

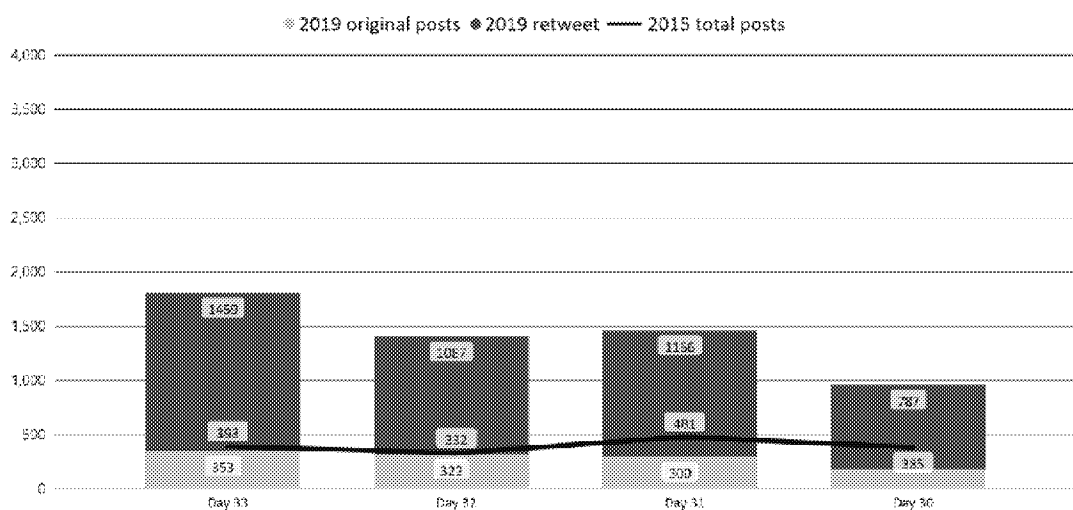
## Rapport de repérage des médias sociaux : midi 20 septembre à midi 22 septembre, 2019

### Social Media Monitoring Report: noon September 20 to noon September 22, 2019

#### Observations principales / Key observations

- Twitter users expressed concerns over obstacles to voting in First Nations communities, hoping to prevent a repeat of GE42 problems
- Twitter users claimed that PPC candidates' names have been excluded from "advance ballots"
- Reddit users discussed whether EC has rules about bringing personal writing instruments to voting booths to mark ballots as "protest votes"
- CNP published a list of members on its website; the post was shared 100 times across social media platforms

#### Volume of posts mentioning Elections Canada or variants, by day



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

#### Sujets principaux / Key topics<sup>1</sup>

- **NEW** Concerns over First Nations electors facing obstacles to voting in GE43
- **NEW** Accusations that EC is censoring PPC online, excluding PPC candidates from "advance ballots"
- **NEW** Discussion about EC's rules governing writing instruments and spoiled ballots
- ↓ CNP releases list of members on its website
- ↻ Discussion about removing lawn signs placed without consent
- ↓ Concern about foreign interference related to sharing of photos of Justin Trudeau

<sup>1</sup> 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




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 Éléments sous observation / On the radar

- **Twitter user urges followers to “question EC officials,” claims EC employees are giving “false information” about voting:** The user (1K followers) urged followers to question EC officials and stated that there “is a potential for thousands of spoiled ballots,” adding that EC employees are giving voters “false information about voting.” In another tweet, he claims that EC “supervisors” advised voters to “vote for party” if they did not know the name of their candidate of choice; and in a third tweet, he states that EC officials in BC misinformed “hundreds of voters pre voting w/National Ballots” that they could “vote for their chosen party” if they did not know the candidate’s name. The three tweets received 27 engagements.
- **Article by *Smiths Falls News* lists incorrect advance polling day hours:** The article, which covered the opening of the Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston RO office, incorrectly stated that advance polling hours run from “9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.” The article was shared 59 times.
- **Twitter user claims EC complaint website is down:** On September 21 at 11:00 a.m., a Twitter user with 600 followers claimed that EC’s complaint website was giving them an “unexpected error.” After testing, SMMU has determined the EC and CCE complaint pages were not experiencing downtime at the specified time.
- **Twitter user criticizes EC for only having “male or female” as gender options:** In a tweet directed to LPC Leader Justin Trudeau, the user (1.7K followers) stated that EC had only “asked for gender of either ‘male or female’” and criticized EC for not including “the other 25 genders” the LPC “keeps talking about.” The user did not specify where EC had posed the question about gender. The post received no engagement.
- **Nunavut residents state that EC’s E-Registration form does not work for voters with a Nunavut address:** A Twitter user tweeted to EC and Nunavut MP Hunter Tootoo to complain that EC’s online voter registration “cannot recognize” Iqaluit addresses. The resident claimed that they had spoken with an “EC representative in Nunavut” about the issue; the user commended the EC representative for providing information about the process and added that an EC representative “in Ottawa” was not able to understand the issue. The user suggested that online registration problems constitute “voter suppression” and called on EC to “unify the systems.” The tweet thread received zero engagements.



## Sujets principaux – en profondeur / Key topics – in depth

NEW Concern over First Nations electors facing obstacles to voting in GE43				
<b>Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NDP candidate urges Elections Canada to ensure smooth vote in remote First Nations, <i>CBC News</i>, September 20, <b>379 engagements</b></li> </ul>				
<b>Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights</b>				
<p>A <i>CBC News</i> article detailing a Kenora candidate's appeal to EC to ensure First Nations communities are able to vote without obstacles during GE43 generated sustained reader interest, with some calling on EC not to repeat issues experienced in GE42. Although comments on the article are sparse, a number of users with more than 20K followers shared the article with a variation of the headline and a quote from the text. In one high-engagement tweet, a user said First Nations communities felt "shortchanged" when ballots ran out during GE42, with many thinking the move was "intentional."</p>				
<b>Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts</b>				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
150	2.5K, Twitter	Twitter user	I remember this, 1st Nations communities were shortchanged didn't have enough ballots , thinking this was intentional #elxn43 #cdnmedia #cdnpoli crappy way to silence a Nation @AndrewScheer. Harper worked hard to deny people the right to vote #elxn43 <b>*Commenting</b> on <i>CBC News</i> article	Sept. 21
2	1.1K, Twitter	Twitter user	Fix this #ElectionsCanada accessibility to their right to vote is paramount.	Sept. 21
1	1.4K, Twitter	Twitter user	Lol. Settler Government still refuses to Listen to the Truth. Many of those living on First Nations Territories, "Do Not" Vote in settler Elections, as they Identify as Citizens of their Nations and Not as Canadian Citizens. Its called "Self Determination",+ an Article of UNDRIP	Sept. 21


**NEW Accusations that EC is: 1) behind PPC accounts suppression by Twitter Canada, and 2) excluding PPC candidates from “advance ballots”**
**Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares**

- [Billy Joyce Live Stream](#), YouTube, **1.8K views**

**Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights**

Twitter users voiced their concerns over two separate issues related to the PPC.

1) Some users expressed anger over Twitter suspending a PPC candidate; users commenting on the suspension suggested that it constituted “foreign interference,” with a handful of users stating that they would contact EC. One user who found the suspension suspicious speculated that EC “may be up to something.”

2) Another set of users claimed that PPC candidates have been “left off ballots” and that a candidate’s name has been misspelled; one user stated that an “advance ballot” included all candidates’ names except the riding’s PPC candidate’s, while PPC candidate Billy Joyce claimed his name was misspelled on an “advance ballot” in his riding of Cape Breton–Canso. Joyce later posted a YouTube video in which he expressed anger over EC misspelling his last name; some users commenting on the video stated that they “do not trust Elections Canada” and one user urged others to take a photo of their ballot when they vote and share it with Joyce for his own ballot counting. A high-engagement Twitter thread claimed that “many” PPC candidates’ names have been left off ballots across Canada and urged candidates to conduct an “inspection of polling stations.” One user who engaged with the thread noted that special ballots are supposed to be blank, and stated that if they were not blank they should be reported to EC.

**Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts**

Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
427	800, Twitter	<a href="#">Guto Penteadó</a> , PPC candidate	Twitter has suspended @JIGNAJANI_PPC indefinitely. We're waiting to hear WHY Twitter targeted a Political Candidate like this. Please RETWEET! <b>*Sample reply 1</b> Twitter user 1 @GutoPenteadó, please inform Jigna that she needs to start a new account, it's the only way it seems when hit with this indefinitely w/on explanation. Also she should report this to the election authorities and authorities in general if no explanation given. (48 engagements)	Sept. 21
228	3.1K, Twitter	<a href="#">Supporters of PPC</a>	Hey, @karinagould, I would like to report election interference by @TwitterCanada It seems that the account of @peoplespca candidate @JIGNAJANI_PPC in the riding of Scarborough-Guildwood has been suspended. <b>*Sample reply 1</b> Twitter user 2 This should probably be forwarded to @ElectionsCan_E (36 engagements)	Sept. 21



Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
56	N/A, Facebook	<u>Billy Joyce</u> , PPC candidate	<p><b>**Excerpt from Facebook post**</b></p> <p>And just so everyone knows, I'm also told that Elections Canada has excluded us from the ballot for advanced voting in many ridings. If anyone goes to vote early and my name isn't on the ballot, please inform me....this is not a nation-wide issue, but it is happening to many candidates.</p> <p>And just now, my wife is telling me that 2 people from Port Hawkesbury, who wanted to vote for me but were going away and when they got there, my name was spelled wrong.</p>	Sept. 21
11	1K, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>If I read this correctly, not only did CBC exclude PPC from their Vote Compass Survey, but ELECTIONS CANADA has omitted some PPC candidates' names from advance poll ballots. It's official. Corruption in Canada is out of control. @BillyJoyce1976 #VotePPC2019</p> <p><b>*Sharing</b> screengrabs of PPC candidate Billy Joyce's Facebook post</p>	Sept.21
5	1.9K, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>You can vote anytime at your local Elections Canada office. It is a special ballot and you write in the name of the person or party you are voting for.</p> <p><b>*Sample reply 1</b> Twitter user 1 <i>In his district they had all other candidate options on 1 ballot,</i></p> <p><b>*Sample reply 2</b> PPC candidate Kevin Klerks <i>the ballots are supposed to be blank for a "special advanced ballot" if they are not then they are violating Elections Canada rules. This needs to be reported.</i></p>	Sept. 21

#### NEW Discussion about EC's rules governing writing instruments and spoiled ballots

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

- N/A

##### Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights

A Reddit user on the Reddit page r/Canada (541K members, Reddit's largest Canada-related page) asked whether they would be "inadvertently breaking some weird law" by bringing their own writing instrument to mark their ballot in GE43. The user said they hoped to bring in a marker to invalidate a ballot for the purpose of producing a "protest vote" and asked fellow users if it was necessary to use the "government-issued pencil" at voting booths. The thread generated a number of scornful remarks from users, with many expressing that ballot counters would not care about their "edgy" protest vote. The original poster later replied that they hoped to write "none of the above" on the ballot. One user said writing "none of the above" was the same as "not voting at all," while another said it was better to write "nothing at all" since EC may be "using scanners again to count the votes this election."



<b>Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts</b>				
<b>Engagement</b>	<b>Followers, platform</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Date</b>
28	541K, r/Canada	Reddit user	<p>I'm curious regarding the rules of bringing your own pen/marker to mark your ballot with during the Federal election. I know there are some laws against some activities such as photographing within the booth, but I'm not sure if there are any laws against how you can or can't mark your ballot. Whether using my own marker would invalidate my ballot is not a concern, as I would be using it for the purpose of producing a protest vote. I just want to make sure I wouldn't be inadvertently breaking some weird law that demands you only use government-issued pencils or something.</p> <p><b>*Sample replies</b></p> <p><b>Reddit user 1</b> I guarantee nobody will care about your edgy take on the election. They don't search you going into the ballot booth: you can mark your ballot in crayon if you want. As long as you don't care if your boat is tallied.</p> <p><b>Original poster</b> Thanks for your response! I figured this would be the case, I just wanted to ask around and make sure I wasn't missing something obvious. The Elections Canada Act mentions something about defacing a ballot but I imagine it's regarding preventing fraud and would presumably be unrelated to spoiled ballots.</p> <p><b>Reddit user 2:</b> What [Reddit user 1] said is full of sh*t. I worked the Ontario provincial election. In training, we were shown several examples of what does not count as a properly filled ballot. Basically, just put a line through the circle with the provided sharpie. I think you may be able to fill the circle or put a checkmark if it's not sloppy, but that's about it. anything else gets tossed. Also, if you write anything at all on the ballot, or draw a dick or a smiley face or something in the circle, it goes in the trash. When the polls close, clerks have to count the ballots in front of some nosey reps of whichever parties care to watch them. Clerks have to show each ballot to the Nosey Ones. If the clerks try to let an improper ballot slide, the Nosey Ones will REEEEEEE until it is disposed of.</p>	Sept. 20
11	541K, r/Canada	Reddit user	If you spoil your vote, it doesn't matter what writing utensil you are doing it with.	Sept. 20
3	541K, r/Canada	Reddit user	Technically you are supposed to use the tools provided. It sounds silly, but the rules are there to prevent individuals from marking their ballot in a unique way. If the scrutineers believe that your ballot might be identifiable, they may ask to consider it spoiled and not count towards any candidate.	Sept. 20



## ↓ CNP releases list of members on its website

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

- CNP Publishes Membership Elector List, *Nationalist.ca*, September 21, **103 shares**

**Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights**

Following a blog post by Anti-Racist Canada (ARC) revealing the names and cities of residence of 250 CNP members, CNP Leader Travis Patron posted the same list of names on the CNP's official website. Patron made no mention of the ARC's original blog post, or the Anti-Hate Network's campaign to publish CNP members' names. In a September 21 blog on *Nationalist.ca*, Patron said he would like to thank CNP supporters for "enabling [the CNP] to attain official party status with Elections Canada."

User interest in CNP member names has decreased. Although the ARC's blog post detailing the names and cities of residence of the 250 signees was shared on at least three niche Reddit forums (r/canadaleft, r/Canadian\_socialism and r/antifascistsofReddit), the posts generated few reactions. On forum.nationalist.ca, when asked if permission to share the identities had been obtained prior to posting, the party leader responded that they were in the process of contacting everyone to confirm and mentioned that people could ask for their name to be removed.

**Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts**

Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
36	3K, Facebook	<u>Canadian Nationalist Party</u>	A special thank you to our supporters who enabled us to attain official party status with Elections Canada. Your contributions will not be forgotten. These individuals will be remembered as true patriots who stood for the nationhood of their country in the face of adversity. We are grateful to those who have enabled us to reach this stage and are excited by what we can accomplish together in the coming months and years. #cdnpoli	Sept. 21
9	500, Twitter	<u>Canadian Nationalist Party</u>	We now have people calling/emailing in complain they are NOT on the list: #CanadaFirst <b>*Sharing</b> article from <i>Nationalist.ca</i>	Sept. 21
5	500, Twitter	<u>Canadian Nationalist Party</u>	CNP Publishes Membership Elector List #cdnpoli <b>*Sharing</b> article from <i>Nationalist.ca</i>	Sept. 21



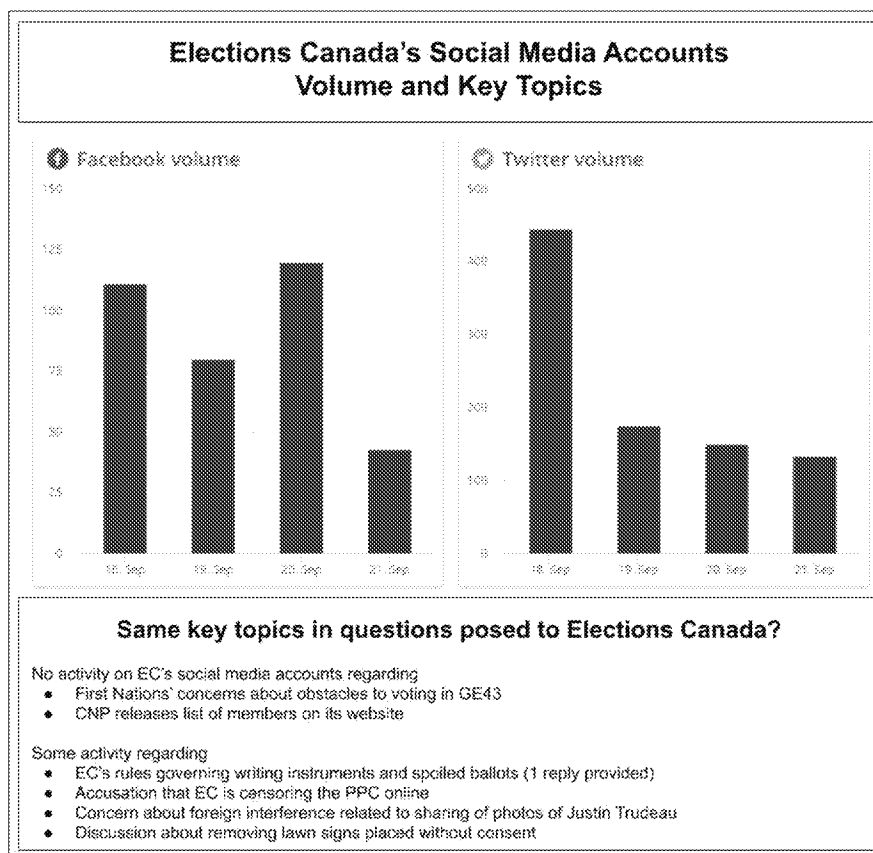
🔄 Discussion about removing lawn signs placed without consent				
<b>Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>				
<b>Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights</b>				
<p>Social media users continued discussing the legality of removing lawn signs placed without property owners' consent. One Reddit user posted a photo of a lawn sign allegedly placed at a public high school in Toronto and stated that it was "unethical, maybe even illegal" to post lawn signs on public school property; a user who engaged with the photo wondered whether removing signs could result in being fined or jailed. One user stated that they had reported the sign to EC, to which another user stated that EC had probably noted "something down on a spreadsheet" that will be used to "further the need for more taxes to be used for elections canada." On Tumblr, one user wondered what the penalty for vandalizing lawn signs is and deemed it likely that defacing lawn signs could lead to a mischief charge.</p>				
<b>Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts</b>				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
81	169K, Reddit, r/Toronto	Reddit users	<p>At a public High school seems at least a little un ethical, maybe even illegal <b>*Sharing</b> photo of lawn sign allegedly placed at a public high school</p> <p><b>**Sample replies**</b></p> <p><b>Reddit user 1</b> And we got to jail or get fined for taking it down?</p> <p><b>Reddit user 2</b> Well, technically, yes. If you're going to take it down, that's illegal. The sign is not your property.</p> <p><b>Reddit user 3</b> What happened when you reported it to elections Canada?</p> <p><b>Reddit user 4</b> [Replying to Reddit user 3] Tax dollars already spent were justified, no action taken on the sign other than to note something down on a spreadsheet, used to further the need for more taxes to be used for elections canada.</p>	Sept. 21
16	8.2K, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>Call Elections Canada or contact and make a complaint here:</p> <p><b>*Sharing</b> CCE's complaint form</p> <p><b>*Retweeting</b> Twitter user 1 <i>Daniel Lee in Willowdale has placed a lawn sign on our property without authorization I have contacted him with no response, I want it removed, who knows how many other people he has done this too, totally unacceptable @ElectionsON @ElectionsCan_E @cityoftoronto</i></p>	Sept. 21
14	N/A, Tumblr	Tumblr user (Anonymous)	<p>Any idea what the criminal penalty is for vandalizing election signs? allthecanadianpolitics: I found this: "Anyone caught vandalizing or stealing an election sign can still be charged with mischief or theft under \$5,000." It relates to the Alberta election, though. Judging by Elections Canada's FAQ, it's likely to be a similar charge of mischief or theft of private property for a federal election sign.</p>	Sept. 21





↓ Concern about foreign interference related to sharing of photos of Justin Trudeau				
<i>Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>				
<i>Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights</i>				
<p>The volume of posts on this topic declined. In a high-engagement thread, one Twitter user wondered whether foreign media outlets' coverage of a 2001 photo showing LPC Leader Justin Trudeau in "brownface" was legal; the user speculated that the photo was released by a U.S.-based media outlet to "circumvent the <i>Elections Act</i>." Another user who engaged with the thread claimed that American and Russian bots were amplifying coverage of the 2001 photo. A handful of Twitter users claimed that a <i>Washington Post</i> opinion column on the topic constituted "foreign interference," adding that they had reported the column to EC. One user stated that they had reported a <i>Toronto Sun</i> story on the topic to EC.</p>				
<i>Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts</i>				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
262	2.2K, Twitter	Twitter user	<p><b>**Tweets part of a longer thread**</b></p> <p>1/The comments section is heavily populated by amplification bots for each story. All amplifying the deficit in character of the PM in Canada. Mostly originating, in their profiles at least, from the US MAGA community. Beyond the jurisdiction of the Canadian Election Act.</p> <p><b>*Referring to the <i>Washington Post</i>, <i>Time</i>, and <i>The New York Times</i>' coverage of the 2001 photo of LPC leader Justin Trudeau</b></p> <p>2/I'm unsure if it breaks law. They are just reporting information that is accurate and opinion pieces are meant to be partisan. But the fact this originated in Time, a US publication, means it is a clear attempt to circumvent the Elections Act.</p> <p><b>*Sample reply</b> Twitter user 2 This thread American m/Russian bots using Trudeau's horrible misjudgment to get Cons elected. Outside of Elections Canada jurisdiction. I keep wondering why this didn't turn up in his first election??</p>	Sept. 20
11	Fewer than 500, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>The #ScheerHypocrisy of complaining about foreign interference in Canada's economy/election on the one hand, while literally inviting the foreign media to interfere in Canada's election by choosing to send the photo to the foreign media astounds me.</p>	Sept. 21
0	600, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>This is DEFINITELY worth dropping a line to Elections Canada over. Foreign interference in a Canadian election: <u><a href="#">*Sharing CCE's complaint form and <i>Washington Post</i> article Opinion: Canada's left should dump Justin Trudeau</a></u></p>	Sept. 21

## Policy and Public Affairs Corporate Social Media Accounts: September 20-22, 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*