

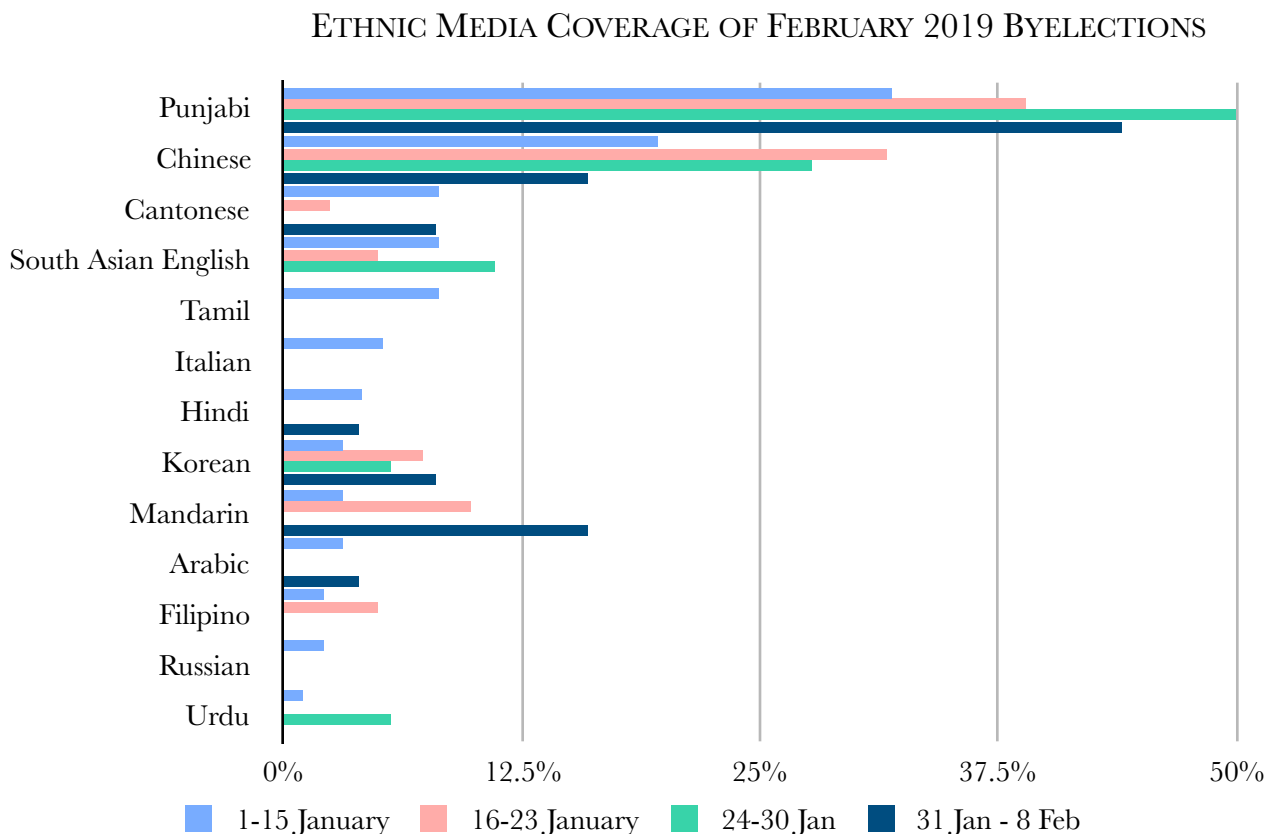
Diversity Votes — February By-elections: Matching Census Data with Ethnic Media Coverage (31 January to 8 February 2019)

For background data on the riding demographic, economic, social and political characteristics, see: [February By-elections: Matching Census Data with Ethnic Media Coverage \(1-18 January 2019\)](#).

Note: While Chinese in the chart of ethnic media coverage refers to written media, Cantonese and Mandarin to broadcast oral media, I generally summarize all three as Chinese media except where indicated.

Ethnic Media Coverage

The ongoing focus on Burnaby South continued, with more articles commenting on the risks to Jagmeet Singh's leadership of the NDP should he not win the by-election in both Punjabi and Chinese (Chinese, Cantonese and Mandarin) media. Overall, coverage increased slightly to 25 articles compared to 18 the previous week (earlier weeks had 41 and 97 articles).



Media coverage was roughly evenly split between Punjabi (44 percent) and 40 percent in Chinese media.

In addition to the risks to Jagmeet Singh's leadership, NDP fund-raising difficulties were covered as well as the Party's poor prospects in Outremont based on polling data in Punjabi media. Singh's universal pharmacare plan received coverage but was largely drowned out by stories concerning the risks to his leadership.

Stories covered in Chinese media included the risks to Singh's leadership, that former Liberal candidate Karen Wang would not run as an independent (and noting her pregnancy), the visit of Andrew Scheer and his criticism of how the Liberals have handled the dispute with China over the requested extradition of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou, and that NDP leader Singh appeared to be in the dark regarding the change in his caucus's position on the legitimacy of Venezuelan leader Maduro.

The all candidates meeting for Burnaby South was covered in both Punjabi and Chinese media, with the latter noting the "fiery debate."

Korean media coverage focussed on the visit to Burnaby South of Conservative leader Scheer and the formal launch of Conservative candidate Jay Shin, who is of Korean descent. Scheer's visit was also covered in Chinese media but curiously not in Punjabi or South Asian English media. An article in Arabic media focussed on the importance of Outremont to both Liberals and the NDP, as well as Quebec ridings overall to the Liberal re-election plans.

Five commentary pieces in Punjabi media appeared this past week. Three of these focussed on the electoral prospects of Singh and the NDP, with two highlighting the risks to his leadership and the generally poor prospects of the NDP. One noted that Singh's prospects had improved given the controversial remarks of former Liberal candidate Karen Wang while another one criticized those who circulate fake news and rumours regarding Singh. Tarek Fatah's previously published critique of ethnic voting ([The Bankruptcy of Ethnic Vote Banks](#)) was reprinted in English in the Punjabi media.

In general election coverage, the government's announcement of measures to reduce foreign interference in the federal election continued to receive considerable coverage. Other stories of interest included former NDP leader Mulcair's comments regarding the possible shift of NDP voters to the Green Party, and questions surrounding the controversial \$300,000 fundraiser by Brampton area MP Raj Grewal in both Punjabi and Chinese media. Cantonese media covered the Conservative plans to assist candidates in their communication skills.

See the MIREMS blog for some of the stories being covered: [MIREMS blog](#).