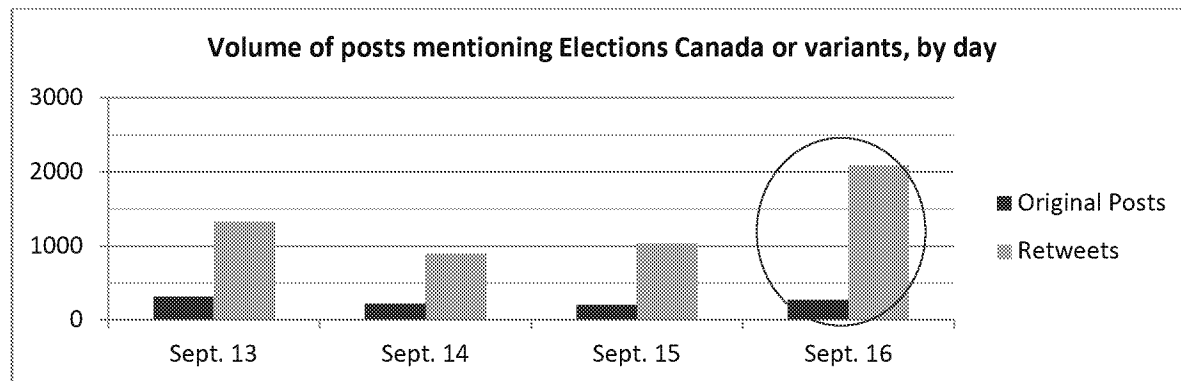


Rapport de repérage des médias sociaux : midi 16 septembre à midi 17 septembre, 2019

Social Media Monitoring Report: noon September 16 to noon September 17, 2019

Observations principales / Key observations

- A couple's creative response to an unwanted lawn sign goes viral, leading users to question EC's rules governing lawn signs
- A popular thread in a niche Reddit forum claims non-citizens will use vouching to vote illegally at GE43
- A CNP member whose name was revealed by Anti-Racist Canada posted a copy of a letter he wrote to EC, in which he called for an investigation into the Canadian Anti-hate Network
- Strong media interest in CEO press conference, but low engagement by social media users



Includes mentions of CEO, CEA, and variants, in English and French, on Twitter, Reddit, Tumblr, blogs, forums, YouTube comments

Sujets principaux / Key topics¹

- **NEW** Concern that non-citizens will prove ID by vouching and then vote fraudulently
- **NEW** Couple's response to unwanted campaign sign goes viral
- ↻ Comments on Maxime Bernier's invitation to leaders' debates
- ↻ Concern about deceptive "robocalls" and "robotexts"
- ↻ Concern about foreign interference in GE43
- → Calls for EC to "review" allegedly false claims by or about party leaders

¹ Most prominent EC-related stories over the report's time period; arrows indicate the intensity of the interest relative to last week: ↑ = increased interest → = continued interest ↓ = decreased interest ↻ = revived topic **NEW** = new topic

Éléments sous observation / On the radar

- **CNP members object to their information being released**
 - **CNP member writes to EC calling for “investigation” into Canadian Anti-hate Network’s (CAN) release of CNP member names and city locations:** A person identified by Anti-Racist Canada (ARC) as one of the 250 signees of the CNP’s registered party submission called on EC to investigate ARC’s “cyber thuggery and doxing” of CNP members in a formal letter posted to the website of the organization he leads, the Canadian Association for Free Expression. In the letter, the individual claims he spoke to “Michael” at ECHQ on July 15, then filed a formal complaint asking for an “investigation of threats” made by CAN, to which EC has not replied for “three months.” He claimed that CNP members are open to “voter intimidation” once their names and cities of residence are revealed. He said he called again on September 16 to speak to EC’s “legal department” and was told they were not available.
 - **CNP forum user posts EC’s response to a September 10 letter:** A CNP forum user posted that EC had responded to a September 10 letter in which the user had outlined their concerns regarding CNP members’ names being released. The user posted the text of the letter sent by the political finance group at EC and added “a few key points,” including that their information had already been requested and that EC does not take into account “safety” or the “requestor’s motives” when releasing information.
- **Some users complain that EC’s voter registration service is offline:** There were a handful of complaints on Twitter and Facebook that EC’s voter registration was “down,” but the volume of posts was very low. Two users with 1K followers each said EC should “fix up” and that online voter registration should not be down when election day is “a month away.” Neither post received any engagement.
- **CEO held a press conference to talk about EC’s services to electors at GE43:** Social media accounts for national newspapers live-tweeted coverage of the CEO’s press conference, but there has been little engagement from social media users.
- **Minimal social media response to CEO appearance on *Attention Control*:** Aside from a tweet from journalist and host Kevin Newman promoting the CEO’s appearance, there was little user reaction to the CEO’s appearance on *Attention Control*. The podcast episode with the CEO was the 28th most-listened-to podcast in Canada for September 16.
- **Meme by Burnaby North–Seymour Conservative EDA draws ire, calls to report it to EC:** The meme was posted on the EDA’s Facebook page and depicted LPC Leader Justin Trudeau on the edge of a cliff and the LPC campaign slogan “choose forward.” One Twitter user labeled it a “death meme” which prompted a handful of other users to state that they were going to report the meme to EC. Following criticism by social media users, the meme was taken down.
- **Twitter user claims EC is not applying third party provisions to pro-carbon tax group:** A Twitter user with 4.2K followers criticized EC for “first ignoring Liberals campaigning on tax dollars” and “now” neglecting to intervene in a pro-carbon tax group’s advertising and lack of registration



with EC. The user shared a tweet containing a link to a *Blacklocks* article on the topic (article is inaccessible to SMMU). The tweet received 48 engagements.

- **Tumblr user claims all Canadians residing in Canada are “automatically registered” to vote when they turn 18:** In a Tumblr post informing readers of voting options during GE43, a user claimed there was no need to register since Canadians living in Canada are automatically registered to vote on their 18th birthday. The post received 54 engagements.
- **Twitter user brings up EC’s “non-partisan (wink wink) social media influencers”:** A Twitter user with 4.2K followers tweeted a screengrab from 2015 in which Lilly Singh congratulated LPC Leader Justin Trudeau on his GE42 victory. The Twitter user included a recent tweet by LPC Leader Trudeau wishing Singh “good luck” on her late night TV show and stated “How virtuous of Justin Trudeau to send best wishes to one of “Elections Canada” non-partisan (wink wink) social media influencers.” The post garnered nine engagements.

Sujets principaux – en profondeur / Key topics – in depth

NEW Concern about vouching at polling places

Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares

- N/A

Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights

Inspired by a *CBC News* explainer on vouching as a means to prove identity at the polls, Reddit users on niche page *r/metaCanada* expressed concern over non-citizens voting and questioned the legitimacy of vouching. The thread, entitled “Wtf! Guess this is how refugees will vote!” became a top-trending topic on the page on September 16 and received 376 engagements.

Users commenting on the thread expressed four separate concerns. The dominant concern was that vouching would enable non-citizens to vote; some also suggested that an increase of refugee claimants under the Trudeau government would allow the LPC “to steal the election.” One user stated that it was likely that 120,000 people voted fraudulently in 2011. Other users were of the opinion that vouching should not be a legitimate means to prove identity and were bewildered that people could “function” without having any proof of identity. Some users also ridiculed the ID options set out in the *Canada Elections Act*, stating that the list of acceptable IDs is “like 50 documents long” and “Hell, I could use my Metis card and a f***ing hydro bill to vote.” One user also claimed that when their wife worked as a DRO, they were told “not to ask for any documents from ‘voters’.”

A third set of users offered to vouch for “pro-Trump” Americans who wanted to vote in GE43, while a fourth group of users expressed confusion over the requirements for vouching, with two separate users suggesting that one person could vouch for more than one voter.



Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
376	29.6K, r/metaCanada	Reddit users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ [redacted] Victim Of The /r/Canada Censorship Genocide 122 points · 1 day ago ◆ You can vouch for people to vote? <p>Nobody sees anything problematic with that?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ [redacted] 3 parts reply 64 points · 1 day ago ◆ The old system of vouching was more-or-less okay, there were issues - one of the reasons why it was removed after instances of voter fraud were found. It only allowed one person to vouch for a single voter, both parties had to sign a document stating who they were, the person guaranteeing, had to present valid ID too. All of that was done under penalty of perjury. The liberals new system allow the electioneer officer at the polling place to vouch for as many individuals as they want, the perjury declaration was also loosened by the liberals. ◆ [redacted] Victim Of The /r/Canada Censorship Genocide 61 points · 1 day ago ◆ Fair enough. <p>The liberals new system allow the electioneer officer at the polling place to vouch for as many individuals as they want, the perjury declaration was also loosened by the liberals.</p> <p>This sounds suspicious at best.</p> <p>It sounds like the Liberals are attempting to buy this election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ [redacted] 3 parts reply 28 points · 1 day ago ◆ I have a feeling the depth of it, goes beyond the Liberals. Since this garbage being pushed is the norm inside progressive circles to "ensure fair voting." ◆ [redacted] Metecordias 27 points · 20 hours ago ◆ "Fair voting" means non-citizens voting. 	Sept. 16
30	29.6K, r/metaCanada	Reddit user	Can we all vouch for our 100s of cousins who do not, I assure you, live in rural Alabama! That is a lie, they are 100% Toronto natives! They just happen to like banjo playing.	Sept. 16
13	29.6K, r/metaCanada	Reddit user	So does this mean I could go to multiple voting centres in multiple districts and vote? All i need is to convince the elections officer? And there is basically no repercussions?	Sept. 16
14	29.6K followers, r/metaCanada	Reddit user	My wife has worked in both Federal and Provincial elections, as a deputy returning officer. Both Governments print a VERY long list of the " approved documents " that must be accepted as proof of " Canadian Citizenship " That list includes (I kid you not)library cards, transit passes, utility bills, hunting or fishing permits....and the list goes on. If you think about it.....none of those actually are proof positive of citizenship. It's just one more way of sneaking around the law. My wife was told to not ask for any documents from " voters ". If they had nothing....no voters card, not on the permanent voter's list...just accept them. Weasels.	Sept. 16



NEW Couple's response to unwanted campaign sign goes viral

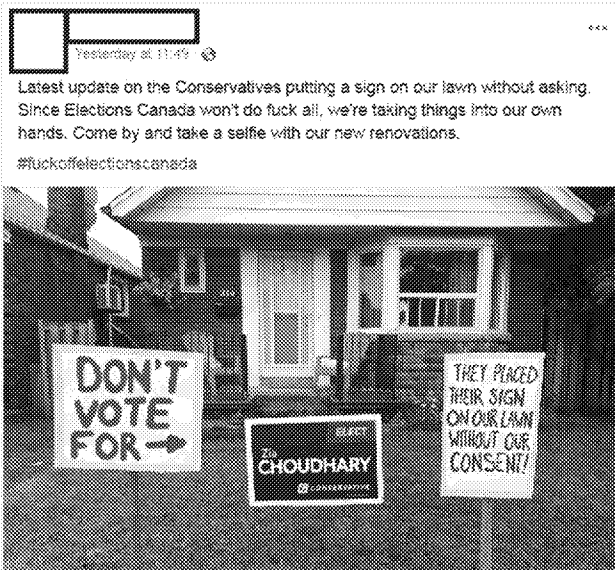
Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares

- 'Don't vote for →': An East York couple's protest over an unwanted election sign goes viral, *Toronto Star*, September 16, 497 shares

Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights

A homeowner's Facebook post about a lawn sign placed without permission went viral, leading both the homeowner and some social media users to question EC's rules on removing lawn signs during GE43. In the Facebook post, the homeowner stated that EC "won't do f**k all" about the sign, which resulted in the homeowner placing two homemade signs next to the unwanted lawn sign; the added signs stated "Do not vote for >" and "They placed the sign on our lawn without our consent!" The post also included the hashtag #fuckoffelectionscanada. The homeowner later updated the post to say that the sign had been removed, but that they did not know if it was the candidate or "those snakes" at EC who removed it. The post garnered nearly 4K engagements on Facebook.

The Facebook post became the top-trending topic for September 15 on r/Toronto, Canada's second largest Reddit community. Reddit users expressed confusion about EC's rules governing lawn signs. One user heard from his friend that it was "illegal" to remove signs from their own lawns, which led fellow users to express disbelief at EC's hands-off approach to lawn signs. Other users suggested that homeowners could call the relevant election campaign offices when such a problem arises. Facebook users also called on the homeowner to contact the party's campaign office, adding that EC has "nothing to do" with lawn signs. The [photo](#) featuring the three lawn signs also received 49.5K engagements on Instagram. However, the Instagram post did not include the criticism of EC seen on Facebook and most Instagram users did not criticize EC in their comments on the post.

Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
3.5K	500, Facebook	Facebook user		Sept. 15
3.5K	500, Facebook	Facebook users 1-4	<p>*Sample replies to Facebook post about law sign placed without permission</p> <p>Facebook user 1: A normal person would realize that a volunteer probably made a mistake when entering in the address originally or when locating the address to place the sign. If an election sign is on your private property you can remove it. It is illegal to remove, damage, deface or destroy signs on public land or on private property which you do not own. Grow up and remove the sign. (14 engagements)</p> <p>Facebook user 2: You're an idiot. It isn't up to Elections Canada to remove signs, call the campaign office you dipshit. (11 engagements)</p> <p>Facebook user 3: Elections Canada does not regulate signs, just the dollars used to buy them. Your local municipality regulates election signage. Having said that, however, this is pretty damn effective and I hope the sign and its new neighbours stay. 😊 (1 engagement)</p>	Sept. 15



2.3K	168K, r/Toronto	Reddit users	<p>*Sample replies</p> <p>Reddit user 1: This also happened to someone else I know in the last week. When they reported it to Elections Canada hoping for some recourse, EC said it would be illegal for them to remove the sign even though it was placed without the homeowners consent. Put them in a bit of a fucked position where because they are more likely to be fined if removed because it's on record. If they didn't say anything, they'd be in a better position to toss it without repercussions. (26 engagements)</p> <p>Reddit user 2: Yeah, I'm not sure I understand what's going on. These people are afraid to remove an election sign they don't want on their own property? "Elections Canada won't do fuck all" Is this bizarro world? (54 engagements)</p> <p>Reddit user 3: Elections Canada said it would be illegal to remove a sign they didn't ask for from their own property? Fucks sake. (37 engagements)</p> <p>Reddit user 4: The best way to deal with it is to just call the campaign office. I don't think Elections Canada has any authority to remove signage, and municipal bylaws govern the public land in the city -- in which case the officer generally contacts the campaign to get them to remove the sign or face fines. (55 engagements.)</p>	Sept. 16
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🔄 Comments on Maxime Bernier's invitation to leaders' debates

Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares

- [Maxime Bernier invited to participate in official commission debates, CBC News, September 16, 14.8K shares](#)
- [Maxime Bernier invited to take part in federal election leaders' debate, Global News, September 16, 5.8K shares](#)
- [Maxime Bernier invité aux débats des chefs, Radio Canada, September 16, 4K shares](#)

Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights

A handful of Twitter users criticized EC for “inviting” PPC Leader Maxime Bernier to attend the leadership debates. One user stated that EC inviting the PPC leader to participate in the debates was part of a “scenario manipulated by Butts” to “take votes from the CPC.” Another user shared the CCE’s complaint form and stated that they were going to file a complaint to EC since PPC Leader Bernier being invited to the debates was a “potential crime.”



Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
186	1.1K, Twitter	Twitter user	Sept 16.. opens twitter: -Globe and Mail has Ezra Levant as a guest columnist. -Elections Canada opens up Leadership debates to Bernier. -Scheer scraping the bottom of the outhouse, making false allegations the PM and Goldy met for drinks. JFC.. 5 more weeks to go.	Sept. 16
7	1K, Twitter	Twitter user	#cdnpoli HOW & WHY do @PPC_HQ qualify when they don't have any seats? @ElectionsCan_E @ElectionsCan_F...this seems illegal, too. Do we report this potential crime the same way and using the same forms as the @CPC_HQ disinformation complaint I just filed? *Sharing CCE's complaint form	Sept. 16

↻ Concern about deceptive "robocalls" and "robotexts"				
Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy Behind All Those 'Sarah From the Conservatives' Texts, <i>Vice</i>, September 16, 644 shares Des appels conservateurs illicites, <i>Le Journal de Quebec</i>, September 17, 520 shares 				
Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights				
<p>Following two recent articles on the topic, a number of Twitter users expressed concern about deceptive calls and texts from political parties. A user with 15K followers said they hope the Canadian media "picks up" the story, and suggested a repeat of the 2011 "robocalls scandal" could occur. There were also some tweets from users (averaging 1K to 2K followers) who suggested EC had failed to stop robocalls in the past, and were concerned about EC's fitness to monitor such activity in the future.</p>				
Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
158	15K, Twitter	Twitter user	The Conservatives made illegal automated polling calls in Quebec. I hope that #cdnmedia picks up this story. We know the history of the Conservative Party of Canada and Robocalls. I hope @ElectionsCan_E looks into this. #cdnpoli #elxn43 *Sharing <i>Le Journal de Quebec</i> article Des appels conservateurs illicites	Sept. 17



48	58K, Twitter	Justin Ling , freelance reporter	The Conservatives' robotexting campaign is pretty clunky. But the other ways in which third parties are amassing info on voters should probably freak you out a bit. *Sharing <i>Vice</i> article The Strategy Behind All Those 'Sarah From the Conservatives' Texts	Sept. 16
3	2K, Twitter	Twitter user	A murky area of text messaging from an anonymous corporation that gets our information anonymously. Elections Canada has failed to shut this type of anonymous campaigning down.	Sept. 16

🔗 Concern about foreign interference in GE43

Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares

- [Federal parties being warned of efforts by 6 foreign countries to influence election: sources](#), *CBC News*, September 16, 3.6K shares

Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights

Academics, a Senator and social media users chimed in on a *CBC News* article about Canada's intelligence services briefing political parties about potential foreign interference in GE43. In one high-engagement tweet, Senator Linda Frum suggested too much attention was being paid to partisan issues, and not enough to issues of foreign interference. Also responding to the article, a Twitter user suggested two premiers won recent provincial elections with the assistance of "fake memberships" given to Indian immigrants.

In addition, several academics retweeted the article, including Charles Burton of Brock University and Stephanie Carvin of Carleton University. Carvin surmised from the article that intelligence services are focusing more on "in-person" influence campaigns, rather than bots for GE43.

Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts

Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
227	19K, Twitter	Senator Linda Frum	This is so much bigger and more important than who did or didn't have drinks with Faith Goldy. Can we get serious now? #RichmondHill	Sept. 17
50	500, Twitter	Twitter user	Finally someone taking NOTICE of the India Connection in Canada's elections! @fordnation @jkenney BOTH won leaderships using Indian Immigrants to buy Fake memberships. Snover Dhillon LONG Time @CPC_HQ "Fixer" with so many ties to @CPC_HQ #cdnpoli #elxn43 *Sharing <i>CBC News</i> article	Sept. 17



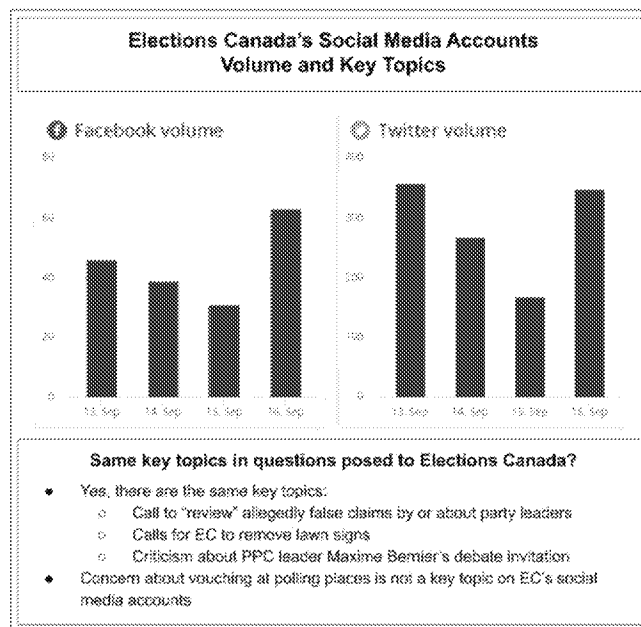
13	17K, Twitter	<u>Stephanie Carvin</u> , professor at Carleton University	China, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Venezuela. No Russia - which almost certainly reflects that primary concern re: democratic threats in Canada remains in-person foreign influence and not “bot” campaigns like the US in 2016. Fascinating stuff. #cdnatsec	Sept. 17
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→ Calls for EC to “review” allegedly false claims by or about party leaders				
<i>Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 				
<i>Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights</i>				
<p>Aside from a single high-engagement tweet, most of the tweets on this topic garnered low engagement. A Twitter user unhappy with a reporter’s suggestion that LPC Leader Justin Trudeau was having an extra-marital affair said they reported the incident to EC, receiving nearly 500 engagements. Users replying to the thread stated the suggestion was “libel” and followed up with their own reports to EC.</p> <p>Some Twitter users continued to react to a campaign video by CPC candidate Candice Bergen, claiming that she was “spreading false information,” adding that they would report the video to EC. Some users reacted to a video featuring CPC Leader Andrew Scheer, and noted that “lying” about a candidate is “not permitted” during the election period; links to the CCE’s complaint form were included in some of the users’ replies.</p>				
<i>Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts</i>				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
460	800, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>One of the vilest voices on Twitter, Ezra Levant slanders not only the PM & his wife, but then goes onto suggest that the PM is having an affair with Melanie Joly. What a disgusting individual. Reported to Elections Canada.</p> <p>*Retweeting Twitter user <i>Of course the @CPC_HQ campaign is working directly with Ezra Levant and Rebel Media. Andrew Scheer was a regular on Rebel Media, ran his CPC leadership campaign at Rebel offices, and hired Rebel Media founder Hamish Marshall to run the campaign. #cdnpoli #elxn43</i></p>	Sept. 16
14	3.3K, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>You can lodge a complaint about the spread of false information with Elections Canada here #cdnpoli *Sharing CCE’s complaint form *Retweeting Candice Bergen <i>If Trudeau is re-elected, he will introduce a homeowner tax! Watch & RT!</i></p>	Sept. 16



14	1.7K, Twitter	Twitter user	I reported Scheer's saying that to @ElectionsCan_E as a Lie. NOT permitted during Elxn period - Report details at *Sharing CCE's complaint form *Retweeting Twitter user <i>Now Scheer is saying that Trudeau took Faith Goldy out for drinks and wants an answer about that. #Elxn43</i>	Sept. 16
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Policy and Public Affairs Corporate Social Media Accounts: September 17, 2019



Ce rapport a été rédigé par l'Équipe de repérage sur les médias sociaux du Programme du Bureau d'intégrité électorale et vérification interne, Élections Canada

This report was produced by the Social Media Monitoring Unit of the Electoral Integrity and Internal Audit Program, Elections Canada