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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 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

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

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

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Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<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

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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>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</i> (state media)	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</i> (state media)	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.

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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

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