

Rapport de repérage des médias sociaux : midi 24 septembre à midi 25 septembre, 2019
Social Media Monitoring Report: noon September 24 to noon September 25, 2019

Observations principales / Key observations

- In response to a *Hamilton Spectator* article, Facebook users called it “unacceptable” that a convicted sexual offender was hired as a revising agent
- Discussion about lawn sign defacement continued; 14K users shared an article about the racist graffiti on a Calgary–Skyview candidate’s sign
- Users continued to call on EC to investigate reported “foreign interference” related to the provenance of *Time* magazine’s “brownface” photo

Volume – *The volume graphic is currently not available due to inconsistencies in the service provider’s data.*

Sujets principaux / Key topics¹

- **NEW** Users react to news of a convicted sexual offender working for EC in Hamilton
- → Concern over threatening, defaced or misleading lawn signs
- → Twitter users call on EC to investigate *Time* magazine’s “brownface” photo as foreign interference
- **NEW** Report that a PPC candidate received a threatening letter
- → Concerns over voter ID requirements, non-citizens on the NROE, and the integrity of special ballots
- ↓ Discussion of CNP releasing the list of its members

Éléments sous observation / On the radar

- **PPC candidate for Halifax West invited supporters to meet her at an RO office:** The candidate (280 followers) urged those who were unable to attend a meet-and-greet to instead meet her at the RO office, apparently to provide signatures for her nomination papers.
- **Timing of GE43 and Jewish holidays:** *TheJ.ca*, which describes itself as a “pro-Israel media platform in Canada,” tweeted a post outlining voting options for those affected by the timing of GE43 and Jewish holidays. The tweet mentioned advance polls, mail-in ballots, voting at RO offices, and voting on campus and listed voting locations in Winnipeg. They also added that due to the timing of GE43, the Winnipeg’s Jewish community is “compromised in casting a ballot.”
- **Political commentator Stephen Taylor asked UNICEF Canada to “stay out of” GE43:** Taylor (33K followers) retweeted a UNICEF Canada post raising awareness about climate change, and asked

¹ Most prominent EC-related stories over the report’s time period; arrows indicate the intensity of the interest relative to last week: ↑ = increased interest → = continued interest ↓ = decreased interest ↻ = revived topic **NEW** = new topic



the agency to “stay out of” GE43; Taylor added that EC has warned “about this topic as a specific example,” likely referring to third party advertising. The tweet received 30 engagements.

Sujets principaux – en profondeur / Key topics – in depth

NEW Users react to news of a convicted sexual offender working for EC in Hamilton				
<i>Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Why was a sexual offender canvassing in Hamilton for Elections Canada weeks after his release?</u>, <i>The Hamilton Spectator</i>, September 24, 518 shares 				
<i>Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights</i>				
<p>Social media users reacted to a <i>Hamilton Spectator</i> article about a convicted sexual offender working as a revising agent in Hamilton, Ontario; many users said it was “unacceptable” and “creepy” that a person with past criminal convictions was hired by EC. Some users questioned EC’s “vetting” processes for new hires, with one user claiming that EC employs “no checks” on who it hires. Another user stated that “the people in charge” were prioritizing “the quality of life of a single asshole man” at the cost of the “safety and quality of life of the women in the community.”</p>				
<i>Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts</i>				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
312	Facebook	<u><i>The Hamilton Spectator</i></u>	<p>Jeffrey Smallwood, 46, was released on probation in late August. In 2018, he pleaded guilty to several counts of sexual assault. Since his release, his victims — three who have spoken with The Spectator — say they've been living in fear.</p> <p>**Sample replies**</p> <p>Facebook user 1: Would like to know what party he is canvassing for Facebook user 2: Not canvassing for any party. He was canvassing to count how many eligible voters per household Facebook user 3: A position he should have never had Facebook user 4: Because elections Canada has no checks. Facebook user 5: Goofs like this deserve nothing less then execution on site!! To bad he wasn't canvassing at Sanford and cannon last night Facebook user 6: I see it's not just paramedics not being properly vetted in Hamilton. See why vetting is important and not just at the border? Knowing a background is important no matter where they come from and no matter what they look like!</p>	Sept. 25



1	Fewer than 500, Twitter	Twitter user	Absolutely ridiculous, not just that he's working for elections Canada, but that a man with a 30 year history of sexual assault spends 2 years in jail. Throw him in the middle of the lake	Sept. 25
0	Fewer than 100, Twitter	Twitter user	Why? Because the people in charge value the quality of life of a single asshole man over the safety and quality of life of the women in the community. Nbd, nothing new.	Sept. 25

➔ Concern over threatening, defaced or misleading lawn signs

Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares

- 'Unfortunate, hurtful' racist graffiti seen on Calgary Skyview candidate's election signs, *Global News*, September 24, **13.9K shares**
- P.A. candidates call for respect after Liberal Party campaign signs 'pulled down and thrown aside', *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, September 24, **1.3K shares**
- NDP candidate's election signs vandalized in northeast Calgary, *CTV News Calgary*, September 24, **931 shares**
- Alberta Muslim council criticizes vandalism to campaign sign in northeast Calgary, *Toronto Star*, September 24, **588 shares**
- Campaign signs lit on fire | Video, *CTV News Winnipeg*, September 24, **227 shares**

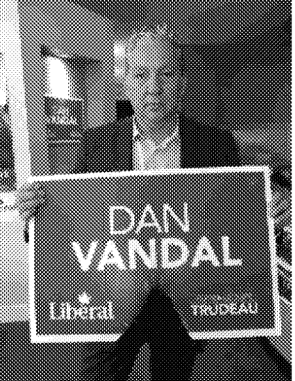
Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights


Discussion around lawn signs continued for a third day. Some users noted new examples of sign defacement or destruction, while others expressed confusion about EC's rules governing signs. In general, users expressed annoyance at vandalized lawn signs; users accused the person who vandalized LPC candidate Dan Vandal's signs of being a "petty criminal...costing volunteers lots of time and money" and characterized the vandalized signs as an "attack on democracy."

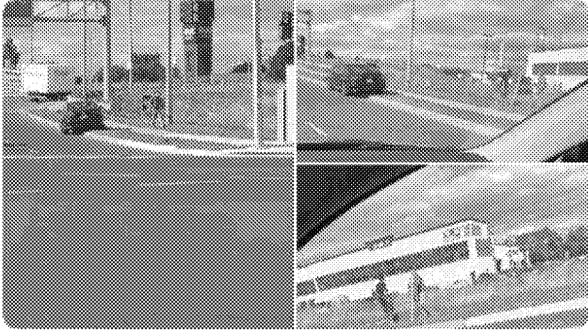
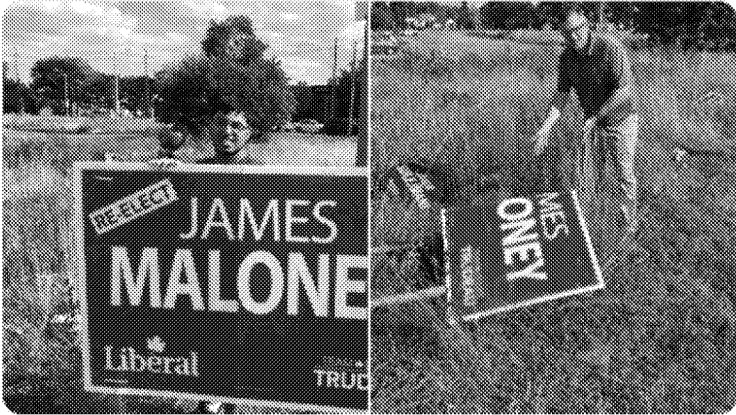
In a low-engagement Reddit thread, one user posted "instructions" on how to deface LPC campaign signs with "brownface makeup." The user urged others to "borrow" 2x4 lawn signs that feature LPC Leader Justin Trudeau and photoshop his face to appear with "brownface makeup." To do this, the user suggested scanning the original sign image, adjusting the colour to "dark," and then gluing the new image to the original board; the user stated that they had used similar tactics to deface signs in past elections and wanted to "pass the torch" to others. The thread has since been removed from the platform.

In another Reddit thread, users discussed whether *The Rebel Media's* lawn signs promoting a book called "Libranos" — a red sign featuring an image of the LPC Leader and some LPC candidates — was allowed to stand beside a PPC candidate's lawn sign. Users were unsure if rules governing such signs were regulated by EC or by municipal by-laws.

On Twitter, a user claimed that members of CPC candidate Barry O'Brien's campaign team were "removing" a rival candidate's signs. O'Brien replied that they were merely "putting up" the signs since many signs in the area had been "trashed."

<i>Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts</i>				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
330	6.4K, Facebook	<u>Dan Vandal</u> , LPC candidate Saint Boniface–Saint Vital	<p>Gonna be a tough campaign...sa sera une campaign difficile...*Sharing photo of LPC candidate Dan Vandal holding a damaged lawn sign</p> 	Sept. 24
199	30.8K, r/Winnipeg	Reddit users	<p>Dan Vandal's lawn signs vandalized by vandals *Sharing <i>CTV News Winnipeg</i> video <u>LPC candidate Dan Vandals' lawn signs vandalized</u></p> <p>*Sample replies*</p> <p>Reddit user 1 If Dan Vandal vandalizes Dan Vandal's Dan Vandal signs, is Dan Vandal really a vandal? (21 engagements)</p> <p>Reddit user 2 Dan Vandal's vandal scandal (23 engagements)</p> <p>Reddit user 3 Are they more or less vandalized if he fixes them? (10 engagements)</p> <p>Reddit user 4 In seriousness, I hate when people vandalize signs. They are extremely expensive! I've ran a couple of times on various levels and my biggest expense losses were people who stole and/or vandalized our signs. It's so immature! What point are you trying to prove? You think you're sticking it to the man? Or watching the world burn? No you're just being a petty criminal and an asshole costing volunteers lots of time and money. (3 engagements)</p>	Sept. 24
34	26.5K, Facebook	Facebook user	<p>All the conservative signs have been destroyed in Kanata north. When I brought it to Karen's attention she deleted my post. This guy is probably fed up by the actual vandalism caused by the liberals *Commenting <i>iHeartRadio</i> article <u><i>Ottawa police investigate hand-written lawn sign threatening violence against Liberals</i></u></p>	Sept. 24

32	3.1K, Twitter	Twitter user	Liberal campaign crew came around and put signs around here this morning sometime before 6:30 am. Now 2/3 of them are gone. A lot of people discovered them in their yard and took them down!	Sept. 24
13	4.1K, Twitter	Twitter user	Hmm mm sounds a whole lot like communism.. if I caught any LIBBIE sticking one of their signs on my lawn.. you can guess where I'd be sticking that LIBBIE sign..STAY OFF MY LAWN	Sept. 24
22	2.3K, r/Durham	Reddit users	<p>Whitby PPC candidate co-advertising Rebel Media backed book. Is this legal? *Sharing photo of Rebel Media "Libranos" book advertisement sign beside PPC candidate Mirko Pejic sign.</p>  <p>Reddit user 1 So this would be a municipal issue? I was wondering if it was an Elections Canada thing.</p> <p>Reddit user 2 I'm guessing so as it's by-law that enforces sign rules year round. One's allowed, one not. Doesn't hurt to ask. Although given time they'll collect them anyway. Elections Canada might also have some jurisdiction around campaign signs (not familiar with the rules), but if it wasn't election season and it was just a random sign for WET BASEMENTS! 416-555-1212 -- By law'd take it. This book/website sign falls into that category on normal days.</p>	Sept. 24
2	Fewer than 100, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>Yes, those are their propaganda posters. Where was this? I think you can report it to elections CA depending on how payment is made. Ezra is clearly shilling the cons, and if the cons are paying him through kickbacks or illegal means, that's an election violation.</p> <p>**Referring to The Rebel Media's Libranos signs**</p>	Sept. 24

5	2.2K, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>Hey @VoteBarry4EL can you explain why your sign crew can be seen removing @j_maloney's sign, throwing it in the field, and installing yours? *Sharing photos of O'Brien campaign team with</p>  <p>lawn signs.</p>	Sept. 24
0	Fewer than 500, Twitter	<u>Barry O'Brien</u> , CPC candidate Etobicoke— Lakeshore	<p>**Replying to previous tweet** Actually we were putting up James sign to be honest. We thought it might be a nice thing to do. To me clear I picked the sign OFF the ground and I was putting it back IN the ground. There are a lot of signs down in the riding and I was going to text @j_maloney that his signs (and mine) were trashed. If you know me it is entirely within my character to do just that. *Sharing photos of O'Brien campaign team with lawn signs.</p> 	Sept. 24


 ↓ Social media users call on EC to investigate *Time* magazine's "brownface" photo as foreign interference

Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares

- N/A

Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights

While the overall volume of posts on this topic declined, there were many low-engagement tweets calling for EC to "investigate" *Time*'s acquisition of the "brownface" photo, with some users saying it constitutes "election meddling." One user posited that if a voter were to make their decision based on the *Time* story, it would call "the entire 2019 election into question." Some users were of the opinion that the *Free the Press* story was an "amazing stretch" that only served to fuel conspiracy theories.

Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts

Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
298	2.5K, Twitter	Twitter user	Regarding the time article about PMJT. My own boss who is a huge conservative supporter said that this is a clear case of election tampering.	Sept. 24
44	2.5K, Twitter	Twitter user	And so far not a peep from mainstream media. 🤔 Who would've guessed? I sure hope Elections Canada is looking at it!!	Sept. 24
31	4.5K, Twitter	Amy MacPherson , freelance journalist	I will be on @canadianglen's podcast #TheViewUpHere tomorrow at 9pm EDT to discuss the @Time article about PMJT & #ethics issues it raises + the need for @ElectionsCan_E to investigate matter RE foreign interference	Sept. 24
13	2.5K, Twitter	Twitter user	Elections Canada is as gutless an organization as they come. Even in cases of clear election tampering, not much came of it. Oh, Harper did throw a 22 year old under the bus and that young man went to jail, but the real people responsible walked free.	Sept. 24
3	700, Twitter	Twitter user	This is really gilding the lily. Of course the photo was waiting to be used by the Conservatives. And of course there was a story in it. There's no deep dark conspiracy in any of this. As for election meddling of the illegal kind--that's an amazing stretch. It's a news story!	Sept. 25
1	1K, Twitter	Twitter user	Great article & I hope someone goes to prison for treason! *Sharing <i>Free the Press</i> article	Sept. 24



1	1.1K, Twitter, N/A, Facebook	Twitter/ Facebook user	**Excerpts from a Facebook post, link shared via Twitter by user** Election meddling by foreign corporations. Time Magazine, a reputable corporate and globally influencing periodical originating in the United States, and using a photograph provided to them by Canadian businessman Michael Adamson of Vancouver, published the photograph along with an article that questions the character and ability of the sitting PM. Choosing to do so in time of a federal election. In doing so Time Magazine has either wittingly, or unwittingly, unduly influenced all Canadian voters in time of an election. If one person in Canada votes based on this revelation then they have been influenced by a foreign source and calls the entire 2019 election into question.	Sept. 25
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NEW PPC candidate reports receiving a threatening letter
Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares

- PPC candidate gets threatening letter, *Cochrane Today*, September 23, **749 shares**

Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights

A *Cochrane Today* article reported that Nadine Wellwood, the PPC candidate for Banff–Airdrie, received a threatening e-mail stating that she was being monitored “24/7” by “ANTIFA” and suggesting that it would be in her best interest to “not run for office.” The article also noted that two other PPC candidates had received similar threats. Social media users who engaged with the topic classified the letter as an act by “domestic terrorists,” adding that candidates should be able to legally “defend” themselves from such threats. One Twitter user questioned the lack of coverage by *CBC News*; according to the user, the “crickets” around this story reflects the media’s refusal to “show that all the hate is coming from the left.”

Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts

Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
272	Fewer than 500, Twitter	<u>Joe Salmon</u> , President/CEO, Barrie–Innisfil PPC Association	Come on @CBCNews wheres the coverage?@MaximeBernier gets a signature from an a random deplorable... national news. @NadineWellwood gets threatened by ANTIFA... crickets. The media is refusing to show that all the hate is coming from the left. #VotePPC *Sharing Cochrane Today article	Sept. 24



295	545K, Reddit r/Canada	Reddit user	PPC candidate gets threatening letter *Sharing Cochrane Today article *Sample replies Reddit user 1 Of course this won't be reported by the CBC Reddit user 2 Sounds like the guy is just an idiot. Typically the case for these sorts of threats	Sept. 24
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→ Concerns over voter ID requirements, non-citizens on the NROE, and the integrity of special ballots

Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares

- N/A

Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights

A handful of Twitter users continued to express concern about non-citizens on the NROE, as well as voting from abroad. Former Canadian diplomat-turned-columnist Vivian Bercovici tweeted about the integrity of voting by special ballot; she questioned the chain of custody for special ballots, and suggested EC start using a “diplomatic pouch” to deliver special ballots for Canadians abroad.

Commenting on two campaign-related tweets by the Bloc Québécois, a user claimed it was possible to register to vote without proof of citizenship, and asked the party to “request a cancellation of the election.” Another user reacting to a post by the Cultural Action Party of Canada said that LPC Leader Justin Trudeau approves of “Sharia law,” with a second user stating that EC “cannot allow” such an act. A third user stated that all voters should show their face at the polls and questioned the security of the voting process.

Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts

Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
7	14K, Twitter	Vivian Bercovici, Former diplomat, columnist	1. @ElectionsCan_E. Just received voting package in mail. No custodial chain of integrity w this system. How do I know ballot arrives? Never mind tampering. Can we deliver ballot to Embassy to send in diplomatic pouch? Many countries have secure voting system for expats. #cndpoli 2. How do you confirm the individual receiving the package and completing the ballot was the intended? What form of verification do you use? 1.8 million Canadian expats are eligible to vote. Any chance their mail is intercepted by foreign interests?	Sept. 24



4	Fewer than 500, Twitter	Twitter user	ALERTE. On peut s'inscrire sur la liste électorale (et donc voter) sans prouver qu'on est citoyen canadien. S'agit juste de montrer une carte d'identité (carte d'étudiant ou de biblio) et une carte adresse (compte de téléphone). Le Bloc doit demander l'annulation de l'élection	Sept. 24
2	Fewer than 500, Twitter	Twitter user	There are several such immigrant groups being motivated to vote a certain way and given instructions on ways to beat the election process of one person one vote. The desperation of the Liberturds to stay in power.	Sept. 25
0	500, Twitter	Twitter user	My God! This is what Elections Canada cannot allow. Never. *Sharing Cultural Action Party of Canada's web post alleging a candidate supports sharia law	Sept. 25
0	Fewer than 500, Twitter	Twitter user	So according to Election Canada if someone goes to polling station to vote and have their face completely covered all they have to do is sign a solemn oath that says they are who they claim to be. Without any facial recognition of proof. How secure is that?? This is bullshit	Sept. 25

↓ Discussion of CNP releasing the list of its members

Articles les plus partagés; nombre de partages / Most-shared articles; number of shares

- N/A

Fait saillants sur les médias sociaux / Social media highlights

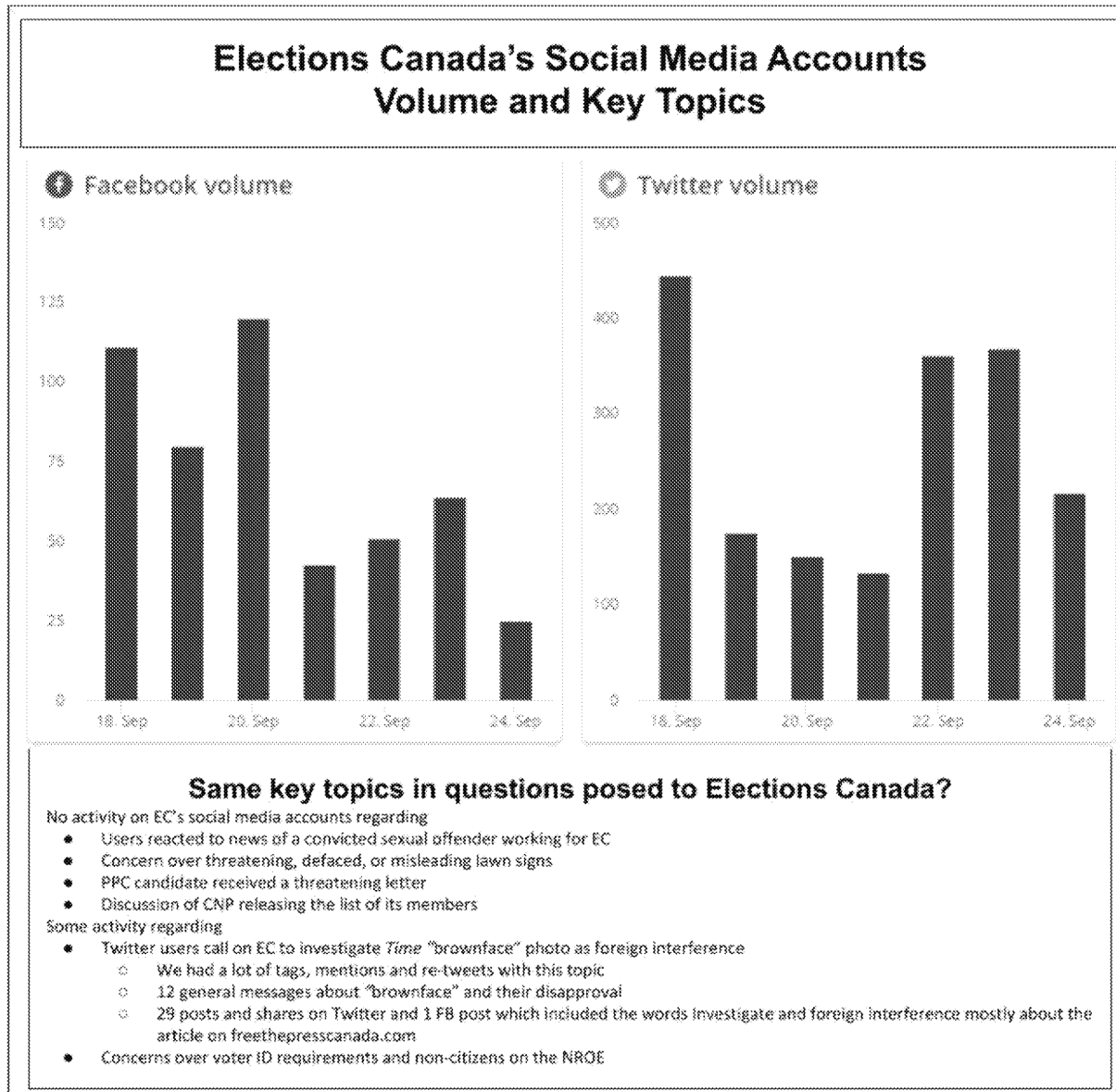
A Twitter user expressed concern that "his name" appeared on CNP's membership list which was released by Anti-Racist Canada and subsequently posted on CNP's official website. The user said that he would not be giving "any clues" about his location, and asked whether he should contact EC or the police. Users who engaged with the thread stated that the original poster's name was not "uncommon" and urged him not to "freak out." One user who replied to the thread identified as a CNP member and stated that they had "no pity to offer" since the original poster was part of "the hysterical mob" targeting "imaginary Nazis."

Two other users engaged on the topic of the release of CNP's membership list; one user noted that an identified CNP member continues to work closely with PPC Leader Maxime Bernier, while another one expressed dismay at EC "allow[ing] a neo-nazi party to register."



Publications reliées au sujet / Related posts				
Engagement	Followers, platform	Account	Post	Date
225	14.1K, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>**Series of tweets by same user**</p> <p>1. Just got word White Supremacists ("Canadian Nationalist Party") might be using my name/identity on a membership list circulating in Durham Region. One name on their list is "(name)". IT IS NOT ME. NAZIS SHOULD BE BANNED AND ILLEGAL LIKE GERMANY DOES IT.</p> <p>2. I'm not sure what I'm supposed to do. Suspect they targeted me. Elections Canada? POLICE? 3. I'm not giving any clues away about my location from this point on. Don't mention it if you know. Possible they are using a membership list to get access to my location info maybe...? It would put other people in danger who are fragile. So pls avoid in comments! Thank u! 4. It is but I'm alarmed...</p> <p>**Sample reply* - Twitter user 2 I am not a victim and I have been rightfully placed on that list. You chant the same dogma as the rest of the hysterical mob and expect a sympathetic reaction when the hysterical mob comes to devour one of its own. You reap what you sow, and I have no pity to offer towards you.</p>	Sept. 24
105	6.3K, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>Yeah so Darik was outed this week as a registered member of Canada's neo-Nazi party (Canadian Nationalist Party). He's still accompanying @MaximeBernier to media interviews. #cdnpoli</p> <p>*Sharing Darik Horn's tweet .@MaximeBernier and @Townsend_PPC are in the @City_tv green room preparing for an interview. The #PPC2019 team is now working all day every day for your #elxn43 vote.</p>	Sept. 24
0	2.2K, Twitter	Twitter user	<p>Or hell, forget about it getting extended. Take Canada for example where Elections Canada has allowed a neo nazi party register. Facebook is giving them the freedom to post whatever they please?</p> <p>**Referring to Facebook's rules**</p>	Sept. 25

Policy and Public Affairs Corporate Social Media Accounts: September 25, 2019



Ce rapport a été rédigé par l'Équipe de repérage sur les médias sociaux du Programme du Bureau d'intégrité électorale et vérification interne, Élections Canada

This report was produced by the Social Media Monitoring Unit of the Electoral Integrity and Internal Audit Program, Elections Canada