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## RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

### Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant evidence of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 15. However, Chinese state media continue to take interest in GE44 and the Conservative Party of Canada's proposed China policies.
- A *Postmedia* editorial as well as MacDonald-Laurier Institute's DisinfoWatch commented on what they characterised as examples of Chinese foreign interference during GE44, including: a campaign event for the LPC Vancouver-East candidate that promised a free lunch hosted by a pro-Beijing individual with connections to China; a perceived campaign on WeChat accusing Conservative MP Kenny Chiu of seeking to "supress the Chinese community" through his private members bill to create a foreign agents registry; recent Chinese Communist Party media outlet Global Times (GT) articles claiming the Conservative Party caters to Canada's "toxic anti-China atmosphere" and a perceived warning of "counterstrikes" should the Conservative Party win. No reaction yet from Chinese media and government officials.
- Provincial media outlets in China continue to publish headlines that the Conservative Party of Canada and leader Erin O'Toole "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China." The articles appear on popular Chinese news aggregators from Baidu and Tencent. Because of the closed nature of these aggregators, RRM Canada is unable to verify for coordinated inauthentic behaviour.

**Scan performed at:** 8:00PM, September 15, 2021

**Scan covers:** 9:00AM September 15, 2021 – 8:00PM September 15, 2021.

**Platform used:** Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Douyin

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Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit<sup>1</sup>

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<a href="#"><u>Trudeau says Canadians know he has 'thick skin,' but protestor made misogynist comments to his wife</u></a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Post Millennial</i>	45.7K	10	0	45.7K
<a href="#"><u>Trudeau to protesters: 'Isn't there a hospital you should be going to bother right now?'</u></a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	10.5K	593	4.7K	15.8K
<a href="#"><u>'I wish I had never met you,' Wilson-Raybould told Trudeau, she reveals in her new book</u></a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	11.5K	702	282	12.5K
<a href="#"><u>Canada: Alberta healthcare system on verge of collapse as Covid cases and anti-vax sentiments rise</u></a>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>The Guardian</i>	6.7K	1.5K	1.5K	9.8K
<a href="#"><u>Moving from fringe to 4th place, PPC complicates the Conservatives' path to power</u></a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	4.8K	374	3.5K	8.6K
<a href="#"><u>Trudeau defends retort to heckler who targeted wife: 'He went after my family'</u></a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	5.8K	99	2K	7.9K

<sup>1</sup> 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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Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<a href="#">Every news media who secretly took Trudeau's \$61M pre-election pay-off</a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	5.4K	268	0	5.7K
<a href="#">Unions oppose O'Toole, some call for members to vote 'anything but Conservative'</a>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	2.1K	161	4.3K	6.5K
<a href="#">Tasha Kheiriddin: Why Maxime Bernier's rise could secure Trudeau's re-election</a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	4.6K	101	0	4.7K
<a href="#">KINSELLA: Trudeau's misadventures in past week tell the story</a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	4.1K	458	0	4.6K

Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit<sup>2</sup>

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<a href="#">Le Canada en train de se séparer du Québec</a>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.9K	108	0	2.0K
<a href="#">Le Québec et le Canada font chambre à part</a>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.2K	28	0	1.2K
<a href="#">Question controversée: montée du Bloc après le débat en anglais</a>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.1K	60	0	1.2K
<a href="#">Erin O'Toole: le loup déguisé en mouton</a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Journal de Québec</i>	843	73	0	916

<sup>2</sup> 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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Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<a href="#"><u>Élections fédérales: les opposants aux vaccins unissent les chefs</u></a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	806	4	0	810
<a href="#"><u>Garderies: lisez la lettre qu'Erin O'Toole a envoyée à François Legault</u></a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	709	57	0	766
<a href="#"><u>Débat en anglais: Trudeau, O'Toole et Singh appuient la demande d'excuses au consortium</u></a>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Québec</i>	630	76	0	706
<a href="#"><u>Vaccins, youtubeurs et rébellion: la stratégie de Maxime Bernier en ligne</u></a>	Sep. 14, 2021	<i>Le Devoir</i>	682	2	0	684
<a href="#"><u>Jean Chrétien tire à boulets rouges sur Blanchet et O'Toole</u></a>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	527	64	19	610
<a href="#"><u>Pourquoi je vais voter pour le Bloc Québécois</u></a>	Sep. 15, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	425	168	0	593

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Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title <sup>3</sup>	Date	Account	Total views <sup>4</sup>
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 (His wife was insulted a **, Trudeau couldn't stand it, quickly pulled off his mask and retorted back: Go to the hospital)	Sep. 14, 2021	Superlife	25.9K
视频疯传! 为了老婆 特鲁多在大温和人当街对骂 最后没吵赢 网友狂点赞! (Viral video! For the sake of his wife, Trudeau among a GVA crowd retorted back, in the end, he didn't win the argument, but web users went wild!)	Sep. 14, 2021	West Canada Weekly	16.9K
护妻狂魔发飙了! 男子当众对着特鲁多大骂“你老婆是妓女”, 他立马拉下口罩机智回击! 网友怒赞 (The wife-protector is on a rampage! When a man shouted “your wife is a whore, Trudeau pulled his mask down, and made a smart remark! Web users furiously commented)	Sep. 15, 2021	Vancouver-ca	4.1K
华人太 TM 憋屈! 云尚米线第三次被砸! 一晚上四店被毁 却集体选择不报警?! Ethnic Chinese are so 'effing frustrated! Yushang Rice Noodles' window smashed for 3 <sup>rd</sup> time! Four stores destroyed in one night, but collectively chose not to call the police?!	Sep. 14, 2021	Vansky	3.1K
老婆被辱骂“jī 女”, 特鲁多当场摘下口罩怒怼: 有病去医院吧! (His wife was insulted a “whore”, Trudeau quickly took off his mask to express his anger: go to the hospital!)	Sep. 14, 2021	VanPeople	2.6K
[疯狂]加拿大要求中国移动退出本国市场! 理由竟然是..... (Crazy   Canada demands China Mobile to get out of the domestic market! The reason is...)	Sep. 14, 2021	Lahoo	2.3K
【观点】加拿大大选该选谁? 看谁对咱中国好! (Opinion   Who should I vote for in the election? Let's see who's good for China?)	Sep. 14, 2021	Canada News Today	1.0K
竞争异常激烈! 保守党领呼吁: 为这次不必要也不需要的选举惩罚特鲁多! (Competition is fierce! “Punish Trudeau for an unnecessary election,” say the Conservatives)	Sep. 14, 2021	BC Bay	1.0K
专访 加拿大联邦自由党候选人莉雅泰勒: 我希望看到更多女性参政 (Interview   LPC candidate Leah Taylor Roy: I want to see more women in politics)	Sep. 15, 2021	Canada Bidu	600
聚头条   保守党支持率再度反超, 83%TDSB 教师完全接种疫苗 (Spotlight   the CPC rebounds, 83% of TDSB teachers are fully vaccinated)	Sep. 15, 2021	Toronto News	550

<sup>3</sup> Article titles translated by RRM Canada

<sup>4</sup> 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 15 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- In an editorial that appeared in all *Postmedia* publications, Terry Glavin writes that China is “coming close to violating Canadian laws intended to safeguard federal elections from foreign interference.”
  - Glavin cites examples of Amb. Cong Peiwu’s comments in the *Hill Times* on Aug. 25, and WeChat users in the greater Vancouver area receiving private messages urging them not to vote for Conservative Party or NDP candidates. A *National Post* edition of the [editorial](#) received some attention on social media (949 total engagements)
  - CCP media or Chinese government officials on Twitter do not appear to have reacted to the *Postmedia* article.
- MacDonald-Laurier Institute fellow Marcus Kolga [writes](#) in *Disinfo Watch* that “CCP and actors aligned with it appear to be targeting the credibility of Chinese-Canadian federal candidates and CPC leader Erin O’Toole.”
  - The article references a September 9 English-language *Global Times* editorial that calls the Conservative’s platform “unusually hostile” and caters to a “toxic anti-China atmosphere” in Canada.
  - The article also notes that an “anonymous article posted on WeChat accused [Conservative candidate] Kenny Chiu of seeking to suppress the Chinese community through [Bill c-282 An Act to establish the Foreign Influence Registry].
  - Kolga asks whether the Critical Election Incident Public Protocol (CEIPP) had responded to the potential threat of foreign interference, and called on Twitter to remove a tweet from the *Global Times* that shared the September 9 editorial.
  - CCP media or Chinese government officials on Twitter do not appear to have reacted to the *Disinfo Watch* article.

**User engagement with Sinophone online media**

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 15 originated from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts.
- Small-scale anonymous media outlets in China continue to publish headlines that the Conservative Party of Canada and leader Erin O’Toole “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China.”
  - The articles appear on popular Chinese news aggregators from Baidu and Tencent. Because of the nature of the closed nature of these aggregators, RRM Canada is unable to verify for coordinated inauthentic behaviour.
  - The articles are not being shared on Facebook and Twitter.
  - The publishers appear to be linked to provincial media outlets in [Fujian](#) and [Qinghai](#).
- Douyin accounts linked to the Beijing CCP committee propaganda department posted videos about Toronto police officers protesting “vaccine passports” at Queen’s Park.

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- Although the Douyin account in question, *Qianlongwang*, has over 2.13 million followers, the video did not receive much attention from users (under 150 engagements).

#### User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 15 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
  - Russian state media outlets covered a number of GE44 related topics; *TASS* covered the high number of voters at advance polls, while *Sputnik* reported on the verbal attack against the PM's wife at an LPC rally and the "surging poll numbers" for the PPC.
  - A non-mainstream Ukrainian outlet [published](#) a story about an anti-vaccine passport rally in Canada.
  - Ukrainian independent outlet *Gordonua* [published an interview](#) with outlet's owner about a lawsuit against him by former Ukrainian president Poroshenko.
  - Russian mainstream outlet *RBC Daily* [reported](#) on the British foreign minister Dominic Raab losing his post.

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