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SITE TF SITREP: 16 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

CSIS

- (S//CEO) [Redacted]

GAC/RRM

- (U//OUO) RRM Canada did not observe any significant evidence of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 15. However, Chinese state media continue to take interest in GE44 and the Conservative Party of Canada's proposed China policies.
- (U//OUO) A *Postmedia* editorial as well as MacDonald-Laurier Institute's DisinfoWatch commented on what they characterized as examples of Chinese foreign interference during GE44, including: a campaign event for the LPC Vancouver-East candidate that promised a free lunch hosted by a pro-Beijing individual with connections to China; a perceived campaign on WeChat accusing Conservative MP Kenny Chiu of seeking to "supress the Chinese community" through his private members bill to create a foreign agents registry; recent Chinese Communist Party media outlet Global Times (GT) articles claiming the Conservative Party caters to Canada's "toxic anti-China atmosphere" and a perceived warning of "counterstrikes" should the Conservative Party win. No reaction yet from Chinese media and government officials.
- (U//OUO) Provincial media outlets in China continue to publish headlines that the Conservative Party of Canada and leader Erin O'Toole "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China." The articles appear on popular Chinese news aggregators from Baidu and Tencent. Because of the closed nature of these aggregators, RRM Canada is unable to verify for coordinated inauthentic behaviour.

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**RCMP**

(U) *Information current as of 15 September 2021, 1100hrs*

Threats to Protected Persons:

- (PB) Threats to Protected Persons continue. In the last 24 hours, a number of incidents have occurred:
 - (PB) A Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) candidate from Northern Ontario was assaulted in his campaign office when a female subject entered the office, yelled and pushed a table against him. The subject was charged with assault with a weapon.
 - (PB) 4chan continues to serve as a prominent hub for threats targeting Protected Persons. Three new RCMP investigative files have been opened within the last 24 hours relating to threats directed against the PM and other government officials such as the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada.
 - (PB) The RCMP continues to track and assess all such threats and engages with applicable security and law enforcement partners as required.

Threats to the Polling Stations:

- (PB) During the advance polling (between 10-13 September 2021), EC staff reported 38 different conflicts at polling stations, with the majority being voters refusing to wear masks. EC notes that this is a significant increase to comparable events during the last election, which only experienced three conflicts. Based on this information, it is likely that polling stations throughout Canada will experience disruptions of this nature on election day. The RCMP assess that, at the time of this writing, there are no indications which suggests individuals are advocating for violence on election day.

Operational Responses and Updates

- (U) No significant updates at this time.
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