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RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any clear evidence of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem on September 14. However, Chinese State media continues to take interest in GE44 in general and the perceived China policies of the Conservative Party of Canada in particular.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- Chinese Communist Party media outlets continue to share an article on Chinese news aggregators that the Conservatives “almost want to cut diplomatic relations with China.”
 - The volume of articles on this topic continue to increase, but it is not clear what levels of engagement these articles receive from users and what audiences are being targeted.
 - For example, during the Sept 14 reporting period, the media outlets who shared the articles, including *Strait Consumer Digest*, and *MNW.net*, are based in Fujian province, and report primarily on cross-strait news and issues. It appears these outlets are sharing the GT article because it suggests the Conservative Party would pursue “greater political cooperation with Taiwan.” It is unlikely that Canadians would see these articles, and are likely produced for news consumers based in Fujian province, Southern China.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 14, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 14, 2021 – 8:00PM September 14, 2021.

Platform used: Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Douyin, 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
Trudeau to protesters: 'Isn't there a hospital you should be going to bother right now?'	Sep. 14, 2021	Global News	9.3K	557	4.5K	14.3K
Warnings issued ahead of expected protests at hospitals across Canada	Sep. 13, 2021	Global News	9.9K	86	0	10.0K
COMMENTARY: The U.S. anti-vax movement is contaminating Canada	Sep. 14, 2021	Global News	8K	377	1.2K	9.6K
'I wish I had never met you,' Wilson-Raybould told Trudeau, she reveals in her new book	Sep. 14, 2021	National Post	5.9K	550	217	6.7K
Days after schools open, COVID-19 outbreaks force many across Canada to close	Sep. 13, 2021	Global News	6.2K	39	0	6.2K
Politicians, medical groups condemn protests outside hospitals across Canada	Sep. 13, 2021	CBC News	5.1K	235	322	5.6K
Canada's 'hospitals are building barricades': COVID-19 pandemic reaches ugly height with anti-vaxx protests	Sep. 13, 2021	Yahoo! News	0	26	4.8K	4.9K

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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G7 RRM CANADA
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Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Moving from fringe to 4th place, PPC complicates the Conservatives' path to power	Sep. 14, 2021	CBC News	1.3K	265	2.5K	4.1K
NDP Dental Care Plan Fills 'Significant' Gap in Health System, Internal Health Canada Report Says	Sep. 13, 2021	Press Progress	2.6K	266	620	3.5K
Trudeau, Singh want to criminalize protests that block hospitals. But can they?	Sep. 14, 2021	Global News	3.2K	25	61	3.2K

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit²

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Un infirmier refuse le vaccin afin de relever un défi personnel	Sep. 14, 2021	Journal de Montréal	3K	8	0	3.1K
Troisième lien: Québec a changé, estime Catherine Dorion	Sep. 13, 2021	Journal de Montréal	1.9K	4	49	2.0K
Lettre à mon premier ministre	Sep. 13, 2021	Journal de Montréal	1.8K	121	0	2.0K
Comment décoloniser sa bibliothèque sans faire scandale	Sep. 13, 2021	Le Devoir	1.4K	32	0	1.4K
Question controversée: montée du Bloc après le débat en anglais	Sep. 14, 2021	Journal de Montréal	928	60	0	989

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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G7 RRM CANADA
[AD]

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
Bernier cherche des « patriotes » pour agir comme scrutateurs	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	805	12	29	846
Réplique à un manifestant « Tout le monde a ses limites », dit Trudeau	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	589	14	0	603
Manifestations contre les hôpitaux: Trudeau promet de sévir avec un projet de loi	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	596	2	0	598
Les opposants aux mesures sanitaires influenceront-ils le résultat des élections?	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	552	16	0	568
Trudeau « s'accroche au pouvoir en divisant le pays », accuse O'Toole	Sep. 13, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	494	7	0	501

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Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title ³	Date	Account	Total views ⁴
特鲁多护妻回怼抗议者，争议来了！ (Trudeau protects his wife from angry protesters, a controversy is coming!)	Sep. 14, 2021	Global Times	24.6K
引发中国网友群骂！加拿大移民局官宣，这 10 类人签证申请“作废”！ (Triggered a group of angry Chinese web users! Canadian immigration announces 10 visa categories are “invalid”!)	Sep. 14, 2021	Canada Talks	17.7K
老婆惨被辱骂**，特鲁多忍无可忍，当场拉下口罩骂回；去医院吧 (Trudeau’s wife was called a **, Trudeau couldn’t bear it, he took off his mask at a campaign and said: “go to a hospital”)	Sep. 14, 2021	Superlife	11.5K
疯狂 特鲁多政府要求中国移动退出加拿大！理由竟然是..... (Crazy Trudeau government asks China Mobile to withdraw from China! The reason is...)	Sep. 13, 2021	Canada News	7.5K
全网怒赞！杜鲁多第一次摘下口罩回怼抗议者 因为妻子被骂了！ (The whole internet approves! Trudeau took off his mask to yell at a protester who swore at his wife!)	Sep. 14, 2021	Dushi-ca	3.3K
疯了！反疫苗、反口罩全加拿大 10 省爆发大游行！街头被挤爆 多家医院遭围堵 特鲁多怒了：判刑 (Crazy! Anti-vaxxers and anti-masker protests broke out in all 10 provinces! Trudeau is angry: It’s jail time!)	Sep. 14, 2021	Ca-1Canada1	2.7K
忍无可忍！杜鲁多终于回击了：有人当面辱骂他的妻子！ (Unbearable! Trudeau hits back: Someone insulted his face to his face!)	Sep. 14, 2021	51.ca	2.6K
加国大选投票时千万别做这些事！后果很严重 (Don’t do these things when voting in a Canadian election! The consequences are serious!)	Sep. 13, 2021	Westca.com	1.7K
华人愤怒！中加紧张！特鲁多政府要求中国移动退出加拿大！ (Chinese people are angry! China-Canada tensions! Trudeau government asks China Mobile to leave Canada!)	Sep. 14, 2021	Dushi-ca	1.6K
你怎么看？保守党承诺提高 EI 父母假福利，每月可赚取\$1,000 收入 (What do you think? Conservatives promise to raise EI parental leave benefits to earn \$1000 a month)	Sep. 14, 2021	York BBS	1.5K

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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On our radar

User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 14 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- Some notable article during the reporting period include:
 - Broadbent Institute media arm *Press Progress* [claims](#) that an internal memo from Health Canada tacitly approved of the NDP's proposed dental care plan, and that it would address "significant barriers" for uninsured Canadians. The article received considerable interest from users (3.6K engagements overall)
 - Media outlet *Canadaland* [questioned](#) the Institute's claim that it has "no formal link" with the federal NDP and that *PressProgress* articles "run parallel with NDO talking points."
 - The Broadbent Institute is not registered as a third party for GE44 with Elections Canada.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 14 originated from a mix of recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts and CCP media outlets.
- Chinese Communist Party media outlets continue to share an article on Chinese news aggregators that the Conservatives "almost want to cut diplomatic relations with China." The volume of articles on this topic continue to increase, however, it is not clear what levels of engagement these articles receive from users. Data analytics tools BuzzSumo and Crowdtangle reveal no significant user engagement on Facebook, Twitter or Reddit.
 - The articles repeat the content and tone of the original Global Times piece on the topic, and do not add any new commentary on GE44.
 - RRM Canada did not discover the article being shared on WeChat or Weibo -- the two main platforms for Chinese internet users to share and comment on news stories.
 - The media outlets who shared the articles, including *Strait Consumer Digest*, and *MNW.net*, are based in Fujian province, and report primarily on cross-strait news and issues. It appears these outlets are sharing the GT article because it suggests the Conservative Party would pursue "greater political cooperation with Taiwan."
- The *Global Times* reported on an incident at a BC campaign event where the LPC leader retorted to a protester "isn't there a hospital you should be going to bother right now?" after said protester insulted the LPC leader's wife.

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[AD]

- The *Global Times*' claims the retort "did not endear the public, with many web users finding the response inappropriate" and that it may "indirectly encourage protesters to continue to make trouble." The GT author screengrabs three tweets from various Twitter users who say they disapprove of Justin Trudeau's retort. The article received some user attention (24K views).
- *Xinhua* (26M followers) and the *China Daily* (34M followers) Douyin accounts shared two popular videos about Canada "ordering China Mobile to withdraw from the Canadian telecom market on so-called 'national security' grounds."
 - The videos did not link the order to GE44.
 - The videos received considerable engagement (over 185k likes and 5.2K shares combined).

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 14 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - Russian state media outlets (*RT* and *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*) shared news stories about an Ontario Catholic School Board's decision to burn "prohibited" books.
 - Russian mainstream media site *RBC Daily* reported on the Governor of Moscow closing down a hostel after migrant tenants' were accused of murdering a local woman.
 - *RBC Daily* reported on Putin's self-isolation due to the spread of COVID among those working closely with him
 - Ukrainian opposition media *News One* carried a story dealing with an ATIP to disclose available information about President Zelensky's itinerary during his recent U.S. trip, as well as information about a proposed "Transformation Plan" for the Ukrainian economy.

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