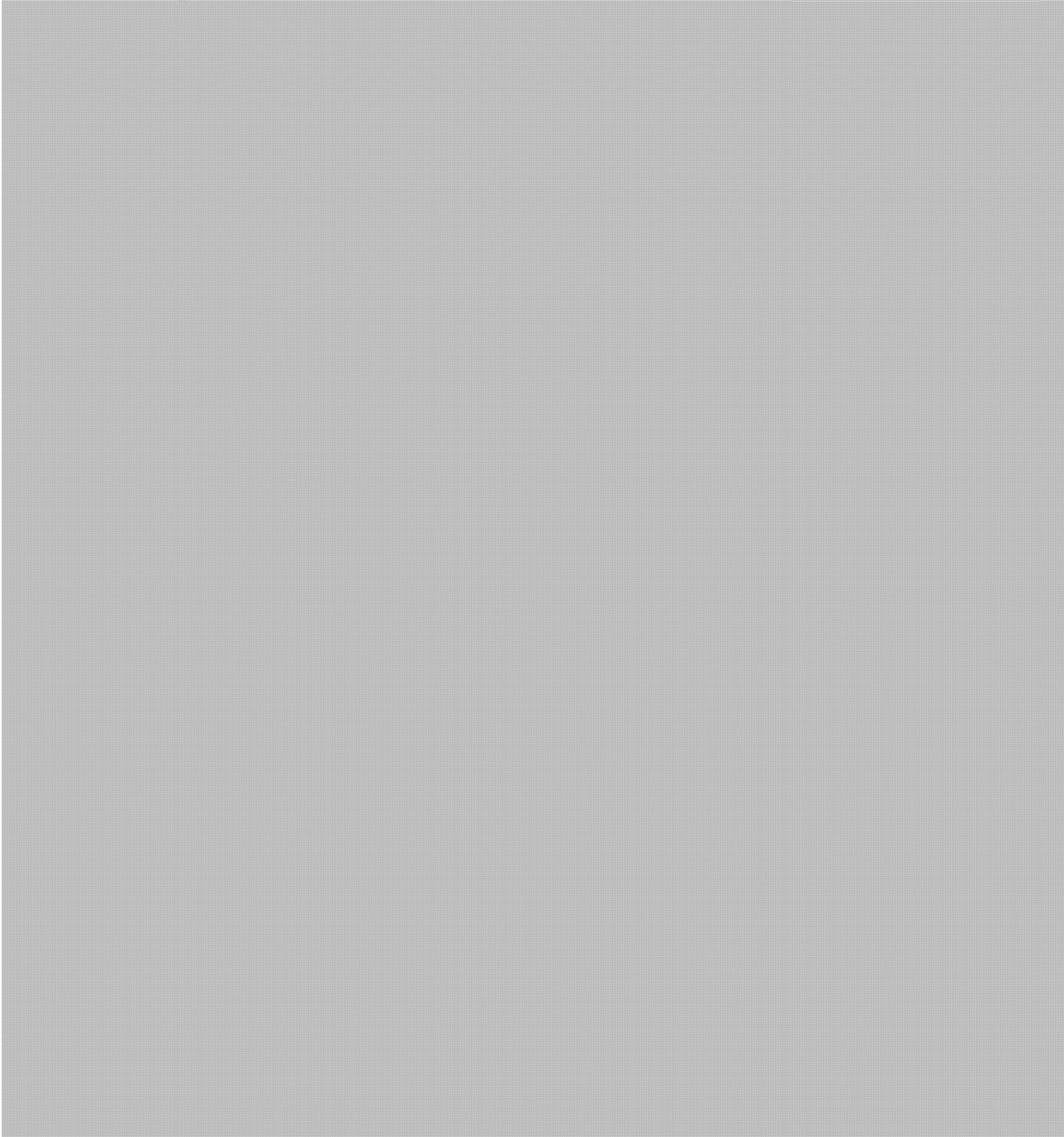


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RRM Canada also analyzed all submissions to several popular Canada-related forums



RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem, as it relates to the themes identified above.

Analysis of Notable Issues of Potential Foreign Interference

The Conflict in Tigray dominates Canadian political discussions.

Since November 2020, the Ethiopian government has been conducting a military offensive against the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in the country's northern region. Open source reporting indicates that the Ethiopian government has used a combination of Internet blockages, intimidation of aid workers and the media, and restrictions on foreign journalists in order to shape the narrative around this conflict. TPLF supporters in the diaspora have, in turn, used social media to keep the conflict in the public eye. Open source reporting indicates that activists on social media spread pictures depicting alleged war crimes and atrocities as part of a campaign to demonize the current Ethiopian government, to pressure Western governments to intervene in Tigray, and to push the Nobel committee to rescind the prize of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Some of the photos used in these campaigns are real while others are taken from different conflicts and reported as taken from the Tigray region.²⁰

Throughout the first two weeks of March, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield made comments condemning Ethiopian military actions in Tigray and accusing Ethiopian security forces of committing acts of ethnic cleansing in the region. U.S. Officials are calling for the removal of Ethiopian troops and for an independent investigation into possible war crimes. On March 10 and 11, protests and counter-protests were held in Washington and in cities across Canada by supporters and opponents of the Ethiopian military actions in Tigray.²¹

The Onmatigray website, which was also shared openly on Twitter, has a number of pages dedicated to Twitter campaigns targeting various countries, including Canada, the UK, Italy, Australia and others with

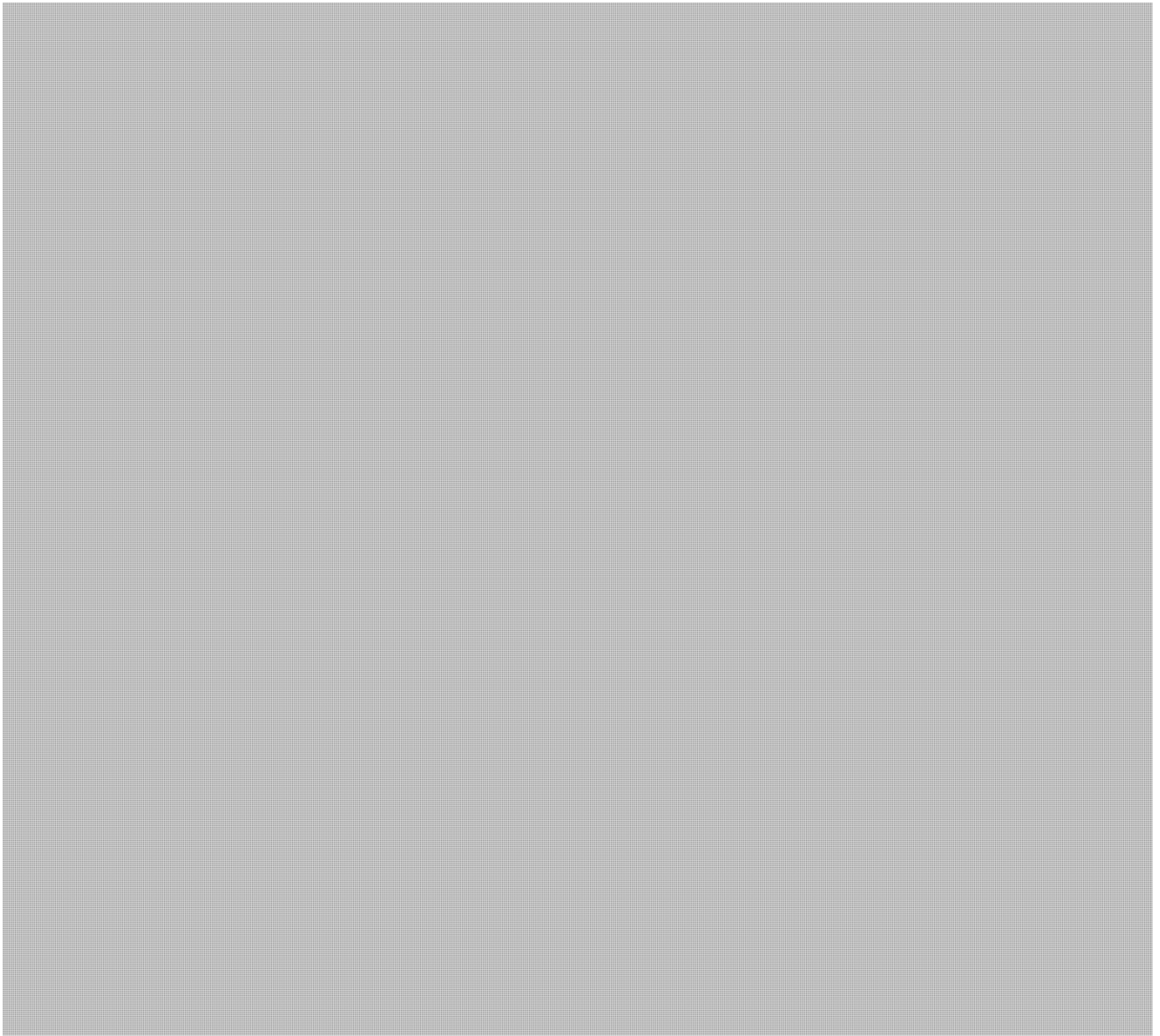
²⁰ <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/africa/2021-04-08/ethiopias-perilous-propaganda-war>

²¹ <https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2159142>, <https://london.ctvnews.ca/ethiopian-canadians-rally-in-london-ont-over-conflict-back-home-1.5341684>

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hashtags critical of a perceived lack of government action in condemning the Tigray conflict.²² RRM Canada has no further information with respect to the site.



The Washington Post similarly reported inauthentic campaigns on Twitter conducted by real activists versus bots.²⁶ According to a Canada-based activist interviewed by The Washington Post, these campaigns are an organized movement with documentation and online webinars to teach people how to share materials on

²² <https://omnatigray.org/trudeau-canada/> see here for other countries <https://omnatigray.org/our-campaigns/>

²⁶ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/11/17/ethiopias-cracking-down-tigray-activists-are-spreading-news/>

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Twitter. The Canada-based activist described a loose networks of activists using the WhatsApp platform to coordinate and teach others how to set up accounts and promote hashtags on Twitter.

RRM Canada assesses that Canada, among other countries, was likely the target of an overt, well-researched, and coordinated Twitter campaign to call for an end to the Ethiopian government's military operations in Tigray and a UN investigation into possible war crimes in the region, as the U.S. has done. While we do not assess this campaign is state-sponsored or either coercive or clandestine, it does demonstrate that actors – even with limited resources – can impact the Canadian online information space. This in turn demonstrates a potential vulnerability that may be leveraged by malign actors, and provides further insight into the various motivations, tactics, actors and activities present and noteworthy in the digital ecosystem.

Prepared by: GAC/IOL/RRM Canada

Approved: IOL/Gallit Dobner

Released: 21 April 2021

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Digital Information Ecosystem Report - April 2021

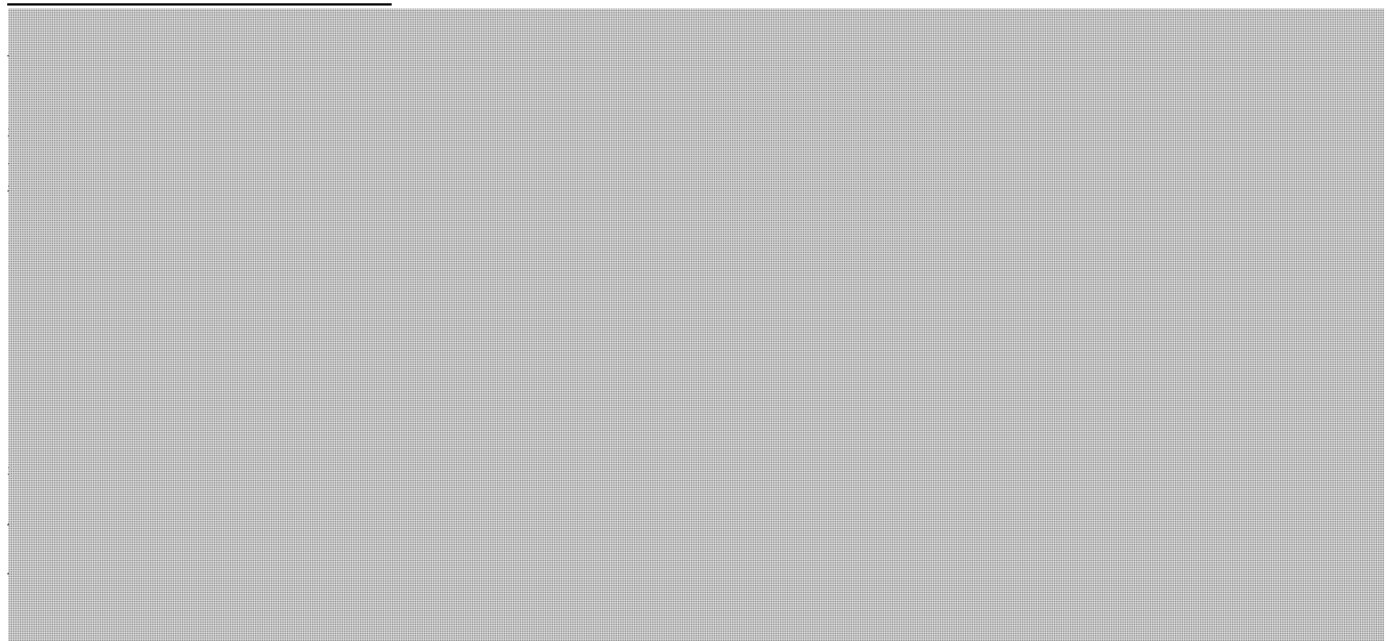
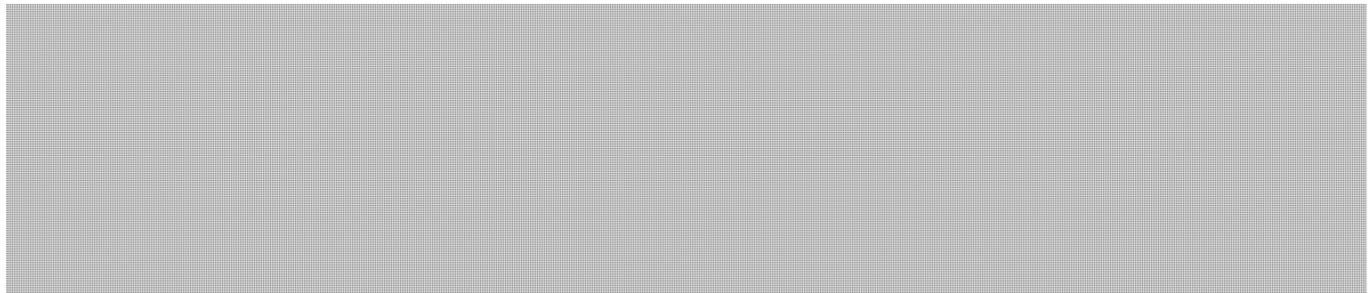
Findings

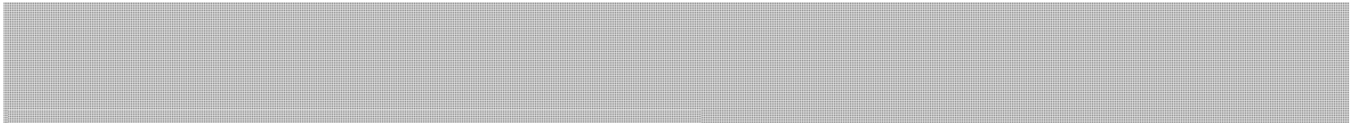
- Canada was the target of a campaign by student activists in India to hasten the granting of study permits to Indian students looking to attend schools in Quebec. [REDACTED]
- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem.

Purpose

This report presents summary findings from research and analysis covering April 2021, aimed at detecting foreign interference (FI) in the Canadian digital information ecosystem. It is the 5th in a series of monthly reports leading up to the 44th Canadian General Election (GE44). This series of reports is designed to establish a baseline of online behaviour to facilitate the identification of anomalies linked to potential FI as the election nears and to alert decision-makers to any potential FI activity.

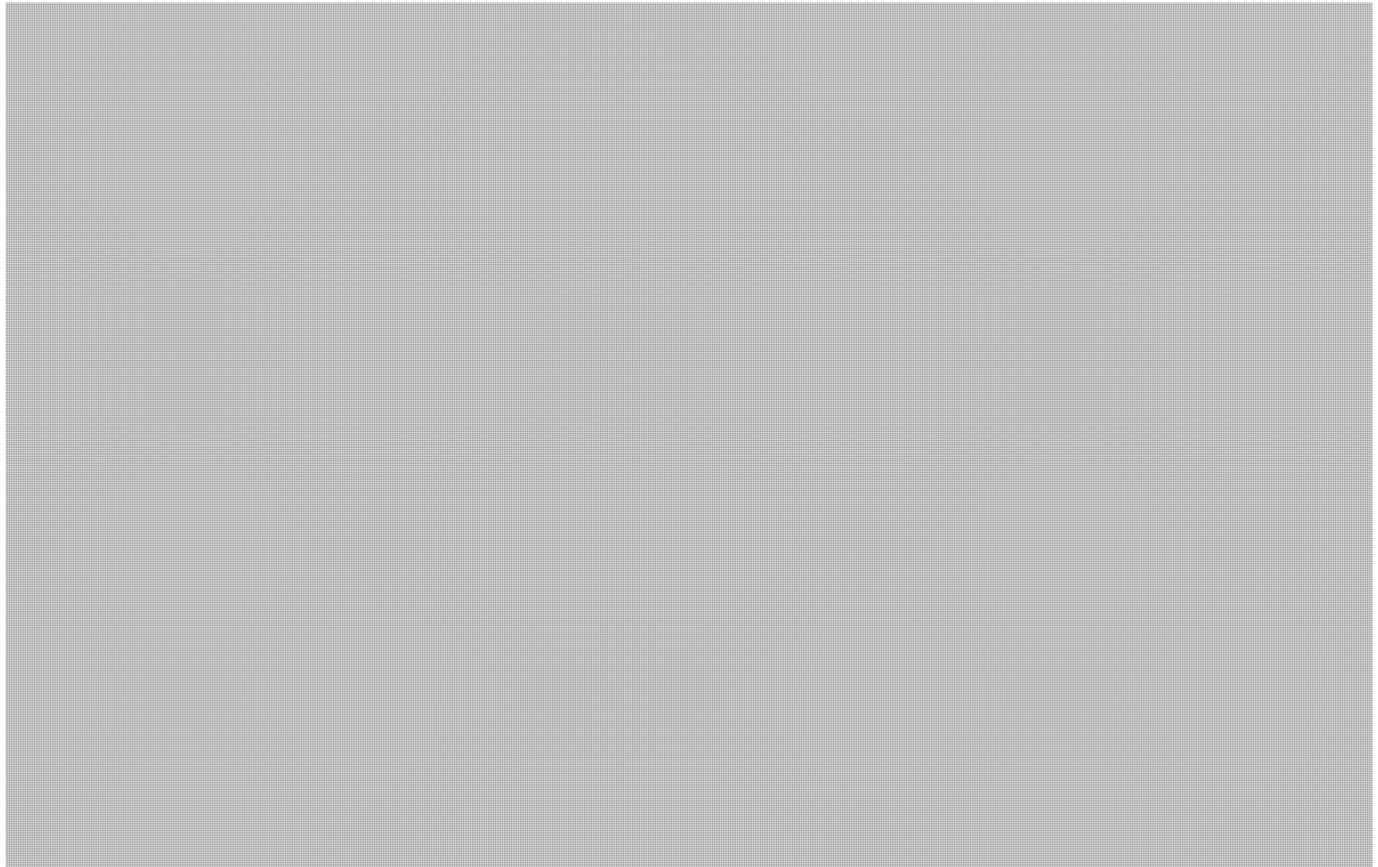
Methodology




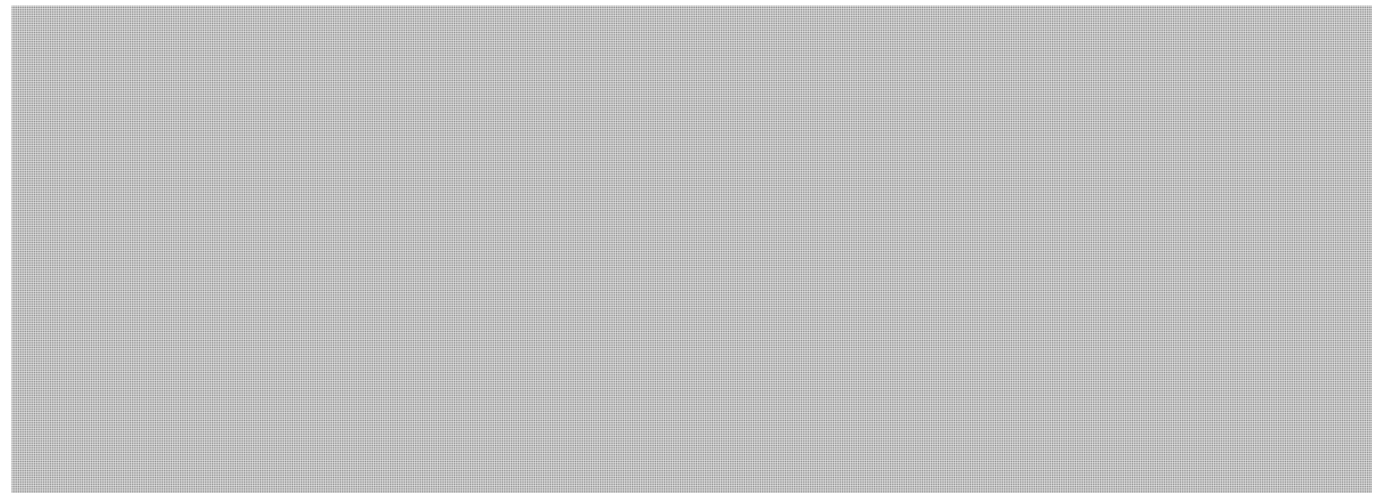


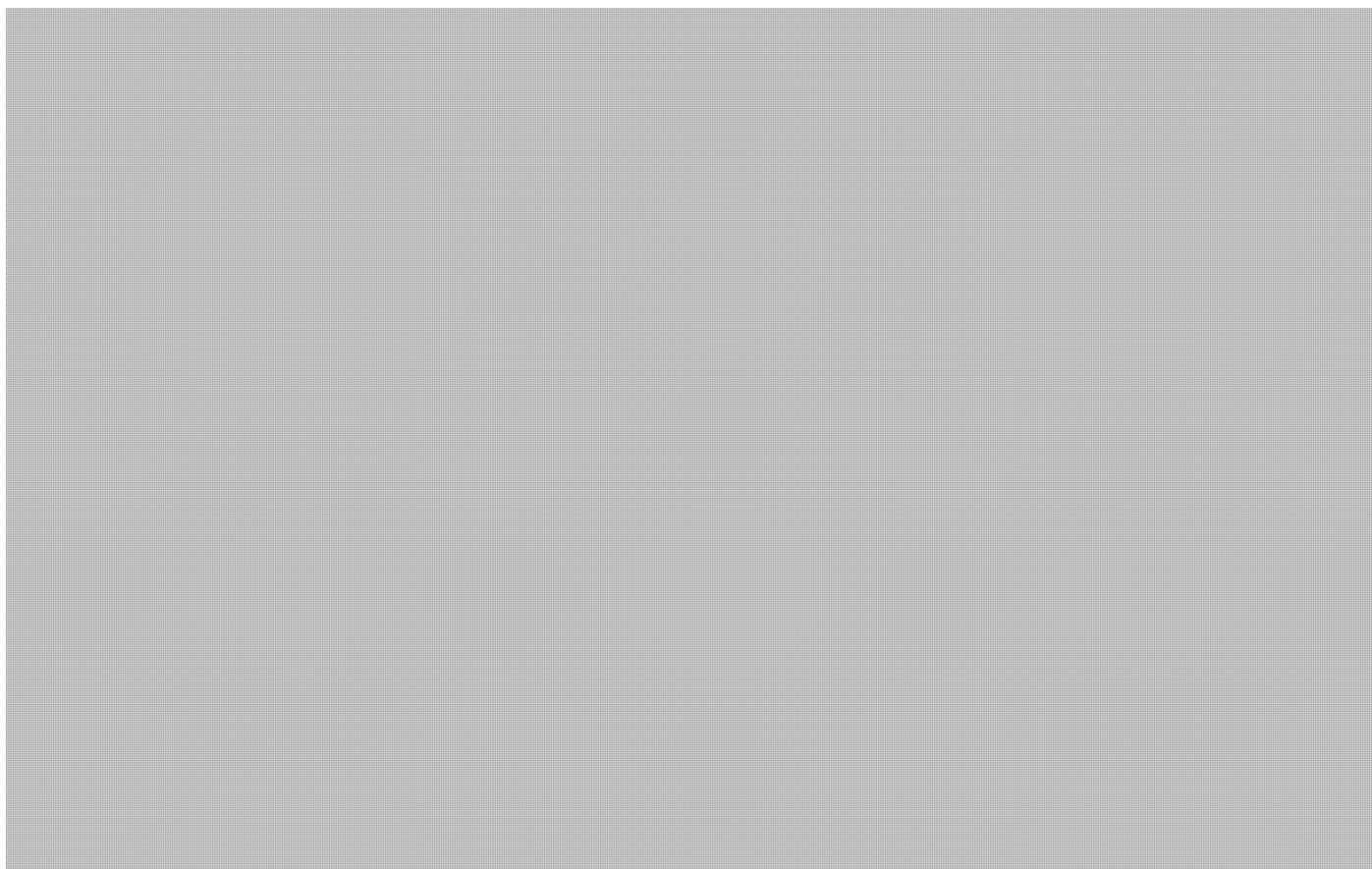
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April 2021 Baseline



RRM Canada also analyzed all submissions to several popular Canada-related forums 



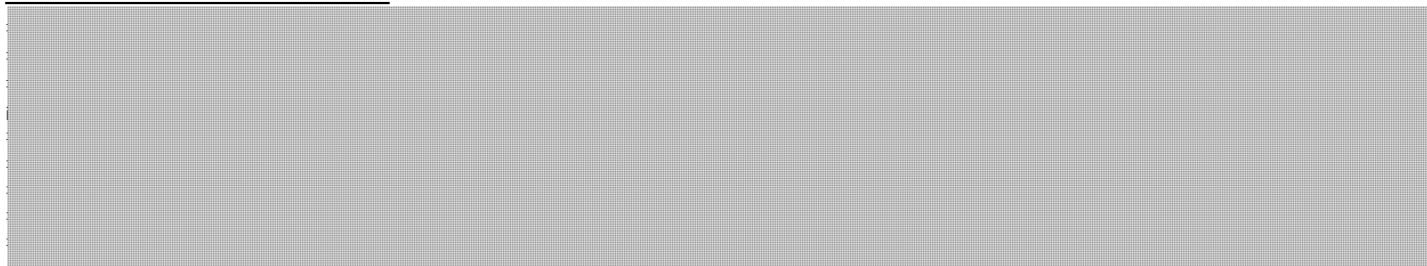


RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem, as it relates to the themes identified above.

Analysis of Notable Issues of Potential Foreign Interference

Indian student activists employ automation to advocate for policy change in Canada

Since December 2020, the Quebec government has launched an investigation into recruitment practices for Indian students among a number of private colleges in the province. Quebec had also suspended ten colleges from issuing Quebec Acceptance Certificates, a document required for the federal government to issue study permits to foreign students. Since January, the suspension has been lifted while the investigation remains in progress; however, students contend that the federal government remains slow in granting the study permits and their futures remain uncertain.¹⁷ This uncertainty has been exacerbated since the April 22nd ban on flights from India and Pakistan to Canada.



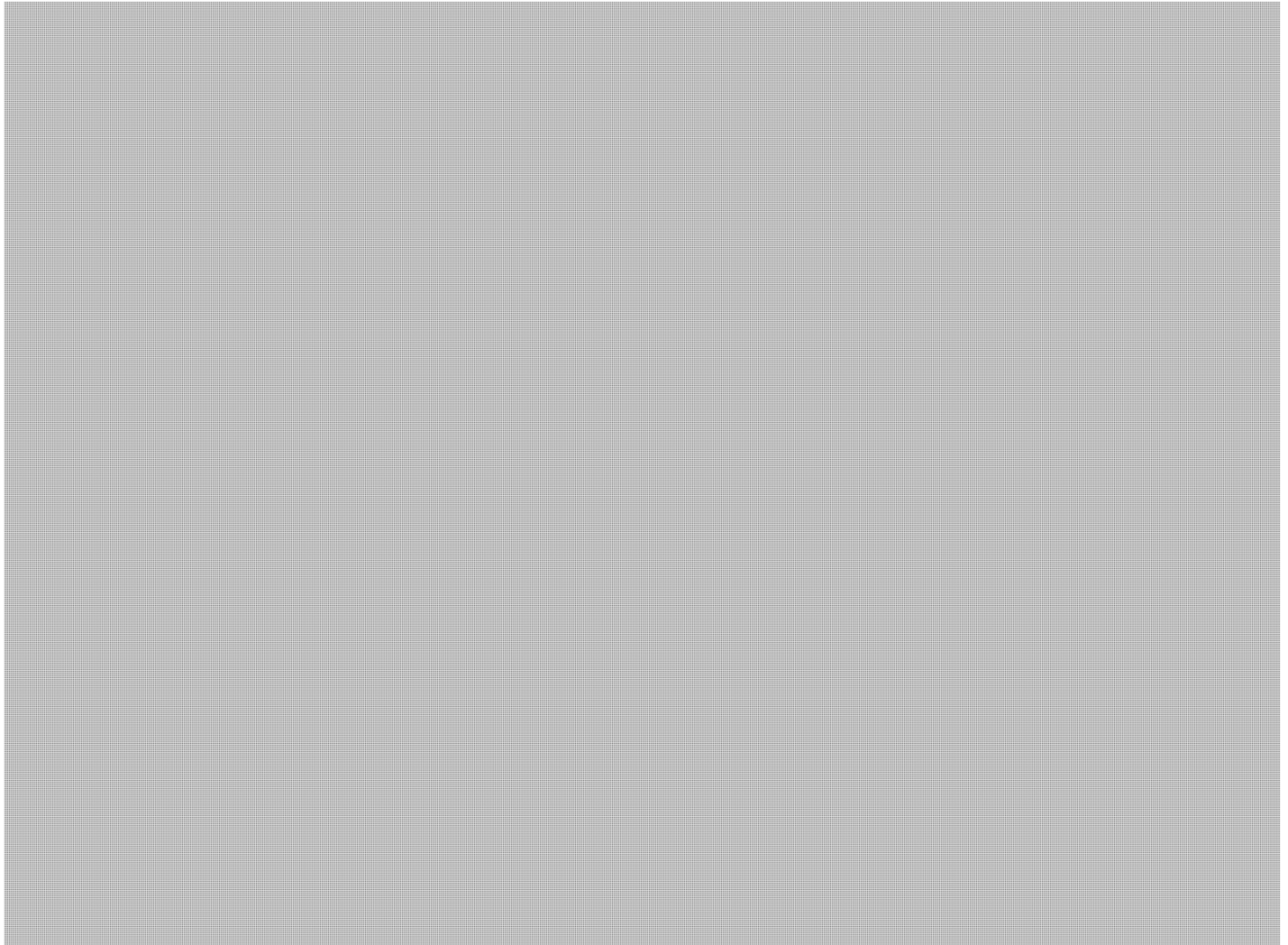
RRM Open Data Analysis

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Throughout April, Indian students have demonstrated in front of the Canadian General Consulate in Chandigarh and have been writing to federal government officials and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) in a campaign to promote awareness and pressure the Canadian government to resolve this issue.¹⁸ Social media has also been an active component of these student activist campaigns.



¹⁸ <https://www.ledevoir.com/societe/education/592050/des-etudiants-etrangers-pour-remplir-les-coffres>



Prepared by: GAC/IOL/RRM Canada
Approved: IOL/Gallit Dobner
Released: May 18, 2021

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Digital Information Ecosystem Report – May 2021

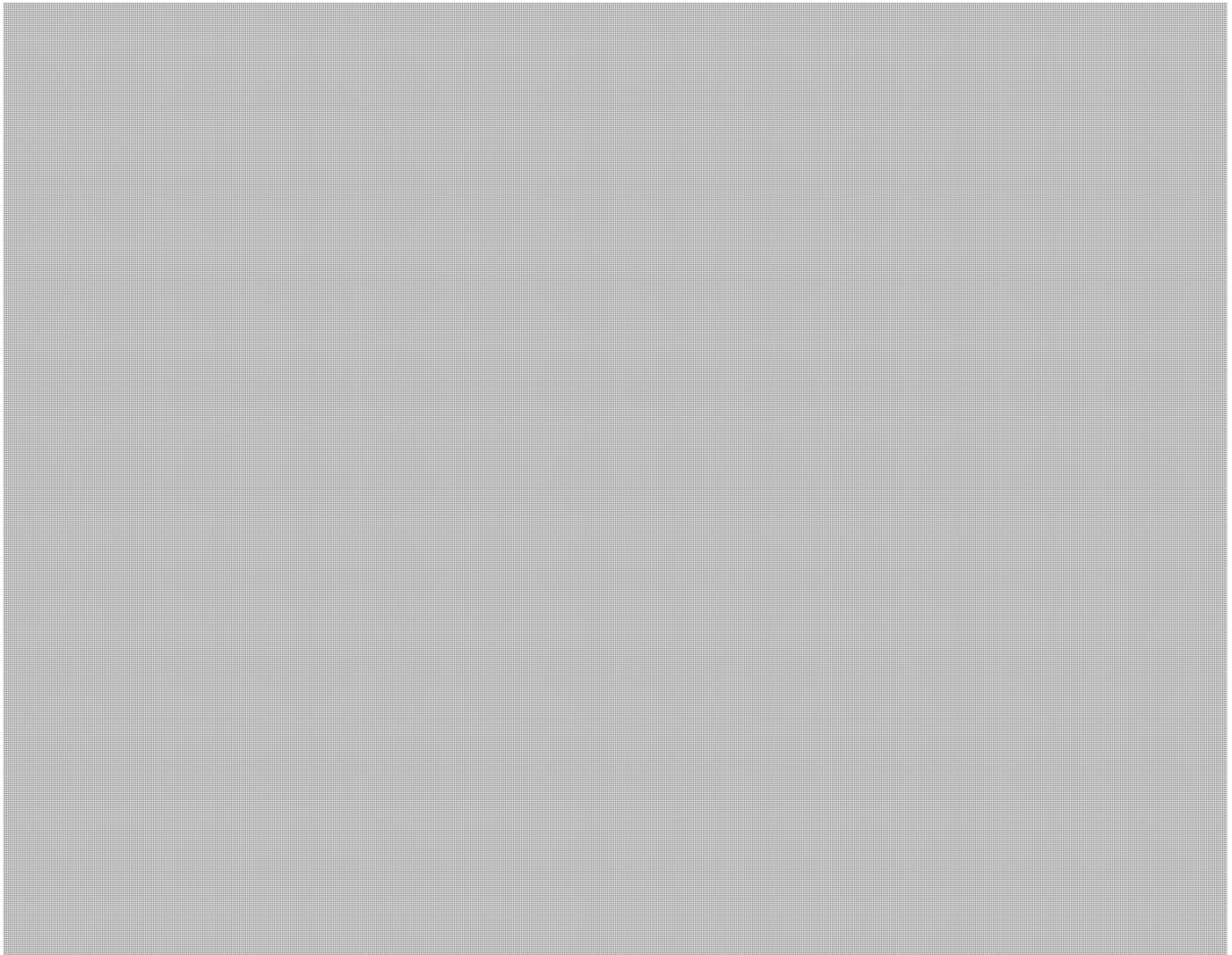
Findings

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem.
- Campaigns related to the conflict in Tigray as well as the campaign by Indian students previously identified in the March and April monthly reports remain active on Twitter.

Purpose

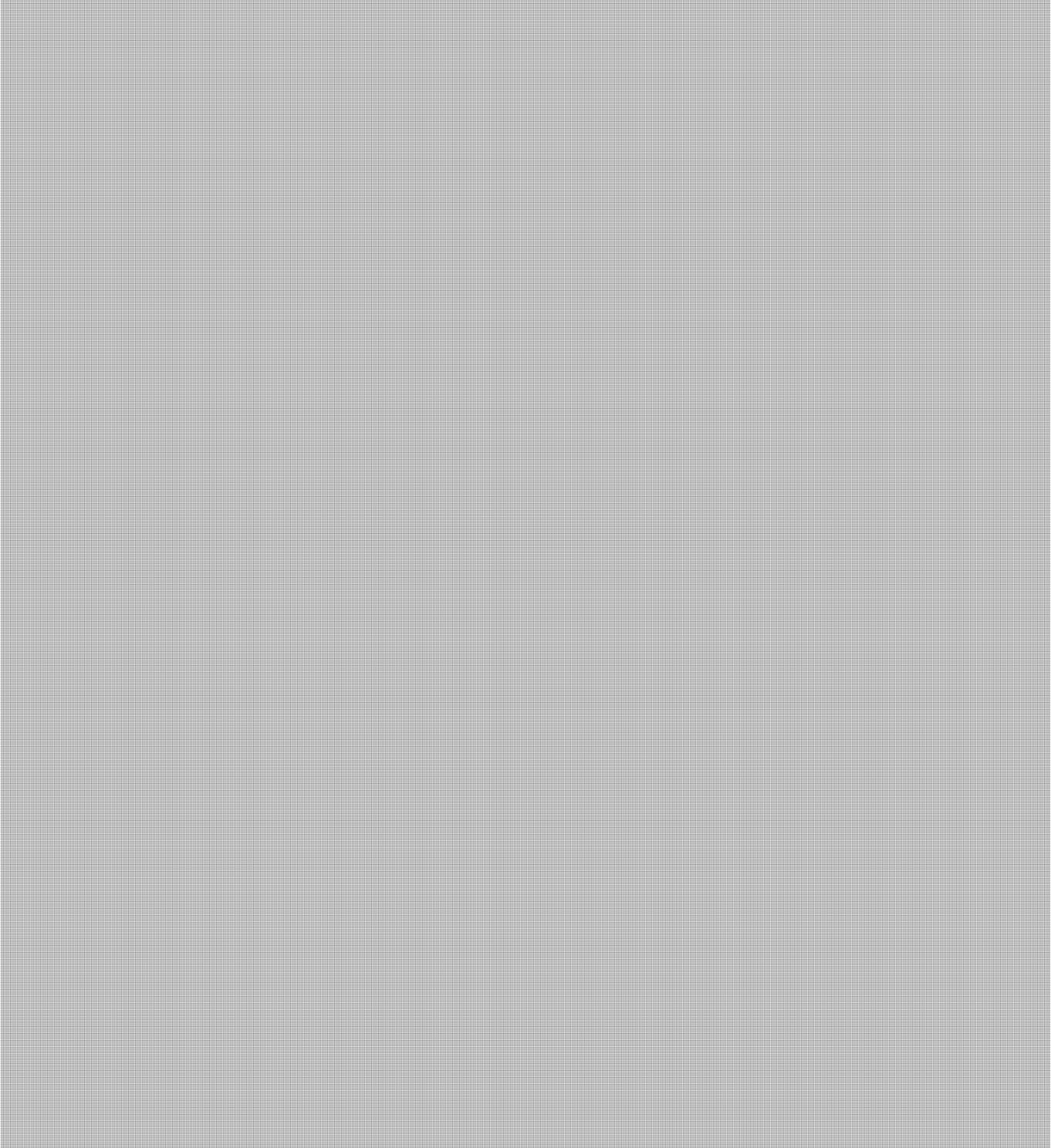
This report presents summary findings from research and analysis covering May 2021, aimed at detecting foreign interference (FI) in the Canadian digital information ecosystem. It is the 6th in a series of monthly reports leading up to the 44th Canadian General Election (GE44). This series of reports is designed to establish a baseline of online behaviour to facilitate the identification of anomalies linked to potential FI as the election nears and to alert decision-makers to any potential FI activity.

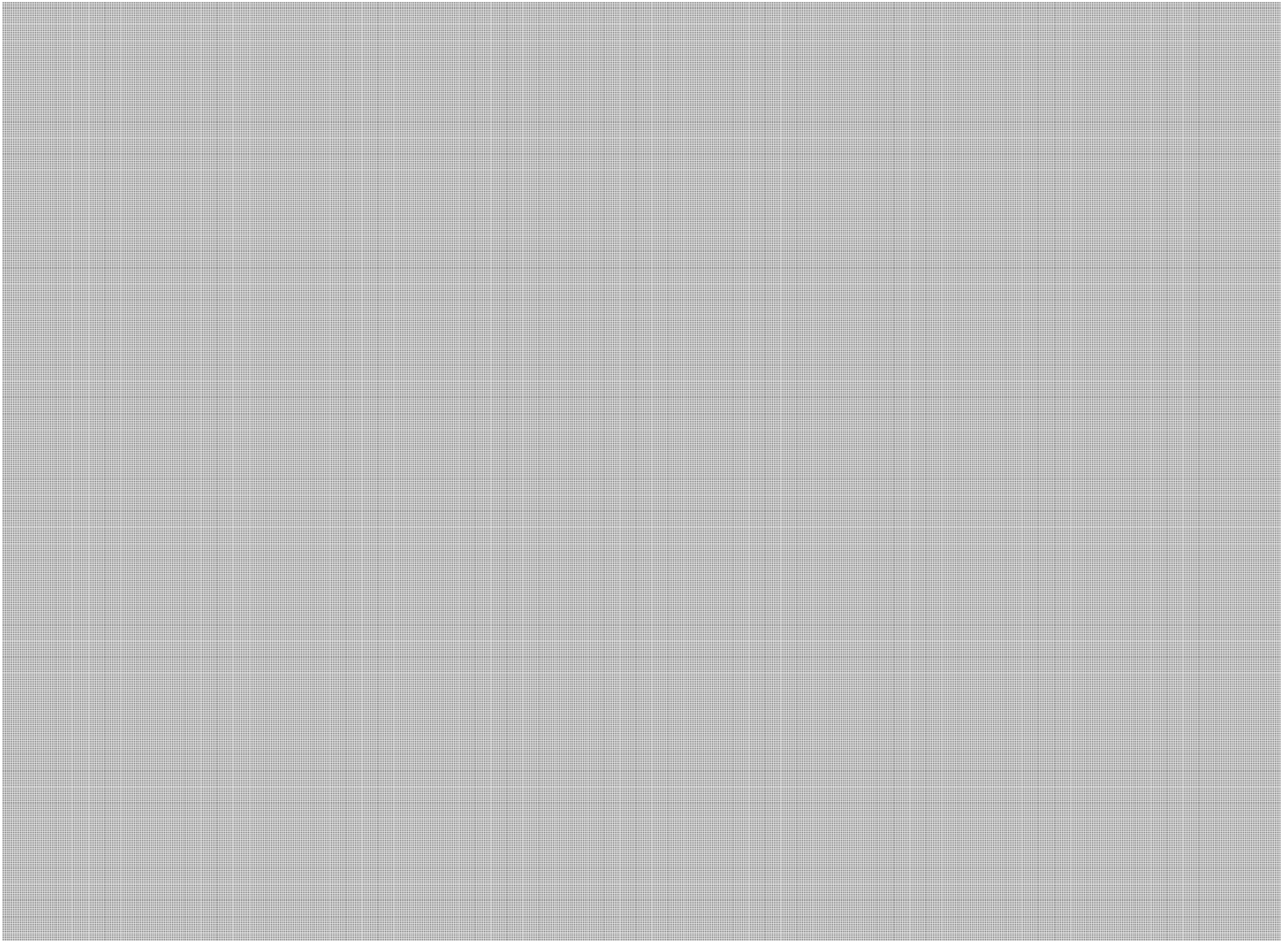
Methodology



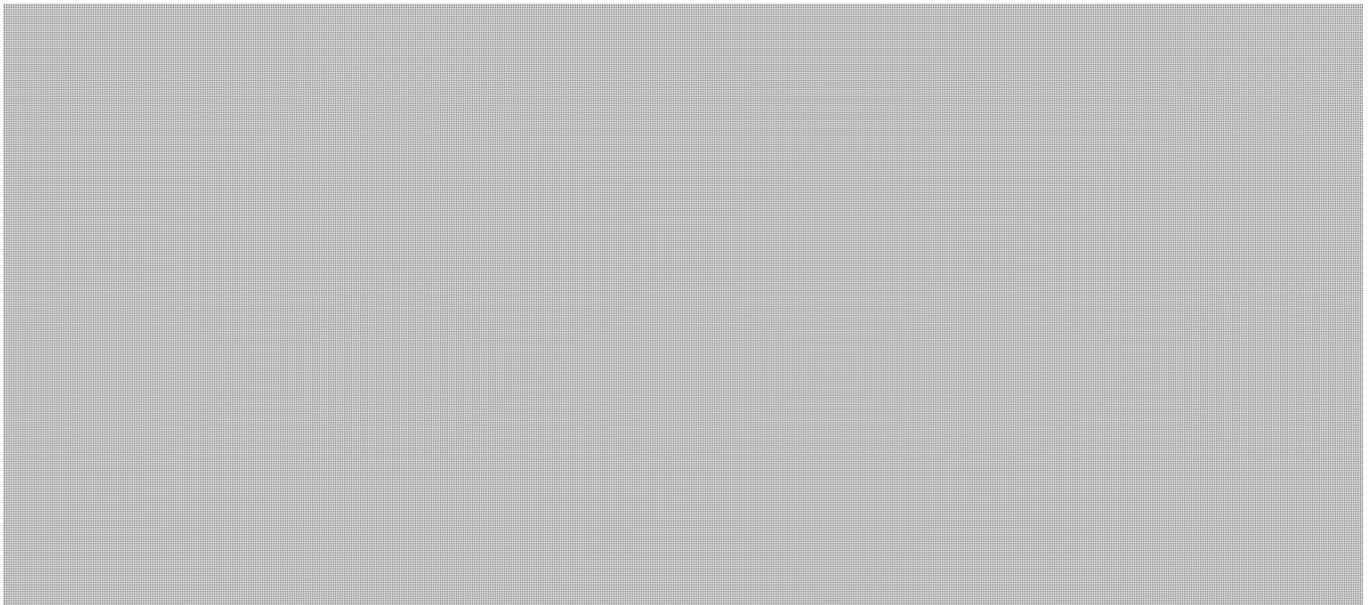
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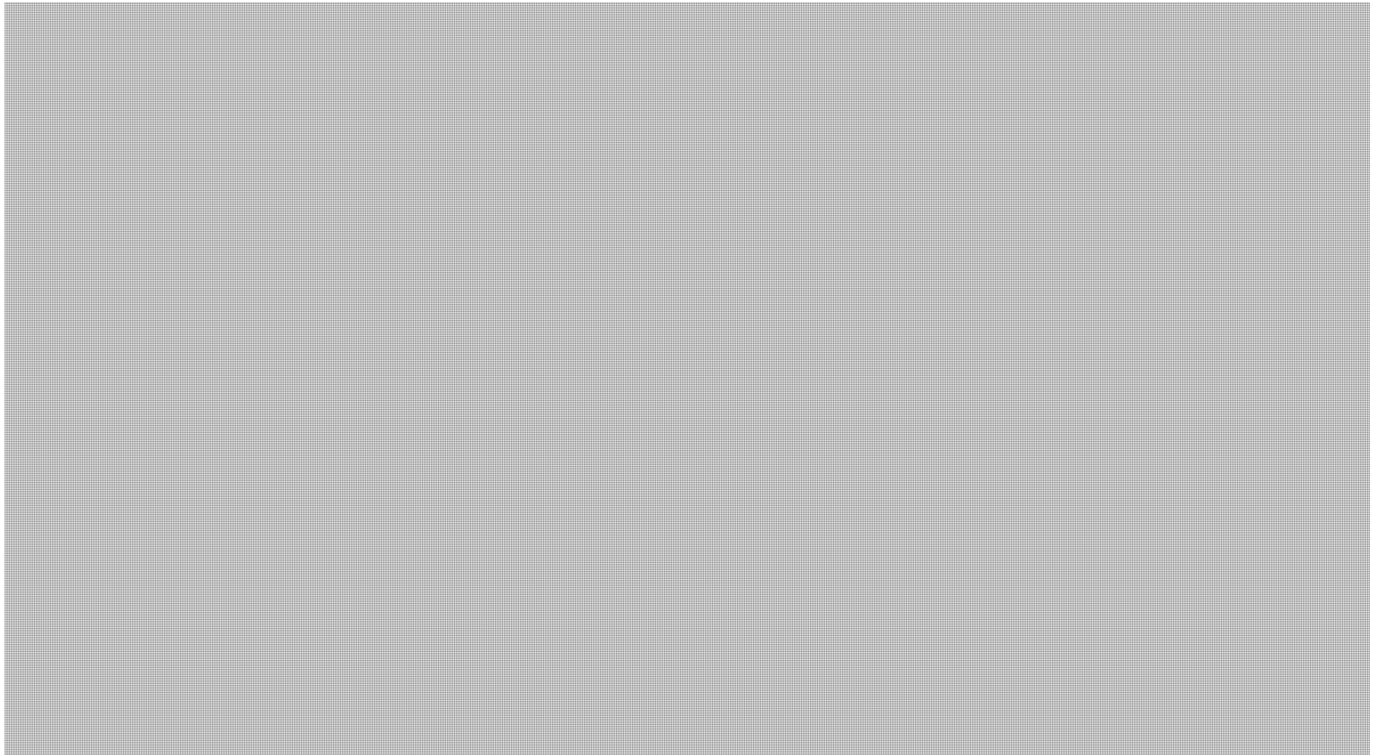
May 2021 Baseline





RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem, as it relates to the themes identified above.



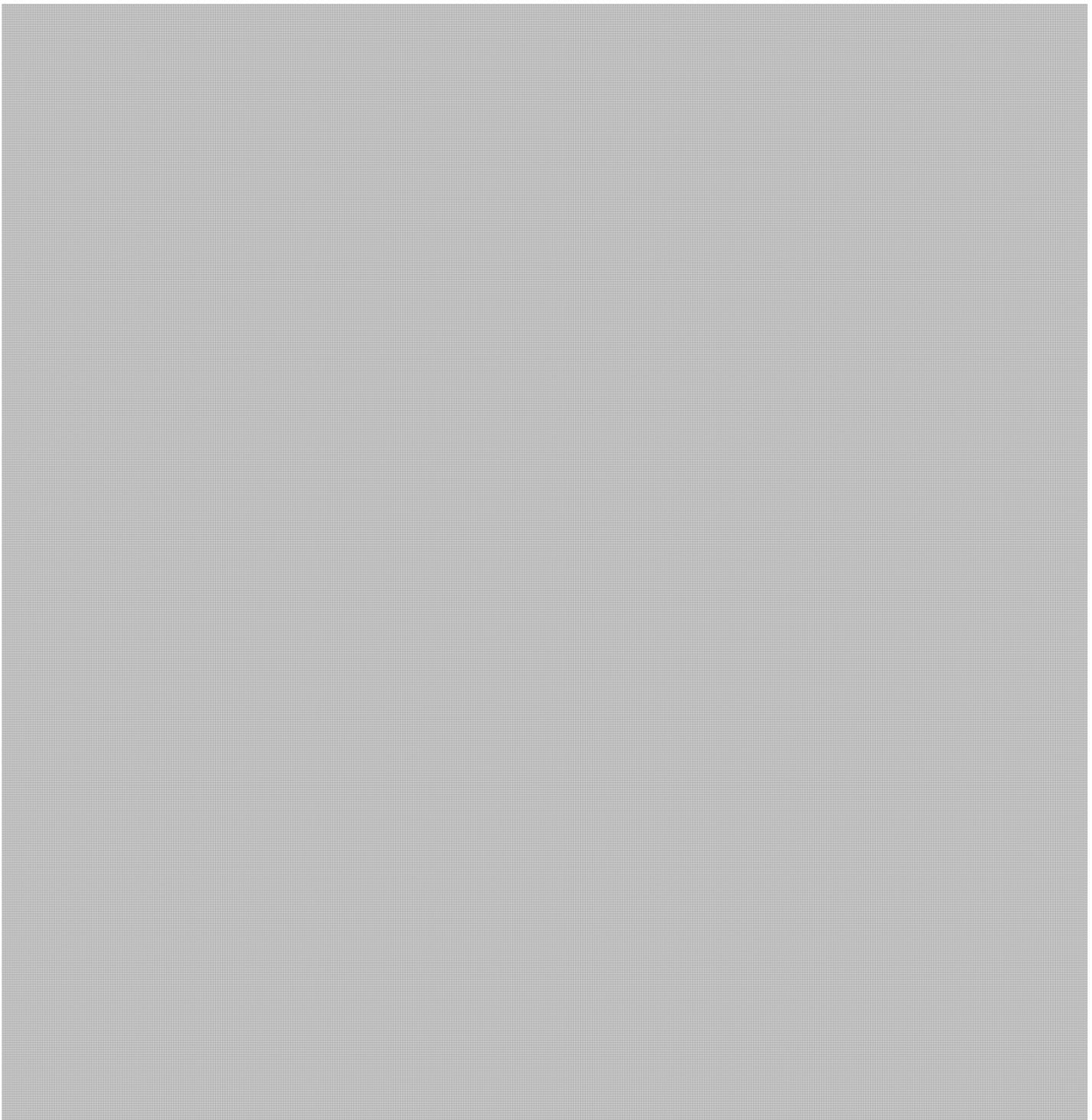


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Approved: GAC/IOL/Dobner

Released: June 24, 2021

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Digital Information Ecosystem Report – June 2021

Findings

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem.
- Chinese state-run media and officials have been leveraging the discovery of unmarked graves at residential schools in Canada to deflect criticism of human rights abuses in Xinjian; however, RRM Canada has not observed any indication of covert amplification or manipulation of these narratives in online discussions relating to Canadian politics.

Purpose

This report presents summary findings from research and analysis covering June 2021, aimed at detecting foreign interference (FI) in the Canadian digital information ecosystem. It is the 7th in a series of monthly reports leading up to the 44th Canadian General Election (GE44). This series of reports is designed to establish a baseline of online behaviour to facilitate the identification of anomalies linked to potential FI as the election nears and to alert decision-makers to any potential FI activity.

Methodology

[REDACTED]

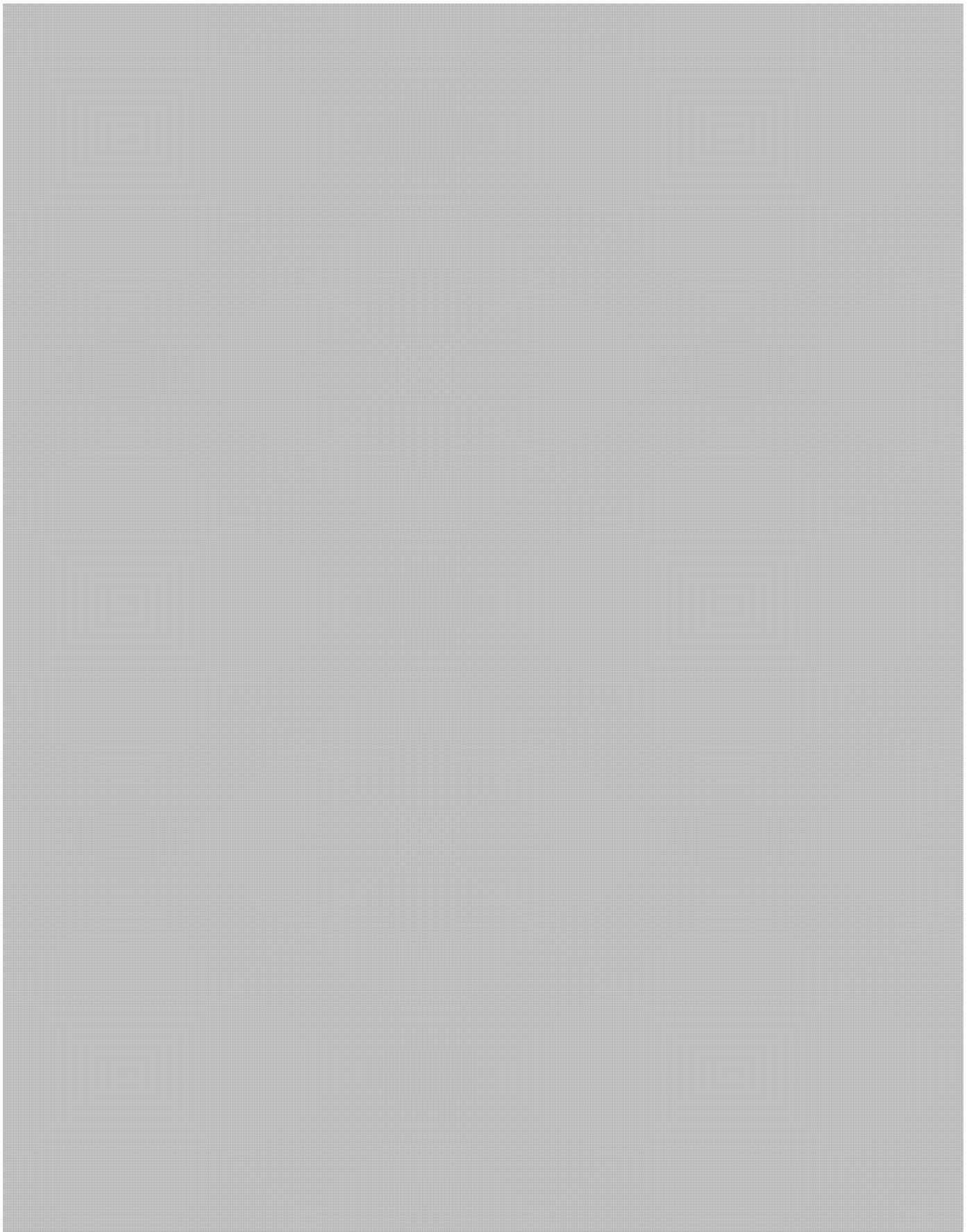
All RRM Canada reporting is subject to an ethical and methodological framework. Government and non-government partners also inform RRM Canada's reporting.

June 2021 Baseline

[REDACTED]

RRM Canada also analyzed all submissions to several popular Canada-related forums on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



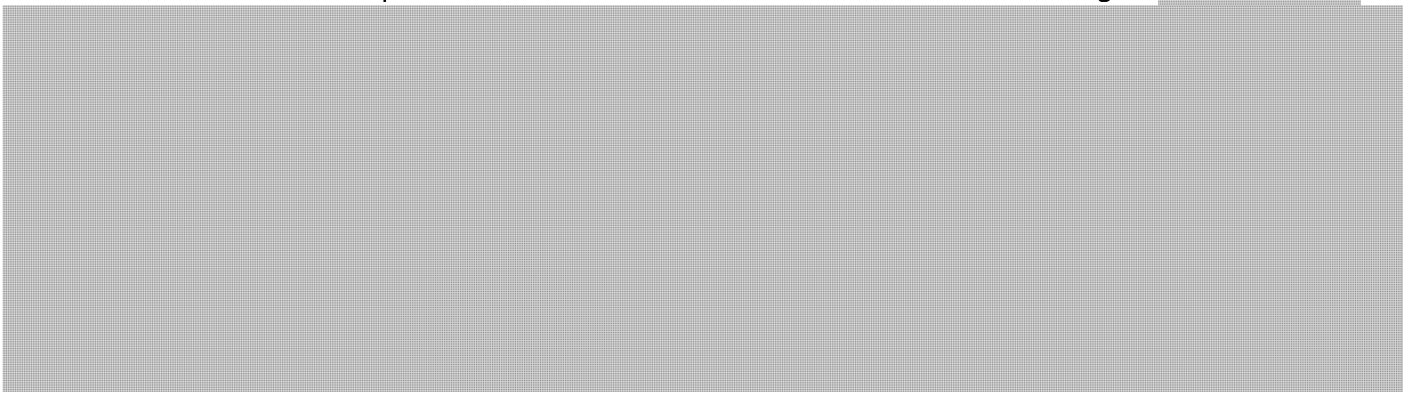
Analysis of Notable Issues of Potential Foreign Interference

Chinese State Media leveraging discovery of unmarked indigenous graves at residential schools

On July 21, the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensics Research (DFR) Lab published an analysis of Chinese officials and state-run media outlets attempting to deflect criticism from ongoing human rights abuses in Xinjian.¹⁷ DFR Lab reports that these officials and media outlets are leveraging the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves near the sites of several former residential schools in Canada in order to challenge Canada's credibility in calling for a UN investigation into human rights abuses in Xinjiang. Chinese officials have also criticized the U.S. and other countries, citing issues of racism and the death of George Floyd in an attempt to delegitimize the broader international coalition calling for a UN investigation in Xinjiang.¹⁸


While other countries have been the target of Chinese state-run media and diplomatic criticism, Canada has been the most recent focus. Throughout June and into July, DFR Lab observed various Chinese state-run media sites including China Daily, China Global Television Network, Global Times, Xinhua, China Central Television, China News Service, and The People's Daily publish nearly 90 different articles on Canada's record on human rights and indigenous relations. According to DFR Lab, many of the articles published on these sites were then further publicized by Chinese diplomats and officials online. Chinese state-run media outlets in turn quoted these same officials, creating what DFR Lab judges to be a self-perpetuating cycle of narrative promotion.

DFR Lab analysts did not observe any indications of covert amplification or other signs of coordinated inauthentic behaviour in the spread of this content or the online discussions surrounding it.



¹⁷ <https://medium.com/dfrlab/china-weaponizes-discovery-of-graves-at-canadian-residential-schools-to-avoid-xinjiang-criticism-6bf618a6e954>

¹⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/china-canada-joint-statement-un-china-1.6071184>





Prepared by: GAC/IOL/RRM Canada
Approved: GAC/IOL/Gallit Dobner
Released: July 23, 2021

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Digital Information Ecosystem Report – July 2021

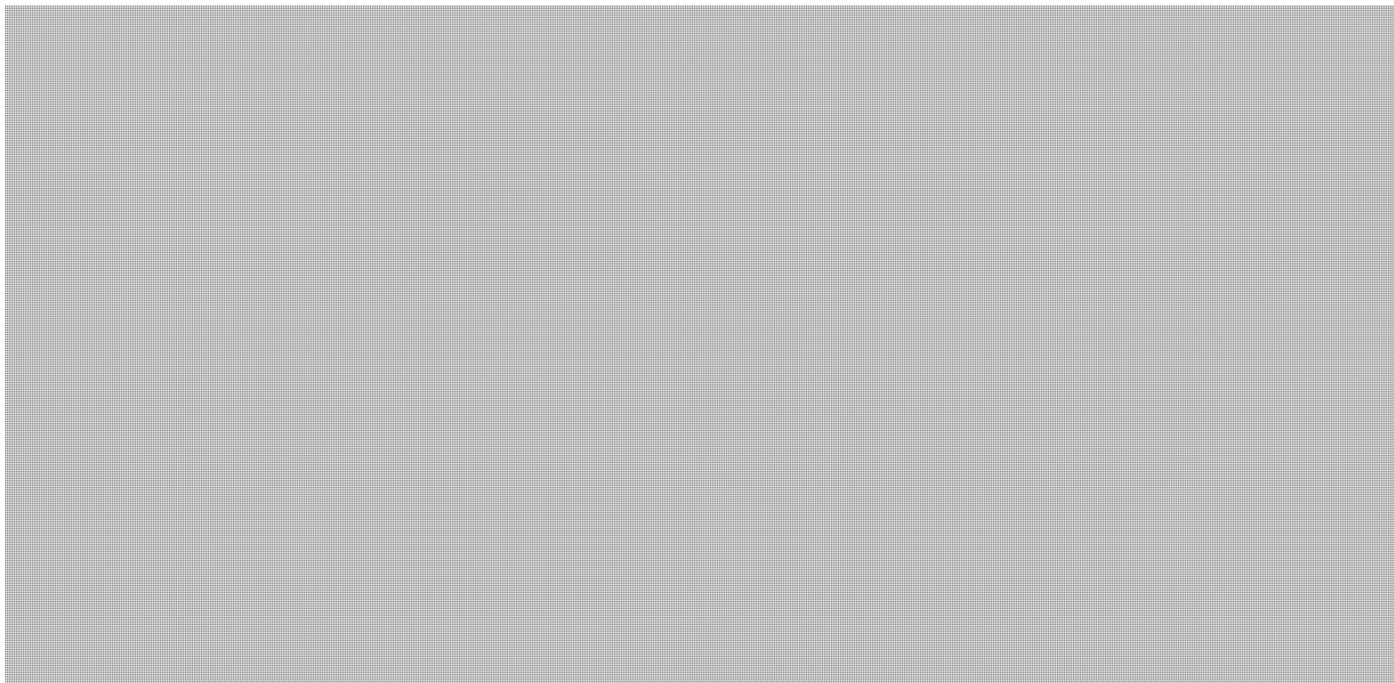
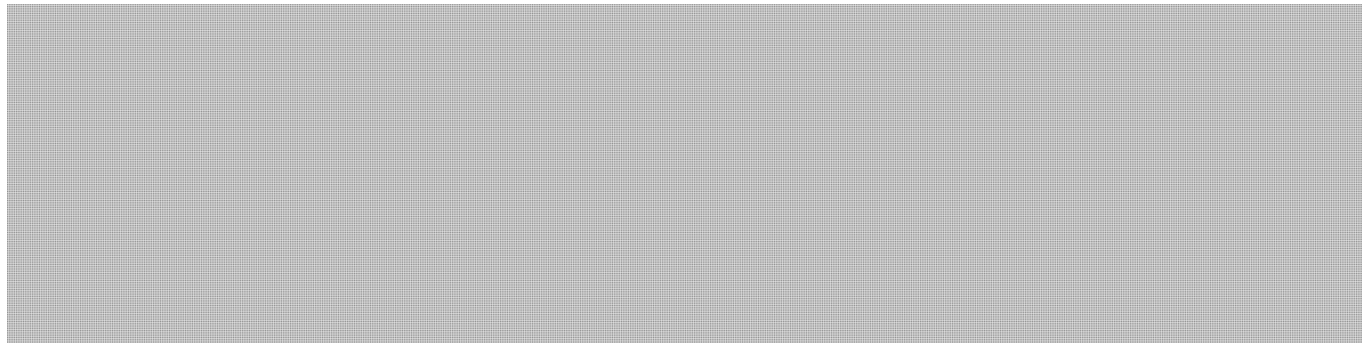
Findings

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem.

Purpose

This report presents summary findings from research and analysis covering July 2021, aimed at detecting foreign interference (FI) in the Canadian digital information ecosystem. This is the final report in a series of monthly reports leading up to the 44th Canadian General Election (GE44). This series of reports was designed to establish a baseline of online behaviour to facilitate the identification of anomalies linked to potential FI as the election neared and to alert decision-makers to any potential FI activity. With GE44 now scheduled for September 20, 2021, RRM Canada will assume a daily reporting posture for limited distribution in accordance with Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Task Force (SITE TF) protocols.

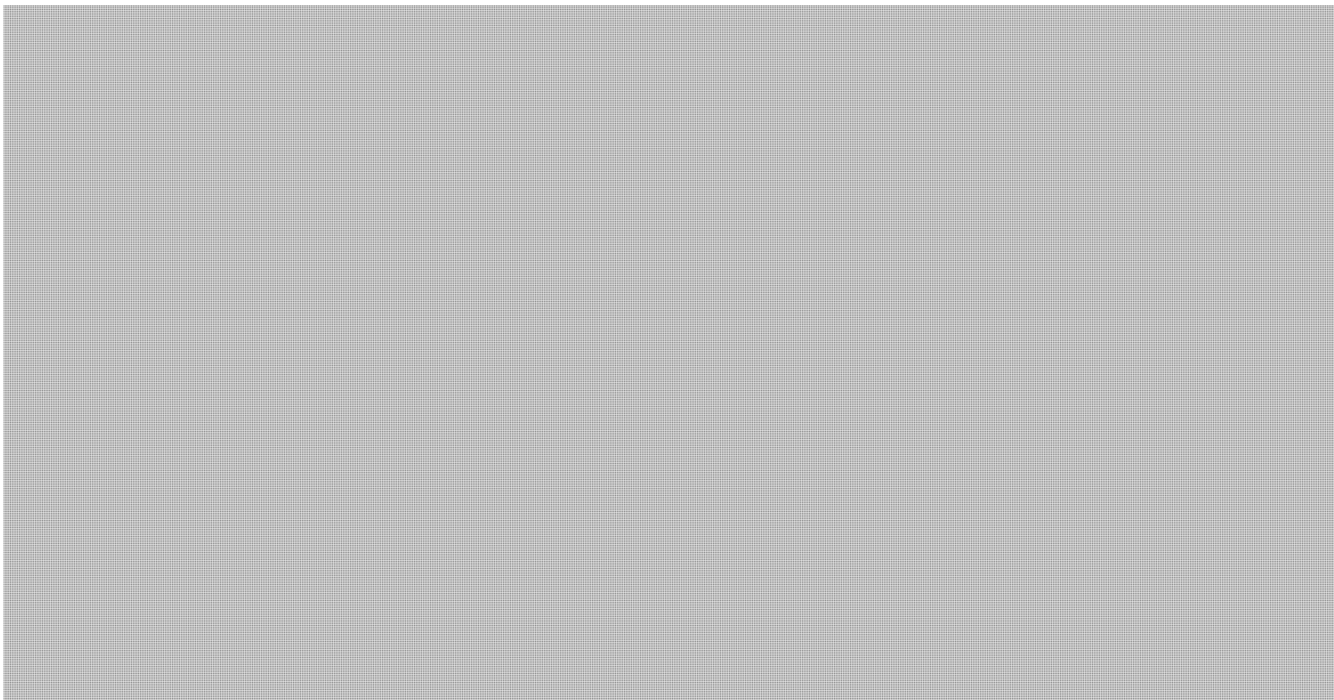
Methodology



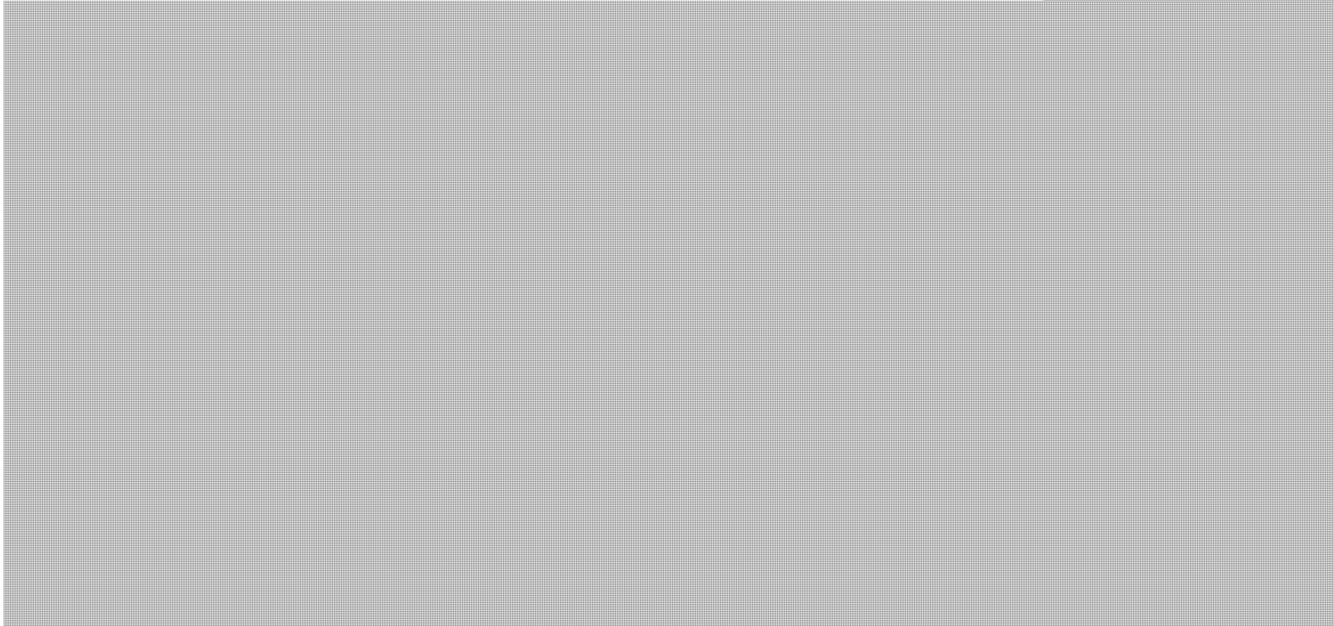


All RRM Canada reporting is subject to an ethical and methodological framework. Government and non-government partners also inform RRM Canada's reporting.

July 2021 Baseline



RRM Canada also analyzed all submissions to several popular Canada-related forums





Prepared by: GAC/IOL/RRM Canada
Approved: GAC/IOL/Dobner
Released: August 18, 2021



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RRM CANADA - SUMMARY REPORT ON MONTHLY FINDINGS LEADING TO GE44

Purpose

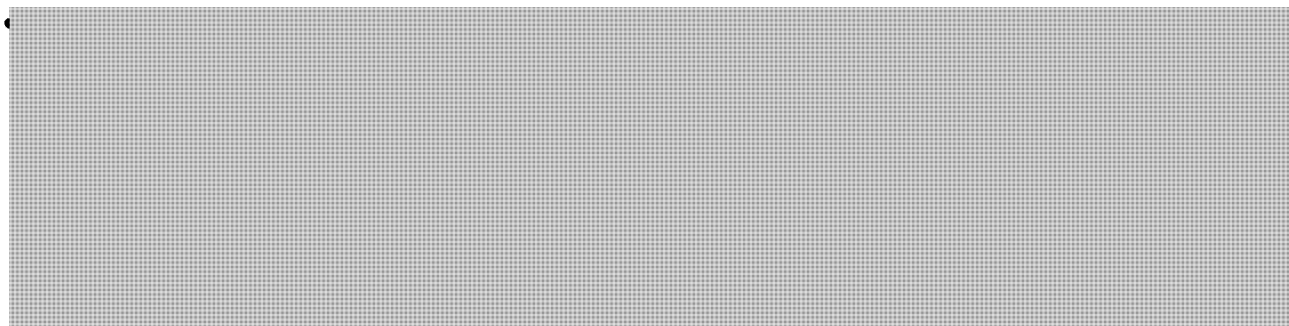
This report summarizes findings stemming from monthly research and monitoring conducted by RRM Canada in the lead up to GE44. The monthly reporting was designed to establish a baseline of online behaviour to facilitate the identification of anomalies linked to potential Foreign Interference (FI) in the Canadian digital information ecosystem and to alert decision-makers to any potential FI activity (see Annex for methodology).

Key Findings:

- Between December 2020 and June 2021 inclusive, RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign interference in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem.



- Notwithstanding, Canada has been the target of various online campaigns elsewhere conducted by various advocacy campaigns led by foreign non-state actors.
 - Analysis of two such campaigns (the Indian students and Ethiopian diaspora activists) demonstrated that actors – even with limited resources – can impact the Canadian online information space.




Topics / Issues of note for possible exploitation around GE44

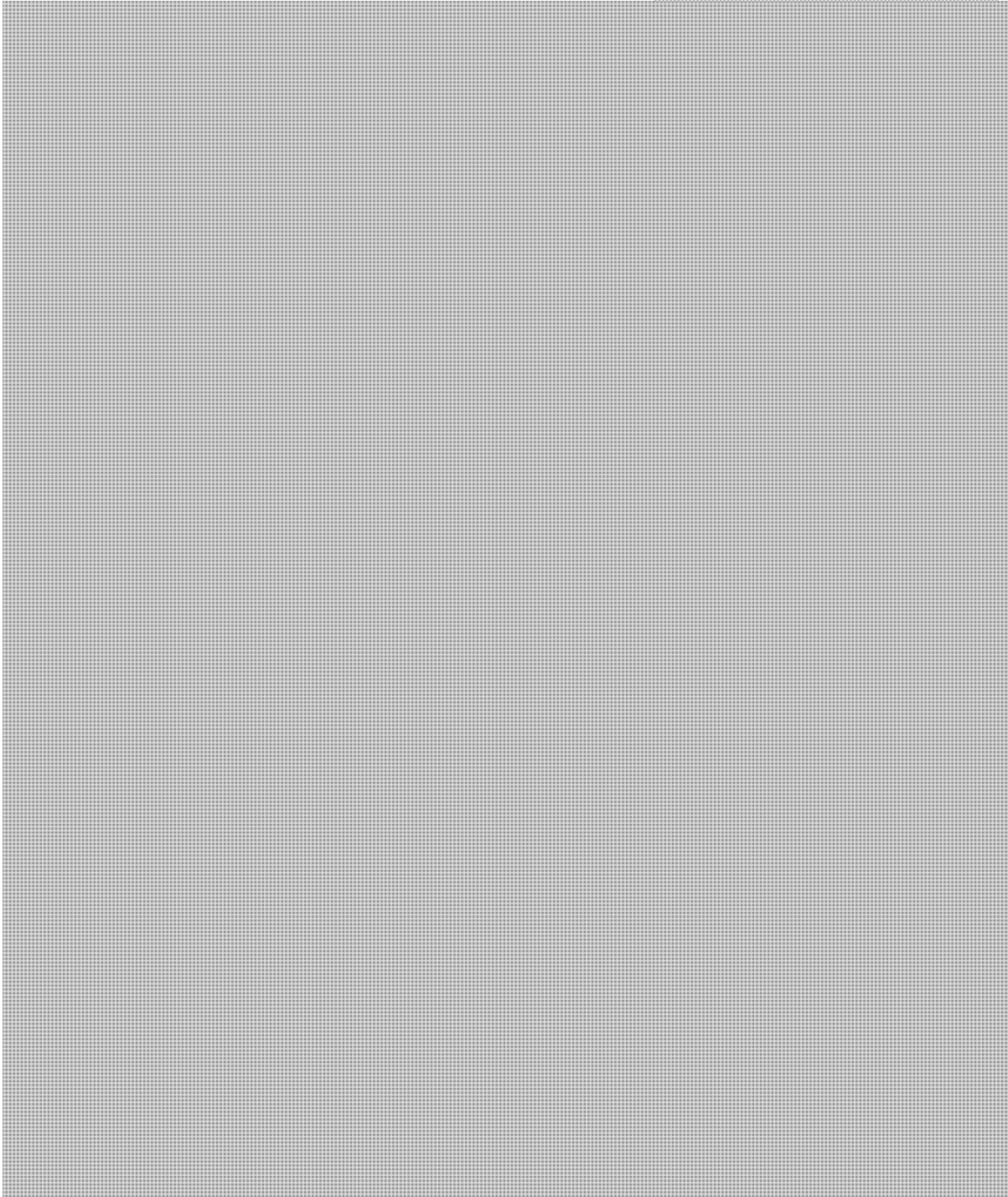


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ANNEX: Methodology

The RRM Canada monthly reports leveraged a combination of in-house and off-the-shelf tools to examine publicly available digital platforms and websites for indicators of FI, 



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[REDACTED] -IOL

From: [REDACTED] -IOL
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 10:29 AM
To: [REDACTED] -IOL; [REDACTED] -IOL; [REDACTED] -IOL; [REDACTED] -IOL
Subject: Party-state media on Weibo push "Meng Wanzhou detained 1000 days" topic/hashtag

Good morning,



- The People’s Daily published the following on their Weibo about the topic:
- “[MOFA sternly urges for the release of Meng Wanzhou from arbitrary detention] # Meng Wanzhou has been illegally detained by Canada for 1000 days. In response, MOFA spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the Meng case is essentially a political persecution against a Chinese citizen planned by the U.S. and carried out by its accomplice, Canada. We sternly urge the U.S. and Canada to face the call of justice from the Chinese

government and its people, immediately correct their mistake, lift Meng's arbitrary detention, revoke her arrest and extradition request, and let her safely return to China.”

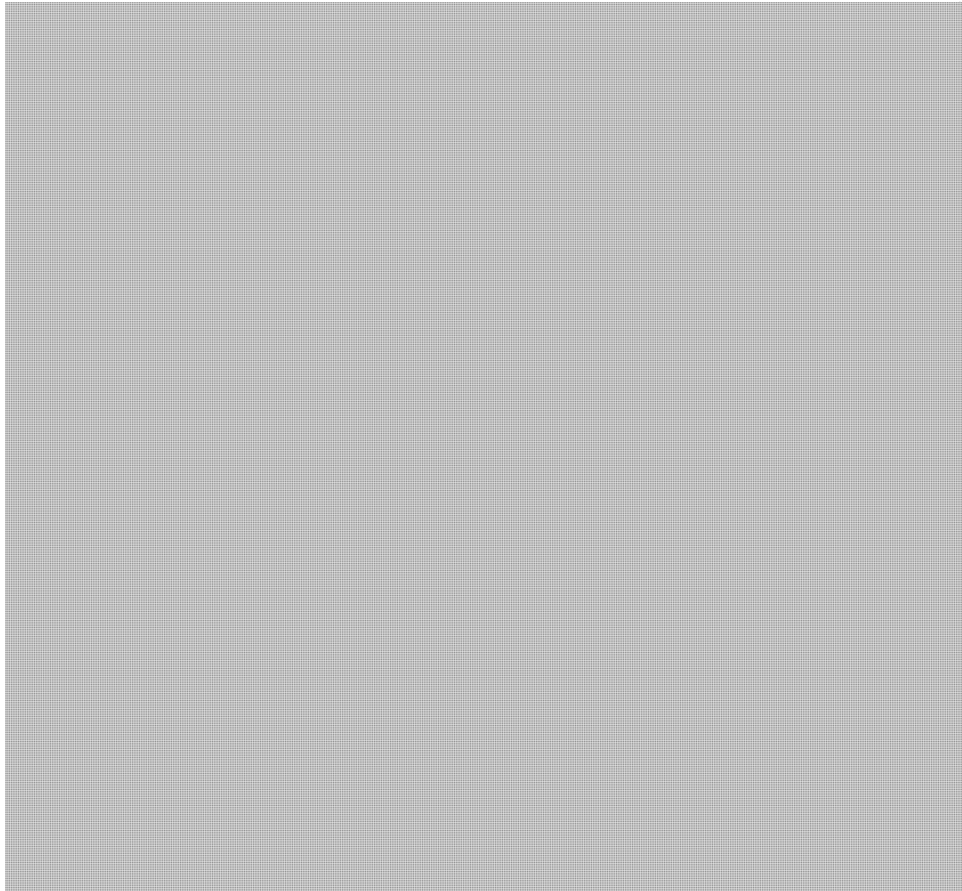
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RRM CANADA OPEN DATA ANALYSIS
OCTOBER 08, 2021

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Chinese state media and Canadian WeChat News Accounts Spread False Narrative about the Conservative Party and Former Candidate Kenny Chiu

Key Findings



Purpose

This Open Data Analysis¹ is part of Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada's efforts to monitor the digital information environment for signs of foreign state sponsored information manipulation. The purpose of this report is to present a timeline of all evidence available to RRM Canada [REDACTED]

¹ Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Canada produces Open Data Analysis to chart trends, strategies, and tactics in foreign interference. This analysis supports the G7 RRM, an initiative agreed by the G7 in 2018, to strengthen coordination to identify and respond to diverse and evolving threats to G7 democracies, including through sharing information and analysis, and identifying opportunities for coordinated response.

RRM CANADA OPEN DATA ANALYSIS
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[Redacted]

Methodology

[Redacted]

Observations

[Redacted]

Timeline of events

[Redacted]

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OCTOBER 08, 2021

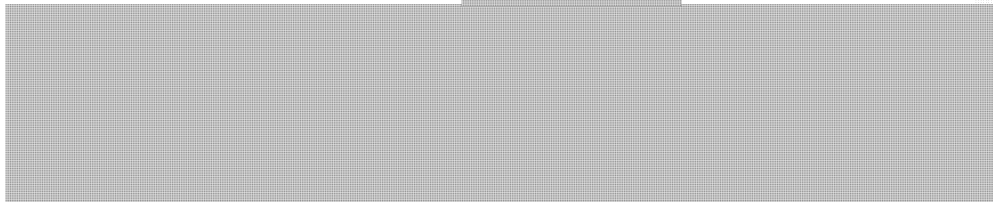
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Analysis

Target audience

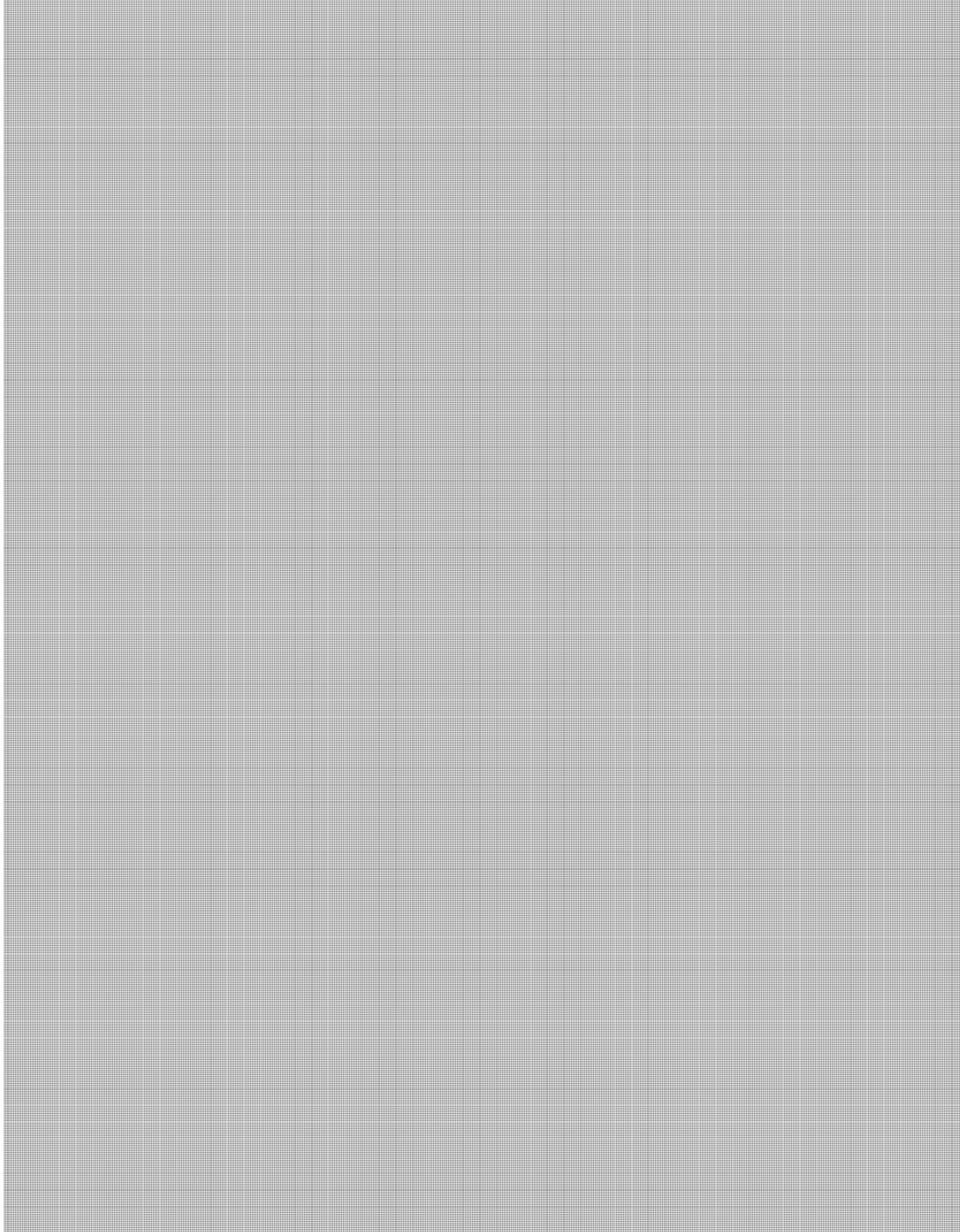
There appear to be different target audiences



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Possible effects of the campaign

RRM Canada cannot determine the impact of information operations on voting intentions and elections results.

[Redacted]

Next Steps

RRM Canada will:

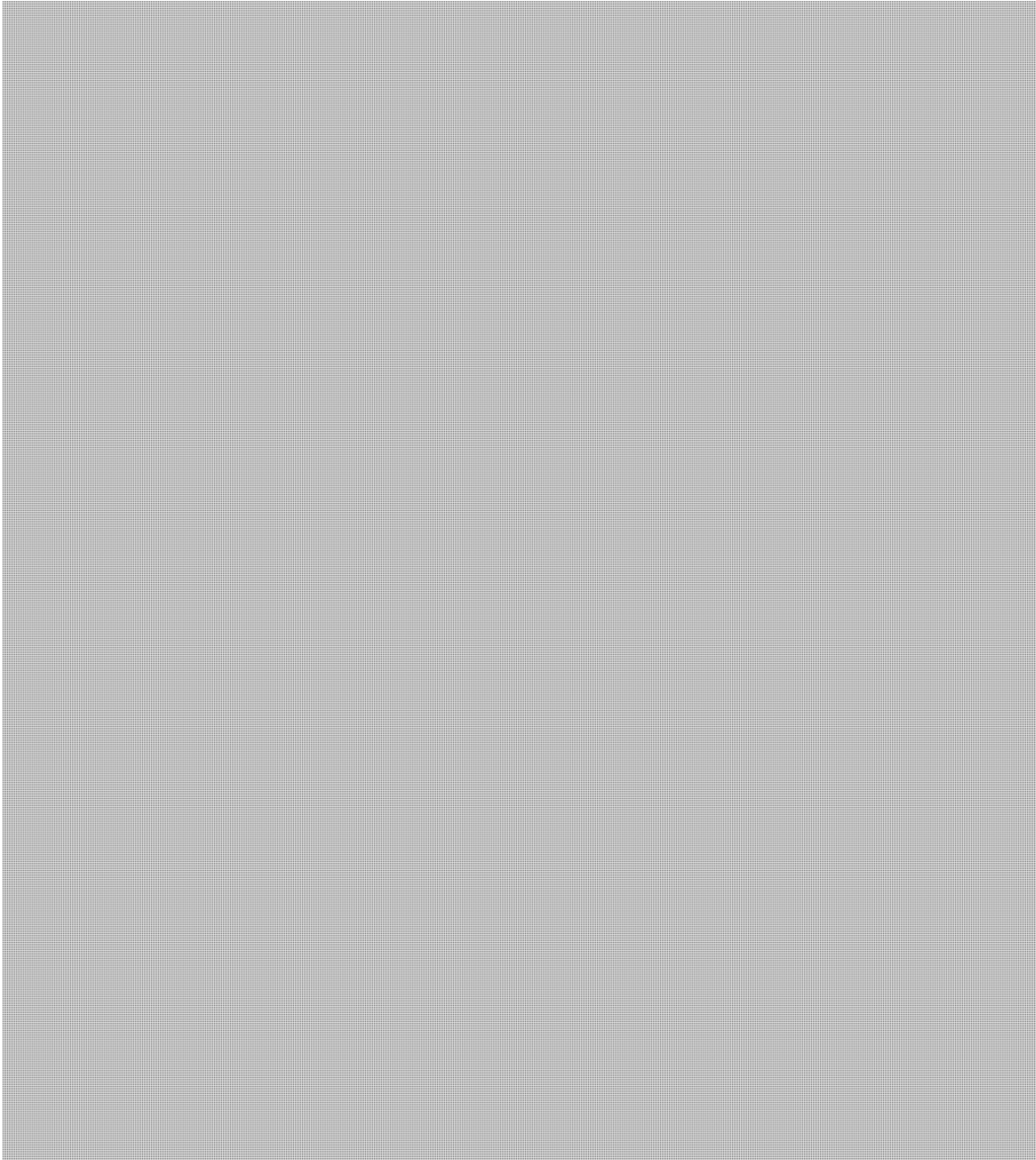
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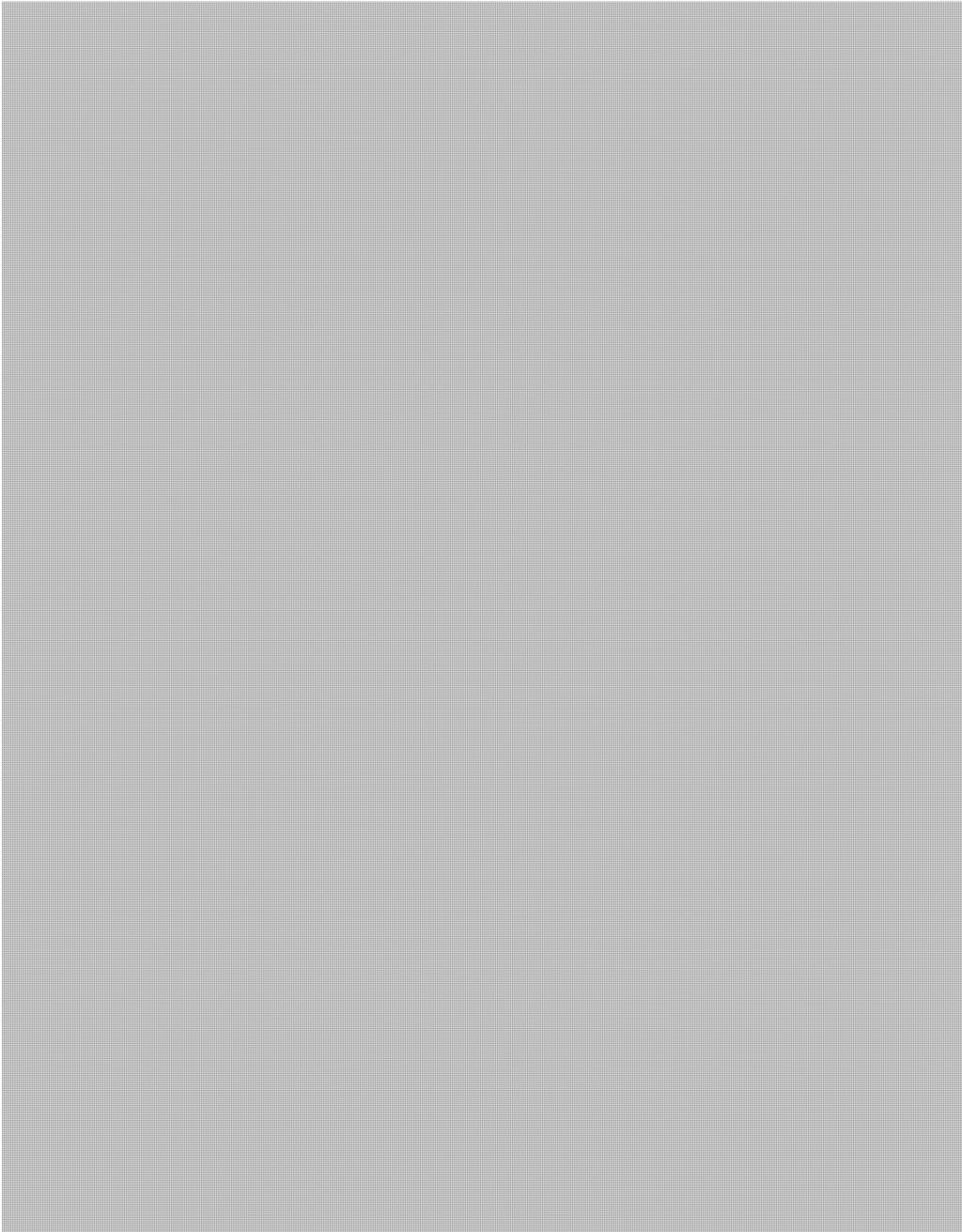
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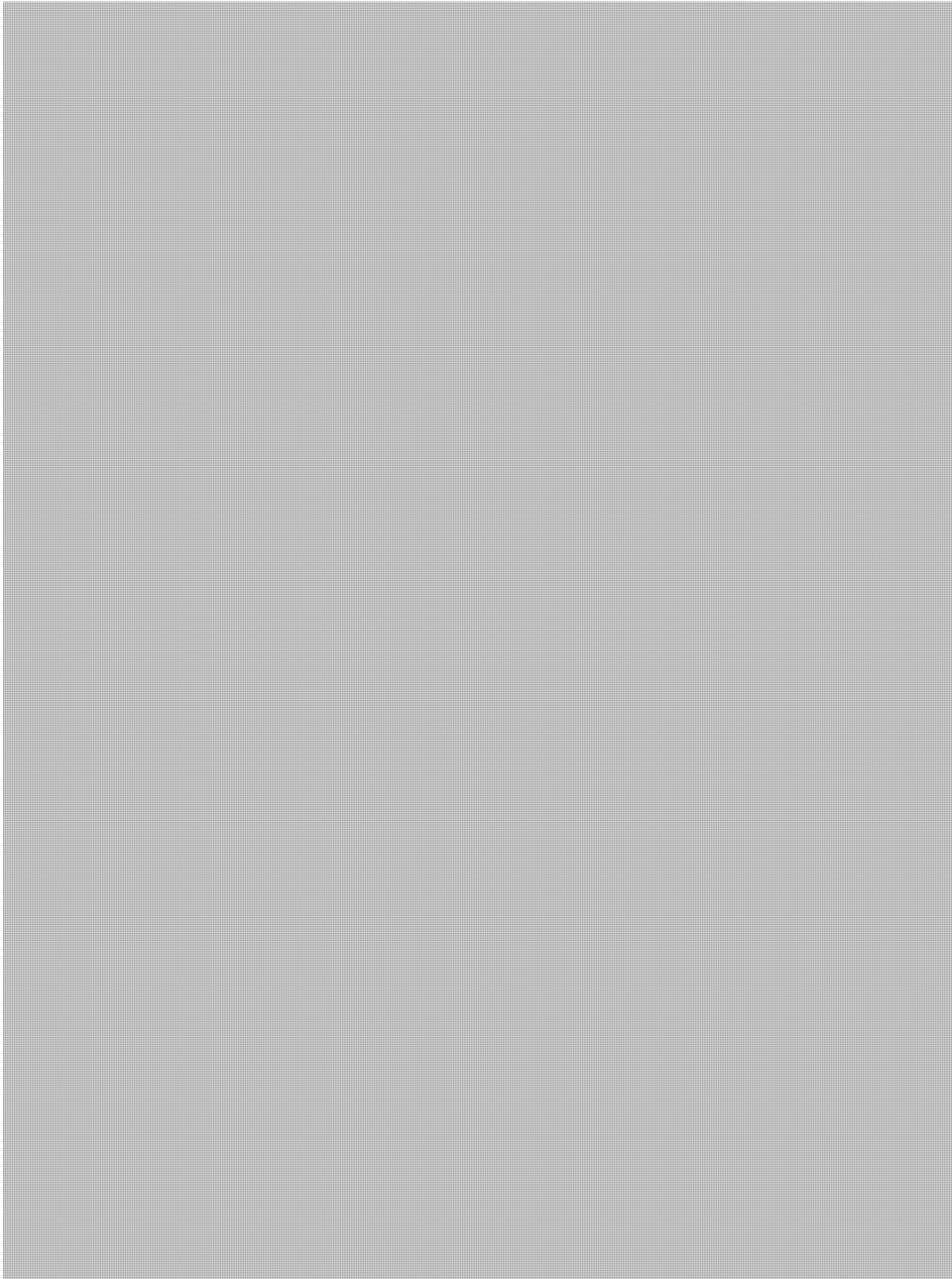
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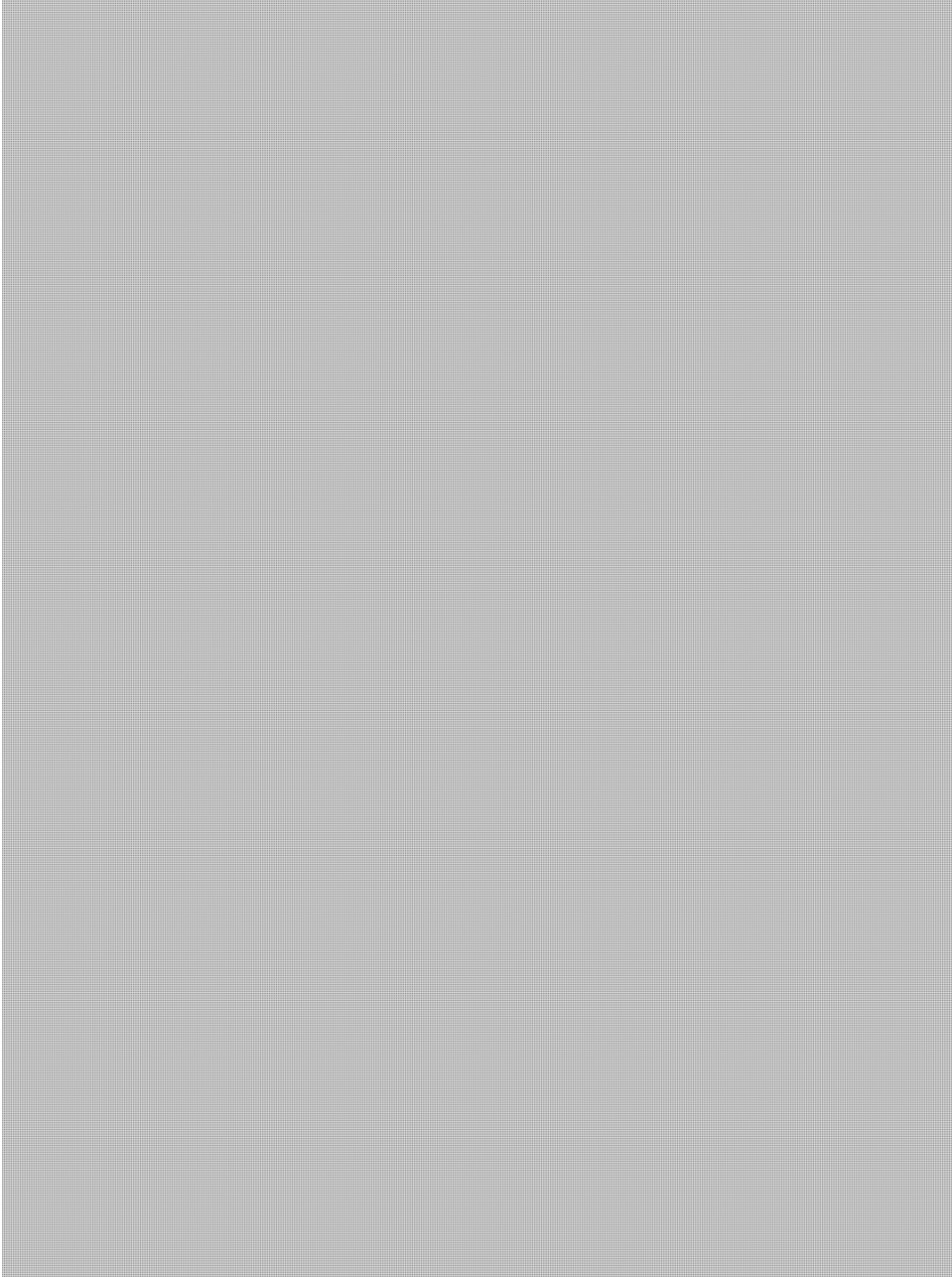
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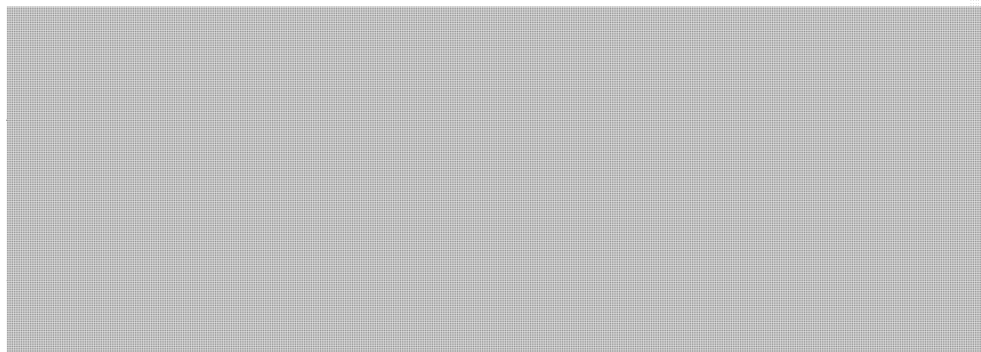
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DRAFT

**Pages 273 to / à 291
are withheld pursuant to section
sont retenues en vertu de l'article**

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**of the Access to Information Act
de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information**