

ISRAEL ALONE? Live discussion on the tragic events of Oct. 7th and the far-reaching consequences. [FREE EVENT>>](#)

ISRAEL ALONE? Live discussion on March 7. [FREE EVENT>>](#)



Sections Search

NATIONAL POST

Subscribe

Sign In



News / Canada

Russian election-meddling in Canada linked to Arctic ambitions: report

'Perceived as one of Russia's chief adversaries in the Arctic region, Canada is a prime target in the information wars'



The Canadian Press
Mike Blanchfield

Published Sep 08, 2019 • Last updated Sep 08, 2019 • 3 minute read

Join the conversation



A soldier holds a machine gun as he patrols the Russian northern military base on Kotelny island, beyond the Arctic circle on April 3, 2019. PHOTO BY MAXIME POPOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

OTTAWA — A new University of Calgary study is predicting Russian interference in the federal election campaign to serve what it describes as the Kremlin's long-term interest of competing against Canada in the Arctic.

The study's author, Sergey Sukhankin, said in an interview that Moscow's ability to inflict serious damage is relatively low because Canadian society is not as divided as countries targeted in past elections, including the United States presidential ballot and Britain's Brexit referendum in 2016, as well as various attacks on Ukraine and the Baltic states.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

3/4/24, 5:04 PM

Russian election-meddling in Canada linked to Arctic ambitions: report | National Post

“The Kremlin has a growing interest in dominating the Arctic, where it sees Russia as in competition with Canada. This means Canada can anticipate escalations in information warfare, particularly from hacktivists fomenting cyber-attacks,” writes Sukhankin, a senior **TRE**

and propaganda revealed against Canada in the near future.

2

The Kremlin has a growing interest in dominating the Arctic, where it sees Russia as in competition with Canada

3

Sukhankin argues that Moscow’s disinformation efforts are designed primarily for domestic Russian consumption, and are not intended to sway Canadian voters.

It is part of a broader Kremlin effort to show the “ugly side of democracy and liberalism” to a Russian audience, and to portray Canada as being unduly influenced by the United States and the “Ukrainian lobby” in Canada, he writes.

4



NP Posted

Get a dash of perspective along with the trending news of the day in a very readable format.

Sign Up

By signing up you consent to receive the above newsletter from Postmedia Network Inc.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

“Russia uses patriotism and this anti-fascist sentiment to convince the domestic audience and Russian-speakers abroad, primarily in Ukraine, Belarus and the three Baltic states, that Russia is the only country to stand against far-right sentiments and nationalism. This is basically used by the Russian side to garner domestic solidarity,” he said in an interview.

Sukhankin’s argument echoes previous warnings about potential Russian interference from the Liberal government, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, and the country’s intelligence agencies.

The government has appointed a group of five senior public servants to guard against foreign election meddling during the campaign. The public servants will be able to brief members of all political parties about potential threats and will have the power to go public during the campaign to sound the alarm against malign acts of interference that they together deem a fundamental threat.

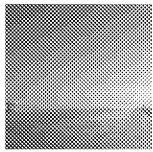
3/4/24, 5:04 PM

Russian election-meddling in Canada linked to Arctic ambitions: report | National Post

Canada expelled four Russian diplomats last year in connection with the poisoning of an ex-spy in Britain that has been blamed on Moscow. (The Kremlin denies the charge).

At the time, Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said the diplomats were intelligence agents who were undermining Canadian democracy.

RECOMMENDED FROM EDITORIAL



China would benefit most from billion-dollar, 700-km highway through Canadian Arctic, critics say

As Sukhankin's paper notes, Freeland has been a frequent target of Russian propaganda as part of a broader attempt to brand Canada as "russophobic" and having an "affection for fascism," including a soft-spot for Nazism that dates back to the 1930s.

The goal is to justify Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula — the most serious breach of Europe's border since the Second World War — which President Vladimir Putin has said was necessary to protect "Russian-speakers in Ukraine against their physical extermination," writes Sukhankin.

Russia's disinformation about Canada also focuses on three other areas, according to the report.

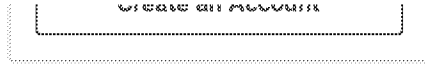
These include ridiculing Canada's military presence in Latvia as part of NATO's deterrent against Russia, portraying the country as a "useful satellite" of the U.S., and calling it a testing ground for "immoral Western values" because of its support of same-sex marriage and legalizing of cannabis.

*Our website is the place for the latest breaking news, exclusive scoops, longreads and provocative commentary. Please bookmark nationalpost.com and sign up for our daily newsletter, *Posted*, [here](#).*



COMMENTS

You must be logged in to join the discussion or read more comments.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Postmedia is committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion and encourage all readers to share their views on our articles. Comments may take up to an hour for moderation before appearing on the site. We ask you to keep your comments relevant and respectful. We have enabled email notifications—you will now receive an email if you receive a reply to your comment, there is an update to a comment thread you follow or if a user you follow comments. Visit our [Community Guidelines](#) for more information and details on how to adjust your [email settings](#).

Loading...

Don't Pay For New Gutters. Get This 3-In-1 System Instead

leafhomesystems | Sponsored

Learn More

Canadian PMs: We have had 23 Prime Ministers, a look at the seven that are alive

National Post

Stacy Wakefield dies less than 5 months after her husband, World Series champion Tim Wakefield

National Post

Canadians Born 1944-1984 Could Be Eligible For This Benefit

Seniors Choice | Sponsored

Here's What Gutter Guards Should Cost You In 2024

LeafFilter Partner | Sponsored

Learn More

Bank Owned Properties For Sale In Ontario (See Prices)

BrightLifeDaily.com | Sponsored

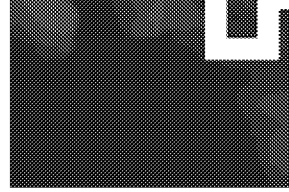
Learn More

Here's What A New Gutter System Should Cost You In 2024

leafhomesystems | Sponsored

Learn More





LATEST FROM SHOPPING ESSENTIALS

What's streaming March 2024: New on Netflix, Prime Video and more

A list of the top films and series that should be on your radar this month

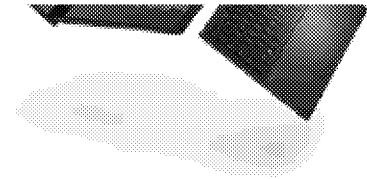
2 hours ago

SHOPPING ESSENTIALS



Asus Zenbook Duo 2024 review: Two screens, one powerful laptop

A dynamic machine great for multitasking and presentations



Red carpet ready: The best facials in West Hollywood

Exploring the cultural haven, plus bringing the glow home

3 days ago

SHOPPING ESSENTIALS

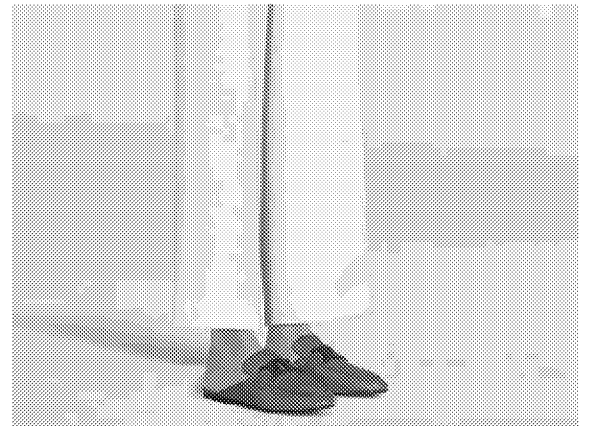


Fab Five: Free your feet with these 5 stylish spring shoes

Spring footwear styles that will have you welcoming the new season with a lighter step.

3 days ago

FASHION & BEAUTY



The best online deals in the Canadian retail space right now

adidas, Best Buy and ALDO to name a few

4 days ago

SHOPPING ESSENTIALS



THIS WEEK IN FLYERS

Advertisement

Manage Account

My Account

Manage My Print Subscription

Manage My Tax Receipt

ePaper

Contact Us

Advertise

Advertise With Us

Appointment Notice

Content Works

Partnerships

Resources

Postmedia Network

Financial Post

Canada.com

Canoe.com

Driving.ca

The GrowthOp

Winnipeg Sun

The London Free Press

Regina Leader-Post

Saskatoon StarPhoenix

Windsor Star

Classified

Remembering

Celebrating

Classifieds Marketplace

Careers

FlyerCity

Post a Classified ad

Local Directory

Sales

About Us

Ottawa Citizen

The Province

Vancouver Sun

Edmonton Journal

Calgary Herald

Montreal Gazette

Toronto Sun

Ottawa Sun

Calgary Sun

Edmonton Sun



Follow us



[Give us some feedback!](#)

[Privacy · Updated Terms](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Digital Ad Registry](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)