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Gouvernement du Canada

# SITE TF SITREP: 14 June 2023



## 2023 Federal By-Elections

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; DMCIR.

### Threat Updates

#### GAC

- (U) RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem from June 11 to 12.
- (U) RRM Canada assesses the vast majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites, and found no instances of foreign state-sponsored news outlets commenting on the by-election.
- (U) There was some coverage on the June 19 by-elections today in both English and French:
  - Niche political channels on YouTube commenting on the by-election and GE45 received some user engagement during the reporting period.<sup>1</sup> However, RRM Canada assesses these commentators are likely based in Canada, and are not associated with a foreign entity.
  - Local English-language online media outlets in Manitoba and Ontario reported on the various candidate campaigns and candidate debate events. These stories received low levels of social media user engagement.
  - RRM Canada found no indication that a foreign entity attempted to artificially increase or decrease social media engagement about the by-election during the reporting period.
- (U) RRM Canada did not detect any Chinese-language news articles or social media chatter on China-based platforms about the June 19 by-election today.

#### Operational Responses and Updates

(U) No significant updates at this time.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In past election cycles, RRM Canada reporting noted 10K to 20K user interactions as "high levels of engagement." However, at this time, RRM Canada has not observed this level of user interest in the June 19 by-election.