

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE (FI) INCLUDES FOREIGN STATE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE CLANDESTINE, COVERT, DECEPTIVE, THREATENING OR COERCIVE, AND THAT ARE DETRIMENTAL TO CANADA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS.

FOREIGN STATE ACTORS

VECTORS OF FI

TARGETS OF FI

CHINA

China is the most active perpetrator of FI activities in Canada, targeting both Canadian democratic institutions and Canada's diaspora communities. China relies on FI as a key method of advancing the Communist Party's interests, including suppressing overseas dissent, influencing public sentiment, and supporting pro-China policies.

RUSSIA

Russia is a historic FI actor in Canada, regularly engaging in clandestine interference activities targeting Canadian government policies and officials. Since the invasion of Ukraine, Russia's FI activities have increasingly included strategic disinformation campaigns targeting Canada's support for Kyiv.

INDIA

India is an increasingly active FI actor in Canada, targeting the Indo-Canadian community, ethnic media, and Canadian politicians. India aims to influence diaspora communities and government policy with respect to key political issues, such as engagement with Pakistan, Kashmir, Khalistani extremism, and Canada-India relations.

OFFICIAL STATE PRESENCE

China, Russian and Indian officials in Canada

[redacted] are involved in both perpetrating and coordinating FI. China, Russia, and India each rely extensively on their official presence in Canada to carry out and support FI activities.



DIASPORA COMMUNITIES

Members of diaspora communities are regularly targeted by foreign states seeking support for their political objectives in Canada. Both China and India are particularly active in this regard, and rely on a variety of incentives and disincentives to motivate individuals to act on their behalf.

China has a number of tools that it can use to both manipulate traditional Chinese-media language outlets overseas to disseminate propaganda or spread false information, and also to censor politically sensitive issues via its social online platforms, like WeChat.

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Foreign states regularly seek to interfere in Canadian politics and democratic processes at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels and across all parties in order to further their geopolitical objectives.

China is the most active state in its efforts to target democratic institutions, [redacted] First Nations and indigenous communities [redacted]

CANADIAN SOCIETY

Canadian society, in particular diaspora communities, is both a target and, at times, a vector of FI activities. Foreign states seek to surveil, censor, and influence discourse within Canada in order to suppress their critics and rally support for political objectives.

With a diaspora of more than 1.7 million individuals in Canada, China is by far the most active state in respect of FI activities targeting Canadian society, followed by India, which targets a diaspora of more than 1.4 million individuals in Canada.

THE FUTURE OF FI

- FI activities—including electoral interference—will become more frequent, as hostile states seek to achieve a wider range of foreign policy objectives without relying on the use of force.
- Russia and China [redacted] disinformation and propaganda campaigns to undermine Western democratic alliances.
- FI activities targeting overseas diaspora communities will intensify, as states such as China, India, and Iran seek to control discourse and neutralize perceived threats to their domestic authority.