



CCE Intake

Reference Number JAMGFA8V	Import Source Complaint Web Form	Received Date 2021-08-31 01:41AM
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Purpose

Why are you contacting us today?
To report a potential offence

Complaint Type

Please select the subject of your question or complaint.
Fake News / Disinformation

Complaint Subject

Which federal electoral event is your complaint related to?
September 20, 2021, General Election

Who is your complaint about?
A third party

Please provide names and/or political affiliations (if applicable)
Unknown

Incident date
2021-08-31T01:30:00

Incident Location

Where did the incident occur?
Online

Please select the online source
YouTube

Provide the links, website (URL), email address, etc.
CrLb0K7stYcGgA6zW-
LYP0tCAsAz26MrsZIW8z6uiDraQHxABIABg_YCUgegDggEXY2EtcHViLTYyMTk4MTE3NDcwNDkzNzGc
Gua1mmIESKtcB--V9ibSi1Ur4T9qhR0uLVOrJnrO1-F6jVbynhPEkgc-
yf4dSifmNKb005EPfG5CDm_Az_hwsXFQIWLtTiiQzl96tUkvELSBqcRD7CeqDG7EzhxZnPvEoqXXioUatKf
VkrFcdgPZxxefNF2Ee8qsDHaFFct06AyBq8e4bDRFJAimgiI3t4UV_NxdjLrkneAF5NSE0DVP AZM4IgBie!

X_gNu8JOaYdpw-
 gc2R4ATBFxmCZgFa0i03l6rkxWWaQmo7w3nK3BarfCsreXsa2MB3h9uIBYaFs8UzoAZU2AYCgAfg0p7e
 xAqgH5pqxAqgH9JmxAqgHsJuxAqgHgcYbqAerxRuoB-
 PZG5IIC3QzR3c5ci1rM2lBqAgBsAgMuAgB0ggICISAgIAEEALyCB9jYS15dC1ob3N0LXB1Yi05ODM1Mzi

Description

Use this section to share details with us.

While watching a You Tube video, I was presented an ad that appeared to be fake in nature alleging that Justin Trudeau had purchased a multi-million dollar yacht and had made over \$30M in investments in crypto currency.

I reported to ad to Google alleging that it likely violated Canadian elections laws and should be removed and reported to Elections Canada. I am following up via this channel however as I have no faith that they will investigate, let alone report it correctly.

The following url was automatically generated to refer to the ad. When I copied it and pasted it into a browser, it took me to a video that had nothing to do with what I had been looking at, so unfortunately I doubt it will be of any help, but I will attach it below regardless.

Identification

Tell us about yourself. Are you?

[REDACTED]

First Name

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone

[REDACTED]

Address line 1

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

Province/Territory

[REDACTED]

Postal Code



How would you like us to contact you?

Telephone

COMMISSAIRE AUX ÉLECTIONS FÉDÉRALES



COMMISSIONER OF CANADA ELECTIONS

INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT / RAPPORT DE L'ENQUÊTEUR

Protected A

DATE: 2021-08-31
 TO: Yves Côté, Commissioner
 C.C.: Mylène Gigou, Senior Director, Enforcement
 FROM: [REDACTED]
 REF.: File: 2021-0322

I. Background/Issue:

A. FACTUAL SUMMARY

This file stems from a citizen's complaint made on August 31, 2021, pertaining to an ad which appeared while [REDACTED] was watching a YouTube video. This occurrence took place during the 44th GE election period of August 15, 2021 (writs) to polling day on September 20, 2021.

While watching a You Tube video, I was presented an ad that appeared to be fake in nature alleging that Justin Trudeau had purchased a multi-million dollar yacht and had made over \$30M in investments in crypto currency.

I reported to ad to Google alleging that it likely violated Canadian elections laws and should be removed and reported to Elections Canada. I am following up via this channel however as I have no faith that they will investigate, let alone report it correctly.

The following url was automatically generated to refer to the ad. When I copied it and pasted it into a browser, it took me to a video that had nothing to do with what I had been looking at, so unfortunately I doubt it will be of any help, but I will attach it below regardless.

B. ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND STEPS TAKEN

The Intel unit was tasked with verifying the URLs provided by the complainant and attempting to locate the video described in the complaint. Intel was not able to uncover any traces of the alleged video, by way of the URLs, searching YouTube and general internet searches.

Of note from Intel, is that "GOOGLE, which owns YOUTUBE, does not permit political advertising and does not have an ad registry. There is also no way to search specifically for ads in YOUTUBE. The advertiser may have posted a copy of the ad on their YOUTUBE account, if they have one. In that case, the video would show publicly as organic."

The investigator telephoned the complainant, who is a [REDACTED], to ascertain if [REDACTED] had any further information. The complainant has no further information to provide. The investigator clarified the

provisions of the Act with the complainant and advised [REDACTED] to screen capture any further viewings and to communicate directly with [REDACTED] on this matter. The complainant was informed that without being able to locate the ad, no further action is possible at this time.

The content as described would not necessarily be in violation of S.91, however if determined to be election advertising would potentially require an authorization statement and financial reporting.

II. Person(s) / entity(ies) of Interest:

[REDACTED]

III. Recommendation(s):

Recommended Action
Close the File

Recommended Status
Closed - Insufficient grounds or evidence

The relevant sections of “the Act” that pertain to this file are the following:

Candidates

91(1) *Making or publishing a false statement about a candidate, prospective candidate, the leader of a political party or a public figure associated to a political party to affect election results*

Appendix A: Approval History

DATE	STEP NAME	ASSIGNED TO	STATUS
2021-09-01 07:46AM	Recommendation Review	Yves Côté	Approved
<p>J'approuve la recommandation. J'aimerais discuter avec toi, Mylène re : suivis possibles.</p>			
2021-09-01 06:43AM	Recommendation Review	Mylène Gigou	Approved
<p>Commissioner: A file briefly mentioned at our morning meeting yesterday. I support the recommendation to close status 4 (insufficient grounds or evidence). COM has been notified - no further action by OCCE required at this time. Should new information be provided to the OCCE, the file can be reassessed.</p>			
2021-08-31 03:22PM	Recommendation Draft		Submitted
<p>Mylene,</p> <p>Complaint of a video depicting Trudeau and some potential false information. Intel was not able to capture the ad and the complainant has no further information.</p> <p>■</p>			

Appendix B: Penalty Criteria

1. The degree of intention or negligence on the part of the person or entity that committed the violation.

N/A

2. The harm done by the violation.

N/A

3. Whether the person or entity derived any advantage from the violation.

N/A

4. Whether the person or entity made reasonable efforts to mitigate or reverse the violation's effects.

N/A

5. Whether the person or entity has taken steps to avoid committing the violation in the future.

N/A

6. Whether the person or entity has provided all reasonable assistance to the Commissioner with respect to the violation, including reporting it and providing any relevant information.

N/A

7. The person's or entity's history of compliance with the provisions of this Act.

N/A

8. The person's or entity's ability to pay the penalty.

N/A

9. Any other aggravating and mitigating circumstances

N/A

Appendix C: Addendums

N/A

File Referral Record

File Number:	2021-0322	Referred By:	Mylène Gigou
Date:	2021-09-01	Referred To:	TO BE CLOSED
Time:	10:10:17 AM		

Necessary Action:

To close status 4 - COM notified.

Status Note Log Entry

File Number:	2021-0322	Staff Member:	██████████
Date:	2021-09-01		
Time:	03:07 PM		

Note:

Approval to close this file was provided by the Commissioner on an Recommendation Report dated 2021-09-01.

STEPS:

1. Response provided by telephone to the complainant on 2021-08-31.
2. File closed = Status 4.



CCE Intake

Reference Number	Import Source	Received Date
EC-000085372	EC Connex	2021-09-01 01:55PM

ECConnex Case

Subject
Misleading Ads.

Topic
Negative, defamatory, false or misleading online content (advertising)

Description

Description

Hello. Today, while browsing Youtube, I was served an ad with a russian URL (.ru in it) in which was most likely false information about Justin Trudeau. To me, it looks like misinformation spreading and meddling. I have a screenshot of said ad. I was wondering if there is somewhere where I can report this.

Attachments

1.	 screenshot.png	png	457.61 KB
2.	 EC-000085372.txt	txt	129 Bytes

Identification

First name

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Additional details

Created by

3

Created on

2021-09-01 13:50:47

Modified by





Ad




panel.quizgo.ru/q/26144



Go to article

panel.quizgo.ru/q/26144

LEARN MORE 

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Election Complaint - You Tube Ad
Date: January 12, 2022 3:02:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

My file 2021-0322-1

Hello, [REDACTED] I'm writing to follow up on your complaint concerning the pop-up ad you saw while viewing You Tube. Unfortunately, I am not at liberty to go into any degree of detail concerning the actions taken, other than to tell you that despite best efforts we were not able to locate the ad that popped up on your screen during the election. We have, however, provided the information to relevant agencies within the Government of Canada for their information.



[REDACTED]
 Enquêteur sous contrat / Investigator under contract
 Bureau du commissaire aux élections fédérales / Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections

Courriel / E-mail - [REDACTED]
 Téléphone / Telephone - [REDACTED] / 1-855-759-6740

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September 1, 2021 7:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Election Complaint - You Tube Ad

Hello [REDACTED]

Please find responses to your questions below:

Can you tell me what video you were watching when the ad appeared?

- The video's title is "ASMR - Luxury Island Hotel Check In Roleplay" and can be found here: <https://youtu.be/2VjndDrMcw>
- I watched the video using the IOS Youtube app on my mobile phone.

Was it at the beginning of the video or part way through it?

- The ad played when I started the video.

I note that the screen shot says "Ad 1 of 2". Did a second ad appear and if so, what was it?

- Yes, a second ad appeared, but it was not related to politics. I do not recall what it was about and skipped it.

Can you be specific about the time of day you were browsing when the ad appeared?

- The screenshot was taken @ 4:46am [REDACTED] when the ad was playing.

Have you ever seen ads similar to this previously?

- I do not recall seeing this kind of ad on youtube before.

Other than that the ad itself was saying Justin Trudeau was spotted on a 60 million dollar yacht, bought condos in Miami seemingly with the help of a website or app that I don't recall the name. After taking the screenshot I skipped the ad before it could end.

Hope this helps,

[REDACTED]

On Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 5:09 PM Dickson, John <[REDACTED]> wrote:

My file 2021-0339

Hello, [REDACTED] I am an investigator retained by the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections. The Commissioner is responsible for compliance with and enforcement of the Canada Elections Act. To learn more about the role and function of the office, please visit our website at <https://www.cef-cce.ca/content.asp?document=home&lang=e>.

I have the complaint you submitted to Elections Canada earlier today (September 1, 2021) pertaining to an ad that appeared while you were browsing YouTube. If you are able to provide any further detail pertaining to the screen capture you sent, I would appreciate it.

For example, can you tell me what video you were watching when the ad appeared? Was it at the beginning of the video or part way through it? I note that the screen shot says "Ad 1 of 2". Did a second ad appear and if so, what was it? Can you be specific about the time of day you were browsing when the ad appeared? Have you ever seen ads similar to this previously?

I may well have additional questions as we look into this further, but for now, responses to these questions would be a good start.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.



COMMISSAIRE AUX ÉLECTIONS FÉDÉRALES
COMMISSIONER OF CANADA ELECTIONS

[REDACTED]
Enquêteur sous contrat / Investigator under contract
Bureau du commissaire aux élections fédérales / Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections

Courriel / E-mail - [REDACTED]
Téléphone / Telephone - [REDACTED] / 1-855-759-6740

Note Log Entry

File Number:	2021-0322-1	Event Date:	2022-01-12 03:03 PM
Date:	2022-01-12	Staff Member:	██████████
Time:	03:03:45 PM		

Note:

This date I sent an email to the complainant to advise that we were not able to locate the ad that popped up and that the information has been shared with relevant agencies of the Government of Canada for info.

COMMISSAIRE AUX ÉLECTIONS FÉDÉRALES



COMMISSIONER OF CANADA ELECTIONS

INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT / RAPPORT DE L'ENQUÊTEUR

Protected A

DATE: 2021-12-22
 TO: Yves Côté, Commissioner
 C.C.: Louise Panneton, Director, Investigations and Operations
 FROM: [REDACTED]
 REF.: File: 2021-0322-1

I. Background/Issue:

A. FACTUAL SUMMARY

The complainant reported that while browsing You Tube, an ad that opposed Prime Minister Trudeau and the LPC popped up. [REDACTED] said the ad appeared to be from a Russian site, but contained a link to what appeared to be an unrelated article in Forbes Magazine, based in the US. The complainant was able to obtain a screen shot of the ad, which [REDACTED] attached to the complaint.

B. ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND STEPS TAKEN

The OCCE Analytical Unit reviewed the ad and reported that it indicated a banner advertisement emanating from URL panel.quizgo.ru/q/26144. Research into the URL did not provide any evidence of the advertisement subject to the complaint. However, it did suggest that the URL brings the user to a landing page seemingly hosted by Quizgo, a company that our analysts believe may be based in Moscow, and then linking to an unrelated Forbes magazine article associated to the United States.

Analysts were unable to locate the banner advertisement on Quizgo or to replicate the video pop-up on YouTube videos.

Pursuant to para. 510.1(2)(g) of the Act, the Comm'r authorized disclosing this information to the Rapid Response Mechanism of GAC for any action they may deem warranted. On 2021-11-18, a Teams meeting was held with RRM personnel. OCCE was advised that RRM is aware of this ad, therefore there was no need to formally transfer the information. GAC undertook to send in future any relevant information concerning this site.

Because the ad could not be located, it was not possible to determine the source of the advertising or the person or entity behind it, nor could it be determined the location from which the ad emanated.

II. Person(s) / entity(ies) of Interest:

[REDACTED]

III. Recommendation(s):

Recommended Action

Close the File

Recommended Status

Closed - Insufficient grounds or evidence

I recommend closing the file because the ad could not be located nor could we determine the source for the ad. If this recommendation is accepted, I will contact the complainants to advise the outcome.

The relevant sections of “the Act” that pertain to this file are the following:

Electoral Rights**282.4(1)** *Foreigner attempting to influence an elector to vote or refrain from voting*

Appendix A: Approval History

DATE	STEP NAME	ASSIGNED TO	STATUS
2021-12-23 10:02AM	Recommendation Review	Yves Côté	Approved
I agree with recommendation.			
2021-12-23 09:32AM	Recommendation Review	Louise Panneton	Approved
Considering the facts gathered in the file and the lack of key evidence, I support the recommendation of the investigator to close this file status 4 - Insufficient Grounds or evidence.			
2021-12-22 02:55PM	Recommendation Draft		Submitted
Submitted for your review.			

Appendix B: Penalty Criteria

1. The degree of intention or negligence on the part of the person or entity that committed the violation.

N/A

2. The harm done by the violation.

N/A

3. Whether the person or entity derived any advantage from the violation.

N/A

4. Whether the person or entity made reasonable efforts to mitigate or reverse the violation's effects.

N/A

5. Whether the person or entity has taken steps to avoid committing the violation in the future.

N/A

6. Whether the person or entity has provided all reasonable assistance to the Commissioner with respect to the violation, including reporting it and providing any relevant information.

N/A

7. The person's or entity's history of compliance with the provisions of this Act.

N/A

8. The person's or entity's ability to pay the penalty.

N/A

9. Any other aggravating and mitigating circumstances

N/A

Appendix C: Addendums

N/A

File Referral Record

File Number:	2021-0322-1	Referred By:	Louise Panneton
Date:	2021-12-23	Referred To:	Yves Côté
Time:	09:32:10 AM		

Necessary Action:

Considering the facts gathered in the file and the lack of key evidence, I support the recommendation of the investigator to close this file status 4 - Insufficient Grounds or evidence.

File Referral Record

File Number:	2021-0322-1	Referred By:	Yves Côté
Date:	2021-12-23	Referred To:	Mylène Gigou
Time:	10:02:52 AM		

Necessary Action:

I agree with recommendation.

Status Note Log Entry

File Number:	2021-0322-1	Staff Member:	[REDACTED]
Date:	2022-01-13		
Time:	08:39 AM		

Note:

Approval to close this file was provided by the Commissioner in a CTS note dated 2021-12-23.

1. Response sent by email to Complainant on 2022-01-12
2. PDF Response placed in the Correspondence folder on the P:/drive.
3. File closed = Status 4