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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 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

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

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

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Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
<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精神健康！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

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

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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.

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