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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 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

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

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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
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"

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Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total engagement ⁴
<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

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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.
- An0maly, 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).

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