

Service canadien du
renseignement de sécurité



Canadian Security
Intelligence Service

Directeur - Director

UNCLASSIFIED

JUN 29 2022

Paul Cardegna
Joint Clerk of the Committee
Chambers Building
40 Elgin Street
Ottawa ON
K1A 0A4

Mr. Cardegna:

In response to the motion adopted by the Special Joint Committee on the Declaration of Emergency on May 31, 2022 concerning the production of documents related to the government's invocation of the *Emergencies Act*, please find enclosed bilingual copies of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) records. Documents produced were assessments generated by both CSIS and the Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre (ITAC).

Please note that, in the preparation of these materials, redactions have been made in order to protect personal information and information related to national security. This disclosure package contains no Cabinet confidences or information protected under solicitor-client and/or litigation privilege.

The materials in this package were created by either CSIS or ITAC between March 25, 2020 and February 16, 2022. CSIS recognizes that this date range extends beyond what is required in the motion, however, these documents and assessments were shared with senior government officials and may have assisted in forming their understanding of the increasingly complex and fluid threat environment in Canada.

CSIS has identified 16 documents that inform the threat environment and context surrounding the invocation of the *Emergencies Act*, and the Freedom Convoy protests. These documents include intelligence assessments from CSIS and ITAC, intelligence placemat primers, and an unclassified summary of the Service's intelligence and strategic outlook on ideologically motivated violent extremism in Canada.

This disclosure package provides, to the best of my knowledge, as of June 30, 2022, the relevant documents from CSIS and ITAC in response to the Committee's May 31 motion.

As always, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



David Vigneault

cc. Rob Stewart, Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada

Enclosures (34)

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CSIS IAB Placemats

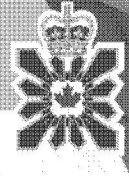
9. **Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism Assessing Potential CSIS ACT 2c Threats (U//FOUO)**
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Other Relevant CSIS Documents

12. **2022 02 16 IRG: CSIS IMVE Narrative (UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO)**

ITAC Products

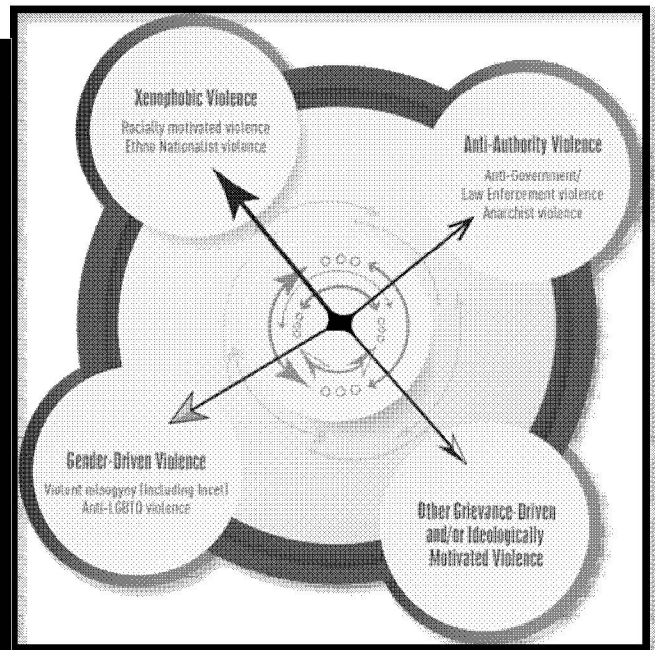
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Analytical Brief | Précis analytique

Ideologically Motivated Violent (IMV)¹ Extremists Response to COVID-19²

Key Assessments



2020 05 08

IMV extremists, however, have long posted volumes of online conspiracy-laden, racist, bigoted, and misogynist content and propaganda targeting Jews, minority groups, the government, liberals, etc. while aspiring to a future which would fulfil their personalized, grievance-driven worldview. Situations of crisis (perceived or real) in society only serve to increase the volume of such material online. According to Eric Ward, executive director of the Western States Center “We are seeing a huge uptick” in such rhetoric “A lot of it is happening on YouTube platforms and videos and others, at a time where much of the country is sheltering in place or practicing social distancing. Ironically, it will serve to give these individuals much more access [to an audience] than they would normally have.”

The End of the World as We Know it - Apocalyptic Narratives

Apocalyptic narratives – whether of societal collapse, biblical rapture, or race war – are the primary manner by which neo-Nazis, White supremacists and ethno-nationalists draw in new followers and resources. The COVID-19 pandemic provides the opportunity for many within these milieus to espouse their worldviews, promote extreme actions (including violence), and, in some cases, exploit them for financial gain such as selling bogus cures or preventative “medicines.”

Accelerationism is the belief that Western governments are irreparably corrupt and that multiculturalism and democracy will fail. As a result, there will eventually be an outbreak of violence across ethnic and racial lines - often referred to as “the coming race war” (a concept outlined in the book *The Turner Diaries*). Accelerationists often encourage violence to escalate the pace of societal collapse. Accelerationists reject any effort to seize political power through elections, dismissing all attempts to engage in mass politics as pointless.

As with accelerationists, “Preppers” also believe in the imminent collapse of society (See text box at right) and COVID-19 is justification that their beliefs are well-founded. Preppers often hold a range of extreme anti-government, racially motivated views and promote a range of hateful commentary online. More recent mainstream media coverage of this milieu has added credibility but overlooks some of their more extreme views.

What is Prepping?

Prepping is the process of preparing oneself to survive without a complex infrastructure, as seen in modern society. The term “prepping” often refers to the act of preparing oneself for life during and after an apocalyptic event (often referred to as living off the land).

2020 05 08

Conspiracy Theories

IMV extremists and others are using the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to promote disinformation and alternative narratives regarding both the cause of the pandemic and potential societal outcomes. Blame for the pandemic focuses primarily on Jews, China (see image at right recently located in Port Credit, Ontario), immigrants, the government and societal elites. A key theme in the United States, and to a lesser degree Canada, is the perception that the government will use the pandemic as an opportunity to enact the Emergency Measures Act (in Canada), or martial law in the United States (including the call-up of the national guard) as a precursor to reducing, if not eliminating, citizens gun rights (See image at right of a recent Canadian post).



Common conspiracy theories promoted in the online IMV extremist space include:

- COVID-19 is a “bioweapon” sent from China in order to destabilize the Trump administration;
- The United Nations (UN) is using COVID-19 to depopulate the earth (part of the broader Agenda 21 conspiracy theory that the UN is attempting to subvert national sovereignty in order to establish a new world order (international globalization));
- COVID-19 is fake and the current fatalities are caused by radiation poisoning from 5G wireless technology;
- QANON (Q Anonymous) assert that COVID-19 is fake and is being used by President Trump to covertly prepare for the coming of martial law in the United States and the mass arrests of members of the “deep state” and their supporters;
- COVID-19 is fake and was created by an international consortium of Jews in order to enhance their long-term profits.

The impact of COVID-19-related conspiracy theories has contributed to at least one Canadian death to date. On March 17, 2020, a Toronto-based activist involved with numerous social justice, environmental and Indigenous issues self-immolated before stabbing himself repeatedly. According to friends, the activist believed that the COVID-19 shutdown was an establishment conspiracy plot, ostensibly to strip Canadians of their rights and freedoms.

Other Calls to Action

2020 05 08

What About Anarchists?

[REDACTED] In Germany, however, media reporting indicates that "left-wing" extremists are urging Germans to use COVID-19 as an excuse to riot, loot, and to attack Germany's energy supply infrastructure. According to one anonymous individual: "Should the situation worsen, we will try to make our revolutionary contribution to the outbreaks of anger, protests, looting and riots... However, impatient people might feel a strong desire to make an immediate contribution to the shake-up of the production cycle and want to strike a blow that interrupts their energy supply."

Implications

The long-term impact of COVID-19 on the actions of all IMV extremists is unknown especially if the pandemic continues into the late spring or early summer.

The impact of mental health issues, conspiracy theories and social isolation, particularly in the event of a prolonged pandemic were not assessed.

The impact of possible foreign state amplification of COVID-19-related conspiracy theories was not assessed.

[REDACTED]

2020 05 08

CAVEAT

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TOUTE UTILISATION OU COMMUNICATION DES PRÉSENTES INFORMATIONS PAR VOTRE SERVICE DOIT ÊTRE CONFORME AU DROIT INTERNATIONAL, NOTAMMENT À LA CONVENTION CONTRE LA TORTURE ET AUTRES PEINES OU TRAITEMENTS CRUELS, INHUMAINS OU DÉGRADANTS.

LES INFORMATIONS FOURNIES NE PEUVENT SERVIR DE FONDEMENT À DES MESURES SUSCEPTIBLES DE CAUSER LA MORT.

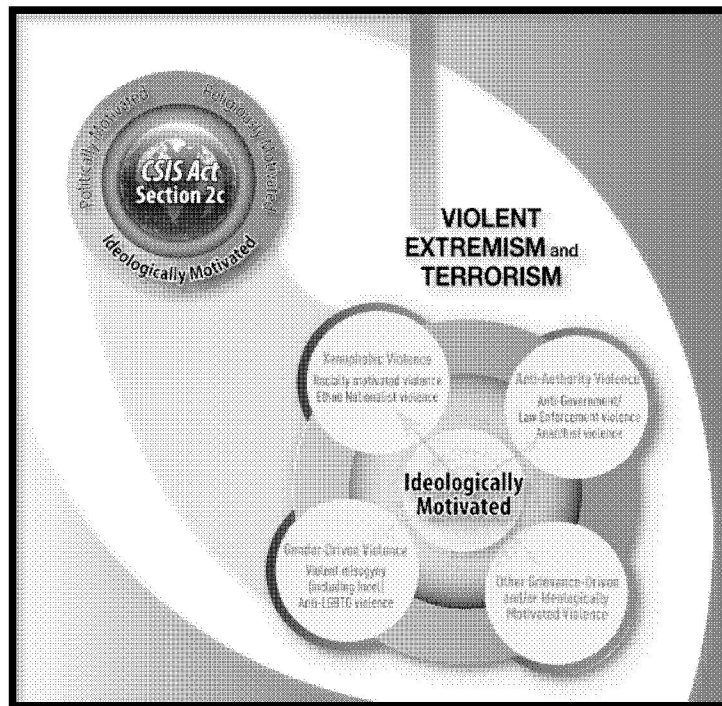
LES PRÉSENTES INFORMATIONS SONT RÉSERVÉES À DES FINS DE RENSEIGNEMENT ET NE PEUVENT PAS ÊTRE UTILISÉES DANS LE CADRE D'INSTANCES JUDICIAIRES. ELLES PEUVENT ÊTRE TRANSMISES AUX MEMBRES DE VOTRE GOUVERNEMENT QUI POSSÈDENT LES COTES DE SÉCURITÉ REQUISES, EN FONCTION DU BESOIN DE SAVOIR. IL NE FAUT PAS MODIFIER LEUR COTE NI LES DIFFUSER OU LES COMMUNIQUER, EN TOUT OU EN PARTIE, À TOUT AUTRE GOUVERNEMENT OU ORGANISME SANS LE CONSENTEMENT ÉCRIT DU SERVICE CANADIEN DU RENSEIGNEMENT DE SÉCURITÉ (SCRS). SI VOUS APPRENEZ QUE LE PRÉSENT DOCUMENT A ÉTÉ COMMUNIQUÉ OU DIFFUSÉ INDÛMENT OU SI VOUS NE POUVEZ PAS RESPECTER LES PRÉSENTES MISES EN GARDE, VEUILLEZ EN INFORMER LE SCRS IMMÉDIATEMENT.

Canadian Vaccination Rollout: Implications for Possible Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE)

This assessment was produced using open-source information only.

Key Points

- Canada began its national COVID-19 vaccination rollout in mid-December 2020. Known as Operation Vector, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) will play a role in the rollout. (U)



Service Mandate

Adherents of IMVE are driven by a range of grievances and a selection of ideas from across the traditional left/right ideological spectrum. The resulting worldview often consists of a personalized narrative that centres on the willingness to incite, enable and/or mobilize to violence. Often, these individuals/cells act without a clear affiliation to a specific organized group or external guidance, but are nevertheless shaped by hateful voices and messages online that normalize and advocate violence. (U)

² 2(c) activities within or relating to Canada directed toward or in support of the threat or use of acts of serious violence against persons or property for the purpose of achieving a political, religious or *ideological* objective within Canada or a foreign state. (U)

Online Conspiracy Narratives

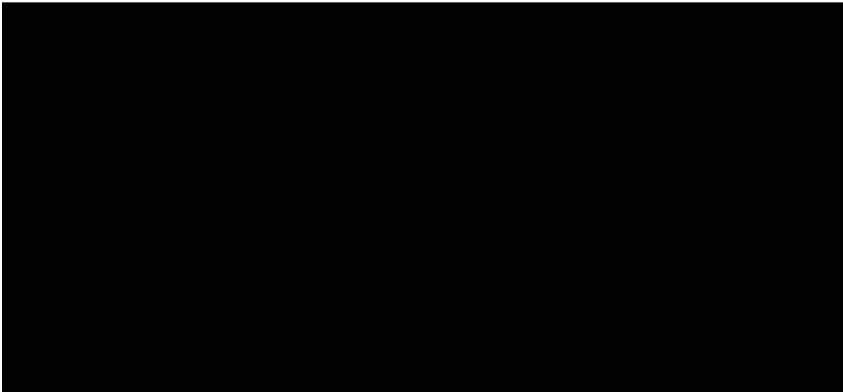


Adherents of IMVE and others are using the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to promote disinformation and alternative narratives regarding both the cause of the pandemic and potential societal outcomes. Blame for the pandemic focusses primarily on specific communities, global corporations, China, the government and societal elites. The Service assesses that individuals and groups adopt or promote those conspiracies that best suit their personalized worldviews and range of grievances. In particular, they include anti-government and ethno-nationalist views. Key anti-vaccination conspiracy narratives include: (U)

- *Threat to liberty and freedom:* mass vaccinations constitute government overreach and pose an increasing threat to individual rights – vaccination will be mandatory and the government will establish ‘internment camps’ for those who do not adhere to government rules. The vaccination program is the next step towards the “New World Order”⁴; (U)
- *Vaccine development, provision and access:* vaccines have only been tested on animals (taking the vaccination will constitute human testing); Russian and Chinese vaccines are safer and more effective; (U)
- *Safety and necessity:* rejection of the existence of the pandemic and/or its severity and the safety of the vaccination – the vaccine is not needed and causes a multitude of health issues (e.g. autism and mass sterilization of women) or will contain small microchips placed by the government⁵; (U)
- *Political and economic:* lack of confidence in government and scientific advice – governments are corrupt and puppets of big business; the pandemic was man-made to the financial enrichment of politicians and international corporations. (U)

⁴ The New World Order (NWO) hypothesizes a secretly emerging totalitarian world government. The common theme regarding a New World Order is that a secretive power elite with a globalist agenda is conspiring to eventually rule the world through an authoritarian world government — which will replace sovereign nation states — and an all-encompassing propaganda whose ideology hails the establishment of the New World Order as the culmination of history's progress. (U)

⁵ In particular, conspiracy theories relating to vaccination safety will be linked to instances (real or perceived) regarding adverse reactions. (U)

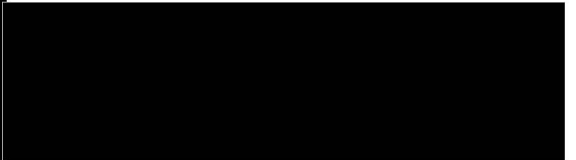



What is QAnon?

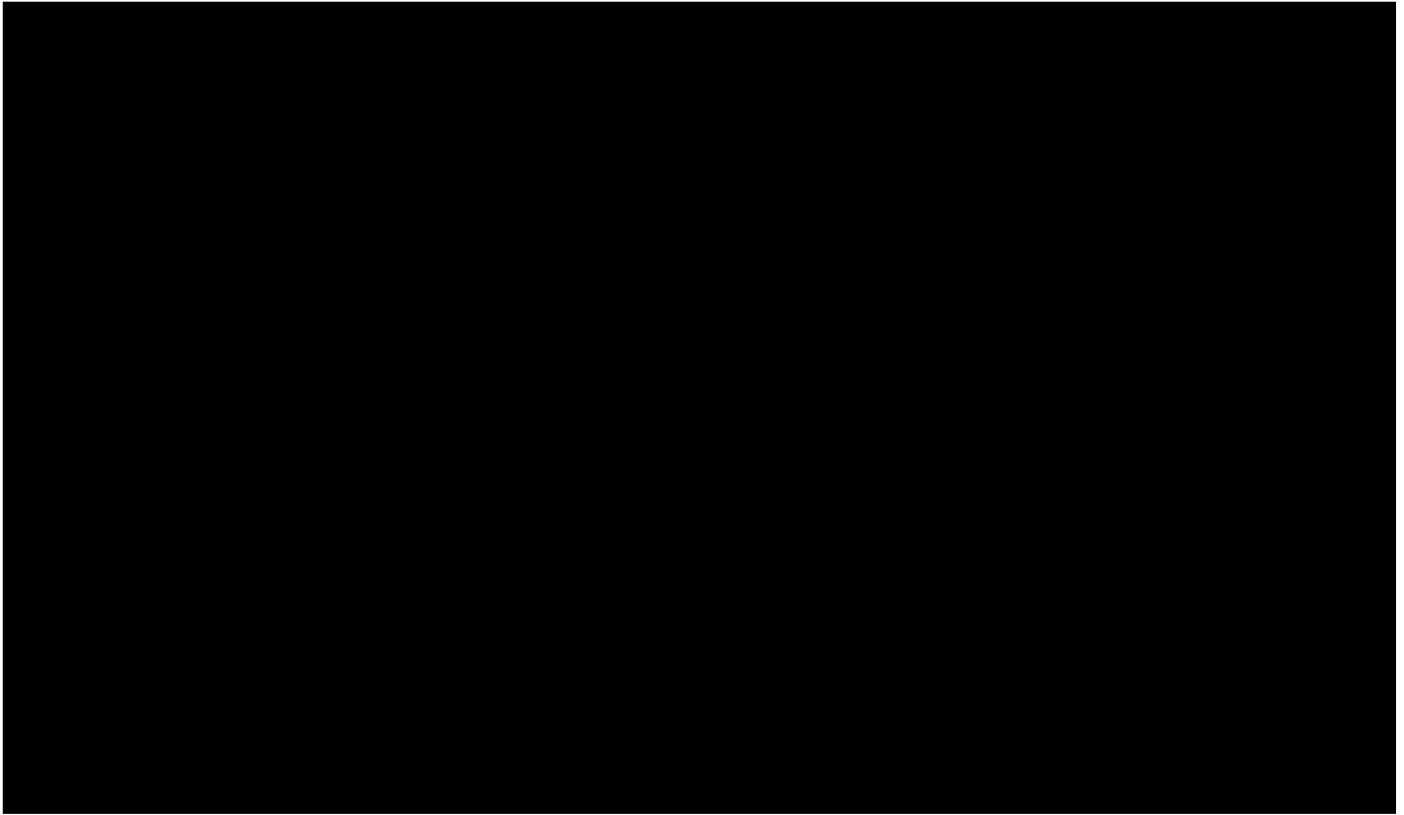
QAnon is a decentralized violent anti-establishment ideology that revolves around the belief that a global “Deep State” cabal of satanic pedophile elites is responsible for all the evil in the world. In this narrative, political opponents are viewed as enemies of humanity.

QAnon ideology has already led to several acts of violence in the United States. (U)

Canadian Extremists

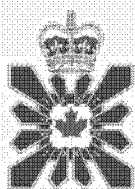


⁶ An unclassified document produced by the Chief of the Defence Staff entitled *CDS Planning Directive – Operation Vector – CAF Support to COVID-19 Vaccine Roll Out* was cited online as ‘proof’ of the lengths to which the government will go to force immunize the entire population of Canada (U)





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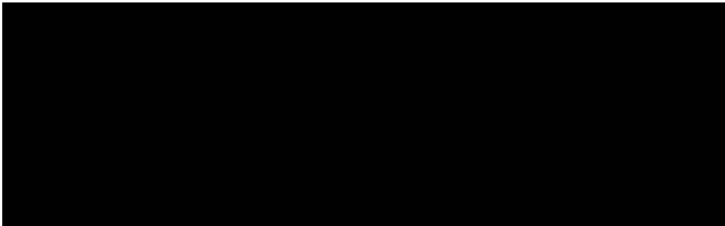
INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT

The Current State of Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE) in Canada

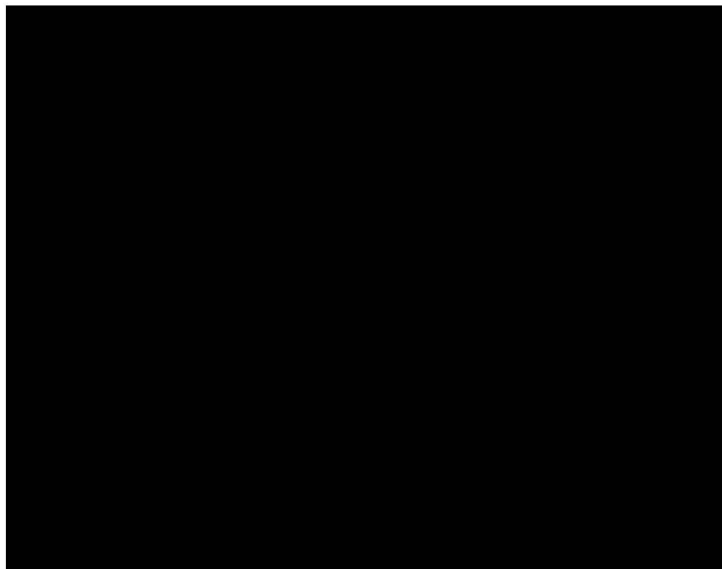
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Direction de l'évaluation du renseignement

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The Current Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE) Landscape in Canada



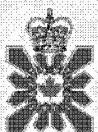
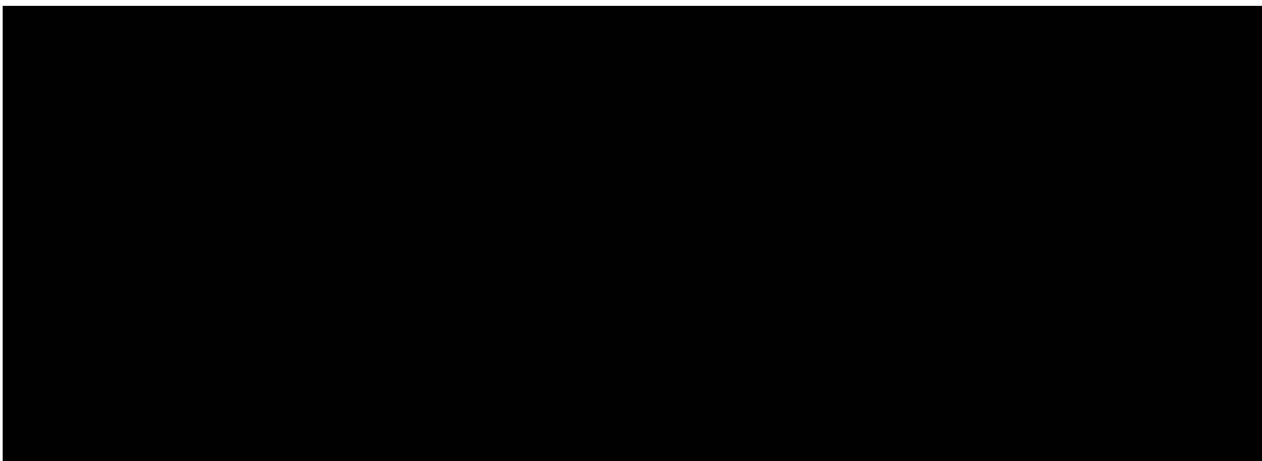
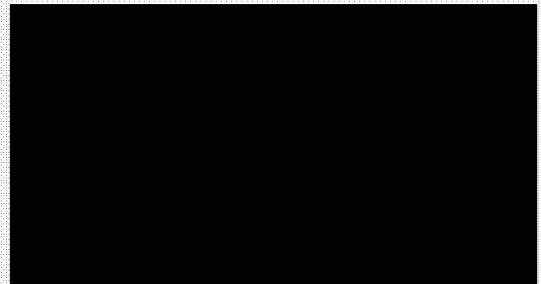
Key Assessments



Scope of this Assessment

While extreme narratives, including conspiracy theories, do not usually manifest themselves as acts of violent criminal behaviour, they have the potential to undermine the fabric of Canadian society — including democratic processes. (U)

Freedom of expression is constitutionally protected; CSIS concerns are raised once a threat actor (including individuals, cells, movements, networks or groups) facilitates/advocates for serious violence in support or furtherance of ideological, political or religious objectives with the intent of affecting societal change. (U)



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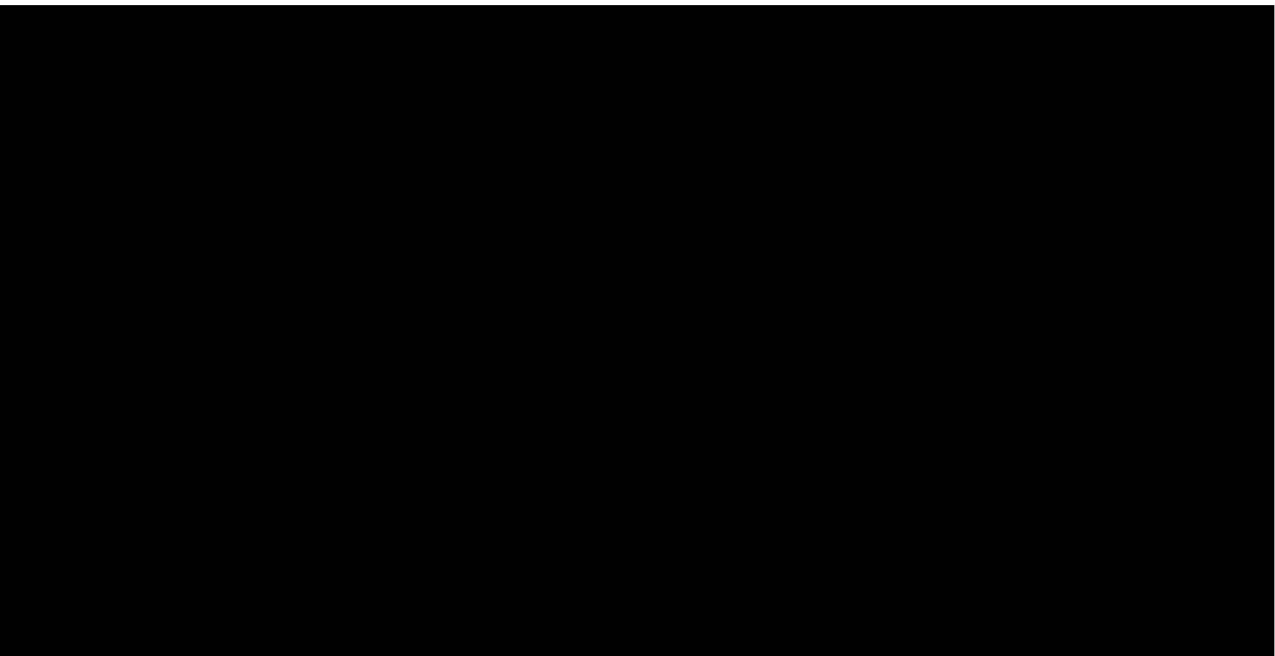
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The Landscape

Since 2014, Canadian IMVEs motivated in whole or in part by their views have killed 25 and wounded 41 on Canadian soil (See Appendix B).¹ This violence includes seven attacks and two disrupted plots. Motivations include race (neo-Nazism, White supremacy) ethno-nationalism (White nationalism), gender (Incel) and opposition to state authority (anti-law enforcement/government).^{2 3} (U)

Accelerationism

Accelerationism is the belief that Western governments are irreparably corrupt and that multiculturalism and democracy will fail. As a result, there will eventually be an outbreak of violence across ethnic and racial lines — often referred to as “the coming race war” (a concept outlined in the book *The Turner Diaries*). (U)



¹ See Appendix A for a description of Government of Canada IMVE terminology. (U)

² See Appendix B for a breakdown of IMVE attacks/plots since 2014. (U)



Conspiracy Theories

Conspiracy theories and narratives are an essential element of violent extremist worldviews. Conspiracy theories are used as a common narrative tool to demonize out-groups, victimize in-groups, delegitimize dissent and counter narratives, and encourage individuals to turn to violence for 'self-defence'. (U)

Common conspiracy theories across the Canadian IMVE milieu include:

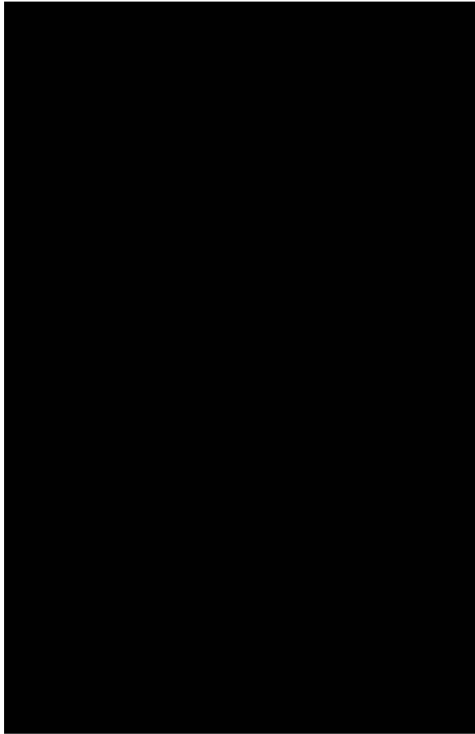
- Anti-Semitism (New World Order/ZOG/Holocaust denial)
- Anti-COVID 19/Lockdown/Vaccination
- Tyranny of elected officials (leading to a Communist state/dictatorship)
- QAnon (including the rampant trafficking/sexual exploitation of children by government officials)
- Anti-5G technology (U)

2021 Canadian Federal Election



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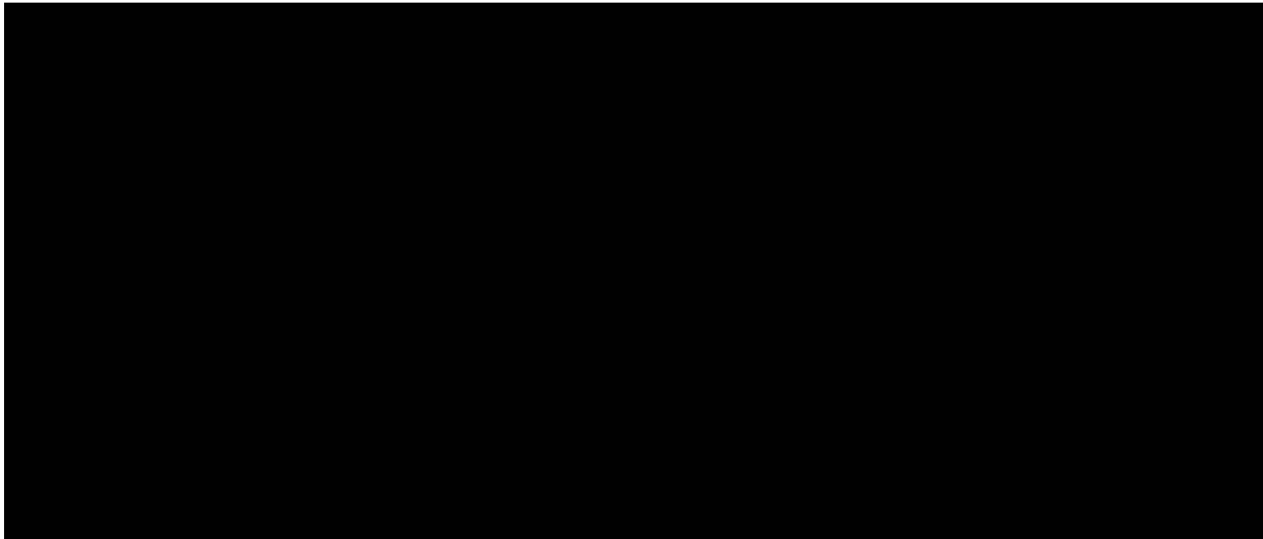


Great Reset Conspiracy Theory

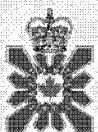
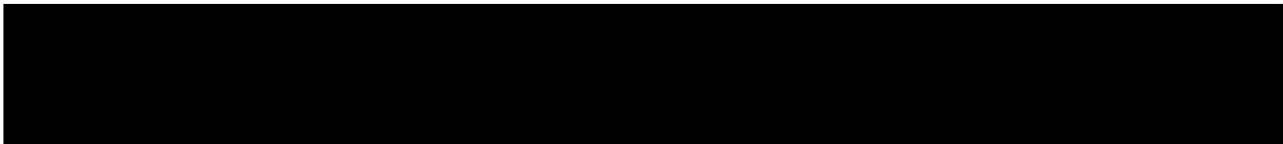
The "Great Reset" conspiracy theory – which fixates on aspirational post-pandemic initiatives as evidence of a plan by the elite to manipulate the global economy – re-emerged in mid-November in relation to a September 2020 video recording of Prime Minister Trudeau at a United Nations meeting. (U)

On November 16, 2020, "The Great Reset" was trending on Google, and Trudeau's video gained millions of views online. The video was also discussed by a US nightly political talk-show host on mainstream media who stated that the "elites want COVID-19 lockdowns to usher in a Great Reset and that should terrify you". This development illustrates once again how fast US or Canadian political statements can become incorporated into a widespread viral misinformation narrative within the IMVE online spaces. (U)

The #greatreset has re-emerged online within the context of the Canadian federal election. (U)

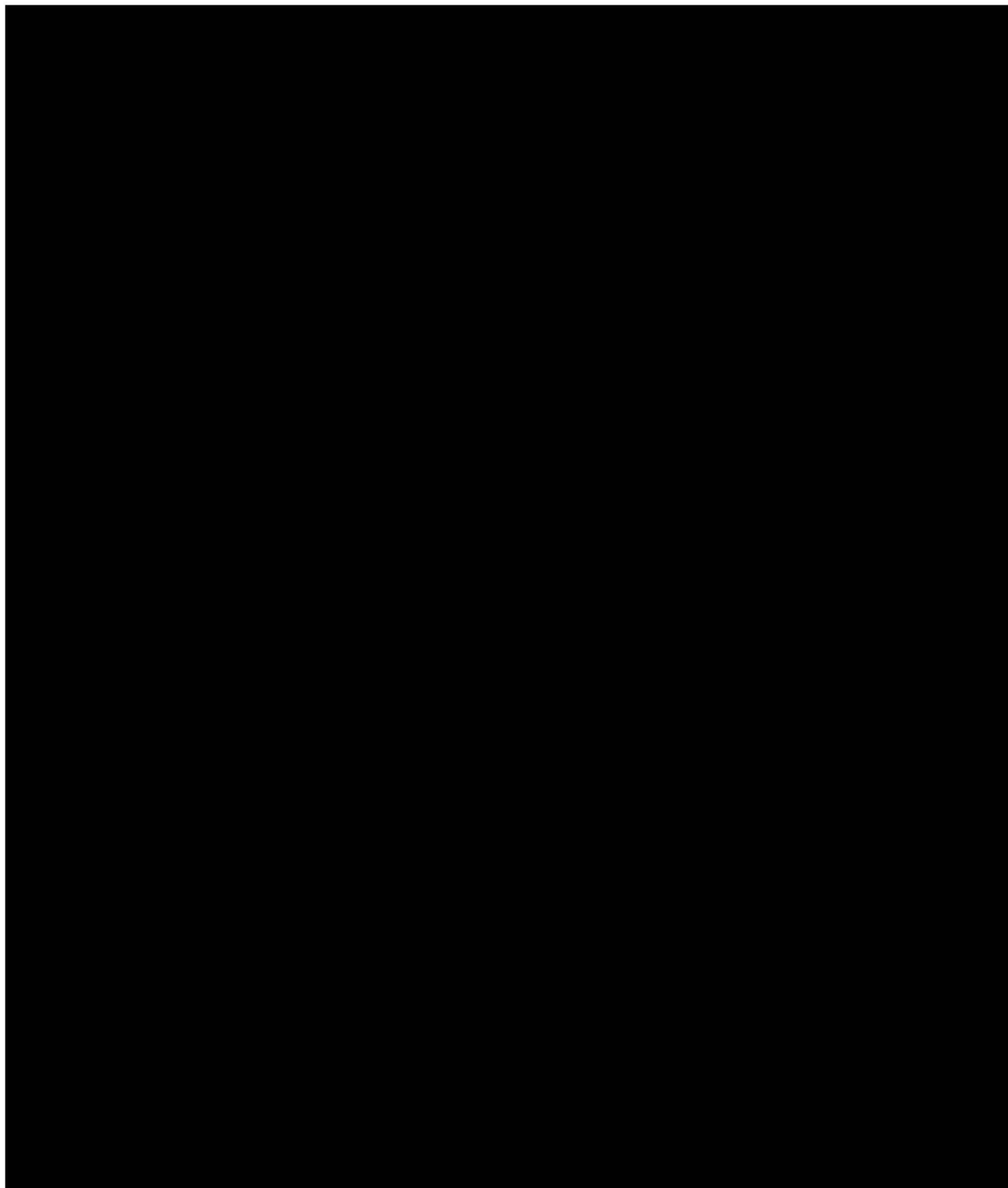


COVID-19 Pandemic

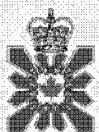


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⁵ See Appendix C. (U)



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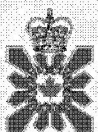
Defining a Movement

A movement is a loosely organized collection of individuals who are linked by dense informal networks — both online and offline — while sharing a distinct collective identity. A movement is involved in conflictual relations (including the possible use of violence) with clearly identified opponents, with the goal of carrying out, resisting, or undoing social change. Movements tend to mobilize outside established political or institutional channels. (U)

A movement does not have a formal or legitimate leader; rather, it is guided purposefully and strategically by the people who join it. Beyond the culture that is created, a collective call to action emerges from the movement, through its followers. (U)

The formation of a movement is more or less a spontaneous coming together of individuals; it is generally not governed by the procedures or structures of a group. There is no standard typology of social movements; however, it is widely accepted that social change needs to be part of a movement and that a movement can be legitimate or illegitimate. (U)

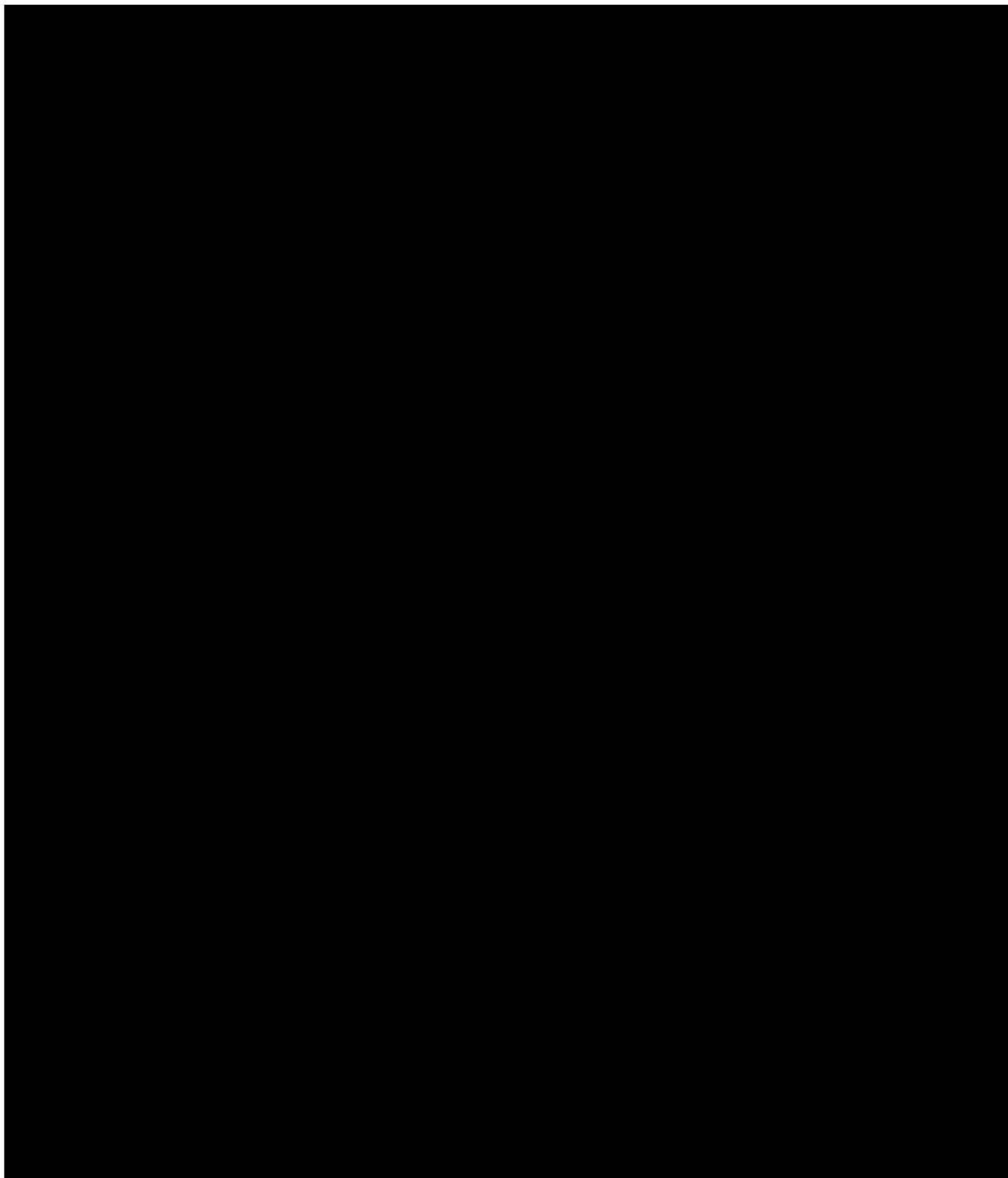
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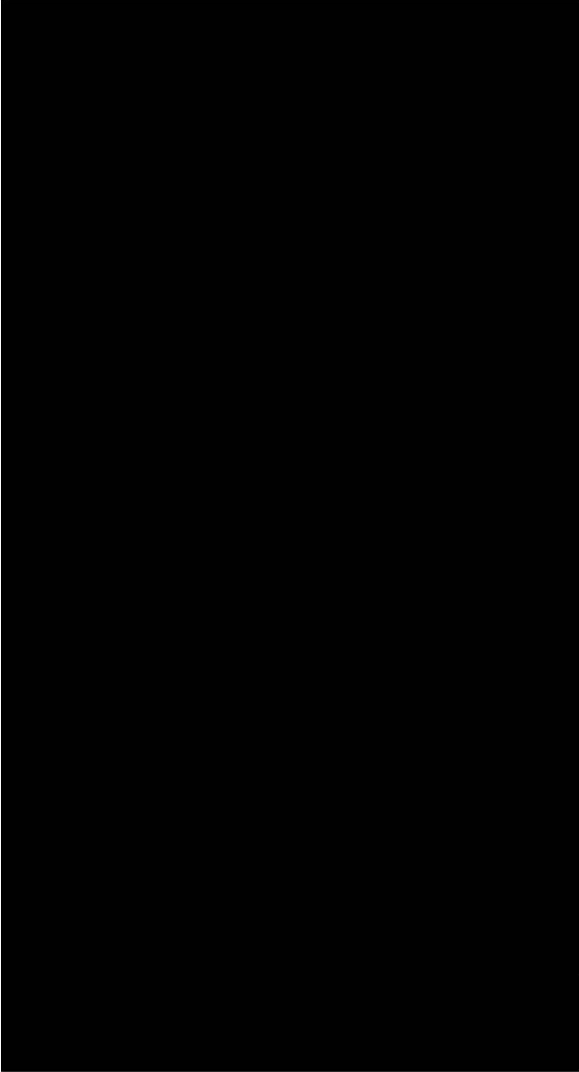
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Adherents of IMVE draw inspiration from a wide variety of evolving discourse, including books, manifestos, images (notably, memes and propaganda), lectures, music, online discussions, and videos. Canadians, in particular, continue to play an active role as the creators of this discourse including:

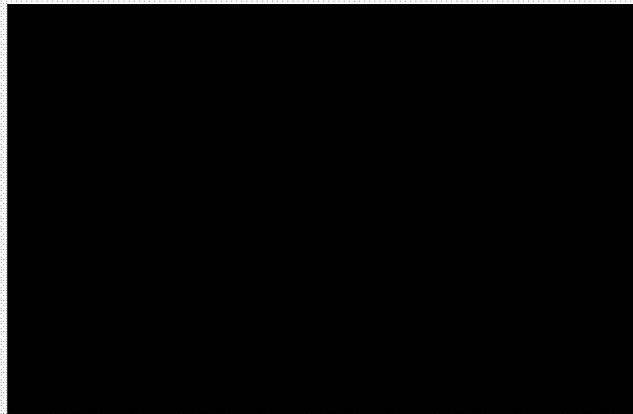
- Dark Foreigner - a prolific online neo-Nazi propagandist; (U)



The Manifesto

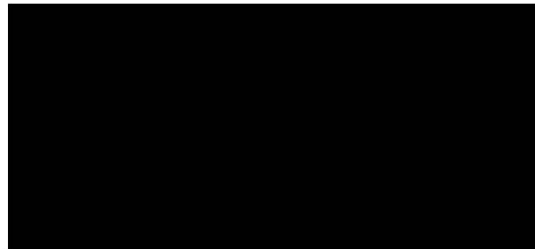
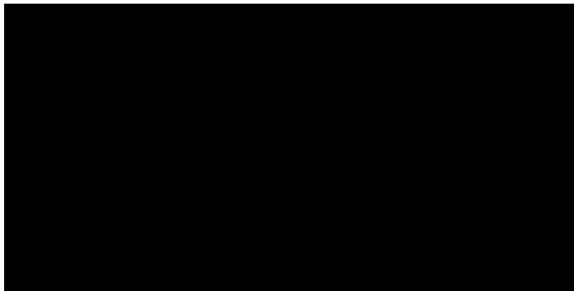


IMVE-inspired mass-casualty attackers/plotters often write manifestos as a means of explaining their actions and inspiring future attacks. Anders Breivik, Elliot Rodger, Brenton Tarrant and Patrick Crussius each wrote detailed manifestos outlining their beliefs and the need to use serious violence to resolve their various grievances. (U)

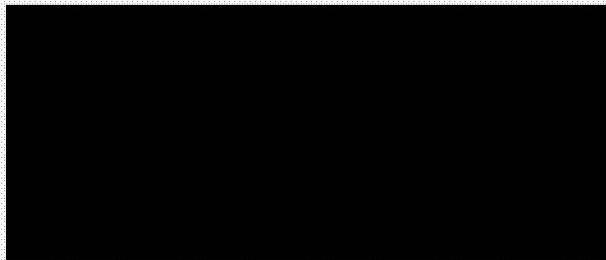


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The Role of Youth

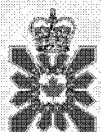
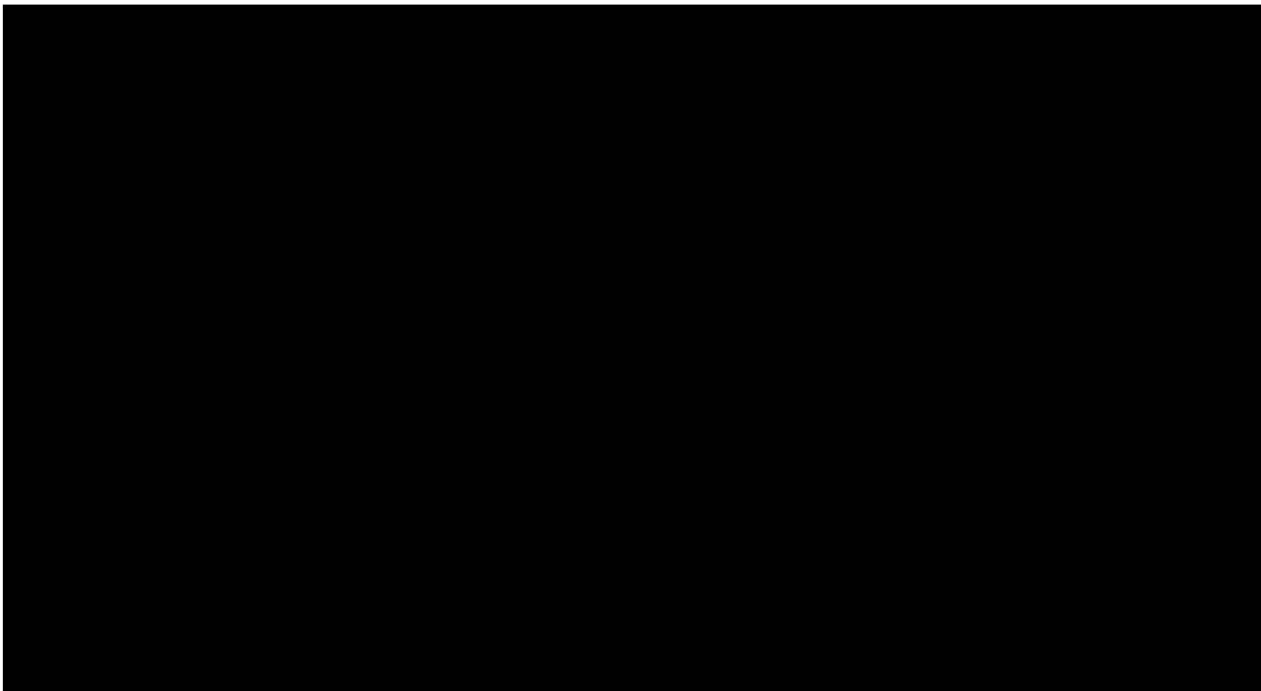


The decentralized and predominately online nature of the IMVE space enables youth to obfuscate their identities and ages, and exaggerate or fabricate their capabilities. (U)

Youth are vulnerable to IMVE viewpoints, given the targeted radicalization and recruitment online through new social media apps, meme culture and attractive propaganda. (U)



Looking Forward

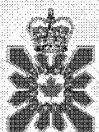
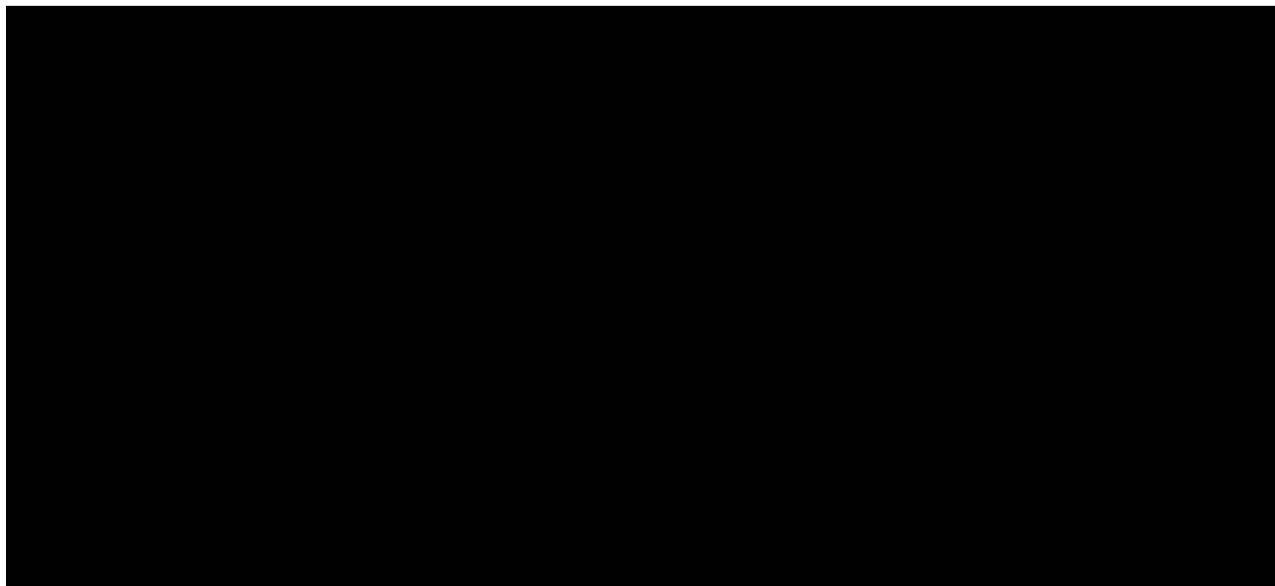




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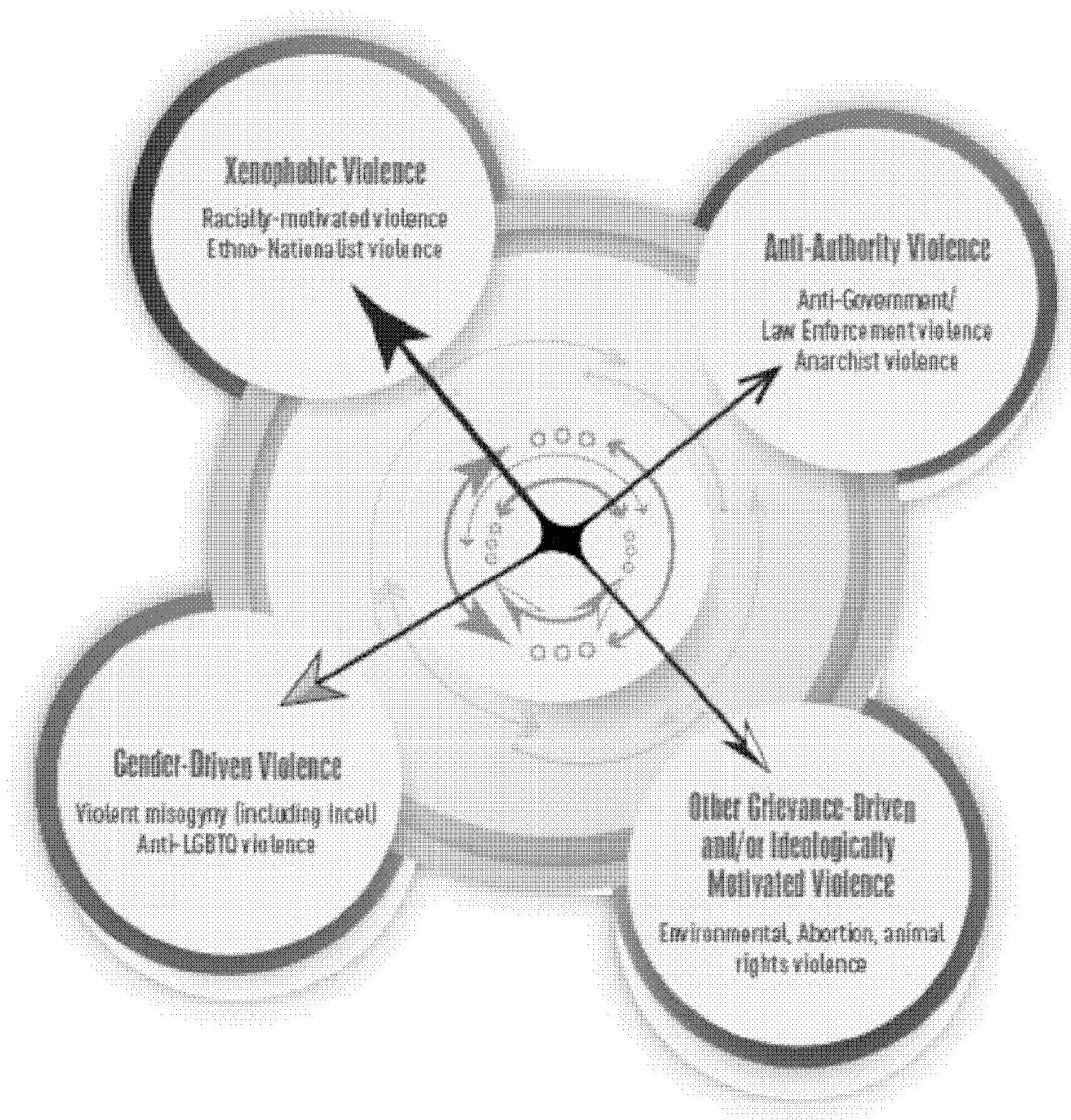
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APPENDIX A

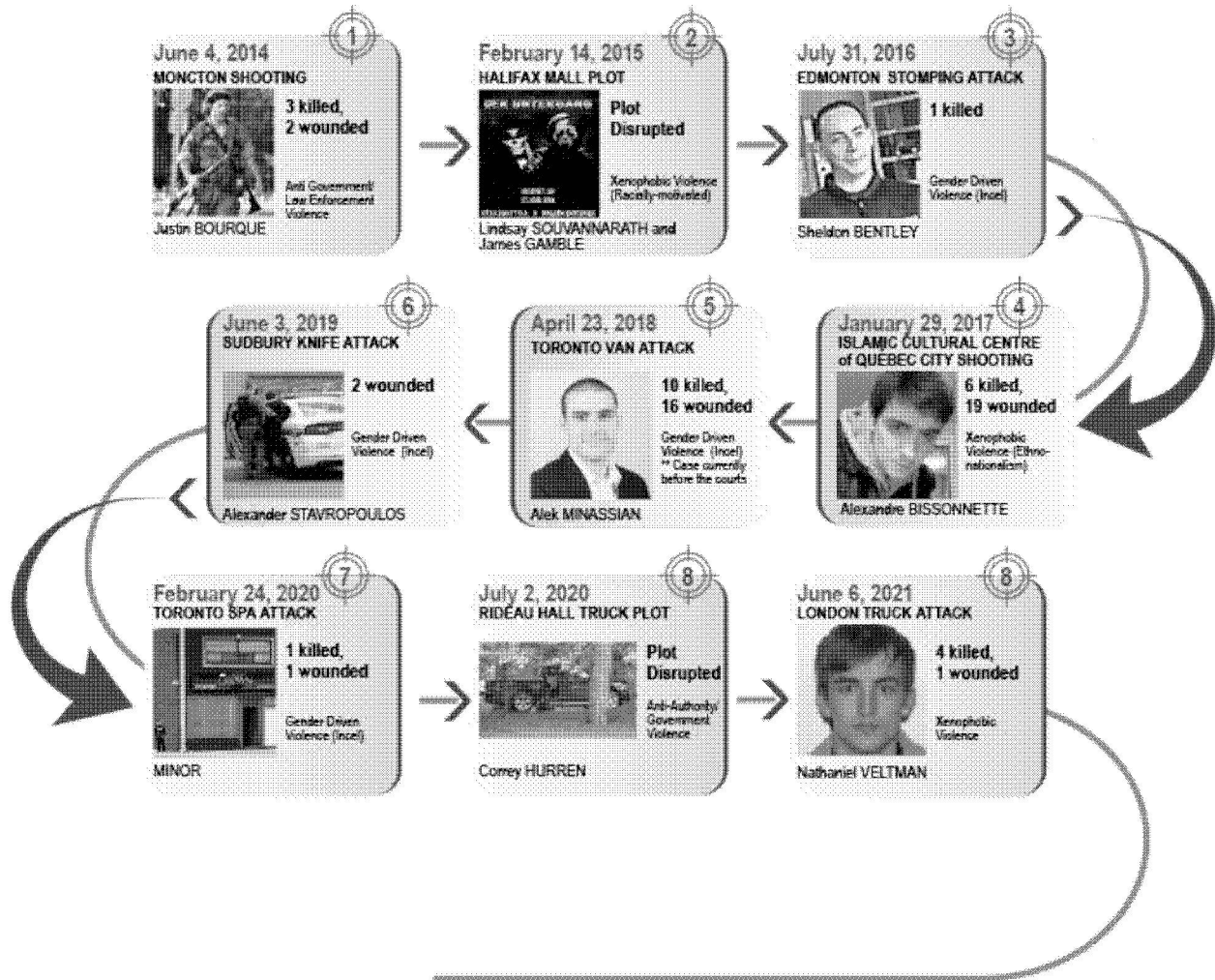
Categories of Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE) (U)



Fringe fluidity is the process whereby experience with one form of extremism can lead to a distinct radicalization pathway and facilitate the movement of individuals from one form of violent extremism to another. In one particular case, for example, an attacker's pathway to violence shifted from religious motivation to ideological motivation during his teenage years. (U)

APPENDIX B

IMVE Violence and Plots in Canada Since 2014 (U)



APPENDIX C

Pseudolaw Movement⁶

Formerly referred to as sovereign citizens or freemen on the land, pseudo law activity across Canada largely collapsed by the mid-2010s. More recently, SOIs and IMVEs have repackaged the same ideas, particularly within the context of anti-COVID restrictions, forced vaccination and QAnon narratives. At the core, pseudolaw narratives challenge the authority of the state while, at the fringe, individuals call for the need for violence. (U)

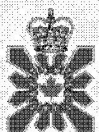
Adherents typically hold profoundly conspiratorial beliefs concerning the nature and illegitimacy of "conventional" authorities, and are clearly attracted to the idea of another "true" hidden law that can be accessed in order to escape from or retaliate against those who are perceived as enemies or wrongdoers. Pseudolaw is a collection of legal-sounding — but false — rules that purport to be superior laws that are suppressed by conspiratorial actors. Pseudolaw replaces conventional law. Pseudolaw purports to shift authority away from state and institutional actors to individuals, and is attractive to threat actors who resist conventional authority. Pseudolaw is politically agnostic, since it does not change or create the ideologies and objectives of these threat actors, but instead empowers them. Pseudolaw aggravates interactions between its host populations and conventional government, court and law enforcement actors; at the fringes, it can result in violence. (U)

6 See "The History of the Organized Pseudolegal Commercial Argument Phenomenon in Canada", Donald Netolitzky, Alberta Law Review, April 2016. Many thanks to Mr. Netolitzky for his assistance in understanding the Pseudolaw landscape in Canada. (U)





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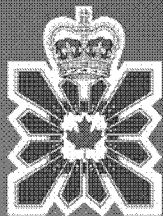




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DEFINING MOVEMENTS IN THE IMVE SPACE

A SAFE, SECURE AND PROSPEROUS CANADA THROUGH TRUSTED INTELLIGENCE AND ADVICE.
DES RENSEIGNEMENTS ET DES CONSEILS FIABLES POUR UN CANADA SÛR ET PROSPÈRE.

Defining a Movement in the IMVE Space¹

Using the Term “Movement”

In Canada, traditional ideologically motivated violent extremist (IMVE) groups with more structured leadership and defined objectives (e.g., Atomwaffen Division, The Base) have been largely supplanted by loosely networked movements with amorphous goals. As the IMVE milieu continues to evolve, these movements increasingly focus on concepts rather than on a centralized organization, meaning that the name of an online platform or group has become secondary to the worldview it espouses. [REDACTED]

While a movement may collectively hold or espouse extreme views, only a small portion of adherents may be willing to engage in serious violence [REDACTED]

CSIS Mandate

Freedom of expression is constitutionally protected in Canada; CSIS investigative thresholds may be met once a threat actor facilitates or advocates for serious violence in support or furtherance of ideological, political or religious objectives with the intent of affecting societal change.² CSIS does not investigate lawful advocacy, protest or dissent, unless it is carried out in conjunction with any of the activities outlined in paragraphs 2(a) to (d) of the CSIS Act.³ [REDACTED]

About the Project

This project examines the IMVE threat through the lens of the “movement” rather than as individuals, networks, cells and groups. It seeks to identify and define the various types of movements; it does not assess the relative threat posed by these movements, even though they have a current, historical, or potential nexus to serious violence. [REDACTED]

The “movement” landscape is constantly evolving. While some movements identified in this document are long-lasting (e.g., White supremacy and anarchism), others—like Boogaloo and QAnon—have emerged more recently. [REDACTED]

An accompanying placemat will be released in early 2022. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

² See CSIS placemat entitled *Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism Assessing Potential CSIS Act 2c Threats*. [REDACTED]

³ See section 2(c) of the CSIS Act. [REDACTED]

Defining a Movement

For the purpose of this assessment, a movement is a loosely organized collection of threat actors who are linked by dense informal networks—both online and offline—and who share a distinct collective identity. A movement exists in conflictual relationship (including the possible use of serious violence) with clearly identified opponents; its goal is to carry out, resist, or undo social change. Movements tend to mobilize outside established political or institutional channels.

A movement does not have a formal or legitimate leader; rather, it is guided purposefully and strategically by its members. Beyond the culture created by the movement, a collective call to action emerges through its followers.

A movement is the coming together of individuals; it is generally not governed by the procedures or structures of a particular group. There is no standard typology of social movements; instead, movements collectively seek to evoke social change, through either legal or illegal tactics.

Contemporary movements exist primarily across a range of loosely connected online platforms and real-life interactions. As mainstream social media companies crack down on online sites, adherents move to more obscure platforms that are less concerned with content moderation. Followers or “members” of movement-themed sites are not a reflection of real-world group support, but rather a gathering of individuals who believe in one or more underlying concepts within the movement. Narratives within movements focus on contention with the current political system and perceived institutional failures. As such, unlikely partnerships, coalitions and conflicting ideologies often coincide within a single movement.

Movements, to varying degrees, are linked to a range of conspiracy theories that are generally non-falsifiable (in other words, most of its propositions rely on circular arguments and are vague enough to excuse inaccurate predictions or misinterpretation). Many supporters accept the inherent logical fallacies without question, and narratives are often shared—unknowingly—by individuals, thereby furthering the narratives’ reach within the general public.

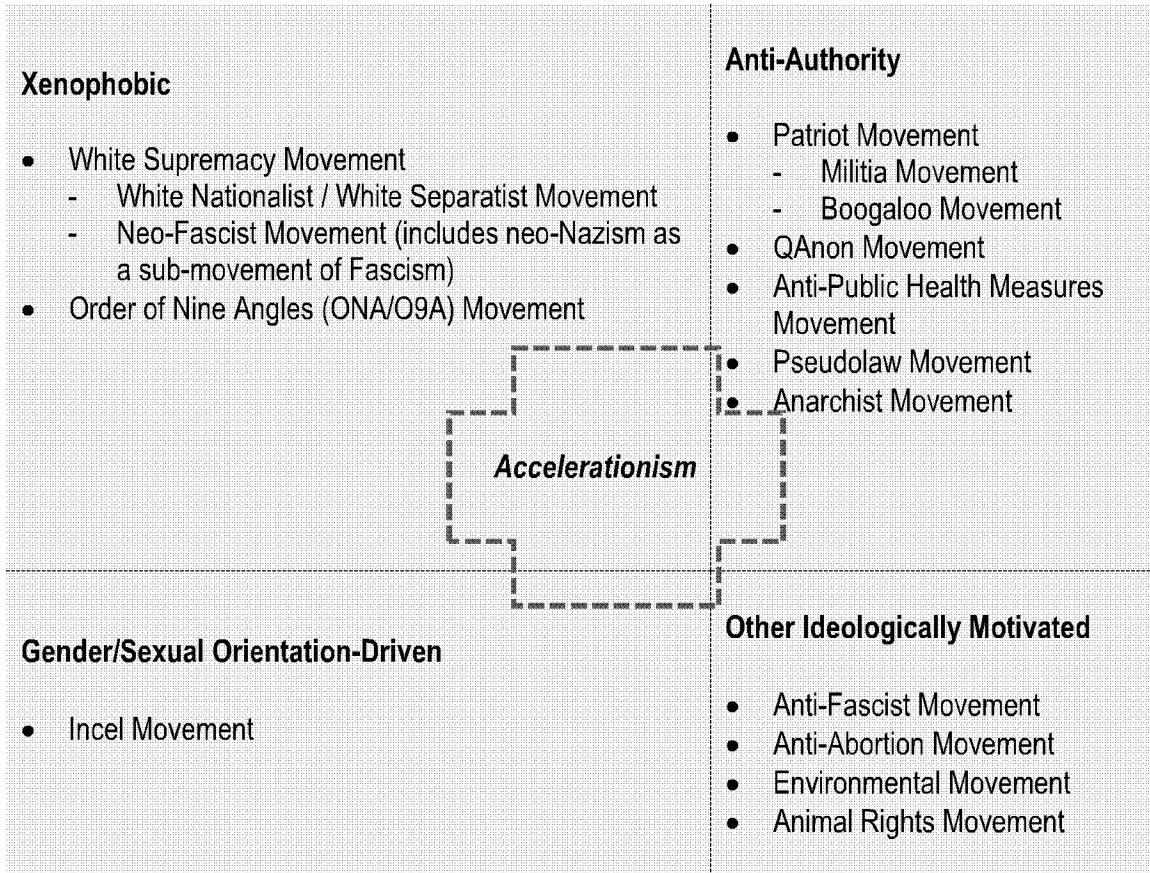
Although the language adopted by adherents may be violent in nature, not all adherents within a movement are necessarily willing to engage in serious violence. In fact, only a small percentage of members within a movement⁴ tend to advocate for serious violence as a means of affecting societal change.⁵

Movements can include sub-movements, individuals, cells, networks or groups. IMVE movements are often transnational in nature. Extreme narratives and concepts are easily shared and adapted to fit a national or subnational landscape.

⁴ Elements of all movements identified for this project have engaged in serious violence, some more recently than others.

⁵ See CSIS placemat entitled *Understanding the Ideologically Motivated Threat to the Fabric of Society*.

Movements within the IMVE milieu



ACCELERATIONISM

Accelerationism is best defined as a tactic, technique or procedure (TTP) that is adopted across much of the IMVE landscape (it is ideologically agnostic, promoting both violent and non-violent actions taken to exploit contradictions intrinsic to the system in order to “accelerate” its destruction).

Accelerationists believe that Western governments are irreparably corrupt and that multiculturalism and democracy will fail. They opine that the collapse of society is inevitable (often along racial lines) and desirable, as it is the only path to overcoming the downfall of current systems of government. Their online conversations are moulded by a belief that other IMVE actors are insufficiently extreme and that only violence against the political system can lead to the establishment of a new or different political entity (often based on White power). The Accelerationist narrative is most common across the Neo-Fascist, White Nationalist/White Separatist and O9A movements but also

What are TTPs?

Tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) describe the behavior of a threat actor. Tactics are high-level descriptions of behavior, techniques are detailed descriptions of behavior in the context of a tactic, and procedures are even lower-level, highly detailed descriptions in the context of a technique.

crosses into anti-authority movements and, to a lesser degree, the Incel and other movements (see chart entitled: Movements within the IMVE milieu). [REDACTED]

Accelerationists often encourage violence—and occasionally engage in violence themselves—to escalate the pace of societal collapse. Accelerationists reject any effort to seize political power through elections, thereby dismissing all attempts to engage in mass politics as pointless. [REDACTED]

Accelerationism is a TTP that IMVE actors rely on to promote violent and non-violent actions that “accelerate” the destruction of a political system. Accelerationism is both an aesthetic and TTP that is

inspired by the work of James Mason, William Pierce, Adolf Hitler and Charles Manson.⁶ It is referenced in the manifestos of the Christchurch and Poway Synagogue attackers. [REDACTED]

WHITE SUPREMACY MOVEMENT

For the purposes of this project, CSIS assesses the White Nationalist/White Separatist Movement and the Neo-Fascist Movement as subsets of the broader White Supremacy Movement. [REDACTED]

WHITE NATIONALIST/WHITE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT

The White Nationalist/White Separatist Movement emphasizes a global White racial identity and the establishment of White power worldwide. White Nationalist and Separatist threat actors seek to create a White nation or space in a particular geographic area. Entities within this Movement usually draw on a cultural history that is tied to a particular region; they also emphasize the importance of their perceived home region over national or transnational political order. As such, they may aspire to replace it with something like the White state imagined at the end of *The Turner Diaries*, a central White nationalist text describing a war against people of colour. At its core, White Nationalism is deeply revolutionary and anti-democratic in nature. [REDACTED]



The envisioned fate of non-White residents within these homelands varies, with options generally ranging from the subjugation of non-White individuals under White power to the total exclusion of non-White individuals through ethnic cleansing or forced migration. [REDACTED]

Similarly, White Nationalism is “the idea that White people are going to unite as one national polity either in a White homeland or a White nation—or even in a White world—through the violent killing or exclusion of other people.”⁷ [REDACTED]

While some White Nationalist / White Separatist threat actors refrain from using or explicitly advocating violence, others are willing to engage in and/or encourage it. [REDACTED]

Numerous mass-casualty attackers over the past decade were motivated, in whole or in part, by their White Nationalist/White Separatist views. Often, the actions of more recent attackers were motivated or inspired by previous attackers. [REDACTED]

Examples

On July 22, 2011, Norwegian Anders Breivik killed eight people when he detonated a van bomb in Oslo, Norway, before killing 69 participants of a summer camp on the island of Utøya. He was subsequently convicted of murdering 77 people. On the day of the attacks, Breivik released his manifesto in which he stated his opposition to Islam and blamed feminism for a European “cultural suicide”. He claimed that his main motive for the attacks was to publicize his manifesto. [REDACTED]

On June 17, 2015, Dylann Roof shot and killed nine people and injured one at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Roof was convicted of 33 federal charges, including hate crimes, and was sentenced to death. Roof acted alone and admitted that his attack aimed to initiate a race war. [REDACTED]

On January 29, 2017, Alexandre Bissonnette shot and killed six worshippers and wounded 19 others (five seriously) at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Québec City. Bissonnette ultimately pleaded guilty to six counts of murder and six counts of attempted murder. Bissonnette indicated that his actions were motivated by his hatred and fear of Muslims and that he was convinced that refugees posed a threat to his family. [REDACTED]

On March 15, 2019, Brenton Tarrant shot and killed 51 people and injured 40 during attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. In addition to livestreaming the first attack and recording the second, Tarrant also produced and released a manifesto entitled *The Great Replacement*, a reference to the “Great Replacement”, a White genocide conspiracy theory. Tarrant was ultimately convicted of 51 counts of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder and 1 count of engaging in a terrorist act. Tarrant claimed that he was inspired by Anders Breivik. [REDACTED]

⁷ Quote from: Kathleen Belew, University of Chicago and author of *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*. Quote taken from Vox magazine article entitled: *Trump once flirted with white nationalism. Now it's a centerpiece of his White House*. July 21, 2020. [REDACTED]

NEO-FASCIST MOVEMENT

For the purpose of this project, neo-Nazism / National Socialism is considered a radical variant of fascism. [REDACTED]

There is no official definition of fascism. The prevalence of the term in common vernacular causes interpretational challenges. In recent years, the term is used more often as a political insult than a historically informed analytical term. [REDACTED]

For the purpose of this project, fascism is described as political philosophy that, at its core, is authoritarian, ultranationalist and requires a general belief that non-fascist government parties and institutions are incapable of improving the national situation. In the United States, neo-fascists typically have only contempt for their nation, often positing that the country—as a constitutional republic born out of the Enlightenment rather than a fascist state—was doomed from the start. [REDACTED]

Fascism reflects an intrinsic belief in human inequality, promoting the concept of an innate inequality and inescapable social hierarchy between groups. Underlying this hierarchy is the idea that a person's rank in society is determined by aspects of identity that are beyond their control, such as ethnicity or gender. [REDACTED]

Historically, fascists have opposed modernity, including liberalism, democracy, Marxism, individualism and feminism. They are described by academics as:

- anti-liberal, rejecting individual rights, civil liberties, free enterprise and democracy;
- anti-socialist, rejecting economic principles based on socialist frameworks;
- exclusionary of certain out-groups, often through violence; and,
- a nationalist movement that seeks to expand the nation's influence and power. [REDACTED]



For a fascist entity to become powerful, the combination of a strong national identity and disenchantment with government requires a catalyst to convince populations to side with what often starts as a small fringe movement. Hostility towards out-groups has traditionally served as a unifying element. [REDACTED]

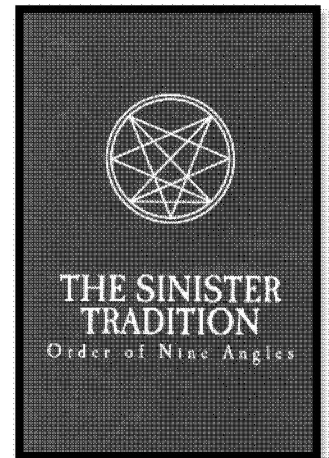
Examples

Groups such as Atomwaffen Division (AWD), Feuerkrieg Division (FKD), Sonnenkrieg Division (SKD) and The Base are part of the Neo-Fascist Movement. The Government of Canada recently listed both AWD and the Base as terrorist entities. [REDACTED]

Canadian citizen Patrik Mathews was a reservist within the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and a recruiter for The Base in Canada.⁹ Subsequent to being doxxed in 2019, he fled to the United States, where he was arrested by the FBI for his role in a plot to engage in serious violence with other members of The Base. In October 2021, he was sentenced in the United States to nine years in prison. [REDACTED]

ORDER OF NINE ANGLES (ONA/O9A) MOVEMENT¹⁰

The O9A is a movement within the broader Left-Hand Path Movement.¹¹ It is not a tangible group or entity, and lacks a clear leader. The O9A can best be described as decentralized ideological and religious occult movement comprised of an unknown number of adherents who glorify extreme violence. O9A literature draws a Western European perspective from the most extreme interpretations of traditional Satanism, Hinduism and Islam, as well as National Socialism. While the O9A exists largely online, it has resulted in real-world violence and terrorism convictions, most notably in the United Kingdom. [REDACTED]



O9A literature advocates for the destabilization of society—through violence and terrorism—to bring about a new “refined” civilization. Followers are influenced by a diverse range of personal and diverse grievances and narratives, with some adhering more closely to foundational texts than others. [REDACTED]

The O9A is comprised of numerous sub-cells, known as ‘nexions,’ that operate under their own unique set of beliefs; members are united by their fascination with extreme violence. O9A materials that promote graphic depictions of violence, child exploitation, necrophilia and rape are readily available online. [REDACTED]

⁹ Mathews was involved with The Base before it was listed as a terrorist entity by the Government of Canada. [REDACTED]

¹¹ In Western esotericism, the Left-Hand Path and Right-Hand Path are the dichotomy between two opposing approaches to magic. For the purpose of this project, the Left-Hand Path is synonymous with malicious black magic or black shamanism. The Left-Hand Path is an esoteric trend that is informed by a unique blend of (i) individualism, an ideology in which the individual is placed at the absolute centre of their existential world; (ii) self-deification, a goal that may be understood in a number of ways, but always includes the person taking complete and total control of his or her own life; and (iii) an antinomian stance wherein a person examines and breaches social, cultural and religious taboos in pursuit of personal freedom. [REDACTED]

Examples

In October 2020, 18-year-old British citizen Harry Vaughan pleaded guilty to 12 counts of possessing documents that are useful to a terrorist, one count of encouraging terrorism, one count of disseminating terrorist publications and two counts of possessing indecent images. Vaughan also created propaganda for Sonnenkrieg Division (SKD), a now-proscribed entity in the United Kingdom. Vaughan adhered to the O9A worldview, combining both Satanic and neo-Nazi beliefs.

In June 2020, US Army private Ethan Melzer was arrested for allegedly sharing sensitive military intelligence with violent extremists, including an individual whom he believed belonged to al-Qaida. Melzer consumed O9A materials and communicated online with other O9A adherents. He allegedly passed updates on his unit's overseas locations, movements and security practises in an effort—albeit unsuccessful—to enable violent extremists to attack his unit and the military installation it was guarding. When arrested, Melzer declared himself a traitor to the United States.

PATRIOT MOVEMENT

The Patriot Movement includes a range of sub-movements, including segments that are focussed on militias, tax protest and protection of the US First and Second Amendments. These sub-movements are generally less significant in Canada, in part, due to restrictions on firearm ownership and militia activity¹² prescribed in the *Criminal Code of Canada*. Regardless, the concepts and narratives espoused by these sub-movements exist across the Canadian IMVE space.

While each sub-movement has its own beliefs and grievances, they share a common conviction that part or all of the government has been infiltrated and subverted by a malignant conspiracy and is no longer legitimate. Like adherents of other movements that are founded on conspiracy theories, members of the Patriot Movement advocate overturning the social order in order to remove their perceived enemies. There is some overlap between elements of the Patriot Movement and the White Nationalist/Supremacist Movement; however, the latter is not a key component of the former.

¹² See s.70 (1) and (2) of the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

MILITIA MOVEMENT

Those within the Militia Movement portray themselves as patriots who are dedicated to protecting the US constitution (equivalent to the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*). They have traditionally believed that the federal government is collaborating with shady domestic and international entities and/or elites (liberals, communists, big business, the United Nations, etc.) in order to strip Americans of their First and Second Amendment rights (firearm and freedom of speech rights in Canada). Since 2016, the Militia Movement has increasingly focussed on other perceived enemies, including Antifa, Black Lives Matter (BLM) and, more recently, sub-national-level officials who are attempting to impose pandemic-related restrictions. [REDACTED]



In the United States, the Militia Movement is comprised of numerous private, generally 'right-wing' paramilitary organizations whose members characteristically accept highly conspiratorial interpretations of politics and view themselves as defenders of traditional freedoms against government oppression and tyranny. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) categorizes the III% (Three Percenters) as part of the broader Militia Movement. The Government of Canada listed the III% as a terrorist entity in 2021 (see image above). [REDACTED]

Example

On October 8, 2020, the FBI arrested and charged six Americans with conspiring to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Seven additional Americans were charged with state-level terrorism offences for their connections to the Wolverine Watchmen, a little-known Michigan-based anti-government militia. [REDACTED]

BOOGALOO MOVEMENT¹³

"Boogaloo" is best understood as (i) a decentralized, anti-authority movement whose adherents believe that "they are following in the footsteps of the United States' founders and participating in a revolution against tyranny"¹⁴ and (ii) a narrative that focusses on an expected event in the near future where society collapses—either due to a proactive insurrection or a necessary uprising of people against an oppressive political system. While the first is predominantly an American phenomenon, the latter is a broader tent that has appealed to a wide range of actors, particularly to accelerationists.¹⁵

¹⁴ See: *Understanding Accelerationist Narratives: The Boogaloo* by Matthew Kriner, Alex Newhouse and Jonathan Lewis, November 18, 2021. [REDACTED]

¹⁵ See *Understanding Accelerationist Narratives: The Boogaloo* by Matthew Kriner, Alex Newhouse and Jonathan Lewis (November 18, 2021). [REDACTED]

The Boogaloo Movement lacks a formal organizational structure, national leader or even a cohesive ideology that unites all adherents. Generally, the Movement seeks less government infringement of an individual's rights. Key overarching concepts/themes that underlie the mindset of adherents include:

- a fear of government overreach (particularly relating to gun rights and freedom of expression);
- a growing hatred of police;
- a declining confidence in democracy and trust in government institutions; and,
- a belief in a coming apocalyptic confrontation against the state (a civil war that is inevitable and often deemed as desirable).



As a result, the Boogaloo Movement includes strongly libertarian, ethno-nationalist, or anti-government ideas/beliefs. Those within the Boogaloo Movement may hold White Supremacist ideas/beliefs, while others may include individuals of non-White races. Ultimately, self-identification as a “Boog” (short for Boogaloo) and belief in one or more of the concepts is sufficient to be considered part of the Movement. The Movement also uses memes, clothing and other imagery as a means of obfuscating its increased and potentially violent views.

In the United States, the Boogaloo Movement has grown to include a small number of more traditionally structured cells, or ‘groupuscules,’ that engage in real-world activity—participation in protests (often anti-authority in nature), survival training, or confrontations with identified “enemies” that include ANTIFA, liberals, the scientific community and law enforcement.

Example

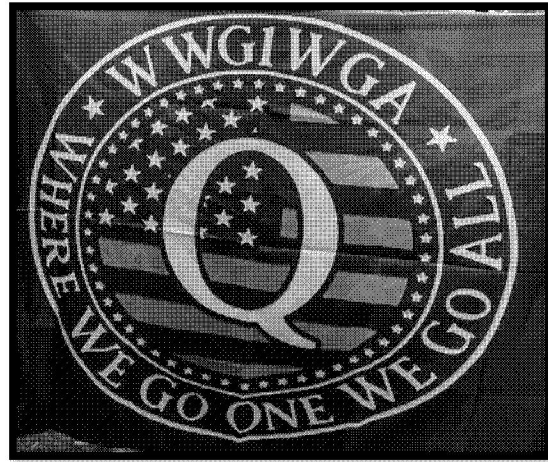
In June 2020, US Air Force Sergeant Steven Carrillo was arrested and charged with 19 felonies—including murder—involving the shooting deaths of a contracted security officer and a law enforcement officer and the wounding of three other individuals in California. Carrillo adhered to the Boogaloo worldview and belonged to the “Grizzly Scouts,” a small and secretive Boogaloo group that “discussed tactics involving killing of police officers and other law enforcement.”

QANON MOVEMENT

QAnon represents an amalgamation of virtually every popular conspiracy theory under a single interpretive frame. It is a conspiratorial construct under which multiple conspiracies are believed to be linked hierarchically. At the behest of both anonymous poster “Q” and influential members of the Movement, QAnon supporters watch out for purported secret clues, ‘deciphering’ cryptic, often religiously charged, “QDrops” (online posts by “Q”) to learn more about the secret cabal. This

deciphering process goes beyond the level of the individual, but is achieved by the QAnon community.¹⁶ [REDACTED]

QAnon narratives are constantly expanding to include false information about current events such as the alleged US 2020 presidential election fraud or the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. It is also converging with narratives that are traditionally used by the Pseudolaw Movement and racially motivated extremists. Like many conspiracy theories, QAnon narratives are non-falsifiable. Many QAnon supporters accept these logical fallacies without criticism. It should be noted that QAnon narratives are often shared unknowingly by individuals, thereby furthering the narratives' reach within the general public. [REDACTED]



QAnon has evolved substantially since its beginnings as a fringe online community. QAnon narratives are now promulgated by a growing group of political and/or social media figures in the United States and around the world. Today, QAnon is an established movement of supporters who feel a moral duty to uncover the 'truth' about the supposed government cabal¹⁷ and, in turn, fight against it. [REDACTED]
QAnon narratives are regularly adopted by adherents of other IMVE movements—in particular, the Pseudolaw Movement. [REDACTED]

Examples

Individuals adhering to QAnon narratives have engaged in more than 125 crimes around the world, including murder, firearms offences and transnational kidnapping. [REDACTED]

In February 2020, Matthew Wright pleaded guilty in Arizona to a range of offences, including making a terrorist threat for a June 2018 incident in which he created a barricade with an armoured vehicle at the Hoover Dam in support of his QAnon beliefs. [REDACTED]

PSEUDOLAW MOVEMENT

Encompassing that which was formerly referred to as sovereign citizens or freemen on the land, activity by Pseudolaw Movement adherents across Canada largely collapsed by the mid-2010s. More recently, adherents have repackaged the same ideas, particularly within the context of anti-public health measures, forced vaccination and QAnon narratives. At the core, Pseudolaw

¹⁷ QAnon proponents believe that President Trump was battling a cabal of deep-state actors and their celebrity allies who were, in turn, engaged in satanic worship and pedophilia. [REDACTED]

narratives challenge the authority of the state, while individuals call for the need for violence at the fringe.¹⁸ Pseudolaw adherents are found across the IMVE milieu. [REDACTED]

Pseudolaw is a collection of legal-sounding—but false—rules that purport to be superior laws that are suppressed by conspiratorial actors.

Pseudolaw replaces conventional law and aims to shift authority away from state and institutional actors to individuals. It is particularly attractive to threat actors who resist conventional authority. Pseudolaw is politically agnostic, since it does not change or create the ideologies and objectives of these threat actors, but instead empowers said ideologies. Pseudolaw aggravates interactions between its host populations and conventional government, court and law enforcement actors; at the fringes, it can result in violence. [REDACTED]



Adherents typically hold profound conspiratorial beliefs concerning the nature and legitimacy of “conventional” authorities; they are clearly attracted to the idea of another “true” hidden law that, once accessed, will permit followers to escape from—or retaliate against—those who are perceived as enemies or wrongdoers. [REDACTED]

Example

Between 2010 and 2020, individuals in the United States with Pseudolaw Movement views killed approximately 15 law enforcement officers and wounded 54 others. [REDACTED]

ANTI-PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES MOVEMENT

Best described as a large transnational movement that exists primarily online, but manifests itself as real-world protests/demonstrations that oppose a range of government restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Online content and real-world activities often occur under the guise of personal freedoms or health safety while espousing a broad range of beliefs in support of their opposition from across the traditional left-right ideological spectrum, including [REDACTED]

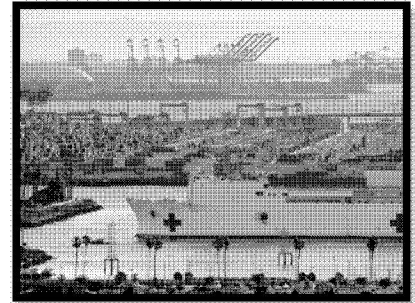
- government overreach/tyranny;
- suspicion of big pharma;
- opposition to vaccinations / vaccination passports;
- denial of COVID-19 as a threat;
- opposition to lockdown measures;
- opposition to globalization;
- protection of children; and,
- protection of personal health and personal freedoms. [REDACTED]

¹⁸ See “The History of the Organized Pseudolegal Commercial Argument Phenomenon in Canada”, Donald Netolitzky, Alberta Law Review, April 2016. [REDACTED]

Like the QAnon Movement, the Anti-Public Health Measures Movement is intrinsically linked to a range of conspiracy theories. Many supporters accept the inherent logical fallacies without question, and narratives are often shared unknowingly by individuals, thereby furthering the narratives' reach within the general public. The Movement is also intertwined with many of the other IMVE movements, particularly QAnon. [REDACTED]

Example

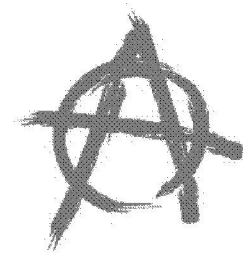
In March 2020, Eduardo Moreno, a train engineer at the Port of Los Angeles, California, was arrested on federal charges for attempting to run his locomotive off the tracks at full speed in the direction of the USNS *Mercy*. Moreno informed law enforcement that the *Mercy* was "suspicious" and had an "alternate purpose" related to COVID-19 or a government takeover. In December 2021, Moreno pleaded guilty to one count of committing a terrorist attack and other violence against railroad carriers and mass transportation systems. His actions caused approximately \$700,000 in damages. [REDACTED]



ANARCHIST MOVEMENT

Anarchists believe that individual freedom is paramount and that hierarchies of authority and power are infringements upon that freedom. They oppose traditional forms of government, advocating instead for decision-making by consensus, direct democracy and the organization of society by mutual association. Anarchists typically oppose private property rights, which they view as an element of centralized authority. [REDACTED]

Anarchists embrace a wide range of tactics to achieve their goals, the majority of which are nonviolent in nature. Some anarchists eschew violence in any form; many condone violence only as a means of self-defence, believing they can dismantle the state through non-violent means. Other anarchists may accept violence as a necessity to achieving their political goals; however, they do not engage in violence or directly support it themselves. [REDACTED]



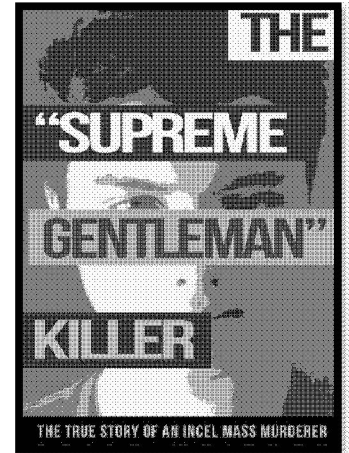
Example

In May 2010, a Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) branch in the Glebe neighbourhood of Ottawa was firebombed by a cell that self-identified as "FFFC-Ottawa" (Fighting for Freedom Coalition-Ottawa), causing approximately \$500,000 in damages. The cell posted a video online in which it explained that RBC was targeted because of its sponsorship of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and its role as one of the leading financiers of oil sands development projects in Alberta. In 2010, a 58-year-old former federal civil servant, Roger Clement, pleaded guilty to the firebombing and was sentenced to three and a half years in prison. [REDACTED]

INCEL MOVEMENT¹⁹

Involuntary celibates (hereafter “Incels”) are predominantly male online community adherents who define themselves by their inability to engage in sexual activities with women. Incels blame their inability to form sexual relationships on their perceived genetic inferiority, evolutionary traits in female mate selection and oppressive societal structures. They blame females—and society as a whole—for their personal circumstances; some advocate for a new social structure that would treat them “fairly”. [REDACTED]

Incels consider themselves unfit for physical socialization, leading to the creation of communities that gather primarily online. Their digital ecosystem is tightly connected and internally abusive, therein creating toxic environments that reinforce Incels’ dependencies on these online spaces. The creation of an in-group vocabulary also promotes further isolation of Incels. Within the Incel ecosystem, past attackers are perceived as “Saints”. [REDACTED]



An Incel who has taken the “black pill” has adopted the belief that they are hopeless and that their lack of success—romantically and sexually—is permanent, regardless of any changes to their appearance, personality, or other characteristics. [REDACTED]

The online Incel ecosystem contains violent misogynistic content, much of which is presented and discussed through this ideological lens. The Incel Movement not only promotes violence against others—primarily women—but also poses a threat to members within the Incel community itself, through suicidal ideation and encouragement of self-harm. [REDACTED]

Example

On April 23, 2018, Alexander Minassian drove a rental van on the sidewalk of Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, killing 10 individuals and injuring 16 others. He was subsequently found guilty of 10 counts of first-degree murder and 16 counts of attempted murder. Prior to the attack, Minassian self-identified as an Incel in a Facebook posting wherein he stated that he hoped his actions would lead to an Incel rebellion. [REDACTED]

On February 24, 2020, a 17-year-old minor entered the Crown Spa (an erotic massage parlour) in Toronto, Ontario, and stabbed two women, killing one and injuring the other. In May 2020, the charges were upgraded to “murder – terrorist activity” and “attempted murder – terrorist activity. In a joint statement, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Toronto Police Service (TPS) announced that investigations had determined that the attack “was inspired by the Incel Movement”. [REDACTED]



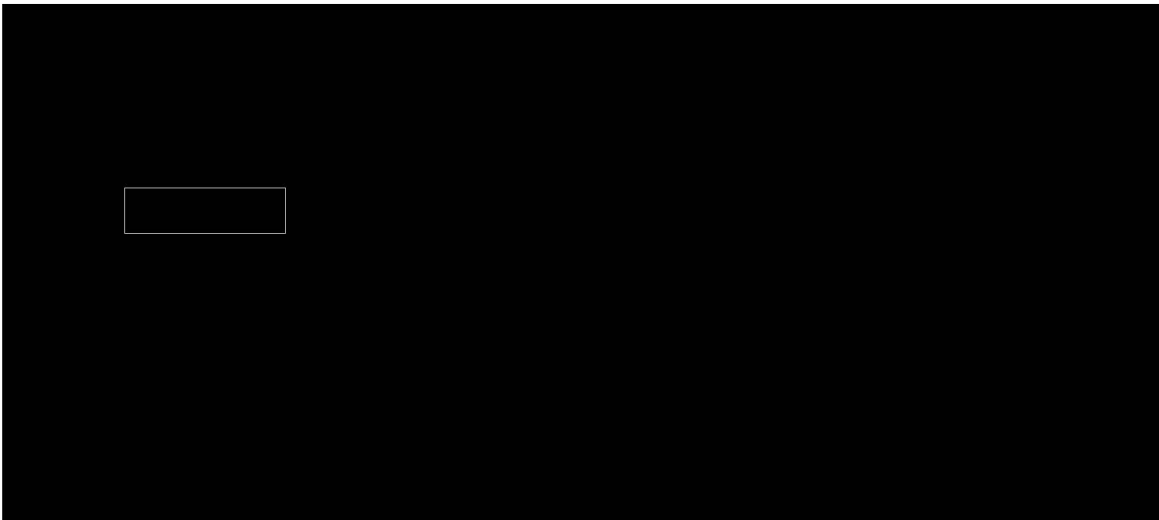
Examples of Other Movements

As previously explained, movements do not collectively hold or espouse extreme views or engage in serious violence. That said, a very small portion of adherents in each may be willing to engage in or promote serious violence as a means of achieving their objectives. This project does not assess the relative threat posed by each movement, although each has a current, historical, or potential future nexus to serious violence. [REDACTED]

Animal Rights Movement

From 1996 to 2001, a cell within the broader animal rights group Animal Liberation Front (ALF) conducted a string of 20 arsons across the United States, resulting in \$40 million in damages to (i) government facilities, including ranger stations, wildlife facilities and a police department; (ii) private companies, such as meat packaging companies, a ski resort, a lumber company, a truck centre and a farm; (iii) the University of Washington Horticultural Center; and (iv) a power line. [REDACTED]

Anti-Abortion Movement



In May 1992, a Toronto, Ontario, anti-abortion clinic operated by Henry Morgentaler was firebombed, causing the entire front wall of the building to collapse. The attack was conducted at night by two people (caught on security camera) using gasoline and a firework to set off the explosion. No one was hurt, but the building had to be demolished. The perpetrators have not been apprehended. [REDACTED]

Anti-Fascist Movement

In July 2019, American Willem van Spronsen firebombed a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centre in Tacoma, Washington. He was shot dead by police, who claim he was attempting to ignite a propane tank. While part of the Anti-Fascist Movement, van Spronsen was a member of a John Brown Gun Club chapter – one of the more prominent anti-fascist gun clubs in the United States. [REDACTED]



Environmental Movement

[REDACTED]

In May 1982, a self-described cell called Direct Action (also known as the Squamish Five) travelled to Vancouver Island and set off a large bomb at the Dunsmuir British Columbia Hydro substation. The attack resulted in over \$3 million in damages; four transformers were damaged beyond repair. No one was injured in the attack. The hydroelectric project had been criticized by some as environmentally unsound and contributing to the destruction of wilderness on Vancouver Island. [REDACTED]



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Analytical Brief Précis analytique



SECRET//CANADIAN EYES ONLY

February 2, 2022

Freedom Convoy 2022 – The Imagery and Significance of Flags

Key Points

- The Canadian flag was the most prevalent flag on display in the crowd, likely reflecting participants' belief that they are patriotic Canadians standing up for their democratic rights. (U)
- A small number of flags (both purchased and self-created) reflected racist and bigoted worldviews. The presence of these flags, however, is not unique to this event and are often seen at anti-lockdown/mandate events across the country. (U)



Background

In response to the Government of Canada's federal vaccine mandate requiring all truck drivers crossing the border to be fully vaccinated as of January 15, 2022, a national event entitled "Freedom Convoy 2022" was launched via a social media fundraiser, with the goal of scaling back COVID-19 mandate measures. The convoy is part of the broader

anti-public health restrictions movement.¹ As with any movement, only a small, fringe element supports the use of violence or might be willing to engage in it. (U)

United in their opposition to all public health restrictions and to the policies of the prime minister, protestors espoused a range of grievances, including (U)

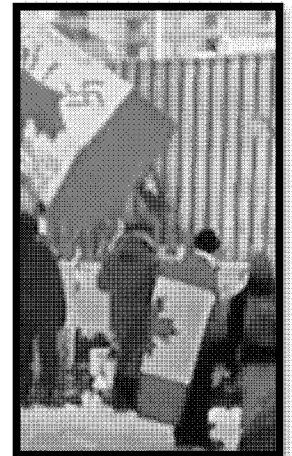
- COVID-19 is fake and/or its impact is overstated by government;
- Vaccinations are a personal choice and individuals should not be forced to vaccinate;
- Public health mandates represent an overreach of a 'tyrannical government';
- Public health mandates are part of a broader globalist conspiracy; and,
- Public health mandates represent broader pseudo-law, whereby individuals must consent to all restrictions.

The Relevance of Flags

Over the course of the weekend, hundreds of flags representing a broad range of grievances and narratives were visible across downtown Ottawa. The Canadian flag and, to a lesser degree, provincial flags, were the most prevalent among displayed flags, likely reflecting participants' views that they are patriotic Canadians (see image at right). Some flags were flown upside down, likely as an indication of the bearer's belief that nation is in distress. American flags were also prominent among the crowd, likely representing solidarity with American truckers. (U)

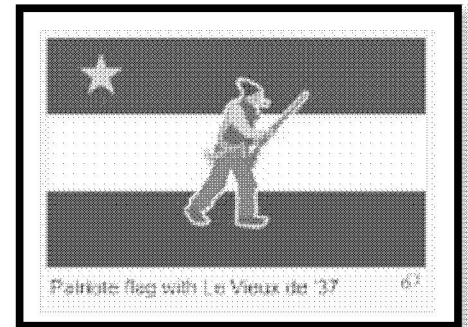
Within the crowd were a very small number of flags bearing racist and/or bigoted imagery; these flags likely reflect the worldviews of the holder. These included the Confederate flag and Nazi flags; others included offensive statements directed at the prime minister. These flags can be easily purchased online; the anti-Trudeau flag, for example, is available for sale on Amazon.ca (see image on previous page right). (U)

A small number of individuals displayed hand-written statements or images on their flags in an attempt to focus their message. Specifically, several added a swastika to their flag, not necessarily to self-identify as Nazis/ national socialists, but to imply that the prime minister and federal government are acting like Nazis / national socialists by imposing public health mandates. (U)



Aside from individuals who specifically identified themselves as part of the convoy group, the Service is unaware of the presence of IMVE groups at this weekend's protest. Within the larger protest, however, were a small number of flags that were publicly linked to groups that espouse racist/bigoted and anti-government views. Often, these flags have been used by more than one group/cause, thereby making it difficult to determine any particular allegiance of the bearer without additional context and nuance. (U)

The Patriote flag (see image above) is a popular symbol of Quebec nationalism, but has also been adopted by at least one ideologically extreme, but nonviolent, group—Storm Alliance. Likewise, the 'punisher' image (see image next page) was seen on several flags over the weekend. Like the Patriote flag, this image is used by various groups and movements and cannot, without greater understanding, link the bearer to a specific entity. (U)



The Gadsden flag ('Don't Tread On Me') was also spotted at the protest. Associated with antigovernment movements and causes primarily in the United States, the flag—or a variation of it—is common at anti-public health mandate protests in Canada. The flag does not necessarily link the bearer to a specific entity. (U)



Seemingly unrelated flags were also visible at the protest, including the Mohawk warrior flag. While the true purpose of the flag at the protest is unclear, it is highly unlikely that it represented the presence of 'Mohawk warriors'. (U)

Implications

Freedom of expression is constitutionally protected in Canada; CSIS investigative thresholds may be met once a threat actor facilitates or advocates for serious violence in support or furtherance of ideological, political or religious objectives with the intent of affecting societal change. CSIS does not investigate lawful advocacy, protest or dissent, unless it is carried out in conjunction with any of the activities outlined in paragraphs 2(a) to (d) of the *CSIS Act*.
(U//FOUO)

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Analytical Brief Précis analytique



SECRET//CEO

February 21, 2022

Diagolon Participation in the Freedom Convoy 2022 and Beyond

Freedom Convoy 2022

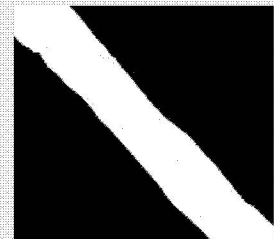
What is Diagolon?

Telegram user and online personality, Jeremy Mackenzie, created Diagolon in January 2021 as a fictitious country to inspire unity among like-minded individuals. It represents a symbol of defiance against the government's COVID-19 restrictions and mandated vaccinations. Diagolon members also voice grievances against increasing restrictions on firearms and promote a variety of conspiracy theories related to the government at large. (U)

Throughout 2021, Diagolon has expanded from an online presence to a real-world community that conducts in-person meetings across the country. The Freedom Convoy 2022 allowed for a number of Diagolon members to congregate in Ottawa, where some members met in person for the first time. (U)

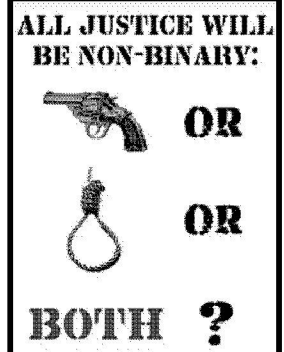
In addition to Mackenzie, Derek Harrison and Alexander Vriend are also known and vocal members of the Diagolon community. (U)

For further information on Diagolon, consult the "Diagolon Dictionary". (U)



Key Assessments

The Violent Rhetoric of Diagon



Diagon Participation in Freedom Convoy 2022

In Jeremy Mackenzie's Own Words

"This is the good guys versus the bad guys [Canadian government]. The showdown has finally fucking begun and it has begun in Canada... you could go be a part of the story now."

"This is the beach, get yourself out there."

Mackenzie discussing protests against COVID-19.

*The Beach' is a common saying in Diagon to reference their own version of World War II D – Day. (U)

Leaders of Diagonon did not call for violent participation in the Freedom Convoy 2022 and specifically asked that members attend to peacefully support the convoy. They believe that any attempt to label demonstrators in the Freedom Convoy 2022 as extremists would reduce the legitimacy of the demonstration and would allow for further police and government intervention against demonstrators.

During the first weekend of the demonstration key figures within Diagonon suggested that the Federal government might use this demonstration as a means to create a 'false flag' event and may even hire actors in an attempt to instigate demonstrators, thereby allowing the federal government to bring in the military or arrest participants in the convoy to discredit the entire demonstration. This paranoia within members of Diagonon resulted in Mackenzie and Harrison conducting online live streams and interviews from their hotel room in Ottawa on January 29 to prove that they were not physically present on Parliament Hill that day (in the event of an attack). (U)

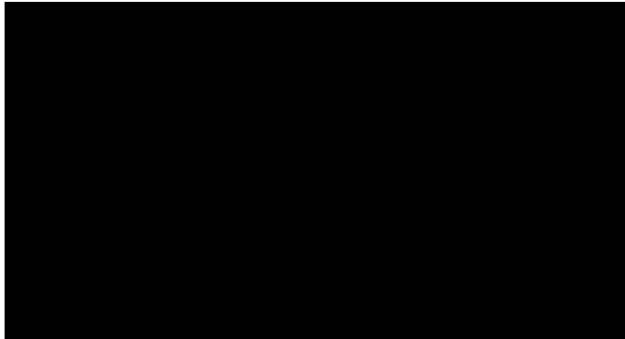
Since the initial weekend of the Freedom Convoy 2022, key figures within Diagonon have made many appeals for participation in and documentation of the demonstrations. Further, Vriend has been collecting donations to allow others to travel to participate in demonstrations in Coutts, AB, or Ottawa, ON. Prior to the actions of law enforcement on February 19-20 to clear the convoy in downtown Ottawa, Diagonon members continued to maintain a presence at the Freedom Convoy 2022 in Ottawa; Mackenzie, Vriend and Harrison were in Ottawa during the weekend of February 12-13. Mackenzie has claimed that he would not leave Ottawa until all COVID-19 mandates are removed. (U)

Coutts, Alberta Blockade

A partial blockade at the Coutts border crossing started January 29, 2022 as part of the anti-public health measures movement. Many of the participants are driven by a similar range of narratives and grievances as seen at the Ottawa occupation, including their opposition to some- if not all- public health restrictions related to COVID-19. As of February 15, 2022, the RCMP had arrested 13 individuals in connection with the blockade and seized weapons, firearms ammunition and body armour. The RCMP notes that several participants at the blockade are members of Diagonon. See Diagonon flag on body armour.

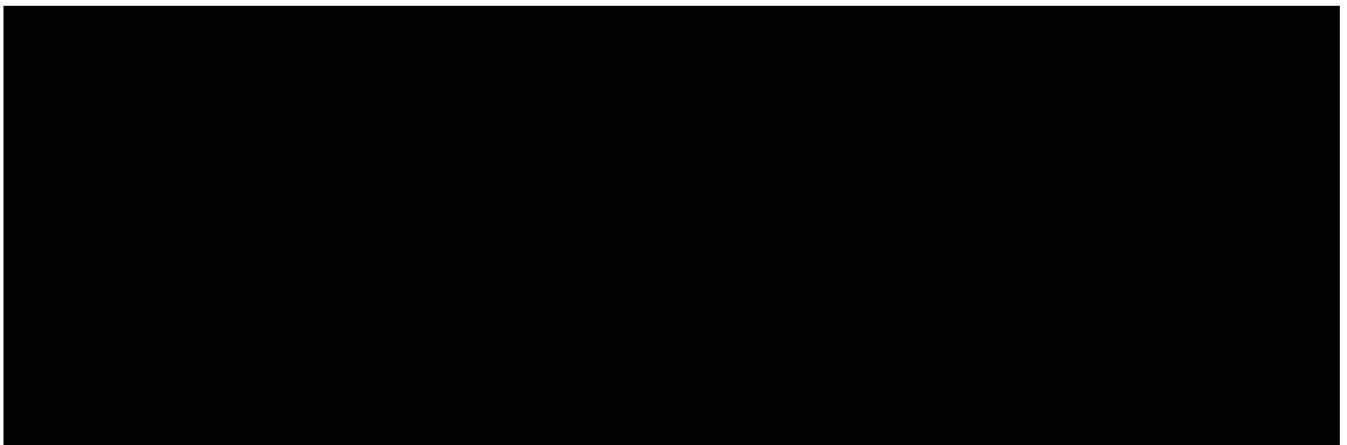


Increased Diagonon Following



An increased Diagonon following will also increase the number of consumers of the extreme anti-government, anti-authority and anti-law enforcement messaging espoused by key figures within the community. Though there were calls for peaceful protest among Diagonon at the onset of the Freedom Convoy 2022, the tone of open messaging from key figures has become more focused on law enforcement over the past weeks. There have been more overt calls for members of Diagonon to travel to Ottawa and “hold the line”. Key figures within Diagonon are calling the government’s response to the Freedom Convoy a ‘siege’³ and have:

- claimed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is intentionally cutting truckers off from essential supplies such as food, water and medications in both Ottawa and Coutts, Alberta;
- claimed the RCMP may attempt to disrupt cell towers to ensure that the truckers cannot communicate outside of the demonstration; and,
- shared directories, including the names of all members of the Ottawa Police Service. (U)



³ A ‘siege’ is a military operation where the enemy cuts off essential supplies with the goal of making an enemy surrender. For Diagonon, this implies that both the federal government and RCMP are cutting truckers and protesters off from essential supplies to facilitate compliance. (U)

Diagolon – Future Implications

⁴ Infowars is an American based far-right conspiracy theory and fake news website hosted by Alex Jones. (U)

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National Security Brief | Précis sur la sécurité nationale

Arrests at the Coutts Blockade: Complex Motivations

Accurate as of February 14, 2022

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The purpose of this preliminary assessment is to provide a broader understanding of the recent events at the Coutts, Alberta blockade and possible implications across the broader anti-public health measures movement (APHMM).

Key Points

The recent discovery by the RCMP of firearms and ammunition and the subsequent arrest of 13 individuals who hold extreme anti-government views highlights the potential for a small violent cell to obfuscate itself within a broader movement.

Background

Participants at Coutts blockade, as with the Ottawa occupation, are motivated by their opposition to some—if not all—public health restrictions relating to COVID 19. Their collective anger is directed primarily at the Prime Minister of Canada, the Liberal Party of Canada and, to a lesser degree, provincial premiers and public health officials. The Freedom Convoy 2022 is the broad cause (i.e., support for truckers) around which numerous diverse individuals are willing to converge. Many of the participants have little to no connection to the trucking industry, but merely view the protest as an opportunity to voice their own personal or ideological grievances. Key narratives are not homogenous; in fact, protestors espouse a range of grievances (often intertwined with conspiracy theories) in support of their opposition to public health measures. Within the broader APHMM are a very small number of ideologically

2022 02 16

motivated violent extremists (IMVE) who are willing to engage in serious violence in order to achieve their objectives.

A partial blockade at the Coutts border crossing started on January 29, 2022, with two blockade sites emerging. The first was adjacent to the village of about 250 people, near the border. Protesters there blocked the highway, and used the Smugglers Saloon, a roadside tavern, as their home base. A second protest emerged about 14 kilometres north, where police had established a checkpoint in early February to limit access to Coutts, as protest numbers grew. Demonstrators gathered at the checkpoint, parking their idling equipment metres from the police barricade. Over the course of the blockade, protesters had intermittently allowed transport trucks to pass, though the Canada Border Services Agency temporarily closed the Coutts crossing.

The Coutts blockade began as part of the APHMM, driven by a similar range of narratives and personal grievances as seen at the Ottawa occupation. The RCMP notes that several of the participants at the blockade are members of Diagonal (see text box at right, including Diagonal flag on body armour seized on February 13, 2022).

Understanding Diagonal

The group combines a staunch anti-government narrative with opposition to all forms of public health restrictions related to COVID-19. Several members of Diagonal have military experience.

As the Coutts blockade continued, various factions and leaders emerged, thereby reflecting the fractured nature of the blockade and making negotiations by the RCMP difficult. The RCMP is the police of jurisdiction and is aware of key players within the blockade.



2022 02 16

On February 13, 2022, the RCMP served three warrants (one house, two trailers and a saloon (noted above)) related to activity at the Coutts blockade. The RCMP subsequently located 13 long guns, two hand guns, a large volume of ammunition and body armour. The RCMP arrested 13 individuals described by the RCMP, identified as the core extreme protestors. [REDACTED]

Outlook

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Canadian Militia Movement

Those within the Canadian Militia Movement portray themselves as patriots who are dedicated to protecting the "freedom of Canadians" as they believe defined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. They have traditionally believed that the federal government is collaborating with shady domestic and international entities and/or elites (liberals, communists, big business, the United Nations, etc.) in order to strip Canadians of their firearm and freedom of speech rights.

The Militia Movement has increasingly focussed on other perceived enemies, including Antifa, Black Lives Matter (BLM) and, more recently, national and sub-national-level officials who are attempting to impose pandemic-related restrictions.

¹ The RMVE-IMVE crossover is not unique. The London truck attacker, for example, was motivated by both religious and ideological ideas.

2022 02 16

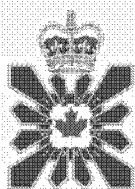
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INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT

Possible Implications of Emergencies Act (formerly War Measures Act) Across the IMVE Space

2022 02 13

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Possible Implications of *Emergencies Act* (formerly *War Measures Act*) Across the IMVE Space

The purpose of this preliminary assessment is to examine the possible implications of the invocation of the *Emergencies Act* across the ideologically motivated violence extremism (IMVE) space in Canada, with a particular focus on the Freedom Convoy 2022 (FC22)

Freedom Convoy 2022 in Ottawa and Across the Country

Key Assessments

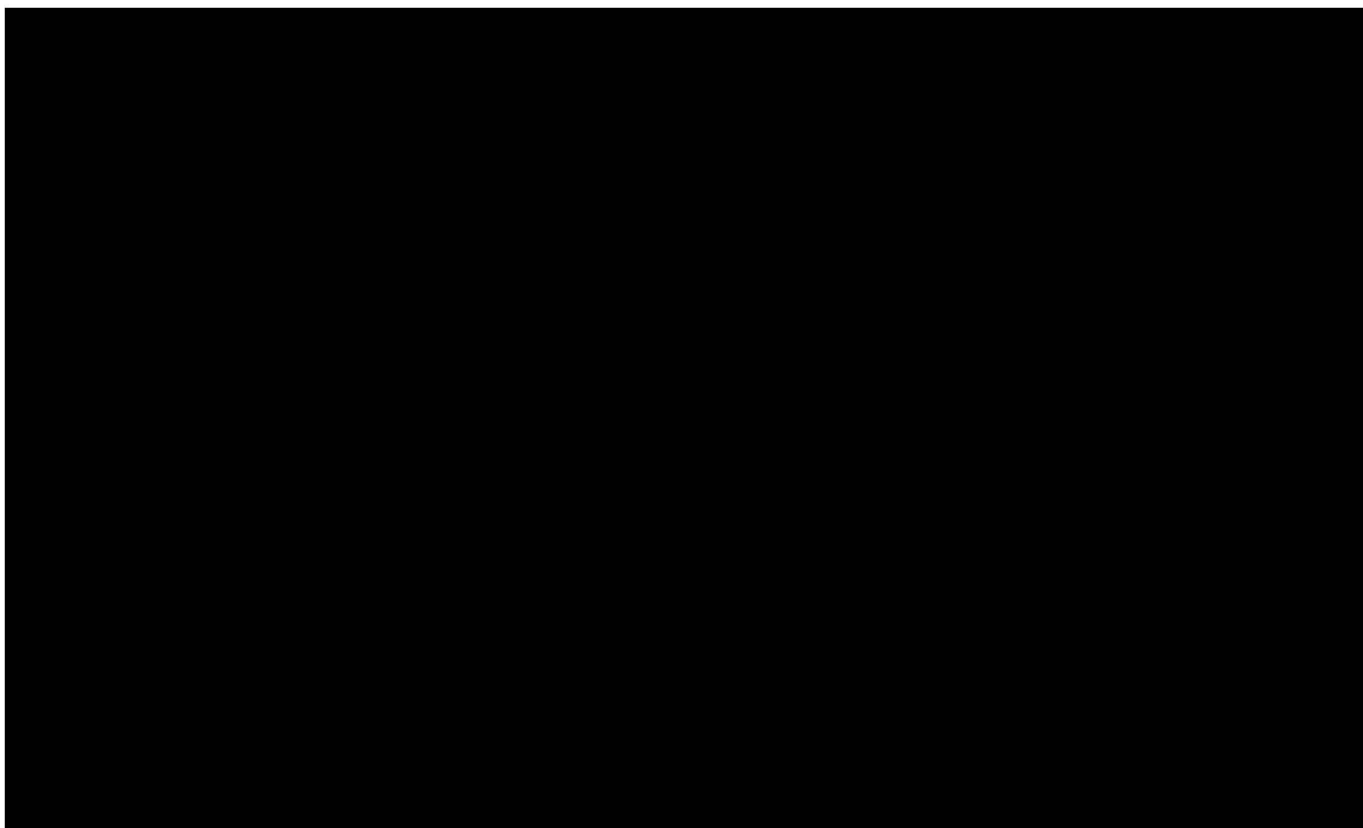
Key narratives are not homogenous; in fact, protestors espouse a range of grievances (often intertwined with conspiracy theories) in support of their opposition to public health measures.

The Ottawa occupation and other protests and blockades are comprised of a range of individuals from across Canadian society - not solely those holding extreme views.

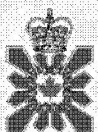


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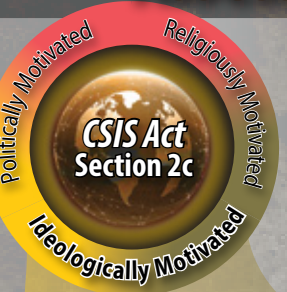
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Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism

Assessing Potential CSIS Act 2c Threats



IDENTIFY

Scenario #1
PRE VIOLENT INCIDENT
Possible 2c Nexus
(see reverse)

Scenario #2
POST VIOLENT INCIDENT
Loss of life /
Disrupted plot
Possible 2c Nexus

Scenario #3
THREAT TO CANADA'S 10
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS
(see reverse)
Loss of life does not appear to
be an objective but could occur
Possible 2c Nexus

Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

ASSESS/UNDERSTAND

i ✓
WILLINGNESS
to KILL /
INSPIRE
OTHERS
to KILL

ii ✓
ATTEMPTING
to AFFECT
SOCIETAL
CHANGE

iii ✓
IDEOLOGICAL
INFLUENCE

iv ✓
SERIOUS
VIOLENCE
including sabotage
(see reverse 2a/c)

→ LAW ENFORCEMENT
intelligence / investigation ←

DECIDE

Potential for future
serious violence (2c)
✓ **i/ii/iii**
- if **NO** — reassess
as required

Potential for future
serious violence (2c)
resulting from the same
ideology or threat actor(s) or
copycat violence
✓ **i/ii/iii**

Potential for future 2c
violence (loss of life)
resulting from the same
ideology or threat actor(s) or
copycat violence
✓ **ii/iii/iv**

ACT

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

CONSIDERATIONS

Relative threat
Risk of action / inaction
Resources and authorities
Engagement with
domestic - allied partners

COURSE(S) OF ACTION

Analysis
Investigation
Disruption
Advice

POST-MORTEM

Assess actions taken
Re-evaluate

CONSIDERATIONS

THREAT POSED by CANADIANS in CANADA or ABROAD

- Peripheral supporters
- Active supporters
- Organizers
- Proselytizers
- Violent ideologues

THREAT POSED by FOREIGN NATIONALS in CANADA

COVERAGE by PARTNERS

**STRENGTH
of CAUSAL
RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN
MOTIVATION /
IDEOLOGY and
VIOLENCE**

• Links to known threat actor(s)
• Motivation(s)

CSIS dependent
on POJ for case
specific information

**PRE-
INCIDENT**
CSIS Lead

CSIS dependent on POJ
for case specific
information

**ACTIVE-
INCIDENT**
POJ Lead

**POST-
INCIDENT**
POJ Lead

• Links to known threat actor(s)
• Motivation(s)

ADVICE TO/
COLLABORATION WITH:

GOVERNMENT of CANADA, POLICE of JURISDICTION (POJ) / LAW ENFORCEMENT, FOREIGN PARTNERS, INDUSTRY



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Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism

Assessing Potential CSIS Act 2c Threats

UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO



The purpose of this project is to visually articulate the steps undertaken by CSIS to ascertain whether an identified IMVE threat actor represents a section 2c threat and to decide on what action(s), if any, should be undertaken. CSIS developed three detailed placemats (scenarios #1, #2 and #3) to represent the three types of potential 2c threats. This placemat represents a condensed version of all three scenarios.

- Scenario #1 – Pre violent incident (loss of life) – Possible 2c Nexus
- Scenario #2 – Post violent incident (loss of life)/disrupted plot – Possible 2c Nexus
- Scenario #3 – Threats to Canada’s 10 critical infrastructure sectors; loss of life does not appear to be an objective, but could occur – Possible 2c Nexus

LEGEND

THREATS TO THE SECURITY OF CANADA means:

2(a) espionage or sabotage that is against Canada or is detrimental to the interests of Canada or activities directed toward or in support of such espionage or sabotage,

2(b) foreign influenced activities within or relating to Canada that are detrimental to the interests of Canada and are clandestine or deceptive or involve a threat to any person,

2(c) activities within or relating to Canada directed toward or in support of the threat or use of acts of serious violence against persons or property for the purpose of achieving a political, religious or ideological objective within Canada or a foreign state, and

2(d) activities directed toward undermining by covert unlawful acts, or directed toward or intended ultimately to lead to the destruction or overthrow by violence of, the constitutionally established system of government in Canada

SERIOUS VIOLENCE For the purposes of this placemat “serious violence” in relation to the 10 Government of Canada critical infrastructure sectors is defined as: a threat actor who willfully destroys or damages property if such actions could endanger a person’s life.

The term “ideological” is not statutorily defined and has received little judicial consideration in either Canadian or foreign courts. To date, there has been no judicial consideration of the meaning of the phrase “ideological purpose, objective or cause.”

Ideology can also be seen as a belief structure that people use as a lens through which they perceive the world: the individual processes and systematizes all the information of social and other relevance – including conspiracy theories – to orient themselves in the societal realm and to reduce its complexity. The term is both broad and neutral: there is no requirement that the ideas or belief be inherently violent in and of themselves.

- IMVE IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENT EXTREMISM**
- Xenophobic Violence: Racially motivated violence
Ethno-Nationalist violence
 - Anti-Authority Violence: Anti-Government / Law Enforcement violence
Anarchist violence
 - Gender-Driven Violence: Violent misogyny (including Incel)
Anti-LGBTQ2+ violence
 - Other Grievance-Driven and/or Ideologically Motivated Violence

THREAT ACTOR(S) include but are not limited to: Individuals, cells, groups, platforms, networks, movements and conspiracy theories.



THREAT TO CANADA'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS

Energy and utilities
Finance

Food
Transportation

Government
Health

Water
Safety

Manufacturing

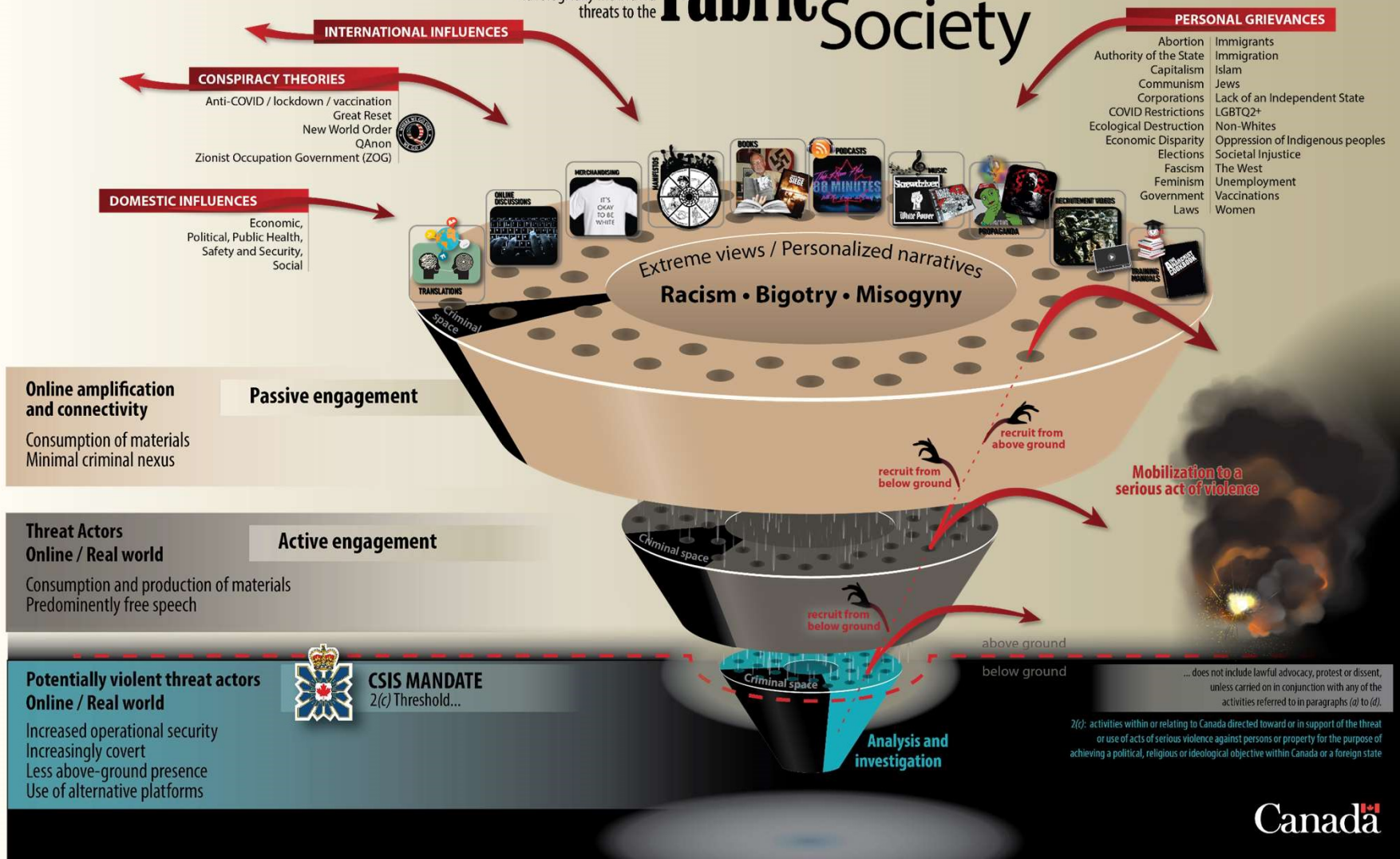
Information and
communication technology

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Understanding
ideologically motivated
threats to the

Fabric of Society





Canadian Security
Intelligence Service

Service canadien du
renseignement de sécurité

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Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism

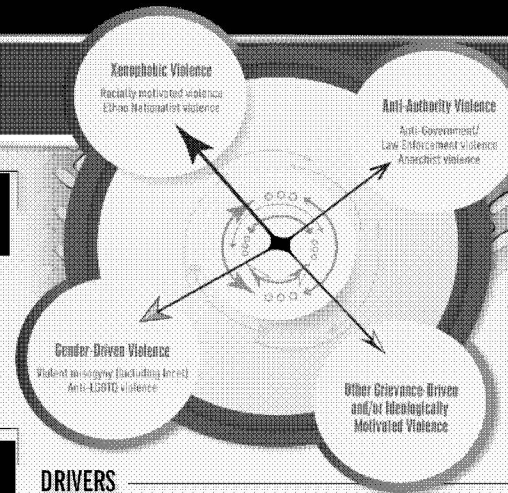
STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

CURRENT THREAT ENVIRONMENT

- Since 2014, Canadians motivated in whole or in part by their extremist views have killed 21 and wounded 40 on Canadian soil.
- Adherents of IMVE are driven by a range of grievances and by a selection of ideas from across the traditional left/right ideological spectrum. The resulting worldview often consists of a personalized narrative which centres on the willingness to incite, enable and/or mobilize to violence.
- Often, these individuals/cells act without a clear affiliation to an organized group or external guidance, but are nevertheless shaped by hateful voices and messages online that normalize and advocate violence.
- Adherents of IMVE draw inspiration from an changing variety of discourse, including books, images, lectures, music, online discussions, videos and conversations.
- The IMVE landscape is largely rooted online and often transnational in its resonance. Ideologues, narratives groups and networks are often not bound by a country's borders.
- Mobilization to violence can occur rapidly, often within a period of weeks or months.

PERSISTENT THREATS

EMERGING THREATS



Intelligence Requirements

- T&E 1: Immediate threat or violent extremist threat
- T&E 2: Planning, preparation or support
- T&E 3: Radicalization

DRIVERS

- The IMVE threat is driven by local, national and international events and influences including personal economic well-being and safety/security (from violent extremism/terrorism), the COVID-19 pandemic, elections (national or international), or special events.
- A growing lack of trust in the integrity of government and law enforcement and confidence in scientific expertise.
- Drivers can be both deeply personal (e.g. loss of employment) or existential (perceived threat to one's way of life posed by immigration, government corruption).
- Drivers are amplified by extreme online voices (influencers), including those promoting conspiracy theories or calling for the use of violence.

CHALLENGES/ANALYTIC GAPS

RELEVANTS

* This placemat does not address potential foreign influenced activity across the IMVE landscape.



July 24, 2020

Canada



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Canada

CSIS Strategic Context: Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism

What CSIS has observed since the beginning of the pandemic

- Over the last few years, CSIS has increased resources dedicated to investigating and analyzing ideologically motivated violent extremism (IMVE) threats. CSIS' understanding of the IMVE milieu has informed advice to Government.
- The combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ever-increasing influence of social media and the spread of conspiracy theories has created an uncertain environment ripe for exploitation. Such an environment has the potential to inspire individuals to take violent extremist actions and move their message into the mainstream of society.
- IMVE is a serious threat to the security of Canada. A number of IMVE events have occurred in Canada, including the June 2021 London, Ontario attack on a Muslim family killing four and wounding another.
- IMVE is a complex and constantly evolving threat. Proponents of IMVE are driven by a range of influences rather than a singular belief system. Radicalization is often caused by a combination of ideas and grievances resulting in a personalized worldview, which often centres on the willingness to incite, enable or mobilize to serious violence. IMVE actors often act without a clear affiliation to a specific organized group or external guidance. Past events, such as the London, Ontario attacks, have shown the challenges associated with identifying threat actors that do not exhibit indicators of mobilization to violence before they actually commit violent acts.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated xenophobic (racial and ethno-nationalist) and anti-authority narratives. Some violent extremists view COVID-19 as a real but welcome crisis that could hasten the collapse of Western society (known as accelerationism). Many IMVE threat actors have adopted conspiracy theories about the pandemic in an attempt to rationalize and justify violence.
- While aspects of conspiracy theory rhetoric are a legitimate exercise in free expression, online rhetoric and activities that encourage violence have been of increasing concern. This violent rhetoric is easily disseminated using both mainstream and alternative media and social media platforms. Many of these platforms can be used anonymously or leverage encryption technologies to enable threat actors to conceal their identity and evade detection by law enforcement and security agencies, while spreading their message, inciting violence and recruiting like-minded individuals.
- The spread of violent rhetoric and the manipulation and propagation of information can erode confidence in our democratic values, institutions, and polarize communities while undermining trust in our democratically elected governments. It also normalizes the use of violent rhetoric and the threatening of actual violence as a means to express dissent, which negatively affects societal resilience.
- CSIS has actively been investigating IMVE actors that present a threat of serious violence pursuant to its mandate and authorities under the *CSIS Act*. But to be clear,

CSIS does not investigate lawful advocacy, protest or dissent, but only activities that rise to the level of a threat to the security of Canada.

- In confronting the IMVE threat, CSIS has collaborated with the RCMP, the Department of Justice and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada to align operational efforts, and seek solutions in the interest of public safety.
- In addition, CSIS has worked closely with its domestic and international partners on understanding the evolution of the threat environment to provide assessments and advice to support actions, including by law enforcement where appropriate.

What CSIS is seeing now

- Since the beginning of the Freedom Convoy 2022 and the protests and blockades across the country, CSIS efforts have focused on its IMVE subjects of investigation and their activities in relation to those events.
- The protests themselves and the vast majority of protestors are not relevant to CSIS' mandate. However, as demonstrated by the Breach of the US Capitol Building on January 6, 2021, IMVE actors may exploit lawful protests, rallies, demonstrations and other gatherings to carry out IMVE-related violence and criminal activity. Given this trend, CSIS is closely monitoring the opportunities the protests may present to IMVE actors to promote or engage in serious acts of violence in Canada. CSIS is also aware that the protests may offer opportunities to lone wolf actors.
- CSIS is also guarding against other threats to Canada's national security in relation to the protests, such as foreign interference. With respect to foreign sources of funding, CSIS' mandate is engaged when funds are provided at the direction of a foreign state with the goal of engaging in foreign interference activities in Canada, or when those donating the money are doing so to support an act of serious violence or terrorism. To date, CSIS has not observed this.
- Since the beginning of the protests, there have been unlawful activities, but CSIS has not observed activities that would suggest that there is planning, plotting or inspiring of others to engage in serious violence. However, as the protests continue and frustrations, anxiety and tension increase, it is possible that an individual or small group may be willing to engage in violence.
- This is what appears to have occurred in Coutts, Alberta. On February 14, 2022, the RCMP arrested 13 individuals in relation to the blockade at the Coutts border crossing. These individuals were in possession of firearms, ammunition and body armor. This development is concerning as it indicates the intent and capabilities of individuals to engage in serious acts of violence.
- The Coutts blockade began as part of the broader anti public health measures movement and was driven by a similar range of narratives and grievances as seen in the Ottawa occupation. The bringing together of individuals with differing ideological motivations around a common cause is typical of the IMVE space. However, each radicalization pathway or mobilization to violence is highly individual, and discerning

common features or triggers in order to predict action is a core challenge for CSIS and law enforcement partners.

- CSIS has observed that the declaration of emergency by the Province of Ontario on February 11, 2022, has resulted in a significant increase in violent rhetoric towards the Premier of Ontario and other senior elected officials.

Forward looking

- Looking at how best to manage the unfolding situation, the authorities are faced with two sets of concerns, both of which have potentially deleterious effects and the potential to increase threat activities.
- While the invocation of the *Emergencies Act* and the ensuing enforcement actions have the potential to increase the number of Canadians holding extreme anti-government views, it could also have a deterrent effect on many of the protesters and facilitate an end to the protests.
- The invocation of the *Emergencies Act* could also negatively influence the behaviours of CSIS' subjects of investigations and others who may not have yet embarked on a path to radicalization.
- Some individuals involved in IMVE movements are likely to view the announcement relating to the invocation of the *Emergencies Act* as confirmation of their core accelerationist beliefs. This, in turn, could lead to increased volume of extreme online chatter and would likely further their radicalization pathways towards violence.
- As part of its mandate, CSIS remains alive to these different scenarios and maintains awareness of the unfolding situation, and is using all the authorities and tools at its disposal to investigate and assess threats to the security of Canada to provide advice to Government and where appropriate consider the use of threat reduction measures.
- CSIS will continue to assess various intelligence questions to better understand, among others, the catalytic nature of the protests as well as government and enforcement actions (or inactions) on our subjects of investigations, in terms of motivation to mobilize or encourage serious violence, rhetoric, resources and followers.
- While the IMVE threats directly implicate CSIS' mandate, there are broader strategic considerations at play. In particular, the manifestation of IMVE activities affect policy considerations related to online harms, the resilience of our democratic institutions, the security of parliamentarians, dialogue with racialized communities, and engagements on national security issues at all levels of government.

THREAT HIGHLIGHT

ITAC

CIET

Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

// 2020-05-05

SECRET//CANADIAN EYES ONLY

IMV extremists response to COVID-19 pandemic

TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS



CANADA ↔ MEDIUM

↔ MEDIUM



Uniformed Personnel

U//FOUO

LEGEND: Established ↔ Raised ↑ Lowered ↓ Remains ↔

According to a body of SITE Intelligence, since mid-March 2020, ideologically motivated violent (IMV) extremists have exploited the COVID-19 pandemic through propaganda and online posts to promote their ideologies, recruit members, spread disinformation and perpetuate conspiracy theories. While IMV extremists are exploiting the pandemic, they have also been forced to change targets and cancel physical meetings due to lockdown measures.

PROMOTE IDEOLOGY AND RECRUIT:

Propaganda

IMV extremists continue to promote xenophobic propaganda targeting racial and religious minorities during the pandemic. Noting the contagious nature of COVID-19, IMV extremists are encouraging followers to spread the virus like a biological weapon through coughing, sneezing and close contact with Jewish and Muslim communities. Several online posts from late March 2020, encouraged supporters to "cough on your local synagogues door handles," while another demanded that anyone diagnosed with the virus "travel to more ethnic parts of your town; including mosques and synagogues." Extremists also urged supporters to "exploit" anti-Chinese sentiments associated with pandemic, suggesting the desecration of Chinese flags and reinforcing the "Chinese virus" vocabulary used by some to refer to COVID-19.

Conspiracy theories, disinformation, and accelerationism

IMV extremists are using the pandemic to propose or reaffirm an array of conspiracy theories, primarily focusing on anti-Semitism or xenophobia against people from China. Some theories ponder the role of the Chinese government or the "Jewish global elite" in the pandemic, while others insist that the Chinese deliberately spread the virus to compromise "Western" states. In mid-March 2020, images were posted claiming COVID-19 was a virus developed by "elites" to "tag their property (people)" with radio-frequency identification chips like those used in animals. Finally, a late-April 2020 message to a neo-Nazi Telegram channel claimed the pandemic was a hoax and that "if [white men] actually stood up, a white supremacist order would rise."

While conspiracy theories about COVID-19 are flourishing online, some in the IMV extremist milieu are discouraging supporters from denouncing the COVID-19 pandemic as a hoax or conspiracy. In mid-March 2020, a neo-Nazi media group encouraged subscribers to spread disinformation about social unrest during the pandemic to "promote the panic," thereby furthering instabilities in social order. An early April 2020 post claimed advantage in letting the pandemic escalate public anxieties: "the panic and chaos it creates" will accelerate the demise of the current social order. It further stated that the resulting instability had the potential to bring IMV extremist ideas into the mainstream.

Some of these extremists are taking it even further and encouraging the spreading of false information to “fully embrace accelerationism.” These extremists have encouraged others to “prioritize the panic” through fabricated stories of fights over limited resources or creating fake World Health Organization infographics to accelerate the conditions for social change. [REDACTED]

Recruitment

In mid-April 2020, a message in a chat group for supporters of the Sweden-based neo-Nazi Nordic Resistance Movement (NRM) encouraged members to circulate the English language version of NRM's website as broadly as possible in response to a perceived increase in the amount of time spent online caused by COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. NRM's website contains communiques and articles documenting group activities, podcasts hosted by group leaders, and links to a donation page and NRM merchandise store [REDACTED]

CHANGE IN ACTIONS:

Secondary targets

Open source information indicates that some IMV extremists are discussing the possibility of targeting individuals and groups that are not racial and religious minorities or symbols of government. For example, in early April 2020, a neo-Nazi Telegram channel encouraged followers to target medical employees in a campaign to damage and disable their vehicles. This shift is consistent with the recent actions of Timothy Wilson (see text box). [REDACTED]

In late March 2020, a French-language poster, which resembled one used by the French government, was uploaded to an anarchist blog. The poster encouraged anarchists to “help” eradicate COVID-19 by engaging in arson attacks, wounding police officers and looting supermarkets. The blog was created in response to the pandemic to “subvert the current social order.” [REDACTED]

In mid-March 2020, a neo-Nazi Telegram channel shared an infographic explaining how to make chemical weapons by mixing household ingredients. An accompanying statement urged followers to release the resulting toxic gases in busy grocery stores, causing customers to mimic the symptoms of COVID-19 and overload the health care system. The ultimate goal would be to spark “system collapse” and block access to care for religious and racial minorities. [REDACTED]

ALLEGED VBIED PLAN TO ATTACK HOSPITAL

According to media reporting, Timothy Wilson was a potentially violent extremist motivated by religious, racist, and anti-government beliefs who had considered attacking ethnic and religious minorities. In late March 2020, Wilson felt “compelled” to act following a stay-at-home order issued for Missouri residences. He accelerated his plan and targeted a hospital providing critical care during the COVID-19 pandemic. See [REDACTED]

Cancellation of events

In late March 2020, two neo-Nazi groups announced the cancellation of upcoming in-person events. In an article published on the NRM website, the group's leader Simon Lindberg announced that a demonstration scheduled for 1 May 2020 in Uppsala, Sweden, would be postponed. Lindberg stressed that the NRM leadership arrived at this decision strictly out of concern for its supporters' health, not as a result of any government mandate. The National Socialism Movement (NSM) posted a statement on their Telegram channel announcing that their national meetings were postponed until July,” blaming the ZOG (Zionist Occupied Government). The rally was originally scheduled to take place in mid-April 2020 in honour of Adolf Hitler's birthday. [REDACTED]

ASSESSMENT

- ITAC assesses that any IMV extremist propaganda promoting attacks is aspirational. ITAC continues to judge that these online threats are vocalized by anonymous ‘keyboard warriors’ with limited intents and capabilities to carry out their threats. Further, ITAC assesses it highly unlikely that these ‘warriors’ would take

the opportunity presented by the current societal conditions during the pandemic to act upon their threats.

- ITAC assesses it possible that IMV extremists are producing an increased amount of propaganda during the pandemic to take advantage of increased online activity due to national lockdowns to further spread their ideology and recruit new members. Further, ITAC judges it possible that societal changes such as job loss and social isolation may also lead to an increased number of individuals who sympathize with the IMV extremist mindset.
- Despite these recruitment efforts and societal changes, ITAC assesses that number of individuals who consume and are inspired by this propaganda are relatively low. Further, ITAC assess that these 'new recruits' are more likely to participate in civil disobedience activities (i.e., anti-lockdown protests, disregard lockdown measures) rather than violence.
- ITAC assesses that IMV extremists groups' decisions to cancel networking events or in-person activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic will likely embolden their anti-government beliefs and possibly lead to increased propaganda targeting those they feel are responsible for the pandemic.

Terrorism Threat Levels



An act of terrorism **COULD OCCUR.**



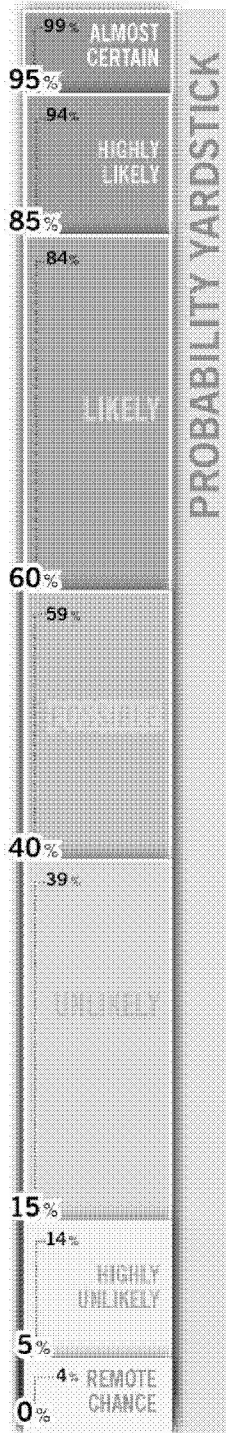
There is intent *and* capability from both domestic and international extremist actors to commit an act of terrorism in Canada.



An act of terrorism affecting **uniformed personnel** in Canada **COULD OCCUR.**

- Intelligence indicates that an individual or group **within Canada** or abroad has the intent *and* capability to commit an act of terrorism in Canada. There remain individuals both in Canada and abroad who advocate violence and aspire to carry out terrorist attacks domestically. ITAC notes that inspired individuals typically act alone or in relatively small groups, and that attack planning can progress quickly, and may go undetected. **ITAC assesses that an act of terrorism could occur in Canada.**
- Propaganda identifying **uniformed personnel** as potential targets continues to be published online. ITAC notes there are indications of intent to target uniformed personnel in Canada. Notwithstanding, ITAC assesses that, at present, uniformed personnel are more likely to be targeted incidentally while providing security to a special event or when responding to a terrorist attack. **ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism affecting uniformed personnel in Canada could occur.**

DEFINITIONS



THREAT LEVEL

↔ established ↑ raised ↓ lowered ↔ remains

CRITICAL		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is HIGHLY LIKELY and COULD OCCUR IMMINENTLY .	ITAC assesses it is HIGHLY LIKELY that a violent act of terrorism will occur.
HIGH	<i>Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has the intent and capability to commit an act of terrorism.</i>	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is LIKELY .	ITAC assesses it is LIKELY that a violent act of terrorism will occur.
MEDIUM		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism COULD OCCUR .	ITAC assesses it is POSSIBLE that a violent act of terrorism will occur.
LOW	<i>Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has either the intent OR capability to commit an act of terrorism.</i>	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is POSSIBLE BUT UNLIKELY .	ITAC assesses it is UNLIKELY that a violent act of terrorism will occur.
VERY LOW	<i>There is no intelligence indicating a terrorist threat.</i>	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is HIGHLY UNLIKELY .	ITAC assesses it is HIGHLY UNLIKELY that a violent act of terrorism will occur.

ITAC uses both quantitative and qualitative analysis in applying terrorism threat levels. The setting of threat levels is determined by several factors including current intelligence, recent events, as well as the intent, capabilities, and attack frequency of terrorist groups. ITAC cautions that the information may be incomplete and, regardless of the threat level applied, a violent act of terrorism may occur with little or no warning.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

CRITERIA:	INTELLIGENCE	SOURCES	ASSUMPTION	REASONING
HIGH	multiple reports; well-corroborated information; range of reporting types; historical understanding of the issue; good understanding of the risk of deceptive reporting	proven and accurate	few; minimal intelligence gaps	strong logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
MEDIUM	multiple reports; partially corroborated plausible information; some historical understanding of the issue, some risk of undetected deceptive reporting	proven and semi-proven sources that have been fairly accurate	several, not critical to the analysis; some intelligence gaps	includes weak logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
LOW	few or single-source reports; uncorroborated information; some historical understanding of the issue; considerable risk of undetected deceptive reporting	semi-proven sources that have been somewhat accurate, or new, unproven sources	many; some critical to the analysis	dominated by weak inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodologies

TERRORIST GROUP CAPABILITIES

ADVANCED		Capable of sophisticated attacks, including against hard targets
MODERATE		Capable of high profile attacks against soft targets
GENERAL		Capable of simple attacks

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// 2021-08-30

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The impact of COVID-19 vaccination mandates within the ideologically motivated violent extremism milieu

INTRODUCTION

The current ideologically motivated violent extremism (IMVE) threat environment in Canada is fluid and rapidly evolving within a convergence of social, political and geopolitical factors. This paper assesses the extremism threat from IMVE adherents—particularly those motivated by anti-government and anti-authority beliefs and/or inspired by conspiracy theories—in the context of COVID-19 vaccination mandates being implemented globally and in Canada by governments and large institutions.

A note about scope

Not all individuals who protest mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policies are motivated by conspiracy theories or IMVE. Some individuals are hesitant about receiving COVID-19 vaccines because of health reasons, concerns about the safety of the vaccines, and fears stemming from past negative interactions with the healthcare system. These individuals are not in scope for this paper. In addition, individuals who engage in non-violent criminal behaviour relating to mandatory COVID-19 measures (e.g., vaccine passport forgers) are excluded from the scope of this paper.

KEY ASSESSMENTS

- ITAC assesses that mandatory vaccines policies, including vaccination to participate in day-to-day activities, can represent trigger points for those vulnerable to messages advocating violence as an acceptable expression of opposition.
- While ITAC is not aware of an imminent threat or advanced attack plot, ITAC assesses that the implementation of vaccination mandates, particularly in the context of a federal election, can result in increased online and real-world threats from anti-government and anti-authority IMVE adherents who believe that vaccine mandates are a violation of personal freedoms or part of a wider government conspiracy.
- ITAC judges that the vast majority of online IMVE threats are made by individuals with no intent to follow through with real-world violence. However, a growing number of online posts may have the intent to push individuals or small groups into supporting or manifesting ideological acts of violence.

REACTIONS TO COVID-19 VACCINATION MANDATES

According to a body of media reporting, a growing number of governments and large public and private institutions in Canada and abroad have made COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for employees, customers and visitors. Many other governments and institutions have implemented measures that indirectly make vaccinations mandatory. Indirect measures include ending nonessential free COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated individuals, potentially dismissing unvaccinated individuals from employment, and requiring vaccine documentation (e.g., vaccine passports, health pass, certificates) to access certain events and businesses. Most recently, the Canadian federal government announced that all employees of federally regulated industries, departments and Crown corporations must be vaccinated by fall 2021. This mandate extends to commercial passengers travelling by air, rail or large ship.

Canada

According to open-source reporting, the pressure to be vaccinated to participate in regular society and the perceived infringement upon personal freedoms have provoked strong reactions from some individuals in Canada. Some individuals have even threatened violence on pro-IMVE social media platforms. Elected officials as well as healthcare officials and their families have been targeted verbally by protesters or have been threatened with violence. [REDACTED]

Canadian elections – September 2021

While there is currently no specific threat-related information regarding the 2021 Canadian federal election season, the election itself is a triggering event for many different IMVE adherents. Individuals can, and do, express social and political grievances during democratic elections. However, social unrest related to pandemic restrictions, widespread conspiracy theories, and a distrust in the democratic process have resulted in the prominence of ideological grievances for the 2021 election season. This confluence of events has led to a volatile threat environment in Canada (see [REDACTED])

Global

Globally, since spring 2021, conspiracy theories and threats of violence relating to real or perceived mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations have persisted. In the United States, individuals continue to express conspiracy theories and violent rhetoric online, including threats related to bombs, kidnappings and civil war. Targets include elected officials, law enforcement, vaccination sites, public health officials and infrastructure, health workers, pharmaceutical companies and employees, and institutions that mandate vaccinations for employees and customers. There is a similar atmosphere in Europe, where there have been attacks on French vaccination centres and Dutch test facilities, as well as calls for attacks on Italy's power infrastructure to disrupt the country's digital COVID-19 vaccination certificate. Xenophobic imagery has been displayed at protests against health passes, and violent rhetoric targeting elected officials and media company employees has been posted online. In the Caribbean, an elected official was injured by a projectile during a protest against a possible requirement for most frontline health workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19. [REDACTED]

THE GENERAL IMVE THREAT LANDSCAPE

Intent and capability

Some IMVE adherents espouse violent rhetoric with an intent towards violent resistance against COVID-19 measures and perceived government overreach. To date, IMVE actors have generally demonstrated an unsophisticated capability to undertake violent action. However, some IMVE adherents have professional life experience that can increase their capability (but not their intent) to undertake violent action. For example, in spring 2021, a former soldier in possession of a variety of weapons threatened public health officials linked to Belgium's pandemic efforts. This threat was ultimately mitigated. [REDACTED]

Opportunity and triggers

The lifting of pandemic restrictions and the return of large gatherings, special events and travel can increase opportunities for extremists to conduct attacks. It is usually difficult to predict what events could trigger an extremist to undertake or incite opportunistic acts of violence, with the exception of major planned events like a national election. If any one of a variety of predicted or novel trigger events were to occur during this election period, it is possible that the confluence of events will increase the threat of violence from IMVE adherents. Possible trigger events that could occur in the near to medium term include further developments in Afghanistan, an economic shock, a new lockdown mandate, or other mandatory pandemic measures. [REDACTED]

Targets

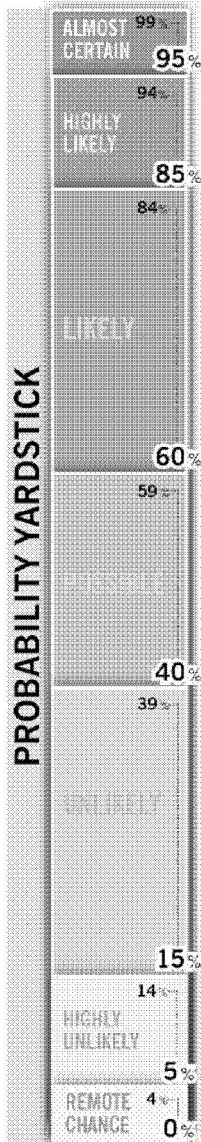
To date, threats by IMVE adherents have focused on political figures, uniformed personnel, symbols of government, healthcare institutions, and other institutions associated with pandemic and vaccine-related targets. Some individuals have argued online that violence against public health workers and "federal agents" would be justified in the face of "forced" vaccinations. [REDACTED]

ASSESSMENTS

- ITAC is not aware of an imminent threat or advanced attack plot but does assess it likely that some anti-vaccination IMVE adherents in Canada who refrained from violence due to the voluntary nature of Canada's vaccination strategy will justify mandatory vaccines as a reason to mobilize to violence. While ITAC further

assesses that any incitement to violence will likely remain in the online space, ITAC cannot discount the possibility that a small-scale attack undertaken by an inspired lone actor using low-sophistication weapons against a visible and accessible target, such as a public vaccination site, could occur with little to no warning. [REDACTED]

- Institutions that have mandated vaccinations, and their representatives, could become targets of online IMVE threats or real world violence; members of the general public seen to be accessing their services could face the threat of collateral violence. Specifically, federal or provincial vaccination policies that are perceived to inhibit personal freedoms or unfairly target unvaccinated individuals could intensify the threat environment and lead to a violent response against vaccination centres and workers, vaccine advocates, political figures, or symbols of government in Canada. [REDACTED]
- Although peaceful protests do not equate to IMVE activity, ITAC assesses that IMVE actors could leverage protests or other large civil gatherings to conduct opportunistic violence. ITAC judges that it is likely that some IMVE adherents—particularly those who espouse anti-government and anti-authority beliefs—continue to draw inspiration from the violent breach of Capitol Hill on 6 January 2021. [REDACTED]
- ITAC judges that to IMVE adherents, there is little difference between mandatory vaccinations and vaccinations being required for participation in voluntary activities—both are interpreted as infringements upon personal freedoms. As IMVE actors are adept at co-opting broad grievances to expand their influence, ITAC assesses that the introduction of mandatory COVID-19 vaccination measures will enable IMVE propagandists to recruit others to their worldviews. [REDACTED]
- ITAC assesses that although some online contributors simply want to engage in and fuel IMVE narratives, others aim to normalize violence as a reasonable response to disagreements with public policy. This messaging may lead to susceptible and volatile individuals carrying out unsophisticated attacks in an effort to make their opposition known and create change. The possibility of an isolated violent act cannot be discounted in the context of vaccination mandates and new or reinstituted public health restrictions or rules. [REDACTED]
- ITAC notes that underlying tensions related to vaccinations and any public health restrictions resulting from a fourth wave of COVID-19 could influence the mobilization to violence by IMVE adherents who already believe that their rights are being violated by pandemic-related mandates. [REDACTED]



ITAC's Probability Yardstick tool contributes to the understanding of the threat by providing readers with a common understanding of ITAC's probability statements.

THREAT LEVEL

↔ established ↑ raised ↓ lowered → remains

LEVELS	DESCRIPTIONS	LANGUAGE
CRITICAL		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is HIGHLY LIKELY and COULD OCCUR IMMINENTLY .
HIGH	Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has the intent AND capability to commit an act of terrorism.	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is LIKELY .
MEDIUM		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism COULD OCCUR .
LOW	Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has either the intent OR capability to commit an act of terrorism.	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is POSSIBLE BUT UNLIKELY .
VERY LOW	There is no intelligence indicating a terrorist threat.	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is HIGHLY UNLIKELY .

ITAC's Threat Level chart defines each threat level and describes the assessed likelihood of a violent act of terrorism. ITAC uses both quantitative and qualitative analysis in applying terrorism threat levels. Threat levels are determined based on several factors, including current intelligence, recent events, and the assessed intent, capabilities and opportunity available to terrorist groups. ITAC cautions that its information may be incomplete and, regardless of the threat level applied, a violent act of terrorism may occur with little or no warning. See Confidence Levels.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

CRITERIA	INTELLIGENCE	SOURCES	ASSUMPTION	REASONING
HIGH	multiple reports; well-corroborated information; range of reporting types; historical understanding of the issue; good understanding of the risk of deceptive reporting	proven and accurate	few; minimal intelligence gaps	strong logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
MEDIUM	multiple reports; partially corroborated plausible information; some historical understanding of the issue, some risk of undetected deceptive reporting	proven and semi-proven sources that have been fairly accurate	several, not critical to the analysis; some intelligence gaps	includes weak logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
LOW	few or single-source reports; uncorroborated information; some historical understanding of the issue; considerable risk of undetected deceptive reporting	semi-proven sources that have been somewhat accurate, or new, unproven sources	many; some critical to the analysis	dominated by weak inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodologies

ITAC's Confidence Levels chart outlines statements that accompany each ITAC product to inform the reader of ITAC's degree of confidence in its assessments. These levels are based on an evaluation of the available intelligence, the sources, and ITAC's assumptions and reasoning.

TERRORIST GROUP CAPABILITIES

ADVANCED		Capable of sophisticated attacks, including against hard targets
MODERATE		Capable of high profile attacks against soft targets
GENERAL		Capable of simple attacks

ITAC's Terrorist Group Capabilities chart describes the capabilities of a terrorist group to conduct an attack in a particular country where the group has already demonstrated intent. This metric is based on the methodology used to establish ITAC's terrorism threat levels. For the purposes of this metric, capability is defined as "the ability, capacity, competence or qualification" of a group to perpetrate a particular attack.

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THREAT HIGHLIGHT

ITAC

CIET

Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

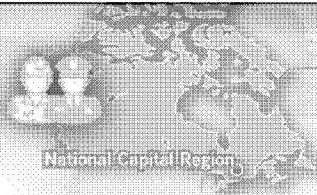
Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

DEVELOPING THREAT

// 2022-01-26

SECRET

TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS



CANADA ↔ MEDIUM
NCR ↔ LOW

↔ MEDIUM



Uniformed Personnel

SECRET

LEGEND: Established ↔ Raised ↑ Lowered ↓ Remains ↔

A convoy of Canadian truck drivers and their supporters are travelling from various cities to Ottawa to protest a federal vaccine mandate for truck drivers crossing the Canadian-United States (US) border. They are expected to arrive in Ottawa around 28 and 29 January. (U//FOUO)

BACKGROUNDER ON PROTEST CONVOY

The Government of Canada recently announced a federal mandate for truckers crossing the border to be vaccinated by 15 January 2022. This led to the so-called Freedom Convoy 2022 protest being organised through social media. Various convoys started across Canada on 22 January with the goal of arriving in Ottawa over the weekend of 28 and 29 January. (U//FOUO)

ASSESSMENTS

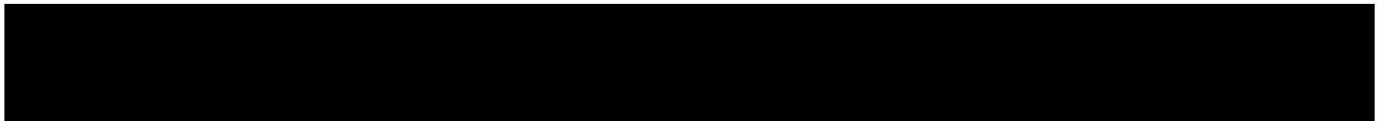


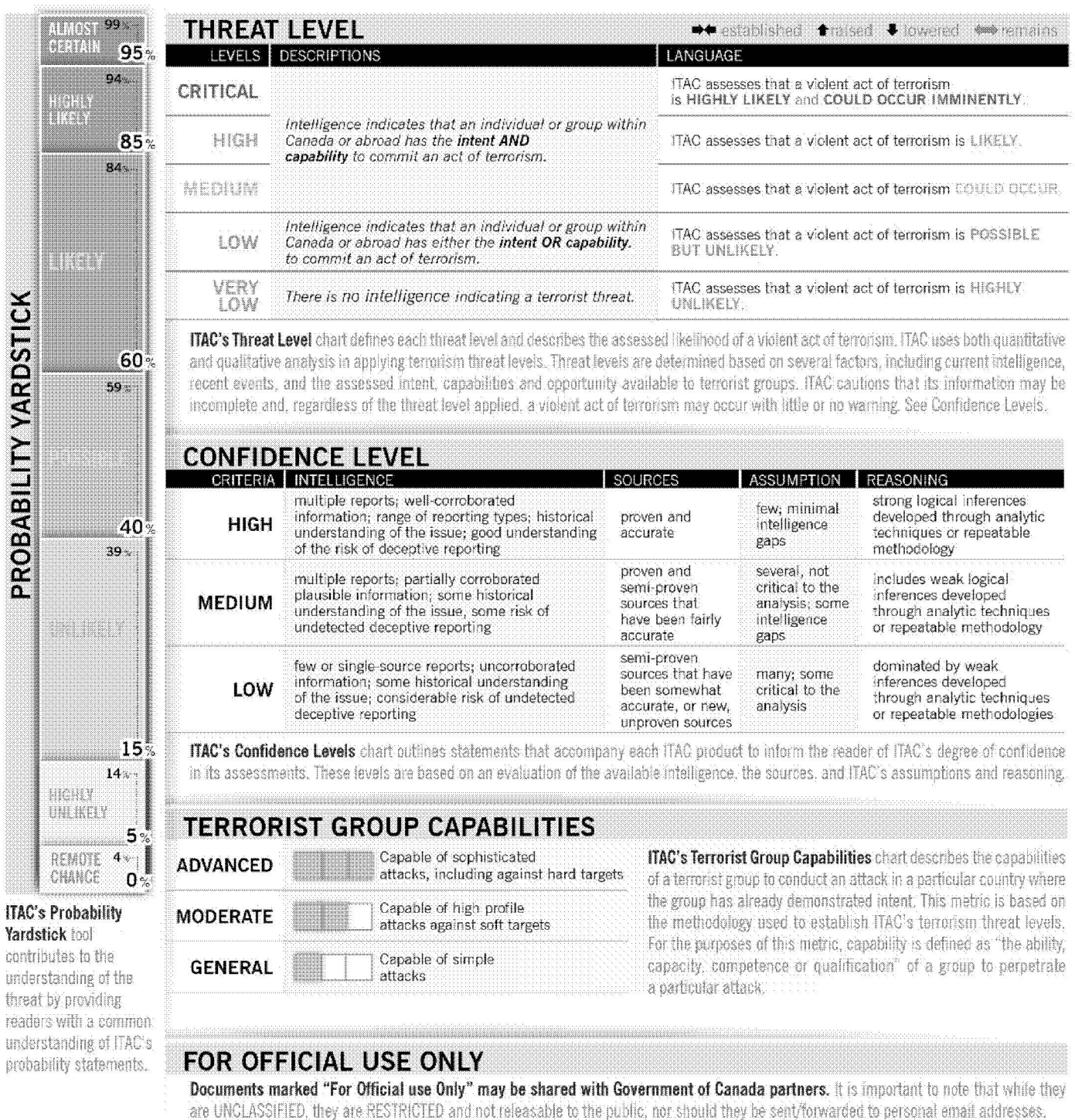
Terrorism Threat Levels

Canada ↔ MEDIUM ↔ MEDIUM Threat levels as of 1 December 2021.

- An act of terrorism **COULD OCCUR**.
- There is intent *and* capability from both domestic and international extremist actors to commit an act of terrorism in Canada.
- An act of terrorism directly affecting **uniformed personnel** in Canada **COULD OCCUR**.
- Intelligence indicates that an individual or group **within Canada** or abroad has the intent *and* capability to commit an act of terrorism in Canada. There remain individuals both in Canada and abroad who advocate violence and aspire to carry out terrorist attacks domestically. ITAC notes that inspired individuals typically act alone or in relatively small groups, and that attack planning can progress quickly, and may go undetected. **ITAC assesses that an act of terrorism could occur in Canada.**
- Propaganda identifying **uniformed personnel** as potential targets continues to be published online. ITAC notes there are indications of intent to target uniformed personnel in Canada. Notwithstanding, ITAC assesses that, at present, uniformed personnel are more likely to be targeted incidentally while performing their duties. **ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism affecting uniformed personnel in Canada could occur.**

National Capital Region (NCR) ↔ LOW Threat level as of 1 December 2021.(S)





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THREAT HIGHLIGHT

ITAC

CIET

Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

// 2022-02-08

UNCLASSIFIED//

CANADA: IMVE threats in the midst of anti-vaccine protests in the NCR and across the country

TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS

CANADA ← MEDIUM

← MEDIUM



Uniformed Personnel

LEGEND: Established ↔ Raised ↑ Lowered ↓ Remains ↔

This assessment updates TH22/08 and focuses on the wave of protest in Canada on the weekend of 5 to 6 February in support of the ongoing "Freedom Convoy" to the National Capital Region (NCR). While the protests were initiated by truckers contesting vaccination mandates to cross the US border, events in Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Quebec City and Ottawa have been gathering various groups opposing public health measures. All events remained relatively peaceful, with limited low-level conflict. However, violent online rhetoric and the physical presence of ideological extremists at some gatherings remain a factor of concern.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS ACROSS CANADA

ONTARIO

- **Ottawa** saw approximately 7,000 people protesting and counter-protesting on Saturday, 5 February 2022. There were a number of minor incidents requiring police intervention, but the protests themselves were largely peaceful. Ottawa Police Services received approximately 200 calls about hate-related crimes, leading to 11 investigations. The City of Ottawa declared a state of emergency on Sunday, 6 February 2022. The protest attracted various anti-government figures, including conspiracy theorist Roman Didulo who in June 2021 encouraged her online followers to kill health professionals, burned a Canadian flag and symbolically raised another, declaring the new Kingdom of Canada in Ottawa. The burning of the flag reportedly angered other anti-government protestors.
- **Toronto** saw a protest and counter-protest on Saturday, resulting in two arrests—one related to a smoke bomb and the other to throwing feces.
- **Sarnia** police had to close part of Highway 402 that runs to the border crossing with Michigan because of pedestrians on the road near a convoy of trucks and tractors.

Protests inspired by the Canadian "Freedom Convoy" have also taken place in other countries without reported violence but with anti-authority messaging



Source: The Guardian

ASSESSMENT NOTE: This assessment is based on recent open-source, law enforcement liaison reporting. The information cut-off date is 10:00 hours on 7 February 2022. ITAC has MEDIUM confidence in its assessments due to the dynamic situation.

ALBERTA

- **Coutts** continues to be the site of disruptive activities at the Canada–United States (US) border in protest of the vaccination mandate for truckers. The size of the protest has ebbed and flowed over the last ten days, and there is no information to suggest that organizers intend to end the protest. [REDACTED]
- **Edmonton, Lethbridge and Calgary** saw peaceful protests throughout the weekend. [REDACTED]

QUEBEC

- **Quebec City** saw several large convoys converge outside of the Quebec Provincial Assembly. The QAnon flag was observed, and the extremist group La Meute stated that approximately 100 members participated in the protest, and claimed that the same number attended the Ottawa protest. Police reported only one arrest associated with the Quebec City protest. The protesters left by the end of the day on 5 February, but indicated that they would return in two weeks. [REDACTED]
- **Gatineau** police indicated that the extremist anti-vaccination group Farfadaas, which has been protesting near Chaudière Bridge to Ottawa since the beginning of the “Freedom Convoy,” remained in place, although the group has indicated that it is running out of supplies. [REDACTED]

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- **Vancouver** estimated that there were thousands of protesters in various locations around the city, with some counter-protests. Although the protests were generally peaceful, there were five arrests, including the arrest of an American from Washington State who was arrested with eggs and a knife. [REDACTED]
- **Victoria** saw a protest of approximately 2,500 people, some of whom were counter-protesters. This was the second weekend in a row for protests in front of the British Columbia legislature. [REDACTED]

MANITOBA

- **Winnipeg** protesters experienced minor injuries when an impaired driver drove into a group on the evening of Friday, 4 February 2022. The driver was released from custody on conditions and facing a number of charges. Initial information suggests that this incident is not of national security interest. [REDACTED]

NOVA SCOTIA

- **Halifax** saw a convoy of hundreds of trucks and cars. [REDACTED]

ASSESSMENTS

- Those seeking to undertake legitimate protest are distinct from those actors espousing violent extremism. The convergence of legitimate protest with ideological extremism both online and in cities across the country presents a possible trigger point and opportunity for potential lone actor attackers to conduct a terrorism attack. [REDACTED]
- ITAC continues to assess that a coordinated, complex terrorist attack or a planned storming of Parliament, legislatures or government offices is unlikely at this time. The most likely ideologically motivated violent extremism (IMVE)-related scenario involves an individual or small group using readily available weapons and resources such as knives, firearms, homemade explosives and vehicles in public areas against soft targets, including opposition groups or members of the general public. [REDACTED]
- ITAC judges that the “Freedom Convoy” protests have become a rallying point for anti-government and anti-authority, anti-vaccination, conspiracy theory, and xenophobic groups throughout North America and other Western countries. Convergences and instability of this kind will likely occur throughout 2022. [REDACTED]
- We note that the “Freedom Convoy” is a direct and very public manifestation of the increasingly mainstream legitimization of violence against elected officials and public figures connected to COVID-19 related public health measures. [REDACTED]

Terrorism Threat Levels

Canada



MEDIUM

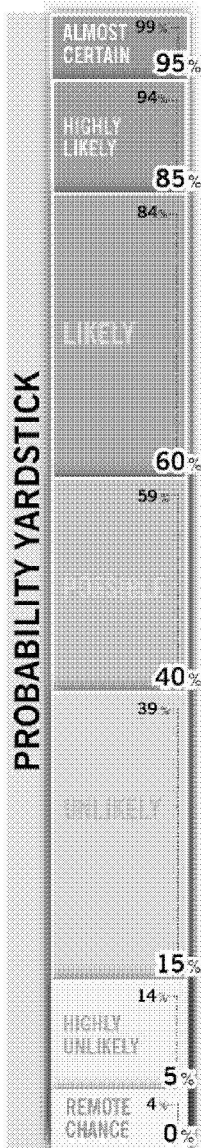


MEDIUM

Threat levels as of 1 December 2021

An act of terrorism **COULD OCCUR.**There is intent *and* capability from both domestic and international extremist actors to commit an act of terrorism in CanadaAn act of terrorism directly affecting **uniformed personnel** in Canada **COULD OCCUR.**

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