

**2021-0817**

<b>DATE FILE INITIATED AND ALLEGATIONS</b>	The complaint was submitted to the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections (OCCE) during the 2021 federal general election (GE) period via its web-based complaint form. The complainant alleged having noted on Chinese language social media forums that foreign agents, on behalf of China, were trying to manipulate the election by offending the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC), by stating that Chinese people will be killed if a CPC government is elected. Attached to the complaint were screenshots of social media posts and articles in Chinese characters.
<b>POTENTIAL CONTRAVENTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>S. 282.4</b> of the <i>Canada Elections Act</i> (the Act) - Undue influence by foreigners</li><li>• <b>S. 282.8</b> of the Act - Pretence and contrivance</li></ul>
<b>STEPS TAKEN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The posts and articles were translated in English and reviewed to ensure a proper interpretation of the intended message.</li><li>• While there is a reference in the complaint that Chinese people would be killed, when investigators reviewed the translations, they did not identify any overt threats of violence.</li><li>• Following a review of the posts, it was determined that these posts originated from specific accounts created at the onset of the GE period.</li><li>• The complainant was contacted to obtain additional information. The complainant indicated that immigrants from China rely on Chinese language media and communicate on social media in Chinese or simplified Chinese.</li><li>• Following a review of the social media surrounding the identified posts, it was noted that the authors of the posts were challenged by other participants who alleged the authors were foreign agents trying to influence electors. However, the actual citizenship of the authors of the posts under review could not be substantiated. These posts either appeared to support the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) or appeared to vilify the CPC alleging that the CPC is anti-China and that the CPC discriminates against Asian people.</li></ul>
<b>EVIDENTIARY THRESHOLD FOR THE INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION REACHED?</b>	No.  The review did not identify tangible or direct evidence to substantiate the elements constituting the offence of undue foreign influence or other potential contraventions as defined by the Act. The comments in the social media posts and articles that were the objects of the complaint meet the exception at sections 282.4 (3) (a) and (b) of the Act.

<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	Closed
<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</b>	None