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# SITE TF SITREP: 14 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

#### 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 on September 13. However, Chinese State media has taken an increased interest in GE44 in general and the perceived China policies of the Conservative Party of Canada.
- (U//OUO) RRM Canada assesses the majority of English and French-language content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- (U//OUO) In what may be the result of a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) information operation that aims to influence Canadians of Chinese heritage, WeChat news accounts continue to share a story originally published by the *Global Times* that Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole "mentioned 31 times" in the party platform, and "almost wants to break relations with China" but received minimal engagement (avg. 550 page views).
- (U//OUO) The *Global Times* published two articles about the Canadian government's direction for state-owned China Mobile to divest from a Canadian telecom company. The articles quoted a spokesperson from the Chinese embassy in Canada who says: "Some Canadian politicians have been maliciously speculating on China-related issues", that a "few political party leaders have made unwarranted attacks on China's human rights during the Leaders' debate" and "violently interfering in China's internal affairs." The articles received considerable user interest (over 200K page views).
- (U//OUO) An alternative Russian Language news site called the "Russian News Agency of the Russian Public Movement" – which RRM Canada has no evidence to link to the Russian state – shared a story about an alleged Canadian militia group that made its introduction on YouTube. The article received some engagement on Twitter (81 engagements). For further analysis of the YouTube video; See points provided by RCMP.

#### RCMP

(U) Information current as of as of 13 September 2021, 0900hrs

- (PB) The past 72 hours witnessed a continuation of direct and indirect threats posted online towards the Prime Minister (PM), with recent threats emerging via email and 4chan posts. Incidents of vandalism targeting election candidate signs continue for a number of political parties, while some LPC candidates have been the recipients of more targeted intimidation activity:

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- (PB) An LPC candidate had several of his election posts defaced with anti-Semitic images, including swastikas.
- (PB) Another LPC candidate reported that his vehicle was vandalized while parked outside his home. Some instances of physical intimidation have also taken place.
- (PB) An LPC candidate in Regina reported being harassed and intimidated, and then having dog feces thrown at his car while campaigning.
- (PB) The RCMP and applicable Police of Jurisdiction (PoJ) are investigating all such instances of threats and intimidation.
- (PB) Advance polling stations opened for the Federal Election for the period covering 10-13 September 2021. Occasional instances of belligerent electors confronting Elections Canada staff are expected to occur, given the requirement that electors must wear a mask as required by the province, territory, or region. The RCMP has received information about several instances of belligerent individuals appearing at polling stations or threatening to sue Elections Canada if denied entry to a polling station due to their refusal to wear a mask. In the realm of online threats, the RCMP received information about a Twitter user who responded to a TVA news article about bilingual greetings at the polls, saying "we will greet you with 9mm bullets." The RCMP is investigating.
- (PB) Anti-Vaccine/Anti-Lockdown/Anti-Mask grievances are continuing to drive both online discussions and in-person protests. In particular, the Canadian Frontline Nurses are protesting against mandatory vaccinations outside hospitals in various cities across Canada. Open source information suggests that there may be a counter-protest in response to the protests in Alberta. Counter-protests may act as a flash-point and cause for public and officer safety concerns. The protests will specifically target hospitals across Canada and are scheduled for ten different provinces. Multiple tweets have been sent by one Twitter user calling for "battle" at local hospital protests. In response to an unrelated image of a person firing a weapon, the Twitter user also encouraged users to bring weapons to a purported "raid" at Toronto's General Hospital in an effort "to get inside [the hospital] and show the world that Covid is fake." There has been a marked escalation over the past week that demonstrates that some individuals are advocating for violence at these protests. The RCMP and applicable PoJs are tracking and investigating.
- (PB) Another rally to note occurred in Calgary on Sunday, which focused on protesting vaccine mandates and other public health measures; roughly 2,000 people were in attendance. According to news reports, one man carried a flag reading "molon labe" - an apocryphal ancient Greek quote from King Leonidas of Sparta that translates to "come and take them" - which has been used as a rallying cry for neo-fascist groups in the U.S. and Europe. Additionally, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton expressed disgust at photos that showed some protesters equating vaccine mandates with the genocide committed by Nazi Germany.
- (PB) The RCMP is also investigating a recent YouTube video posted by a potential self-described militia group. The video shows four masked persons in military attire carrying long barrelled military style weapons. The group calls itself the "F49 Militia", a "collective of citizens that are willing to do whatever it takes", who are presenting the LYNX movement to viewers. According to the video, LYNX stands for, "liberate your neighbourhood, liberate your nation". The video itself does not mention the election. The rhetoric in the content of the video and responses by the group in the

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comments section is a “call to arms”, seeking to implore viewers to become involved in an uprising against a tyrannical government. There is no direct threat made to any person and the group does not reference any particular political affiliation. The RCMP is examining the video and associated content for indications of criminality and has engaged with applicable security and law enforcement partners.

## **Operational Responses and Updates**

- (U) No significant updates at this time.
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