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SITE TF SITREP: 13 September 2021

2021 Federal Election – Threat Trend: **STABLE**



This situation report (SITREP) provides information on the operations of the Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections (SITE) Task Force. It is to be used by Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADMs) and Deputy Ministers (DMs) for information and decision-making purposes. Intended for named recipients only. Please share with members of: SITE TF ADMs; SITE TF DMs; Panel of 5

Threat Updates

RCMP

(U) Information current as of 10 Sep 2021, 1300hrs

- (PB) Direct and indirect threats posted online towards the Prime Minister (PM) continue. Anti-vaccination sentiment continues to drive discussions in the online space dedicated to the promotion of protests at Liberal campaign events.
- (PB) During the All Party Leaders English debate on 9 September 2021, a vehicle tried to gain entry to the secure area around the Canadian History Museum in Gatineau, QC where the event was taking place. The suspect was immediately apprehended by police and charged. Initial indications are that the suspect suffers from mental health issues and that a national security nexus does not exist. In a separate incident, a drone was observed flying near the Museum during the debates. Initial reports indicate that the owner of the drone is known to police and has been observed flying the drone near police at other non-election related events and instances. Police investigations into the incidents continue.
- (PB) The All Party Leaders English debate also saw over 100 People's Party of Canada (PPC) supporters in attendance, which was substantially larger than the French debate. No public order issues were reported at the protest and the group dispersed over the course of the debate. It was noted that there was a "Diagolon" flag present. The flag is a symbolic reference to a hypothetical separation of a select number of U.S. states and Canadian provinces into its own country. Diagolon is a popular concept on the Telegram channel [redacted] and other social media related to [redacted]. Prior to the debate protest, a Telegram channel associated to the Rage Board channel included content suggesting the flag would be present at the protest. Social media associated to Rage Board is conspiratorial, anti-government and ethno-nationalist in nature. Plaid Army and Rage Board operators and followers often describe the content as edgy humour and satirical, likely in an effort to protect themselves against complaints that their rhetoric is controversial or alarming.
- (PB) The RCMP continues to monitor and assess all election security threats and engages with security and law enforcement partners as required.

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**GAC/RRM**

- (U//OUO) RRM Canada did not observe evidence of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 10 to 12.
- (U//OUO) RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- (U//OUO) However RRM Canada continues to monitor claims about MP Kenny Chiu's private member bill, and Erin O'Toole's China and WeChat policies on WeChat and now the Douyin platform. RRM Canada notes that we have limited visibility into the WeChat and Douyin platforms, as such we cannot confirm or deny the employment of inauthentic amplification techniques.
- (U//OUO) WeChat news accounts in Canada continued to post a false claim that a Kenny Chiu-sponsored private member's bill (C-282 An Act to establish the Foreign Influence Registry) would require "all individuals or groups with ties to China" to register.
- (U//OUO) A *Global Times* WeChat article, quoting a Hill Times article, that suggested the CPC "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China" is now being actively shared among Canadian WeChat news accounts. The Canadian versions resemble the *Global Times* article in format and tone and question whether Canadians of Chinese heritage should vote for the CPC. Chinese State-Broadcaster Xinhua created video with similar claims and is circulating among Chinese Communist Party, and other, accounts on the video sharing site Douyin.

Operational Responses and Updates

- (U) No significant updates at this time.
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