

SITE TF SITREP: 22 September 2021

2021 Federal Election – Threat Trend: STABLE



This situation report (SITREP) provides information on the operations of the Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections (SITE) Task Force. It is to be used by Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADMs) and Deputy Ministers (DMs) for information and decision-making purposes. Intended for named recipients only. Please share with members of: SITE TF ADMs; SITE TF DMs; Panel of 5

Threat Updates

GAC/RRM

- (U//OUO) 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 21.
- (U//OUO) Chinese Communist Party media outlet the *Global Times* reported on the election day tally of GE44 but offered little commentary on the results.
- (U//OUO) Conservative Party candidate Kenny Chiu discussed his GE44 campaign and what impact false information played in his defeat in two Chinese language interviews.
 - (U//OUO) In an interview with Radio Free Asia, Chiu said it was a “pity” that electors are affected by false information, and that there are “blind spots” in Canada’s national security system: “what CSIS does is only analyze and judge whether there is foreign influence, but it has no enforcement power. Who is the law enforcement responsible for Canada’s national security?” Further, in an interview with normally pro-CCP Sing Tao, Chiu said “slander and false attack against him on WeChat and WhatsApp caused harm to his candidacy.” He adds that “Canadian intelligence agencies have long confirmed that China interferes with Canadian society, and the smearing of me may be part of it.”

Operational Responses and Updates

CSE

- (PB) On 20 September 2021, Elections Canada reported increased traffic on the Elections Night Results (ENR) website peaking between 12h and 1430h resulting in a short outage.
 - (PB) Elections Canada identified a misconfiguration and the issue has since been resolved.
 - (PB) CSE’s Cyber Centre did not observe any malicious activity that could determine the cause of the outage.