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

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

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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
La ministre fédérale des Femmes sème la polémique en parlant de «nos frères, les talibans»	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Journal de Montreal</i>	2.5K	269	209	2.9K
Bernier accuse Trudeau et Legault de diviser la population	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>La Tribune</i>	2.1K	119	0	2.2K
La campagne centralisatrice de Justin Trudeau	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	977	146	0	1.1K
Élections fédérales: la position du chef du Bloc québécois sur le 3e lien Québec-Lévis consterne les écologistes	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	422	49	273	744
Justin Trudeau s'engage à augmenter le Supplément de revenu garanti	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	690	0	0	690
Justin Trudeau se pète le genou sur un pot de fleur en débarquant de l'autobus	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Informe Toi</i>	559	0	0	559
Maxime Bernier périclite rapidement!	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	566	5	0	571
La candidate du parti de Maxime Bernier dans Manicouagan se désiste	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Le Nord-Côtier</i>	441	0	0	441
Élections fédérales: Legault présente ses demandes aux chefs fédéraux	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	435	1	0	436
Des électeurs veulent l'Internet haute vitesse en région rurale rapidement	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", "Annemie 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
1000 天了！中国大使同孟晚舟通话 (1000 days! The Chinese ambassador spoke with Meng Wanzhou by phone)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	100K
第 1000 天，外交部表态！ (On the 1000th day, MOFA speaks out!)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	100K
孟晚舟被无理拘押 1000 天，外交部表态！ (Meng Wanzhou has been wrongfully detained for 1000 days, MOFA speaks out!)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>People's Daily</i>	100K
1000 天了！中国大使同孟晚舟通话 (1000 days! The Chinese ambassador spoke with Meng Wanzhou by phone)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>People's Daily</i>	100K
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 (Amb. Barton, you have a letter from the Global Times, please read it carefully)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Global Times</i>	100K
孟晚舟被囚禁的 1001 个日夜 (1001 days and nights of captivity for Meng Wanzhou)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>College Daily</i>	48.0K
我驻加大使同孟晚舟通话：请坚定信心 (Chinese ambassador to Meng: please keep the faith)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Reference News</i>	43.4K
孟晚舟被拘押 1000 天，中国大使电话慰问 (Chinese ambassador calls to condole Meng Wanzhou after 1000 days in detention)	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Reference News</i>	42.4K
突发！杜鲁多又撒钱了！个人发\$500，夫妇发\$750！200 万人受益！ (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
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 (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

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

Article title ⁶	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<u>Канада: 'наши братья' Талибан (Canada: 'our brothers' Taliban)</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Anna Van Densky</i>	36	0	0	1.7K
<u>Трюдо запретит иностранцам покупать недвижимость в Канаде (Trudeau will ban foreigners from buying property in Canada)</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Torontovka</i>	173	0	0	173
<u>Канада завершила операцию по эвакуации людей из Афганистана (Canada completes operation to evacuate people from Afghanistan)</u>	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 (Five countries announced the creation of a fund to support Ukraine: how they will help)</u>	Aug. 26, 2021	<i>Obozrevatel</i>	3	2	0	5
<u>Зеленский уволил посла Украины в Канаде (Zelensky fired Ukraine's ambassador to Canada)</u>	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.

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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.

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- 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-languages 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..

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