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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 September 08.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- The *Global Times* – a Chinese Communist Party tabloid -- published a story on WeChat that CPC Leader Erin O’Toole “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China” and that the CPC’s election platform would “certainly lead to Chinese retaliation”
  - The article notes that the LPC leader is “trying to avoid talking about China” and that the LPC platform mentions China “only once” while the CPC’s platform “mentions China 31 times”; the article does not mention the NDP, BQ, GPC or PPC
  - The article was released on Sept. 9, at 9:30pm. It is unclear if the article’s release was timed for the 1<sup>st</sup> Leader’s Debate.
  - The GT article did not mention the rumor that O’Toole would “ban WeChat”
  - The GT article was not shared by any Chinese-Canadian WeChat accounts

**Scan performed at:** 8:00PM, September 08, 2021

**Scan covers:** 9:00AM September 08, 2021 – 8:00PM September 08, 2021.

**Platform used:** Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Weibo, Douyin

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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="#">VICTORY! Rebel News wins case against Trudeau gov't, will send ELEVEN journalists to federal leaders' debates!</a>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Rebel News</i>	12K	1.6K	0	14.7K
<a href="#">Trudeau says he was hit by gravel, condemns rock throwing as 'unacceptable'</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	10.5K	87	0	10.6K
<a href="#">John Ivison: Trudeau drops the sunny ways and treads into dangerous territory</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	5.8K	1.6K	143	7.5K
<a href="#">London police investigating after Trudeau hit by gravel at campaign event</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	6.2K	168	11	6.4K
<a href="#">Attack on Trudeau unsurprising, experts say, warning of future violence against politicians</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>Global News</i>	5.0K	101	140	5.3K
<a href="#">Maxime Bernier's message</a>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>CTV News</i>	5.1K	486	0	5.5K
<a href="#">Why vaccine passports make things worse: Full Comment with Anthony Furey</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	4.3K	355	70	4.7K
<a href="#">Opinion: Why Maxime Bernier and his noxious views should be at the leaders' debates</a>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Globe and Mail</i>	3.7K	114	897	4.7K

<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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Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<a href="#">O'Toole promises to lower cellphone bills, allow international carriers</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	Global News	1.6K	26	2.4K	4.0K
<a href="#">Truth Tracker: Do COVID-19 vaccines violate the Nuremberg Code?</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	CTV News	3.6K	109	84	3.8K

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="#">Les paresseux, les hédonistes et les militants antivaccins: un manifeste de la colère</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	Le Devoir	12.5K	56	0	12.6K
<a href="#">Justin Trudeau encore pourchassé par des manifestants antivaccins</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	La Presse	2.5K	96	30	2.6K
<a href="#">Une odeur de cendres et de barbarie</a>	Sep. 8, 2021	La Presse	2.3K	106	0	2.4K
<a href="#">« Cancel culture » : au Canada, des livres brûlés au nom de l'« inclusivité »</a>	Sep. 8, 2021	Le Point	2.2K	47	2	2.2K
<a href="#">Brûler des livres pour en faire de l'engrais</a>	Sep. 8, 2021	Journal de Montréal	1.8K	202	0	2.0K
<a href="#">Enfants autochtones disparus et morts   « On veut trouver la vérité »</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	La Presse	1.9K	110	3	2.0K

<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", "Annamie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

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Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<a href="#">Au Canada, 5000 livres jugés néfastes aux Autochtones, dont Tintin, détruits</a>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Huffington Post</i>	1.7K	51	0	1.7K
<a href="#">Astérix, Tintin, Lucky Luke... Au nom de la cancel culture, des écoles canadiennes détruisent 5000 livres jugés offensants</a>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Le Figaro</i>	1.2K	509	0	1.7K
<a href="#">Au Canada, des écoles ont détruit des livres jugés néfastes aux Autochtones, dont Tintin et Astérix</a>	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>L'Obs</i>	1.2K	1	0	1.2K
<a href="#">La déchéance humaine en matière de se faire entendre</a>	Sep. 7, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	923	1	0	924

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### Highest engagement numbers on WeChat

Article Title <sup>3</sup>	Date	Account	Total views <sup>4</sup>
<a href="#">31次提及中国，“几乎要与中国断交”</a> (References China 31 times, “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China”)	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Global Times</i> (party media)	100K
<a href="#">针对中国，加拿大大选出现了一个神奇的现象.....</a> (In response to China, a magical sight emerges during the Canadian election...)	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Global Times</i> (party media)	100K
<a href="#">东西问   丁果：加拿大华人如何在东西方“夹缝”中找到自身位置？</a> (David Ding: How do Chinese Canadians find their place in the “gap” between East and West?)	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>China News</i>	7.5K
<a href="#">突发：特鲁多被抗议者扔石头砸中后脑勺？！超级淡定...保镖慌了，场面混乱</a> (Breaking: Trudeau hit in the back of the head by a protester? Super calm, bodyguards panicking, and a chaotic scene)	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>BCBay</i>	6.3K
<a href="#">加拿大福利金翻倍！个人\$2800，家庭\$5000！看牙也有新福利？！</a> (Canada’s welfare benefits doubled! Individuals get \$2800, families get \$5000! New benefits for dental appointments?)	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>VanPeople</i>	2.5K
<a href="#">[突发]特鲁多被砸了！</a> (Breaking: Trudeau is crushed!)	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Lahoo</i>	2.1K
<a href="#">一片混乱！小土豆在竞选时，被许多未戴口罩的人疯狂辱骂抗议！还冲他扔石头！</a> (Chaos! Trudeau is heckled by many unmasked people while campaigning! Also throwing stones at him!)	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>VanPeople</i>	1.8K
<a href="#">新政策得到支持！自由党反超！民调结果出现逆转</a> (New policies get support! The LPC comes back! Poll results see a reversal)	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>York BBS</i>	1.4K
<a href="#">渥太华9月7日新增28例：加拿大边境今天进一步开放</a> (Ottawa adds 28 new case on Sept. 7; another step in opening Canada’s borders today)	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Come From China</i>	1.1K
<a href="#">惊爆！特鲁多被扔石头后因祸得福，民调反超保守党2个百分点！</a> (Shocker! Trudeau gets lucky after being hit by stones, overtakes the CPC by 2 points in polls!)	Sep. 8, 2021	<i>Canada Talks</i>	830

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

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

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### On our radar

#### User engagement with French and English-language online media

- The majority of French and English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for September 08 originated from recognizable Canadian, French and Belgian media outlets.
- The topics with the most user engagement for the reporting period include:
  - News stories about a Quebec Catholic School Board's decision to remove 5,000 children's books that portray First Nations peoples in racist or stereotypical portrayals received considerable attention from French and Belgian media outlets.
  - There was continued user interest in news and commentary pieces about spectators in London, ON throwing gravel at the LPC leader during a campaign rally.
  - A Rebel News story about an "emergency Federal Court hearing" to give Rebel media journalists access to the Sept. 8 and 9 leaders' debates received the most user interest (14.7K engagements) on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit.

#### User engagement with Sinophone online media

- Aside from two high-engagement pieces from the *Global Times*, the majority of the most-viewed stories on WeChat for September 08 originated from recognizable Chinese-Canadian WeChat news accounts. The two GT articles had nearly identical content.
- The *Global Times* – a Chinese Communist Party tabloid – published a story on WeChat that CPC Leader Erin O'Toole "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China" and that the CPC's election platform would "certainly lead to Chinese retaliation"
  - The article notes that the LPC leader is "trying to avoid talking about China" and that the LPC platform mentions China "only once" while the CPC's platform "mentions China 31 times"; the article does not mention the NDP, BQ, GPC or PPC
  - The article was released on Sept. 9, at 9:30pm. It is unclear if the article's release was timed for the 1<sup>st</sup> Leader's Debate.
- The article author has likely lifted the line "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China" and that the CPC's election platform would "certainly lead to Chinese retaliation" from an August 8 [Hill Times article](#) that discusses the China-Canada relations' policies of each political party. The *Hill Times* interviews former policy advisor Jocelyn Coulson, who mentions the line in question. GT quotes liberally from the Coulson interview, including the following passages:
  - The CPC's policies are "too excessive"
  - The CPC should "seriously consider Canada-China relations instead of listing a list of sanctions that no other Western country would engage in"
  - The CPC should come up with a "more responsible response to Canada-China relations"
  - That if the CPC were to form government, China would "retaliate" especially policies "related to Taiwan" and that "there is a consensus in the West that Taiwan-related issues must be approached carefully"

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- The article ends with the final quote: “If you want to run the country and act in the international arena, you have to be careful about your relationship with China”
- Other notes to consider:
  - The *Hill Times* article did not receive very much user interest on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit (only 20 engagements overall)
  - The GT article did not mention the rumor that O’Toole would “ban WeChat”
  - The GT article was not shared by any Chinese-Canadian WeChat accounts
  - The GT article has not been shared by the official WeChat accounts of the PRC embassy in Canada, or any other PRC consulate accounts
  - Because the Global Times is the most popular news account on WeChat, the article received considerable interest from users (over 100K page views); comments appear to have been turned off for the article

#### User engagement with Russophone online media

- There were no high-engagement posts from Canadian Russian-language media outlets for the September 08 reporting period
- Topics of interest in global Russian-language media include:
  - Canada [allowing fully vaccinated](#) individuals to enter the country
  - Canada’s [response](#) to the detention of activist Nariman Dzhelyal in Crimea and calls to the Russian government to release him
  - A Russian-language tabloid in Israel [covered](#) the LPC leader being struck by gravel
  - A Ukrainian outlet whose owner is associated with Putin [published](#) a critical article about President Zelenskyi’s spending on official trips abroad
  - Russian state-media outlet RIA News published a story about lawyers for Helmut Oberlander asking Canadian courts to postpone his deportation to Germany

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