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SITE TF SITREP: 10 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 2021-09-09, 1700hrs

- (PB) Adverse comments, including direct and indirect threats towards Protected Persons continue, with Prime Minister (PM) remaining as the primary focus. Online threats also continue to be observed and received; RCMP efforts to identify the persons responsible continue. One notable indirect threat was posted to 4chan on 2021-09-06, which referenced the All Party Leader's French language debate. The post solicited input from participants about their "wishes" regarding the event, which resulted in negative comments from others users. Although responses to this post were not considered direct threats, the RCMP is attempting to identify the subjects while navigating the difficulty of anonymity within 4 chan.
- (PB) No security issues were identified at the French language debate. The event was met with peaceful protest organized by individuals associated with the People's Party of Canada (PPC) in response to PPC Leader Maxime BERNIER being excluded from the event. It should be noted that other grievances were voiced concurrently, including individuals expressing concerns over mining in Colombia.
- (PB) Regarding campaign event issues, anti-vaccination sentiment continues to drive discussions in the online space, particularly on social media that has promoted protests targeting Liberal campaign events. The main focus is currently on opposing vaccine mandates and passports which will lead to perceived segregation of those who choose not to vaccinate. Separately, it should be noted that news reports are citing a Canadian Anti-Hate Network representative who describes the protest groups as a "violent insurrectionist movement". Given the January 6th events in the US, this may amplify the sense of alarm for some, particularly those who believe Canada is heading towards the levels of violence encountered in the US. There are still many people attending these protests peacefully who are protesting against the PM for various reasons which are not ideological in nature. The RCMP is unaware of any formally organized ideologically motivated groups banding together to protest and continues to monitor and track all threats noted and received.

GAC/RRM

- (U//OUO) 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 9.

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1

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- (U//OUO) RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- (U//OUO) A *Global Times* editorial commented on the CPC's platform in an article titled: "A campaign platform that "almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China"! Is the US about to get another loyal dog?" The title in part quotes an 8 September *Hill Times* article which in turn quoted a Canadian columnist; the *Hill Times* article and statements by the columnist also featured in two *Global Times* articles yesterday. Today's editorial notes that if "the CPC comes to power, its policy is likely to be more hard-line and arbitrary compared to Trudeau's", that "it is not likely to sever diplomatic relations" but would likely "cooperate more actively with the U.S. to contain China at all levels." The editorial does not urge Canadians of Chinese heritage to vote for a particular candidate or party.
- (U//OUO) *Today Commercial News*, a Chinese-Canadian newspaper that publishes the *People's Daily* overseas edition in Canada, posted a WeChat story that claims bill C-282, introduced by the CPC's Kenny Chiu, would require "all individuals or groups with ties to China" to register as agents of the Chinese government. The story urges users to "spread the word" about Chiu's bill that "suppresses the Chinese community." In a recent article in *Business Intelligence Vancouver*, Chiu had claimed misinformation was circulating on WeChat with respect to this bill. RRM Canada notes that bill C-282 calls for a foreign influence registry requiring individuals lobbying the Canadian government on behalf of a foreign government to register publicly.

Operational Responses and Updates

- (U) No significant updates at this time.
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