

For Public Release

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2021 Election Period - Important Issues

<p>Issue: PRC Mis / Disinformation Campaign</p>
<p>Summary: Chinese state media and affiliated outlets published articles and opinion pieces, as well as stories from unattributed sources, portraying the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) in a negative light or supporting the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC). Many posted narratives received strong uptake in Chinese social media but also on other platforms, including Facebook.</p>
<p>Record of Information Flow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 19, 20 and 27, 2021: SITE SITREP to all Panel Members: Global Times (GT) (Chinese Communist Party outlet) article highlighted a petition to request the release of Meng Wanzhou. • August 31, 2021 and September 1 and 2, 2021: SITE SITREP to all Panel Members: WeChat news accounts in Canada posted a false story claiming that the CPC will ban WeChat if elected. • September 7: SITE SITREP to all Panel Members: WeChat activities (leaked on Facebook), tied to the CCP's United Front Work Department, showed strong support to a LPC candidate. • September 9 and 10, 2021: SITE SITREP to all Panel Members: Two Global Times stories on WeChat quoted a Canadian columnist's assessment that the CPC Leader "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China" and that the CPC's election platform would "certainly lead to Chinese retaliation." Global Times editorial critical of the CPC's platform towards China. • September 13, 14, 15, and 17, 2021: SITE SITREP to all Panel Members: Canadian versions of the Global Times question whether Canadians of Chinese heritage should vote for the CPC. • September 10 and 13, 2021: SITE SITREP to all Panel Members: People's Daily posted a WeChat story claiming that CPC candidate Kenny Chiu's sponsored private member's Bill C-282 (motion to create a foreign agent registry) would require "all individuals or groups with ties to China" to register as agents of the Chinese government. • September 22, 23, and 24, 2021: SITE SITREP to all Panel Members: Kenny Chiu comments on the impact false information played in his defeat and how it was spread: 1) WeChat op-eds 2) WeChat and WhatsApp chats 3) diaspora radio stations that repeated the false claims. • September 23, 2021: Panel briefed that on September 5, 2021, Kenny Chiu told CSIS he felt that he was a victim of foreign interference. • September 24, 2021: CPC/PCO meeting: CPC representatives shared concerns of organized and covert FI targeting candidates. • September 30, 2021: CPC email to PCO: CPC representatives emailed PCO officials information they believed was suggestive of outside influence. • October 22, 2021: CPC/PCO meeting: PCO shared the results of SITE's analysis of the issue with CPC representatives.
<p>Media Reporting or Public Statements</p> <p>Globe and Mail Article February 17, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - October 2021: CSIS reported that it was "well-known within the Chinese-Canadian community in British-Columbia" that the former PRC Consul General in Vancouver, "wanted the Liberal Party to win the 2021 election." - Early November 2021: CSIS reported that the PRC CG discussed the defeat of Kenny Chiu and China's efforts to influence mainland Chinese Canadian voters against the CPC.