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## RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

### Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 20 to August 22.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- A US Alternative media outlet reported that Prime-Minister Justin Trudeau had discussed the situation in Afghanistan with former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The article appears directed towards US audiences and did not discuss Canadian elections or politics.
- Last week, a petition from the Chinese Communist Party-linked Global Times that called on Amb. Barton to “release Meng Wanzhou” was shared widely on WeChat, Weibo and Douyin. This week, the petition has received comparatively little attention on Chinese social media platforms, and is not widely shared on Facebook, Twitter, or other U.S. social media platforms.

**Scan performed at:** 9:00PM, August 22, 2021

**Scan covers:** 9:00AM August 20, 2021 – 9:00PM August 22, 2021.

**Platform used:** Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, WeChat, Newsguard

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Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit<sup>1</sup>

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<a href="#">Diane Francis: Erin O'Toole's platform proves he is ready to govern unlike Trudeau the child</a>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	8.7K	1.4K	74	10.2K
<a href="#">LILLEY: Trudeau is reducing sentences for serious gun crimes</a>	Aug. 19, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	7.5K	848	854	9.2K
<a href="#">Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau Comes Clean, Says He Spoke with Hillary Clinton About Afghanistan</a>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>MAGA Conservatives</i>	7.3K	1	0	7.3K
<a href="#">Increasingly Divisive &amp; Dangerous Trudeau Must Be Defeated</a>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>Spencer Fernando</i>	6.2K	356	0	6.5K
<a href="#">People's Party Leader Maxime Bernier will not be in federal election debates</a>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	1.9K	330	4K	6.3K
<a href="#">Trudeau seen as best pick for PM, but faces trust issues as election ramps up: poll</a>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	4.9K	478	148	5.5K
<a href="#">Trudeau pledges 10 paid sick leave days for federal workers — if Liberals are re-elected</a>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	5.4K	74	0	5.4K
<a href="#">Rupa Subramanya: Trudeau blames Afghans for not getting to the airport fast enough</a>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	4.3K	901	94	5.3K
<a href="#">Several Conservative Candidates Directed Public Money to Canada's Biggest Anti-Abortion Lobby Group</a>	Aug. 20, 2021	<i>Press Progress</i>	2.1K	911	1.9K	4.9K
<a href="#">Nanos tracking: Liberal, Conservative race narrows in week one of Canadian federal election</a>	Aug. 21, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	2.3K	127	2.2K	4.6K

<sup>1</sup> Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

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Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit<sup>2</sup>

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<a href="#">Maxime Bernier fera campagne contre la « tyrannie » sanitaire</a>	Aug. 20, 2021	Radio-Canada	4.4K	98	0	4.5K
<a href="#">Maxime Bernier chef du PPC exclu des débats des chefs</a>	Aug. 21, 2021	Radio-Canada	3.3K	11	0	3.3K
<a href="#">En coulisses, Justin Trudeau est à la recherche de « grandes idées »</a>	Aug. 21, 2021	Radio-Canada	1.4K	329	102	1.9K
<a href="#">Maxime Bernier manifeste son désaccord avec les mesures sanitaires</a>	Aug. 20, 2021	Noovo	1.6K	7	0	1.6K
<a href="#">Retour au travail: 10 jours de congés payés pour les employés fédéraux, promet Trudeau</a>	Aug. 20, 2021	TVA Nouvelles	1.4K	1	0	1.4K
<a href="#">«Dictature», «tyrannie sanitaire»: Maxime Bernier, rageur, ne fait pas l'unanimité</a>	Aug. 21, 2021	TVA Nouvelles	1.3K	4	0	1.3K
<a href="#">Maxime Bernier fait campagne sur la gestion de la COVID-19</a>	Aug. 20, 2021	Le Devoir	1.3K	12	0	1.3K
<a href="#">Plus de chances d'avoir l'usine de Moderna au Québec avec le Bloc, selon le chef</a>	Aug. 21, 2021	La Presse	996	175	0	1.2K
<a href="#">Maxime Bernier exclut des débats des chefs</a>	Aug. 21, 2021	Le Devoir	1.2K	6	0	1.2K
<a href="#">Fédérales 2021 : Maxime Bernier ne participera pas aux débats des chefs</a>	Aug. 21, 2021	Journal de Montreal	1.1K	9	0	1.1K

<sup>2</sup> Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annemie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

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Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title <sup>3</sup>	Date	Account	Total engagement <sup>4</sup>
G7 外长要求塔利班保证 (G7 foreign ministers' ask Taliban for assurances)	Aug. 20, 2021	Global Times (state media)	100K
谁上台加拿大房价都会崩? ! 3 大党都出狠招: 完全禁止外国人买房, 还要征税 20%! (Whoever comes to power, Canadian housing prices could collapse? The 3 major parties have all come up with tough moves: a total ban on foreigners buying homes, and a 20% tax!)	Aug. 21, 2021	Canada Talks (local media)	37K
房市难了! 加拿大要打压房价, 这个党出招最狠: 外国人买房征税 20%! (The housing market is hard to get into! Canada is trying to crack down on house prices, and this party has the most vicious moves: a 20% tax on foreigners who buy homes!)	Aug. 20, 2021	51.ca (local media)	25K
刚刚! 加拿大宣布一项福利: 送打工人 10 天带薪休假! 这些行业受益! (Just now! Canada announced a new benefit: 10 paid days vacation! That's certainly a benefit!)	Aug. 21, 2021	51.ca (local media)	21K
特鲁多: 若胜选送这两个福利! 加拿大机场开放乱成一团, 大批乘客行李弄丢 10 天找不回! (Trudeau: If I win, you'll see these 2 benefits! Canadian airport sees chaos after passengers lose their luggage for 10 days!)	Aug. 21, 2021	Superlife (local media)	6.7K

<sup>3</sup> Article titles translated by RRM Canada

<sup>4</sup> Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not automatically calculate the number of comments and likes an article receives

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**Global Times article and petition:**

- On August 20, the petition was shared on Douyin by the Chinese Communist Party-linked *Beijing News*. Over the August 21-22 reporting period, The *Global Times*' petition was not widely shared on Chinese social media platforms (Weibo, WeChat and Douyin); there were no new posts from party-state media outlets (*The People's Daily*, *Global Times*, *Reference News*) calling on users to sign the petition.
- The petition had very minimal engagement on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit during the August 20-22 reporting period.
- RRM Canada has not detected any social media posts that link the launch of the *Global Times* petition to the federal election.

**User engagement with English-language online media**

- With the exception of one article, the majority of English-language stories shared on social media for the August 20-22 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets, or registered third parties with Elections Canada (*Press Progress*).
- Of note: An anonymous U.S. website called "Maga Conservatives" published a high-engagement article titled "Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau Comes Clean, Says He Spoke with Hillary Clinton About Afghanistan" on August 20.
- The website does not list the owner or the main editor. According to Newsguard, an organization that provides trust ratings for online news sites, Maga Conservatives does not produce original reporting, but aggregates news stories and commentary from outlets like Fox News and Breitbart. During the U.S. 2020 election, the site carried a number of articles that alleged widespread voter fraud in key swing state for the U.S. presidency.

**U.S. political pundits comment on GE44 campaign**

- A number of U.S. political commentators, including Sebastian Gorka, Michael Malice and Laurence Fox, tweeted about a campaign video featuring the LPC leader. The video features the line: "If you don't want to get vaccinated, that's your choice. But don't think you can get on a plane or a train beside vaccinated people and put them at risk." Commentary on the tweet was later shared in *r/conspiracy*, a Reddit community that questions the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines and the use of masks in public spaces.

**U.S. Alternative media outlet comments on the situation in Afghanistan**

- A US Alternative media outlet reported that Prime-Minister Justin Trudeau had discussed the situation in Afghanistan with former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The article appears directed towards US audiences and did not discuss Canadian elections or politics.
- The articles primary focus was on the Biden admirations handling of the situation in Kabul and alleged lack of consultations or coordination with US allies on the US withdrawal from the country.
- RRM Canada notes that several other US and Canada based alternative media outlets covered the Trudeau-Clinton conversation following the Prime-Ministers August 18<sup>th</sup> remarks on Afghanistan and his call with Hillary Clinton.

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**User engagement with French-language online media**

- All of the of most shared French-language stories for the August 20-22 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

**User engagement with Sinophone online media**

- Aside from minor coverage of the G7 meeting by the *Global Times*, the majority of Canadian political and election news for the August 20-22 reporting period originated from recognizable Sinophone Canadian media outlets.

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