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SITE TF SITREP: 17 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 indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of September 16. However, Chinese State media continues to take interest in GE44 and the Conservative Party of Canada's proposed China policies.
- (U//OUO) A headline in the Chinese press that the Conservative Party “almost wants to break diplomatic relations with China” appears to have finally ended circulation. Articles with the headline in question appeared continuously between September 8 and 15, and received considerable user attention. As of September 16, RRM Canada could not locate any new publishers sharing the headline.
- (U//OUO) In a *Vancouver Sun* article, Conservative Party of Canada candidate Kenny Chiu says the false messages and personal attacks his campaign has received were “beyond [his] expectation.” The article did not generate any comment from Chinese media or Chinese officials.
- (U//OUO) The *Global Times* reacted to a *Toronto Sun* story that claims Canada had been intentionally excluded from a new partnership between the U.K., the U.S., and Australia, and also reacted to CPC leader Erin O'Toole's response to being left out of the partnership. The GT author suggests O'Toole “just wants Canada to spend more on the military” and quotes a Twitter user “Why do you want to go to war with China? Did we not lose enough lives in Afghanistan?” The article was not published in English, and did not receive any attention on U.S. social media platforms.

Operational Responses and Updates

- (U) No significant updates at this time.

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1

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