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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 16. However, Chinese State media continues to take interest in GE44 and the Conservative Party of Canada's proposed China policies.
- A headline in the Chinese press that the Conservative Party "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China" appears to have finally ended circulation. Articles with the headline in question appeared continuously between September 8 and 15, and received considerable user attention. As of September 16, RRM Canada could not locate any new publishers sharing the headline.
- In a *Vancouver Sun* article, Conservative Party of Canada candidate Kenny Chiu says the false messages and personal attacks his campaign has received were "beyond [his] expectation." The article did not generate any comment from Chinese media or Chinese officials.
- The *Global Times* reacted to a Toronto Sun story that claims Canada had been intentionally excluded from a new partnership between the U.K., the U.S., and Australia, and also reacted to CPC leader Erin O'Toole's response to being left out of the partnership. The GT author suggests O'Toole "just wants Canada to spend more on the military" and quotes a Twitter user "Why do you want to go to war with China? Did we not lose enough lives in Afghanistan?" The article was not published in English, and did not receive any attention on U.S. social media platforms.

Scan performed at: 8:00PM, September 16, 2021

Scan covers: 9:00AM September 16, 2021 – 8:00PM September 16, 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 |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|----------|---------|--------|------------------|
| Disgust growing over vaccine protesters' Holocaust comparisons | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>CBC News</i> | 0 | 443 | 43.3K | 43.7K |
| Alberta to launch proof-of-vaccination program, declares health emergency amid surge in COVID-19 cases | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>CBC News</i> | 16.8K | 1.4K | 1.8K | 20.1K |
| Canada: Alberta healthcare system on verge of collapse as Covid cases and anti-vax sentiments rise | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>The Guardian</i> | 12.1K | 2K | 4.1K | 18.2K |
| Alberta adds COVID-19 measures, vaccine passport in effort to prevent health-care system's collapse | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Global News</i> | 12.3K | 250 | 0 | 12.5K |
| Alberta imposing provincewide COVID-19 restrictions, vaccine passport system amid surge in cases, hospitalizations | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Edmonton Journal</i> | 8.2K | 291 | 568 | 9.0K |
| Unions oppose O'Toole, some call for members to vote 'anything but Conservative' | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Global News</i> | 2.9K | 180 | 5.7K | 8.8K |
| B.C. PPC candidate slammed over flyer comparing vaccine passports to residential schools | Sep. 16, 2021 | <i>Global News</i> | 4.3K | 51 | 0 | 4.4K |
| What Jason Kenney's 'mission accomplished' moment has reaped for Alberta | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Maclean's</i> | 1.6K | 2K | 243 | 3.9K |
| Corbella: Wilson-Raybould's book paints an ugly portrait of Trudeau | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Calgary Herald</i> | 3.6K | 315 | 0 | 3.9K |

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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| Article title | Date | Publisher | Facebook | Twitter | Reddit | Total engagement |
|--|---------------|--------------------|----------|---------|--------|------------------|
| Trudeau defends 400-person indoor rally, says it followed COVID-19 protocols | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Global News</i> | 2.5K | 85 | 809 | 3.4K |

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

| Article title | Date | Publisher | Facebook | Twitter | Reddit | Total engagement |
|--|---------------|----------------------------|----------|---------|--------|------------------|
| L'Alberta annonce l'imposition d'un passeport vaccinal | Sep. 16, 2021 | <i>La Presse</i> | 2.3K | 121 | 133 | 2.6K |
| Vaccination obligatoire au 15 octobre Au moins 20 000 travailleurs de la santé risquent d'être suspendus | Sep. 16, 2021 | <i>La Presse</i> | 2K | 73 | 462 | 2.6K |
| Le Québec et le Canada font chambre à part | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Journal de Montréal</i> | 1.4K | 33 | 0 | 1.4K |
| COVID-19 : Jason Kenney tiendra une conférence de presse à 18 h | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Radio-Canada</i> | 1K | 27 | 0 | 1.1K |
| Débat en anglais: Trudeau, O'Toole et Singh appuient la demande d'excuses au consortium | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Journal de Québec</i> | 860 | 85 | 0 | 944 |
| La fracture entre le Québec et le Canada s'élargit | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Journal de Montréal</i> | 766 | 58 | 0 | 824 |
| Le Canada des deux peuples fondateurs est mort | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Journal de Montréal</i> | 758 | 54 | 0 | 812 |

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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| Article title | Date | Publisher | Facebook | Twitter | Reddit | Total engagement |
|---|---------------|---------------------|----------|---------|--------|------------------|
| <u>Jean Chrétien tire à boulets rouges sur Blanchet et O'Toole</u> | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Radio-Canada</i> | 675 | 69 | 20 | 764 |
| <u>Brian Mulroney manifeste son appui au conservateur Erin O'Toole</u> | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Radio-Canada</i> | 666 | 11 | 0 | 677 |
| <u>Débat des chefs : Trudeau et O'Toole réclament des excuses au consortium</u> | Sep. 15, 2021 | <i>Radio-Canada</i> | 460 | 10 | 0 | 470 |

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Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

| Article Title ³ | Date | Account | Total views ⁴ |
|--|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>加拿大：盟友不信任特鲁多了吗？</u> (Canada: Do allies not trust Trudeau?) | Sep. 16, 2021 | Global Times | 26.4K |
| <u>炸锅了！特鲁多搞 400 人大型室内集会疯狂拉票，现场人挤人！</u> (Explosive! Trudeau stages a 400-person large indoor rally, the scene was crowded with people!) | Sep. 15, 2021 | Superlife | 7.1K |
| <u>【最新】杜鲁多自传中文版，外国出版社资助，保守党促操守专员进行解释！</u> (New The Chinese edition of Trudeau's autobiography was funded by foreign publishers, the CPC urges the Ethics Commissioner to investigate!) | Sep. 15, 2021 | Canada News Today | 1.5K |
| <u>网红还是政客？起底新民主党的“头巾哥” 驹勉诚</u> (Internet celebrity or politician? A bio of "turban brother" Jagmeet Singh) | Sep. 16, 2021 | York BBS | 1.1K |
| <u>专访 加拿大自由党候选人蒋振宇：老警官转型政治新秀，为下一代华裔铺路</u> (Interview LPC candidate Paul Chiang: A retired police officer transforms into a political rookie, paving the way for the next generation of Chinese) | Sep. 16, 2021 | Canada Bidu | 1.0K |
| <u>加拿大选举局透露：大选结果将最多延期 5 日公布</u> (Elections Canada announces the results may be delayed by up to 5 days) | Sep. 16, 2021 | York BBS | 1.0K |
| <u>【重磅】美英澳组成新联盟对付中国！加拿大被排除在外！</u> (Heavy US, UK and Australia form a new alliance against China! Canada is excluded!) | Sep. 16, 2021 | Canada News Today | 695 |
| <u>保守党党首奥图尔形象多变，难道他想靠颜值打败特鲁多？</u> (CPC leader Erin O'Toole is changing his image, does he want to beat Trudeau in the looks category?) | Sep. 16, 2021 | Canada Bidu | 450 |
| <u>炸锅了！特鲁多搞 400 人大型室内集会疯狂拉票，现场人挤人！</u> (Explosive! Trudeau stages a 400-person large indoor rally, the scene was crowded with people!) | Sep. 16, 2021 | Mengchenghui | 415 |
| <u>独家 加拿大政治将在联邦大选之后重新洗牌，什么结果能让各位现任党领保住饭碗？</u> (Exclusive Canadian politics will reshuffle after the election, what result will allow the incumbent party leaders to keep their jobs?) | Sep. 16, 2021 | Rise News | 215 |

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 16 originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

User engagement with Sinophone online media

- The most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 16 originated from a mix of recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts and Chinese Communist Party media outlets.
- A headline in the Chinese press that the Conservative Party “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China” appears to have finally ended circulation.
 - Articles with the headline in question appeared continuously between September 8 and 15, and received considerable user attention. As of September 16, RRM Canada could not locate any new publishers sharing the headline.
- In a *Vancouver Sun* [article](#), Conservative Party of Canada candidate Kenny Chiu says the false messages and personal attacks his campaign has received was “beyond [his] expectation.” The article received some attention from registered GE44 third parties like Canada Proud and prominent China scholars like Charles Burton (900 overall engagements). The article did not solicit any comment from Chinese media or Chinese officials.
 - The article’s author notes three incidents that RRM Canada had documented last week – an editorial from the Global Times that called the Conservatives “unusually hostile” and the party’s platform “hostile” to China, an article from the Chinese-language Today Commercial News that claims Chiu’s private member bill (C-282) would require all Canadians of Chinese heritage who have attended a Chinese consulate event to register for a foreign agent registry, and private WeChat and Whatsapp messages circulating in Chiu’s electoral district that make false claims about the candidate and C-282.
 - Chiu adds that he does not want to speculate “whether the Chinese government or its agents are behind” the false messages and that “China and its agents are the most experienced infiltrators. They have done it for so many years. They’re not going to get caught.”
 - Chiu discusses a number of narratives that RRM Canada has not encountered, including: referring to O’Toole as “vomit” because his surname sounds similar to the Mandarin word for it; false claims that Conservatives would not only ban WeChat, but all Chinese social media apps like QQ, Weibo, Xiaohongshu and Alipay; and suggesting it is “ridiculous for Chinese to vote for an anti-China party.”
- The *Global Times* [reacted](#) to a Toronto Sun story that claims Canada had been intentionally excluded from a new partnership between the U.K., the U.S., and Australia, and also reacted to CPC leader Erin O’Toole’s response to being left out of the partnership.

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- The GT author suggests O'Toole “just wants Canada to spend more on the military” and quotes a Twitter user “Why do you want to go to war with China? Did we not lose enough lives in Afghanistan?”
- The article received some engagement (less than 30K views).
- The article was not published in English, and did not receive any attention on U.S. social media platforms.
- A *Globe and Mail* report that discovered Justin Trudeau’s memoir was re-published by a Chinese state-owned publishing house has not been reported by Chinese Communist Party media. However, some WeChat accounts that service Canadian users reported on the event.
 - *Canada News Today* provided a relatively direct translation of the Globe and Mail article, but did not add any additional commentary on the piece. The article received some engagement (1.5K views).

User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 16 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
 - Russian state-media *TASS* and *RIA News* reported on Canada’s possible inclusion in the newly announced security alliance between the U.S., the U.K., and Australia.
 - Russian mainstream media outlet *RBC Daily* reported on French reactions to the announced defence partnership between AU, UK and the US.
 - *RBC Daily* reported on Putin’s self-imposed quarantine and inability to personally attend the CSTO Summit.
 - Ukrainian mainstream media outlet *Obozrevatel* published an interview with former Ukrainian Deputy Minister who suggested Putin wants to cut off Ukraine from the seas and produce “republics.”

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