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

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Trudeau doubles down on mandatory COVID-19 vaccines for domestic travel	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	15.8K	122	4.6K	20.5K
Canada's Justin Trudeau Calls Hillary Clinton for Help with Afghanistan	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Breitbart</i>	10.4K	94	52	10.6K
Canada election: NDP leader Jagmeet Singh pledges to increase tax on foreign buyers to combat housing crisis	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	102	6	7.7K	7.8K
Trudeau says people who are not fully vaccinated won't be able to travel on domestic planes or trains	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	6.8K	173	0	6.9K
Justin Trudeau faced with onslaught of boos and heckling during first campaign stop in Cobourg, Ont.	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	6.3K	109	0	6.4K
Justin Trudeau Promises 'She-covery' from the 'She-cession'	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Louder with Crowder</i>	4.7K	0	0	4.7K
Matthew Lau: Trudeau's irresponsible spending proves he doesn't deserve to govern	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	2.8K	124	0	2.9K
O'Toole Tories cheer Nova Scotia PC win, Trudeau Liberals look for lessons	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.2K	146	144	2.5K
Rex Murphy: Trudeau's vanity election would be silly, if it weren't so shameful	Aug. 18, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	2.3K	181	0	2.5K
Kelly McParland: Nova Scotia election shows how Trudeau could meet his doom	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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Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

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

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Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total engagement ⁴
<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

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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.

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