

Ethnic media 2019 Election Coverage: Commonalities and Differences

20 July to November 4

Andrew Griffith

Abstract	2
Introduction	2
Overall observations	2
Background analysis	4
Annex A: Language groups surveyed	11
Annex B: Ethnic Media Commentaries—A Selection	13
Ethnic vote	13
General	18
Ethics	21
Ford factor	21
China	22
Immigration	23
Refugees	25
Multiculturalism	25
Foreign interference	27
Results and analysis	27

Abstract

Winning visible minority and ethnic group votes is critical to electoral success in urban Canada. Ethnic media is one of the means that parties and candidates pursue to reach these voters. How significant is ethnic media in reaching these groups? Which groups have stronger ethnic media and how does that affect coverage? Is coverage similar to “mainstream” media or how does it differ and does issue coverage vary by group? This presentation analyses over 2,500 ethnic media 2019 election articles (print and broadcast) from 20 July to 4 November, breaking down coverage by language group, issue and party coverage. The overall conclusion is that voters relying on ethnic media would have had a reasonably comparable understanding of the major election issues as those who relied on “mainstream” media.

Introduction

About 2,500 ethnic media pieces were analyzed from 20 July to November 4, with a roughly 50-50 split between those prior to the writ being dropped and those after. 38.3 percent of these were in Chinese media (Mandarin and Cantonese) and 34.5 percent in South Asian media (mainly Punjabi, along with Gujurati, Hindi, South Asian English, Tamil, Urdu). Other language groups with greater than one percent of articles surveyed included: Italian, Spanish, Filipino, Russian, Arabic, Polish, Farsi, Portuguese and Korean (in descending order). Annex A contrasts ethnic media coverage with the size of visible minority groups. Annex B highlights some of the more interesting commentaries.

The analysis was based on material provided by MIREMS —Multilingual International Research and Ethnic Media Services as part of the diversityvotes.ca project to provide:

- More in-depth understanding of riding characteristics, and how these interact with electoral strategies;
- Wider awareness of how national and local issues are portrayed in community and regional ethnic media to increase accountability of ethnic-oriented media strategies;
- Allow for more informed discussion regarding ethnic voting patterns and issues; and,
- Greater responsibility of candidates and political parties of their messaging to different groups.

Overall observations

Ethnic media largely mirrors mainstream media in its coverage of election issues and trends. National issues such as ethics, relations with China and climate change were widely covered as well as party electoral strategies, promises and tactics, largely reflecting that most articles are taken and translated from mainstream media. For example, the Liberal values positioning on same sex marriage and abortion and the delayed and confused Conservative response were widely covered and commented upon.

However, some issues were less well covered, reflecting internal community sensitivities or possible foreign interference. For example, there was relatively less coverage of some of the divisions between Hong Kong and mainland Chinese Canadians and the role of the Chinese

government in its efforts to strengthen the pro-China narrative although this somewhat increased over the course of the campaign.

Given resource and time constraints, most ethnic media have less in-depth issue coverage and more emphasis on “horse race” aspects with the exception of Punjabi and Chinese media. Economic issues were under-covered apart from the various political commitments.

However, major reports and studies were covered (e.g., Samara candidate nomination study, OCED immigration study, Ethics Commissioner report on the government’s handling of SNC Lavalin) which provided greater depth.

Coverage of party nominations, candidates and ridings reflected riding demographics (e.g., extensive Punjabi media coverage of Brampton ridings or highlighting of candidates from various visible minority or ethnic groups). Moreover, this was amplified by the relative size of different language groups, explaining the predominance of Chinese and Punjabi media.

Candidate profiles often provided more information on candidate views, such as emphasis by some Conservative candidates on family values. Nomination battles and disputes, particularly when these involve different communities, attracted commentary as seen in the attention in Italian media regarding Saint-Léonard-Saint-Michel and former Liberal candidate Hassan Guillet not being of Italian origin.

While the Liberals and Conservatives had widespread coverage of their electoral promises and commitments, the NDP and Green Party were under-covered, particularly in the pre-writ positioning period. The PPC, given its focus on restricting immigration and its exclusion from the leaders’ debate, received more than twice as much substantive coverage than the NDP and Greens combined in the pre-writ period; however, post-writ, the NDP coverage increased, largely at the expense of the PPC, largely driven by NDP leader Singh’s relatively strong debate performance.

Commentary and opinion in most sources captured a range of views, with some criticism of the tone and substance of both major parties and their campaigns, and of some of the more transparent attempts to play identity politics (e.g., the Liberal promise for an apology to Italian Canadians for World War II interment). Other diaspora or “homeland” issues also attract commentary, such as the expression of concern by Liberal MP Sangha on the excessive influence of Canadian Sikhs on India policy.

Overall, while it may vary by language group, those who relied on ethnic media as their main information source would have had a reasonably comparable understanding of the major election issues as those who relied on mainstream media, with the exception of some diaspora-related issues.

In other words, rather than ethnic media providing a parallel and separate space and reinforcing silos, ethnic media for the most part serves an important role in political integration through its coverage of the main political issues common to all Canadians.

Background analysis

The following charts and tables provide an analysis by general categories, specific issues and party coverage, along with pre- and post-writ breakdowns.

FIGURE 1: ETHNIC MEDIA OVERALL FOCUS—20 JULY TO 3 NOVEMBER

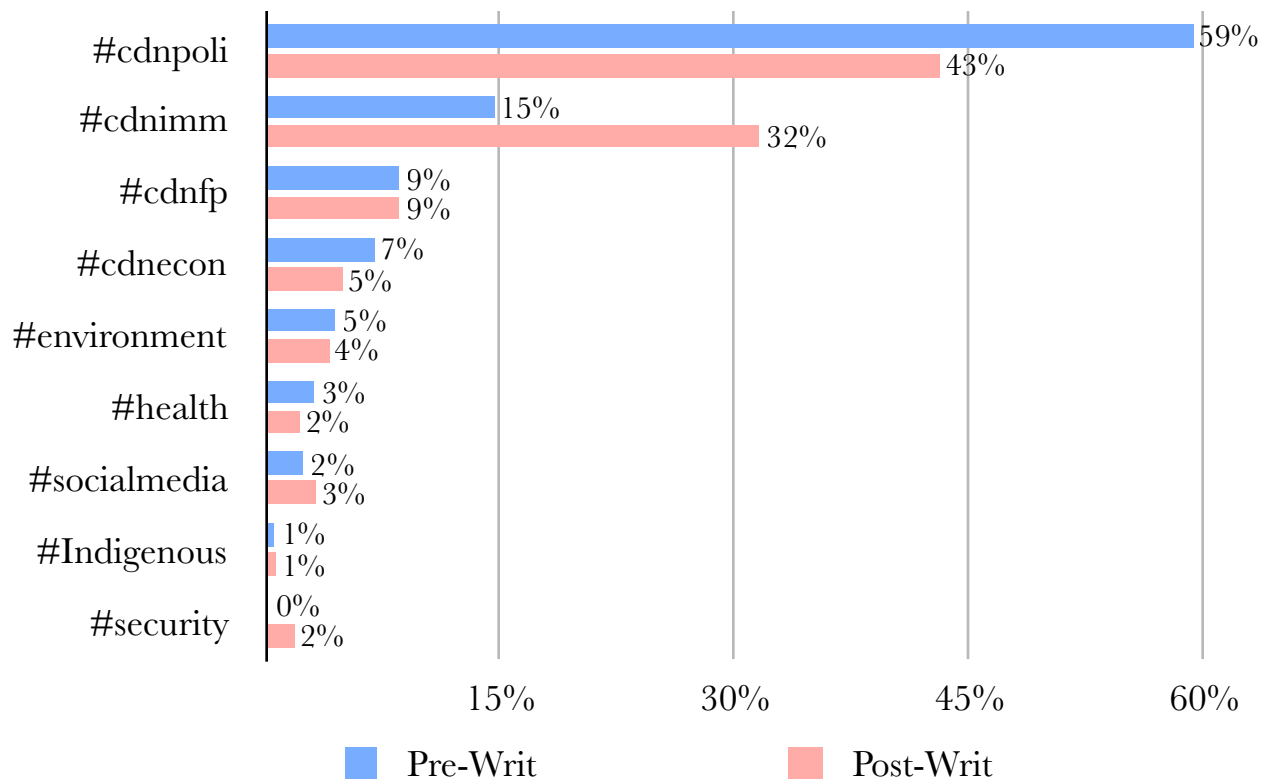


Figure 1 shows the relative emphasis of ethnic media coverage by major area, organized by hashtags. As one would expect, issues related to politics dominated coverage. However, equally striking was just how much immigration-related issues increased in the post-writ period, replacing much of the general political coverage.

The list below highlights the major issues covered under each area although issues can cross the categories.

#cdnpoli: Election date, campaign, poll, candidates, ethics, election results and other political issues;

#cdnimm: Immigration, multiculturalism and citizenship;

#cdnfp: Foreign interference, China, India and relations with other countries;

#cdnecon: General economic messaging, cost of living, housing;

#environment: Climate change, plastics, water and other;

#health: Healthcare, abortion, drug prices/pharmacare, cannabis and other;

#socialmedia: Trolls, Facebook, Twitter and other; and,
#indigenous: Indigenous issues.

FIGURE 2: ISSUE COVERAGE 20 JULY—4 NOVEMBER

Issue	Pre-Writ	Post Writ	Change	Total
Campaign	18.8%	18.5%	-0.3%	18.6%
Candidates	10.1%	13.8%	3.7%	11.9%
Immigration	5.1%	13.8%	8.7%	9.4%
Ethnic vote	1.7%	10.1%	8.4%	5.9%
Poll	7.0%	2.0%	-4.9%	4.5%
Election Date (Jewish)	8.8%	0.1%	-8.7%	4.4%
China	5.7%	3.2%	-2.6%	4.4%
Climate change	4.3%	3.6%	-0.7%	4.0%
Multiculturalism	2.3%	5.2%	2.9%	3.7%
Foreign interference	1.7%	5.0%	3.3%	3.4%
Third party	6.0%	0.5%	-5.5%	3.2%
Cost of living	3.1%	2.9%	-0.2%	3.0%
Leaders' Debate	3.0%	2.7%	-0.3%	2.9%
Results	0.0%	5.2%	5.2%	2.2%
Citizenship	2.0%	2.5%	0.6%	2.2%
Ethics	3.6%	0.7%	-2.9%	2.1%
Same sex marriage	3.0%	0.3%	-2.7%	1.7%
Social media	0.5%	2.7%	2.2%	1.6%
Healthcare	1.1%	1.1%	-0.1%	1.1%

Figure 2 breaks this down by the major issues covered again contrasting the pre- and post-writ periods, accounting for 84 percent of all coverage:

The following provides a summary of the major topics covered under these broader headings:

Campaign: Campaign commitments, platforms, campaign launch and leaders' tour and debates. Party fundraising. Overall tone and partisan attacks, including Ontario Premier Ford as foil. Brampton concerns over campaign signs. Alberta Premier Kenney participation. Threats/risk of violence. Voting procedures and information. Youth vote.

Candidates: Nominations, former MPs seeking election, diversity, studies, defections, controversies and replacements and all candidate debates.

Immigration: Overall immigration approaches and levels, refugees and asylum seekers and Safe Third Country Agreement, international students, fraud, family reunification, integration, party platforms and positioning and what the re-election of the Liberal government meant in terms of immigration-related policies and programs.

Ethnic vote: Commentary on the importance of being an informed voter, lower voting rates for some groups (e.g., Chinese), party community strategies and outreach, electoral prospects of candidates from different groups. Groups covered, descending order: Chinese, Punjabi, Italian, Latino, Muslim, Tamil, Portuguese, Polish, Somali, Greek, Black, Filipino and Russian.

Polls: Coverage of national and regional polls, whether general or specific (e.g., immigration, ethics, impact of Ontario Premier Ford).

Election date: Conflict with Jewish holiday, court challenge and subsequent Elections Canada decision

China: Detained Canadians, Huawei executive detention, former Ambassador McCallum comments, new Ambassador Barton, PMO efforts to pressure former Canadian ambassadors Saint-Jacques and Mulroney, Hong Kong demonstrations, Chinese government sanctions on Canadian exports.

Climate change: Ruling and clarification by Elections Canada on climate change advocacy. CPC and provincial opposition to the federal carbon tax, unveiling of CPC climate plan, Montreal "climate strike," various party commitments on home retrofitting.

Multiculturalism: PPC leader Bernier's promise to repeal the *Multiculturalism Act*, CPC leader Scheer's condemnation of racist speech, ongoing criticism of weak response to Quebec's Bill 21 by all leaders (religious symbols ban), the apparent shift of the Liberal government from social inclusion to social cohesion and the photos of Liberal leader Trudeau in blackface and about racism in general.

Foreign interference: Various reports, studies and warnings regarding possible foreign interference, Chinese government efforts to influence Chinese Canadians particularly with respect to Hong Kong, and possible Russian and Indian influence.

Third parties: Third party activities by organizations such as Canada Proud, Campaign Life Coalition, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Engage Canada. Extensive coverage of third party paid anti-immigration billboards and reactions.

Cost of Living: The various party tax proposals, EI parental payments tax-free, high housing and cell phone costs, student loans, OAS/CPP survivor benefits.

Leaders' Debate: Decision by Leaders' Debate Commission to initially exclude then include PPC leader Bernier along with post-debate analysis.

Results: General reporting on the results, implications of a minority government, Western alienation, CPC leadership speculation.

Citizenship: Initial wave of Syrian refugees becoming eligible to vote, increased registered expatriate voters, efforts by Canadian expatriates in Hong Kong to encourage voting, commitment by the Liberals to waive citizenship fees, and the controversy over CPC leader Scheer not having disclosed his American citizenship.

Ethics: Exclusive focus on the finding of the Ethics Commissioner that PM Trudeau was in violation of the *Conflict of Interest Act*.

Same sex marriage: Liberal exploiting 2005 video of MP Scheer's opposition to same sex marriage and reactions, often combined with the CPC policy on abortion.

Social media: Disinformation and fake news on all major social media platforms (FaceBook, Twitter, WeChat) particularly with respect to Chinese Canadians, WeChat not reporting election ad spending.

Healthcare: Commitment by CPC leader Scheer to maintain a three percent annual increase in healthcare spending. Need for an additional hospital in Brampton. Drug prices and pharmacare.

FIGURE 3: ISSUE COVERAGE BY PARTY—JULY 20 TO NOVEMBER 3

Issue	CPC	LPC	NDP	Green	PPC	BQ	Total
Campaign	15.5%	21.0%	18.4%	23.3%	3.3%	50.0%	16.5%
Candidates	14.9%	14.5%	31.2%	23.3%	6.6%	0.0%	15.2%
Immigration	5.4%	9.0%	6.4%	13.3%	30.2%	0.0%	10.0%
Election Date (Jewish)	18.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.2%
China	7.1%	5.3%	2.4%	6.7%	1.1%	50.0%	5.4%
Multiculturalism	1.8%	9.2%	9.6%	3.3%	2.7%	0.0%	5.4%
Climate change	1.2%	3.5%	1.6%	16.7%	13.7%	0.0%	3.9%
Cost of living	4.8%	3.2%	5.6%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%
Third party	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	26.4%	0.0%	3.4%
Leaders' Debate	0.2%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	15.4%	0.0%	2.6%
Ethnic vote	1.7%	4.2%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%
Citizenship	0.8%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%
Poll	1.5%	1.4%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
Results	1.5%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Foreign interference	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Total	74.8%	78.3%	80.0%	90.0%	99.5%	100.0%	79.8%
Highlighting: Green ≥ 15 percent, Blue ≥ 5 percent ≤ 15 percent							

Figure 3 breaks down the top 15 issues by party focus. The approach taken was to identify the lead party rather than a word count approach as the latter overstates the coverage of the NDP and Green Party. For example, the decision by the Leaders' Debate Commission to exclude PPC Leader from the leaders' debate was attributed to the PPC only, while ethics was attributed to the Liberal party only, not the parties criticizing.

The party position could either be an offensive position (e.g., CPC leader Scheer's focus on the cost of living, taxes and housing costs) or defensive (e.g., the Liberals on China and ethics). NDP, Green Party and particularly Bloc coverage, as shown in Figure 4 below, is so low to make party comparisons problematic

The focus on campaign issues and candidates is largely consistent among the three major parties but is understated for the Conservatives given the controversy over the election date falling on the Jewish holiday that was prompted by CPC candidate Aryeh-Bain's court challenge.

However, the CPC critique of the Liberals on their China policy and their emphasis on cost of living issues comes through clearly.

Immigration was subject of significant coverage by the five national parties, significantly more so in the post-writ period, with the Conservatives largely playing defence with the exception of asylum seekers and border management.

For much of the pre-writ period, Liberals had been playing defence on ethics (SNC-Lavalin and the Ethics Commissioner's report) and on China policy (Huawei, arrested Canadians, former ambassador McCallum's comments and Chinese trade restrictions), issues on which the Conservatives were playing offence. Post-writ, PM Trudeau had to explain older pictures of him in blackface.

For the PPC, their main focus has been, not surprisingly, on their restrictive immigration and multiculturalism platform and the related third-party billboards promoting PPC leader Bernier and his immigration policies. The Elections Canada ruling and clarification regarding whether discussion of climate change should be considered partisan given the PPC's denial of climate change was the other area of focus.

FIGURE 4: ETHNIC MEDIA—PARTY COVERAGE
20 JULY TO 3 NOVEMBER

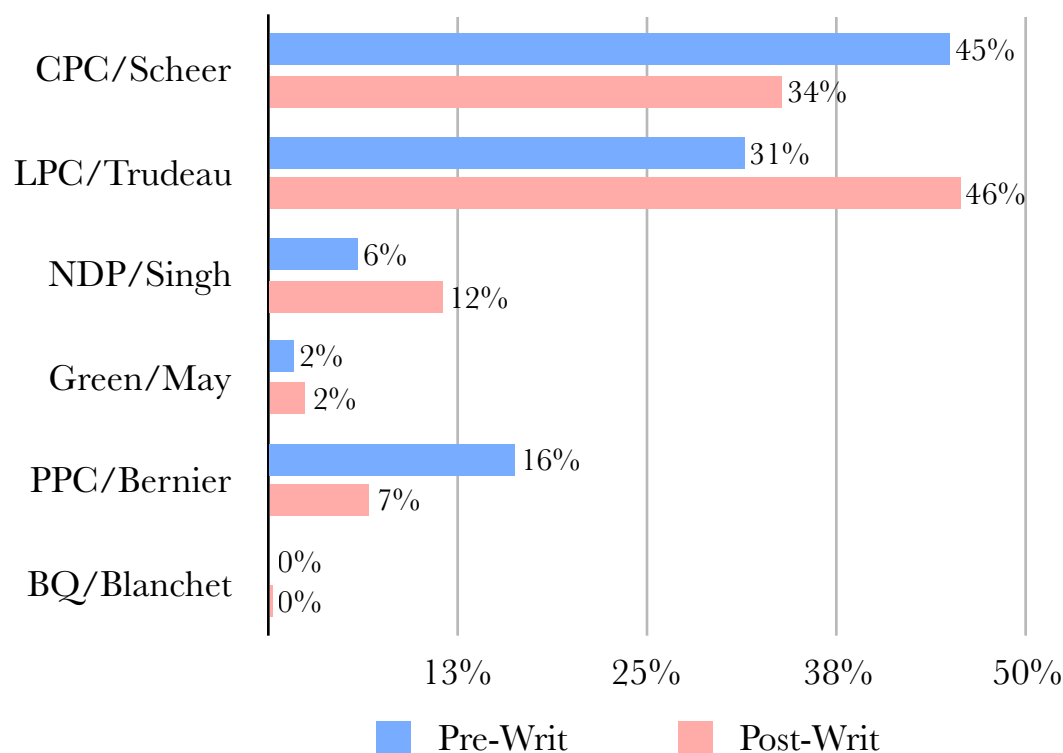


Figure 4 contrasts overall party coverage, again using a lead party approach.

The Conservative party and leader received significantly more coverage in the pre-writ phase than the Liberal party but relatively less following the election launch. Both parties were able to get their issues and messaging out as well as their critiques of other parties and leaders. The NDP and Green parties were relatively absent in ethnic media (the Bloc being invisible).

The Peoples Party's immigration platform, the question of their inclusion or not in the Leaders' Debate, and the third party anti-immigration billboards account for their over-coverage in the pre-writ period. Post-writ, however, and notwithstanding PPC leader Bernier's being included in the leaders' debates, relative coverage of the NDP doubled at the expense of the PPC.

Annex A: Language groups surveyed

ANNEX A: ETHNIC MEDIA AND VISIBLE MINORITY POPULATION

Group	Ethnic Media			VisMin Population	Over/Under Representation
	Coverage	Publications	Difference		
South Asian	34.5%	44.4%	-10.0%	25.1%	9.4%
Chinese	38.3%	17.7%	20.6%	20.5%	17.8%
Black	0.5%	8.0%	-7.5%	15.6%	-15.1%
Filipino	3.3%	5.5%	-2.2%	10.2%	-6.9%
Latin American	5.2%	10.3%	-5.1%	5.8%	-0.6%
Arab	1.7%	4.8%	-3.1%	6.8%	-5.1%
West Asian	1.5%	5.5%	-4.0%	3.4%	-1.9%
Korean	1.1%	3.8%	-2.7%	2.5%	-1.4%
Total	86.0%	100.0%	-14.0%	90.0%	-3.9%

South Asian and Chinese ethnic media election coverage was significantly greater than their share of the visible minority population, while coverage in Black media was significantly less.

Reasons for these differences include the number of ethnic media outlets and their publication frequency, itself a function of social, economic and market variables such as community distribution, growth and media consumption habits.

Methodological Notes:

The ethnic media surveyed by [MIREMS](#) and analyzed here should not be interpreted as a comprehensive survey but rather as an indicative sample of ethnic media coverage, with Chinese and South Asian media coverage, given the larger samples, being broader than other language groups.

South Asian media is mainly Punjabi (62.9 percent), with other South Asian languages in descending order: Tamil, South Asian English, Urdu, Hindi and Gujarati.

Chinese media includes written articles, classified as Chinese, and broadcast media in Cantonese and Mandarin.

Black media refers to Caribbean and Haitian media sources.

Latin American refers to Spanish media.

Arab refers to Arabic.

West Asian was largely Farsi with some articles in Jewish media and Armenian.

Europe language media surveyed, not in this table, in descending order: Italian, Russian, Polish, Portuguese, Greek and Romanian.

For party coverage comparisons, the base was the number of articles that had a specific party focus rather than general articles on party positions and prospects. For the pre-writ phase, this pertained to about 70 percent of all media surveyed; in the post-writ phase, this was about 53 percent.

With respect to issues, the main issue covered was the basis for assigning the issue. Judgement calls included:

- Counting anti-immigration billboards under third parties given the source of funding rather than immigration;
- Party social media campaign strategies and spending were covered under social media rather than campaign;
- Efforts to encourage expatriate voting were covered under citizenship rather than campaign.

Annex B: Ethnic Media Commentaries—A Selection

This selection is taken from the weekly analyses during this period. The full set can be found at: [Ethnic Media Coverage 20 July to 4 November](#).

Ethnic vote

Chinese

“If Chinese Canadians want to protect their interests, they should learn from the Jewish community and participate in these community conversations. Fairness has to be fought for; it is not something that is given out for free.” (26 July, Chinese, *Daily* 7)

“He [Yuan] shared his door knocking experience, and said that voters are most concerned that the Liberal government’s policy may mess up the existing peace and societal order. They are afraid that the legalization of marijuana will lead to loose regulation of other more damaging drugs. Voters are concerned that the Liberal government will not be able to control the border and that we will see an increase in illegal border crossers entering Canada.” (20 August, Chinese, *Van People*)

“...although voting rights for Chinese Canadians did not come easily, it seems like Chinese Canadians don’t seem to care about voting. In the last general elections, the Chinese Canadian voter turnout rate was very low; it was far lower than other ethnic minorities such as Indian and Muslims. It is only when Chinese Canadians become a whole that they will be valued greatly by others. We are Chinese Canadian and that should be our common label and common interest. On October 21, for the benefit of the Chinese, let us all vote together!” (10 September, Chinese, [51.ca](#))

“... the writer says that one finds that if anything happens to the Chinese, few politicians speak for us. Why is this the case? According to the writer, the reasoning is simple — it's because for a long time, Chinese people haven't been voting and haven't formed a proxy relationship with political figures. Therefore there aren't any political figures who would speak for the interests of Chinese people like us. For a long time, the voter turnout rate of Chinese people has been very low. So politicians don't know what the basic demands of Chinese people are and don't introduce policies and laws that are in the interest of Chinese people.” (20 September, Chinese, [51.ca](#))

“... the author says he does not agree with Bloomberg’s comments that the hearing will affect the federal election, on the grounds that the Chinese-Canadian community is a mature community that clearly separates politics from people’s livelihoods. In addition, during the election the Trudeau government is carefully maintaining a distance from China topics.” (24 September, Chinese, *Sing Tao Vancouver*)

“This is also why Justin Trudeau appointed a Somali refugee to the important role of immigration minister. In Canada’s political climate, Chinese people cannot say they are better than refugees. Some of us criticize the federal government’s refugee policy, but the voices of the Chinese community on Canada’s political stage is very washed out. Refugees who have made it to Canada are very eager to integrate into this country. Securing Canadian identity can protect all their interests, so there is a high rate of refugees applying for citizenship. After obtaining their citizenship, their participation in voting is also very high and united. This makes refugees one of the targeted voter blocs by the political parties. Aside from the Liberal Party, the Conservatives and the NDP are both interested in this voting bloc. This is obvious from the way political parties promote refugee-friendly strategies; they want their votes. Political parties also believe that refugees will make greater contributions to the economy than immigration investors. For those Chinese immigrants who have lived practically and paid their taxes honestly in Canada, their economic contribution should not be less than that of refugees. If Chinese voters do not vote, then whatever happens will have nothing to do with them. If people end up looking down on and isolating you, what can you do about it?” (25 September, Chinese, *Van People*)

“This riding is one of the few ridings that has many Chinese Canadians. This is due to the immigration trend in the last century where most Chinese immigrants came from Hong Kong. These residents speak primarily Cantonese, and have good English language proficiency. However, there has been an influx of mainland Chinese immigrants more recently. The riding has become more populated with mainland Chinese immigrants ever since. In the 2016 census results, it was the first time in history that the number of Mandarin speaking residents surpassed Cantonese speaking residents. This was an indicator that the Chinese community is slowly changing. Ever since 1988, the Conservative Party has been the preferred party in the riding. The Conservative Party has won the Richmond Centre riding for 19 years.” (30 September, Chinese, *Van People*)

“A local commentator pointed out that Chinese people whose mother tongue is Cantonese is higher than Mandarin-speaking Chinese people, second generation immigrants are more enthusiastic about voting than first-generation immigrants, and also immigrants from Hong Kong and Taiwan are more into the federal elections. Vancouver current affairs commentator Yu Minghui said that after each federal election, Elections Canada conducts an analysis, and Chinese voter turnout is usually 10% lower than the average of all ethnic groups. According to government figures, among Chinese voters, native Cantonese speakers have higher voter turnout. He thinks this is mainly because Cantonese-speaking immigrants came to Canada for relatively longer period of time, and most of them have naturalized, whereas native Mandarin speakers are in Canada for relatively shorter period of time, and a considerable number of them have not yet naturalized. Also, according to his observations, some Mandarin speakers might be thinking they will return to live in China, and have not considered Canada to be a place to live in the long term, therefore they have no will to vote.” (20 October, Chinese, dushi.ca)

Filipino

“What do the political parties need to do to engage the 850,000 Fil-Canadians to vote in the next elections? There's at least two things political parties need to remember about Fil-Canadian voters. First, they need to know you will do something about the needs of their families, their jobs or careers, and their desire to be homeowners. If you want to win the elections, make sure your platforms are not mamby-pamby, vague ideas of what your political agendas are, but simple, down-to-earth, to the bones policies regarding post-secondary education for them and for their children, professional accreditation and the recognition of their post-secondary education in the Philippines, and housing affordability. Second, they want to be taken seriously, not because they have the most awesome celebrations and events, and the food is always abundant and delicious, but to be recognized as a legitimate member of the multicultural fabric of Canada by giving them a chance to hold a position of the political system that the former Senator Enverga held.” (13 September, Filipino, *Philippine Asian News Today*)

Italian

“Political parties usually vet their candidates before choosing them; so, what happened this time? According to the author, a party that wants to continue governing should not fail to carry out the necessary background check. The Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) got rid of its candidate quickly because the winds of change are blowing in the riding and the Tories are now competitive. No one should be surprised by what is happening in Saint-Léonard-Saint-Michel because of the LPC's failure to apologize [for World War II restrictions], its disorderly immigration policy, its legalization of cannabis, higher taxes for the middle class, and the rising federal debt. As for the next Liberal candidate, we can expect more candy, but Trudeau's candies for the Italian community are just pranks.” (4 September, Italian, *Il Cittadino Canadese*)

“Mendicino also discusses the Liberal government's efforts to protect Italian culture in Canada and to help seniors through the CPP and GIS. He is concerned about what is happening at Villa Colombo, where the Ford administration's cuts are putting assistance to seniors at risk.” (6 September, Italian, *Corriere Canadese*)

“Hussen has turned his back on the approximately one million (500,000 in Ontario alone) completely integrated workers unable to obtain legal immigration status in Canada, allowing them to be deported. His pilot programs have been a failure. Strangely, Hussen came to Canada without papers. Italian-, Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking voters in Hussen's riding should ask him why he does not offer their brothers and sisters the same acceptance he received some years ago. (16 October, Italian, former immigration minister Joe Volpe in *Corriere Canadese*, Note: numbers unsubstantiated))

Muslim

“...our people, many of whom are not aware of the political system, are herded to the polls like cattle and eventually vote for a party or candidate that would not benefit our community. Rather we must vote based on a party's platform or the candidate's abilities. At times, our community members realize after the fact that a certain individual using his or her unique position in a Muslim organization is influencing our sacred decision. Unfortunately, by the time we realize, it is too late.” (30 August, Muslim, *al Ameen*)

Polish

“He [CPC candidate Ted Opitz, Etobicoke Centre] also said that Trudeau disappointed people. Trudeau said in the past that he admires the Chinese dictatorship, and statements like this don’t have to be explained to Polish people that know too well the meaning of communism. Polish people have to stop supporting Justin Trudeau, as he doesn’t represent Polish values, Opitz says. On the other hand, Andrew Scheer is a devoted Catholic with five children, from a hard-working family who shares the values dear to the Polish community.” (16 August, Polish, *Puls*)

Punjabi

“He accused his fellow caucus members of being in favour of an independent Punjab, called Khalistan. This is a topic that has been frustrating Trudeau for the past two years, with Indian officials also accusing Trudeau of the same softness for Punjabi independence.” (3 September, Punjabi, OMNI 2 TV 8:00 PM South Asian Today)

“A caller said that Akhand Paths (continuous recitation of sacred religious texts in Sikhism) are being organized in Punjab, India for the victory of Justin Trudeau’s Liberal Party in federal elections. Some people even say that anyone who votes for the NDP or any other party will be considered traitors. Host Sandip Bhatti said that he also heard about Akhand Paths to vote for and support Trudeau. At the time of the election in India, the Indian community in Canada calls people in India to vote for a specific party or candidates of our choice. We even visit India to help them in their elections. When we interfere to influence voters in India, the people in India can also try to interfere in Canadian elections.” (9 October, Punjabi, *CHTO AM 1690 Hulchul Radio*)

“But the case is reversed this year. Now people in India are calling their relatives in Canada and are urging them to vote for Trudeau in the federal elections. Many Punjabi people have obtained a Canadian visa in recent years and they want Trudeau to win again so that the Canadian doors always remains open for them. On the other hand, some people from Punjab are urging their friends and relatives in Canada to take the historic opportunity and vote for NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh. Meanwhile, it has been found that Punjabis in Canada are listening to the voting recommendations, but in the end they prefer to cast their votes of their own accord.” (11 October, Punjabi, *Khabarnama Punjabi Weekly*).

Romanian

“On Monday, October 21, if you are a Canadian citizen, you are one of the people for whom a lot of work and money was spent. Vote! The electoral campaign was confusing, marked by personal attacks, and also embarrassing lies. But you, the voters, are the ones who can bring the politicians to their feet on the ground, who must remind him [sic] that he is in your service, and not the other way around. You have on Monday, on voting day, an important opportunity to do so. Vote without having higher expectations from politicians than you would have from yourselves. They are people. They will make mistakes and they will not be able to be perfect, no matter the party. Any vote is good and important! Even the one made from the heart, the one made strategically, and the one made to punish the party or politician who disappointed you. There is no stupid vote in a democracy. Think about, if you still choose Canada as your adopted country, how you want the country to look, how you want to leave it for your children.” (20 October, Romanian, *Pagini Romanesti*)

Somali

“Canadians take to the polls on Monday, October 21, 2019. As Somali Canadians, it is of vital importance that Somalis across the country exercise their political right and vote for the most responsible party to run the nation. Questions such as who is for our youth, what is to be done about education, social reform (proper rehabilitation for convicted youths) and immigration are of utmost concern. It is evident what a Conservative leader looks like at the provincial level, in Ontario. Let us not have that painted across the country, at the federal level. The Conservative Party promises to implement stern immigration measures, which is not favourable to Somalis, like extended family members and those awaiting immigration status. Many communities across Ontario have been negatively affected by policy changes under the Conservative government, from healthcare to education. Let us not vote for a party that promises to lay down difficult measures for many communities across Canada, not just Somalis. All those eligible to vote, please do vote on Monday. Polls are open from 9 am to 9 pm. Make sure you know where to vote.” (19 October, Somali, *CHIN AM 1540 Somali*)

Tamil

“#TamilVote2019 is a first-of-its kind non-partisan GOTV campaign in the Canadian Tamil community, co-organized by Tamils in Public Service and the Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action, aimed at increasing Tamil voter turnout in the 43rd federal election in Canada to be held on October 21, 2019. The campaign has been launched mainly online and using social media.” (20 October, Tamil, *CTBC - Canadian Tamil Broadcasting Corp*)

Urdu

“Political activities in Toronto are at a peak. Every federal political party is trying to get as many seats as possible in Toronto. However, anti-Islam and anti-immigrant groups have also come up. In different areas, Muslim and immigrant candidates have been harassed. In Scarborough, Liberal candidate Salma Zahid’s posters were burned, while in East York, Nadirah Nazeer’s posters were torn. In Brampton, Sikh candidate Navjit Kaur was taken for a Muslim due to her head scarf, and hate comments were written on her posters. NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh was told to take off his turban. According to political analysts, anti-immigrant groups are coming up openly in the GTA. The right-wing People’s Party of Canada also nominated candidates, even though its candidates have no chance of winning. Different Islamic and social groups have appealed to the Muslim community to cast their votes and vote for a candidate who is really sincere and wants to do something for them.” (17 October, Urdu, *Urdu Post*)

Other

“But whoever forms government will owe a whole lot to the ethnic communities in this country. You will have noticed that in many of the ethnic enclaves, such as Scarborough and Brampton in the GTA, most of the parties turned to ethnic minority candidates to woo voters. This is not unexpected. But it is strange, given that some of these parties are running on platforms that seem anti-immigrant. Worse, historically the same minority candidates who bring in the votes to put particular parties into power are rarely reflected in the corridors of power when it comes to cabinet appointments. (Indeed, up to now only Justin Trudeau’s Liberals have ensured that Canada’s diversity has been properly reflected in Cabinet.) This is an issue we think voters should

address with the party leaders vying for our votes in the last days of this election. If they understand the value of ethnic candidates to win votes, shouldn't those same people be allowed to bring their unique perspectives to Cabinet when the time comes?" (17 October, Caribbean, *EqualityNews*)

"There's no way in the world I can put my trust in the Conservative Party, which wants to cut immigration even though it is clear that new and old immigrants contribute enormously to the success of Canada as a country." "... For me, it appears the Conservatives have no eyes... They don't often see people like me, a common person from the African community. They always speak above my head, only interested in how many people they wish to prevent from entering Canada. Not whether immigrants should be encouraged to seek the Canadian lifestyle because everyone benefits from it." (27 October, African Canadian quotes, *New Canadian Media*)

General

Chinese

"...it is hard to find a competent politician under the current democratic system. Prime Minister Trudeau has been in office for four years, and although Canadians have a lot of complaints about him, the other political party leaders do not appear to be a lot better. Under the current circumstances, Canadians can only choose the one who is not the worst, but they do not have the option to choose the most competent one." (9 August, Chinese, *Sept Days*)

"... many Canadians started to use the slogan 'Make Canada Trudeauless Again' to express their attitude in the upcoming election. Hats with this slogan have been circulating on social media for some time now, and seem to be coming from Conservative party supporters who want Andrew Scheer to be the next prime minister. However, the Conservatives have not officially endorsed or affiliated themselves with the hats or the slogan on them." (2 August, Chinese, *Sinoquebec Chinese Newspaper*)

"At some events, Scheer will act like a naughty little brother trying to tease his older brother. During the visit in Moncton, the way Scheer looked at Trudeau seemed suggestive. Scheer told Trudeau he has to stop lying to Canadians. Trudeau laughed in response and did not think Scheer would care so much about him. Some people on Twitter questioned Scheer's honesty. It also appears Trudeau has always looked at Scheer in an endearing big brother kind of way." (19 August, Chinese, 51.ca)

"The riding [West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country] was established in 1996, populated by mostly Caucasian residents. With the immigration strategy becoming more flexible in the 1990s, an influx of Chinese and Iranian immigrants began to settle in the area as well. Conservative candidate Gabrielle Loren is at an advantage in this riding, because the upper class are more in favour of Conservative policies. If Loren focuses on promoting an economic focus in her campaign, she may be able to gain support from right-wing voters." (7 October, Chinese, *Van People*)

“According to the Conservatives, if Justin Trudeau is re-elected, he will likely legalize hard drugs. In early October, the Conservatives published a bilingual Facebook post that reads: ‘Do you want Justin Trudeau to legalize hard drugs in your community?’ The poster calls on the Chinese community to stop Trudeau’s plan and to ensure children’s safety by voting for the Conservatives. On October 10, the Conservatives continued with their advertisements, publishing Mandarin and Cantonese versions of campaign commercials. The content is once again focused on Trudeau legalizing hard drugs. Chinese users have presented mixed reactions to these posts. Some were angered by Trudeau’s plan, and some criticized the Conservatives for circulating rumours. In reality, there is no evidence that the Liberals are actually going to legalize hard drugs. Liberal spokesperson Guy Gallant clarified that legalizing all drugs is not a plan of the party. The Conservatives denied their attempt to use decriminalization and legalization interchangeably to confuse voters.” (16 October, Chinese, *Van People*)

Filipino

One thing people need to know about Scheer is that he is a devout Catholic and he upholds his faith with great fervour, unlike Trudeau who pretends to be Catholic by receiving Communion even if he is not practising. What's next? Telling Jagmeet Singh to eat meat just to show support for the meat-eating people of Canada? And if he refuses, will he be called a bigot, discriminatory and ineligible to rule the country because he abides by the practice of his Sikh faith of not consuming meat? If he rejects eating meat, does that mean he hates meat-eaters? In a world where the truth belongs only to the ones who are in charge and who are loud criers and whiners, there is no room to silently contemplate what is real and true. (30 August, Filipino, 10000Twice)

Italian

“Until now, however, the debate has centred on trivial issues like squabbling between the Tories and Liberals over the Canadian Food Guide and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s criticism of Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer’s failure to take part in the Vancouver Pride Parade.” (20 August, Italian, *Corriere Canadese*)

Korean

“The Conservatives misguide people to believe that pipelines can create jobs and they ignore the economic potential of green energy, transition policies and the disastrous effects of climate change as a whole. The best strategy to fight right-wing populism is not wishy-washy liberalism, but having a social democratic party which can bravely and confidently deal with issues such as climate change, an unstable economy and worsening inequality.” (23 August, Korean, *CNDreams*)

Polish

“Political parties should avoid using dirty tactics like attacking someone’s reputation or spreading false information about candidates.” (3 October, Polish, *Wiadomosci*)

Portuguese

“The temperament of this election will become nasty when the marketing of the campaign begins. All parties will be throwing money they don’t have at the country and make promises they won’t keep. We will be fighting with our instincts to try and reach an ending where our vote may count. In the end because of the quality of the candidates we may feel that our vote was wasted.” (13 September, Portuguese, *Milenio Stadium*)

Punjabi/South Asian English

“Varughese further said in his letter that Justin Trudeau said he would help the middle class, but the last four years show that he is not as advertised. He raised taxes on 80 per cent of middle-class families and brought in a carbon tax that makes everyday essentials more expensive. Andrew Scheer has a plan to help young families get ahead and keep more of their hard earned money.” (27 August, Tom Varughese, CPC candidate, Punjabi, *Canadian Punjabi Post*)

“... a tight race between the Conservatives and the Liberals, with no more than a percentage point between them on average, both in the low 30s. The most likely outcome, if this holds: a minority Parliament of some kind, with neither party capable of governing on its own. Next, consider the likely strategies of the two major parties in response. The Liberals will do what they nearly always do: paint the Conservatives as racists, Nazis and worse, the better to frighten NDP and Green supporters into voting Grit as the only way to stop the Tories.” (30 August, South Asian English, *Asian Tribune*)

“He [PPC candidate Brampton Centre Baljit Bawa] said that Brampton has been neglected by all governments. He said that neither the previous Conservative government nor the current Liberal government that has five MPs from Brampton have done anything for the City.” (8 October, Punjabi, *Chin FM 91.9 Ramz Punjabi*)

“There is only one hospital in Brampton for 600,000 people. If you compare Mississauga and Brampton, Mississauga that has less population than Brampton has three hospitals.” (7 October, NDP candidate Brampton West Navjit Kaur, Punjabi, *Chin FM 91.9 Ramz Punjabi*)

Russian

“The government should help families to raise their children, and not try to solve people's ‘gender’ problems, or support the ideology of feminism. ... The author says that “assessing this initiative, it should be noted that support of families with children is the best manifestation of state feminism.” (23 August, Russian, *Russian Express*)

Spanish

“Silvia Mendez cited Andrew Scheer saying that he didn't say anything because no one asked him, and radio host Fabian Merlo burst out laughing. Fabian Merlo said it's like the scene in 'Lord of the Rings' where the character Gollum is asked why he didn't answer, and Gollum replies, 'Because Master never asked me'. ... Silvia Mendez said that Scheer having dual citizenship has nothing to do with being prime minister, but the problem is that Scheer previously criticized the governor general for having dual citizenship. He had asked how she can be Canada's governor general if she has dual citizenship. Fabian Merlo said the issue is that Scheer wasn't honest, not the fact that he has dual citizenship. Silvia Mendez wonders who Scheer voted for in the last US election. The question about how Scheer's interests and policies line up is causing a stir.” (4 October, Spanish, *CHIN 91.9 FM Spanish*)

Tamil

“All these debates could achieve one thing — making Trudeau the prime minister of Canada once again — not due to Trudeau's ability, but due to the others' inability.” (9 October, Tamil, *Yarl Inayam*)

Ethics

“The SNC-Lavalin scandal will clearly be fatal for Trudeau's political career. 'Will it become fatal for the Liberal Party, and what should the party do to prevent this from happening?' asks the author. He continues, 'If Trudeau's main concern were the victory of his party in the election, he would take responsibility for this scandal, apologize, and resign.’” (16 August, Russian, *Russian Express*)

Ford factor

Chinese

“In the name of austerity policies and prudent finances, Doug Ford's cuts already cut the dreams of setting up a university campus in Markham. They also forced high school students to stand up and protest against the proposed increase in class size and decline in the quality of education. There's no doubt that if Andrew Scheer gets the chance to do so, he will also follow the steps of his friend Ford.” (27 August, Mary Ng, Liberal MP op-ed, Chinese, *51.ca*)

Farsi

“The scene was repeated at Scheer's next campaign stop in Brampton, where Ford turned the tide for the PCs during the 2018 provincial election. Ford is already messing with Scheer's chances in a big way in Ontario. The chaos of cuts he's unleashed on the province has seen to that. With the possibility of Ford's fight with teachers unions ending up in a strike in Ontario smack dab in the middle of the election to remind voters of the disaster Ford has been, Scheer's electoral prospects are looking even more dicey.” (19 September, Farsi, *Iran Javan*)

Punjabi

“During a discussion about the federal election [in Brampton], many people were of the opinion that Justin Trudeau does not need to do anything to win. Ontario Premier Doug Ford’s policies will make the Liberals win in the federal election.” (13 August, Punjabi, *CIAO AM 530 Frontline Radio*).

“[The radio host] said that he thinks that Trudeau and Tory have joined to weaken Premier Ford and Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer. Ford has become a big problem for Scheer’s future as well. Trudeau is taking aim at Ford by showing that if Canadians elect a Conservative government, it will cut funding and impact healthcare, infrastructure, and immigration and refugee services.” (13 August, Punjabi, *CJMR Punjab Di Goonj*)

“It has become a political discussion that Tory Leader Scheer is expecting that Jason Kenney will succeed in bringing immigrant voters to the Tories which he (Scheer) himself couldn’t do in a region dominated by immigrant voters. He cannot connect with Ontarians broadly. Jason Kenney’s participation in the federal Conservative campaign is an interesting twist, but what is surprising is the party’s stopping a premier like Doug Ford from contacting voters. By calling Kenney from the other end of the country for his campaign, Andrew Scheer is giving the impression to the voters that his camp badly needs an impressive leader. The author of the editorial says that victory or defeat in any war depends on which party instills a sense of fear, and the same principle applies to the elections. The Tories may have to pay a big price for ignoring this fact.” (7 October, Punjabi, *Canadian Punjabi Post*)

“It has become a political discussion that Tory Leader Scheer is expecting that Jason Kenney will succeed in bringing immigrant voters to the Tories which he (Scheer) himself couldn’t do in a region dominated by immigrant voters. He cannot connect with Ontarians broadly. Jason Kenney’s participation in the federal Conservative campaign is an interesting twist, but what is surprising is the party’s stopping a premier like Doug Ford from contacting voters. By calling Kenney from the other end of the country for his campaign, Andrew Scheer is giving the impression to the voters that his camp badly needs an impressive leader. The author of the editorial says that victory or defeat in any war depends on which party instills a sense of fear, and the same principle applies to the elections. The Tories may have to pay a big price for ignoring this fact.” (7 October, Punjabi, *Canadian Punjabi Post*)

China

“Justin Trudeau is locked in a statistical tie in opinion polls with Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer ahead of an October 21 federal election, and Scheer has attacked him relentlessly for being soft on China. China hopes the winner of the election can show the courage and wisdom and make joint efforts with China on the basis of mutual respect and equality to overcome the current difficulties,” (10 August, South Asian English, *The Asian Star*)

“Canadians have recognized the reality now is that the Trudeau government is unable to well maintain the strategic relationship that was established with China. ... Canadian Chinese newspaper columnist Gao Bingchen had pointed out that the arrest of Meng Wanzhou and a series of incidents that followed forced Canadians to gradually wake up; they are starting to take

into consideration the cost it takes to maintain good diplomatic relations with China, and whether they can afford such a cost.” (23 September, Chinese, BCbay.com)

Immigration

Chinese

“...the annual immigration quota that Bernier is calling for is a reduction of up to 70% when compared to the current Canadian government's quota. As we step into the Canadian federal election season, the most notable aspect of the People's Party's political platform is anti-immigration, yet the writer says many Chinese people seem to turn a blind eye and continue to support the People's Party. Why do some older Chinese immigrants want to burn the bridge after crossing the river by being against immigration? Perhaps this is due to selfishness.” (18 September, Chinese, *Ottawazine*)

“...its priority in terms of immigration policy is to restore fairness and order in immigration and to embrace immigration with an open mind. However, illegal immigrants aren't welcome. The Conservative Party is very concerned about family reunification. Due to current immigration loopholes, the normal wait times for immigration applications are longer. The Conservative Party will strongly support family reunification and ensure the reunion of parents and children, husbands and wives as soon as possible. Also, language training for new immigrants will be strengthened to ensure that new immigrants integrate into the local community as soon as possible.” (30 September, Chinese, BCbay.com)

Caribbean

“Experts say there is a niche group of voters in the 905 area of the GTA, a lot of them first-generation Canadians and new Canadians, who have an issue with asylum seekers walking over the border because they see these people as queue jumping. That group could be the focus for the Conservatives.” (12 September, Caribbean, *G 98.7 FM Mark & Jem in the Morning*)

Hindi

“Federal election candidates in Mississauga-Streetsville say that voters in this riding are not talking about the issue of immigration. It must be noted that Mississauga-Streetsville has close to a 50-50 split of immigrants and non-immigrants. In Brampton West, which is the biggest riding in Brampton, climate change and affordable housing are the major concerns. The issue of immigration is placed at third position among voters.” (16 October, *Hindi, Radio CINA 1650 AM News at 9*)

Italian

“Political parties see each other as adversaries rather than enemies. The real enemies are in their own ranks. The Conservative Party is legendary for the precarious position of its leaders: Bernier, Ford and Kenney vs. Scheer. Meanwhile, Justin Trudeau has his nemesis: the “Deputy Prime Minister of Brampton.” Nav Bains, whose family runs the World Sikh Organization (which promotes the independence of the Indian state of Punjab), has put his followers in key positions within the party. He seems to have a stranglehold on Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen: in the last four years, 180,925 Indian applicants - 22.5% of all immigrants - have received

Canadian permanent residence while Italians, Portuguese and Poles have been kept at under 0.05% a year. Bains' detractors claim this is part of a plan to populate Canada with supporters for the impending leadership race to replace Trudeau. Some party supporters worry about foreign elements influencing the upcoming political elections because Hindus, presumably encouraged by political activism at home, appear determined to vote against parties supported by Sikhs." (11 September, Joe Volpe, Italian, *Corriere Canadese*) [Note: Visible minority immigrants have formed about 80 percent of all immigrants for the past 20 years)

Punjabi

"Every day there are reports about immigration fraud, fake IELTS rankings, fake job offers, misuse of student programs, exploitation of the refugee program etc. in the print and electronic media but the government is paying no attention to these." (30 August, Punjabi, *Khabarnama Punjabi Weekly*)

"Referring to the increasing crime rate, Bawa cited the increasing number of immigrants and refugees coming to Canada as a possible reason. He talked in particular about asylum seekers coming to Canada from across the border. They don't have enough background checks. ...The PPC wants to stop all the loopholes in Canada's immigration system...Bawa said that the PPC is not anti-immigrant, but aimed at 'pure and truer immigrants'" (11 September, Punjabi, *WTOR 770 AM Radio South Asian Pulse Prime Time*)

"... when international students apply for spousal sponsorship, they are immediately granted a visa without being required to provide so much evidence. Ads for 'IELTS marriage' and 'contract marriage' are placed in the Punjabi media in Canada and overseas, however, Canada's immigration department is paying no heed to it. When Canadian citizens and PRs complete applications to sponsor their parents, the quota is reached in five minutes. However, when international students apply for their parents, they are granted 10-year multiple entry visas without any evidence." (20 September, Punjabi, *Khabarnama Punjabi Weekly*)

"... the immigration target was 260,000 annually during the previous Conservative government. Today, the target is 280,000 which is not a major difference. We have a balanced approach when we bring immigrants here without any back door entry. During the Trudeau government, 80,000 illegal refugees crossed the border into Canada. Khanna highlighted the burden on the Canadian immigration system and taxpayers with refugees. He said that the Liberals are not focusing on Hindu and Sikh refugees whose lives are under threat in Afghanistan. He also criticized the Liberals' visa policy, including the parental sponsorship application intake system. He said that Conservatives emphasize an immigration system that is fair, orderly and compassionate." (20 September, Punjabi, *CJMR Parvasi*)

"Andrew Scheer was at the Quebec border today, where he met with refugees putting in claims to enter Canada. Now Trudeau needs to give a substantial statement about what he will do about controlling immigration, or at least refugees who put in bogus claims to enter the country. This will give reassurance to Canada's voters that something will be done about the situation. Students in India are also watching these elections very closely, because if the Liberals win again, they will have a chance at getting in. If the Conservatives win, the situation will be a lot more difficult." (9 October, Punjabi, *CMJR 1320 Apna Punjab*)

“During the debate, Maxime Bernier said that only 6% of Canadians want to increase immigration. The rest of Canadians are either in favour of reducing immigration or having it remain at the current levels. François Legault of the Coalition Avenir Québec promised to reduce immigration levels in his immigration campaign and he was elected to form the government. It clearly indicates that a discussion should be initiated on the number of immigrants. Do we need 100,000 immigrants or 400,000 immigrants each year? Co-host Shaili Saini agreed with Jaswal and said that she agrees with Bernier’s emphasis on the integration of immigrants to contribute better to the Canadian economy. Jaswal called for an independent portfolio for integration.” (8 October, Punjabi, *WTOR 770 AM Radio South Asian Pulse Prime Time*)

“Now, the Liberals will open a new door for immigration fraud by welcoming 5,000 people every year under an immigration project. If the Liberals come into power, they will empower local communities across Canada to directly sponsor new immigrants for Canadian permanent residence. This program will allow local communities, chambers of commerce and local labour councils to directly sponsor permanent immigrants. Trudeau’s Liberals also plan to make the successful Atlantic Immigration Pilot (AIP) permanent, with both the AIP and the new Municipal Nominee Program to be allocated a minimum of 5,000 spaces per year. A new door will be opened for immigration fraud with the opening of this program. Travel agents and human smugglers will violate this program and corruption will rise at the city level.” (11 October, Punjabi, *Khabarnama Punjabi Weekly*)

Urdu

“Pakistan has been included on the Student Direct Stream List. The SDS will make it much easier for Pakistani students to come to Canada.” (8 October, Urdu, *Saaaz-O-Awaz*)

Refugees

“A lot of online users hold negative attitude about accepting refugees and about the fact that refugees who will be naturalized will participate in voting in the Canadian election. Some people commented that this circumstance is very beneficial for Trudeau. These refugees were brought to Canada because the government was carrying out humanitarianism, but is the real motive of the government to let these refugees vote for the Liberal Party after naturalization?” (11 August, Chinese, *lahoo.ca*)

Multiculturalism

Chinese

“Trudeau apologized several times, but the Black Coalition of Quebec said that Trudeau should not take these comments to heart nor did he have to apologize. The president of the coalition, Dan Philip, said Trudeau’s blackface makeup was mainly for performance, which does not make him a racist. Philip said Trudeau took measures to help ethnic minority communities after he was elected prime minister. Trudeau also appointed a cabinet with people from all backgrounds. Philip said some politicians who criticize Trudeau are mostly hypocrites, and they do not have an interest in supporting the Black community. The reason why this photo surfaced was a political tactic to stir up controversy and gain from the chaos. Quebec Haitian author Danish Laferriere said Trudeau’s 2001 Aladdin costume was not completely blackface. Laferriere said this is a tactic

used by white politicians to attack each other, and it has no connection with the black community whatsoever.” (21 September, Chinese, *Van People*)

Polish

“Instead of discussing the economy, taxes, how to improve this country, how to ensure it doesn’t fall into a recession, our election debate instead concentrates on the fact, that our Prime Minister who is always so politically correct, now got caught in his own trap. Kumor says that although painting your face brown or black is not appropriate he doesn’t think that in this case Trudeau’s intention was to make fun of people of colour. Kumor asks, why if the pictures and videos were taken 18 years ago, they surfaced just now? Kumor believes it’s part of the opponents election strategy. Looking into opponents’ past to see what they did in Kindergarten is probably the main task at the campaign headquarters, Kumor says. There are real problems in this country, like the economy, and for that we need a good government that will take things seriously.” (20 September, Polish, *Goniec*)

“Stolarczyk says that if someone ever told him, that at his advanced age and after 40 years of journalistic work, he would have to deal with the pretend games he played when he was young he would never believe that running around the summer camp in Serpelice back in the day, with his face painted red and with feathers in his hair, that after so many years, he could be called a racist. Stolarczyk says that he would have never thought that playing native warriors so many years ago as a boy, could somehow come to haunt him now. But our Liberal leader Justin Trudeau has to deal with a ‘great scandal’ from the past. Trudeau dressed up as Aladdin, with his face and hands painted brown for an Arabian-themed school party many years ago. A picture from this party has now surfaced in the midst of the election campaign and Justin Trudeau is being called a racist. Trudeau, being an experienced politician and diplomat, apologized for his actions to all. Stolarczyk doesn’t feel that Trudeau needs to apologize for dressing up as a legendary, kind-hearted Aladdin who wanted to change his fate. Today, the opposition is trying to change the fate of Trudeau, but Stolarczyk hopes, that with such cheap propaganda, the opposition won’t succeed.” (27 September, Polish, *Fakty Czas*)

Punjabi

“Responding to a caller, [host] Jaswal said that Trudeau’s photo in brownface is no big issue. The photo was taken 18 years ago. There is a huge difference in Trudeau’s thinking now compared to then. Jaswal was surprised that the mainstream media is making the photograph a big issue. Why had no Canadian media outlet found this photo before. It is for the people to decide, but it’s not a big issue, said Jaswal.” (19 September, Punjabi, *WTOR 770 AM Radio South Asian Pulse Prime Time*)

“Political parties are finding it easier to come into the limelight by accusing other candidates rather than debating more serious issues. In 2015, Conservative candidate Jagdish Grewal, who is the editor of the Canadian Punjabi Post, lost his candidacy due to such petty issues. The writer further says that politicians and political parties should rise above the petty issues to work to resolve the real, more serious issues facing the country rather than involving the public in cheap mudslinging games.” (17 September, Punjabi, *Canadian Punjabi Post*)

“The paper talks specifically about Bill 21. It says Canadians were expecting their leaders to strongly oppose that Quebec bill. The Sikh community was expecting Jagmeet Singh in

particular to strongly oppose it, but that did not happen. The minority communities are unhappy to see that. Only Trudeau said he opposes this bill and if Liberals come to power again, he would intervene in this matter. This clear stand of Trudeau brings him closer to the minorities. That was reflected in an improvement in the Liberal standing after the debate.” (9 October, Punjabi, *Hamdard Daily*)

“Canada is a multicultural country and it will not be possible to accommodate every community's religious needs” (5 February, Punjabi, *Red FM 88.9 Good Morning Toronto*)

Spanish

“Radio host Fabian Merlo said that one can draw many conclusions from this, some more informed than others. There has been a lot of criticism in recent years against people who dress up as someone of another race or religion during Halloween. Radio host Silvia Mendez said it's a complicated subject and in 2001 Justin Trudeau didn't know he was going to be prime minister. Fabian Merlo said your past condemns you.” (19 September, Spanish, *CHLN 91.9 FM Spanish*)

Foreign interference

“Twitter identified some 200,000 accounts, many of which were deliberately and specifically attempting to sow political discord in Hong Kong, including undermining the legitimacy and political positions of the protest movement on the ground. According to Twitter's research, most of the accounts and their subversive activity has been state-backed. Canadian pro-democracy supporters have been targeted with threats published on the Beijing-controlled WeChat platform, and it's been alleged that many of the Hong Kong counter-protests in Canadian cities have been organized by Chinese consulates.” (10 October, Chinese, *Epoch Times*)

“Attempts to interfere by the Canadian or US government in the Punjab provincial election or in general elections in India has never been reported, even though the influence of Non Resident Indians (NRI) on Indian elections can be seen. But in Canadian elections, governments are being identified. Bobby, a guest on the show said that in Indian elections many NRIs living in Canada and other countries supported their family members who were running in the election and played a big role. The political base of any community living anywhere internationally, impacts the politics of the country where they're living.” (17 September, Punjabi, *Chin FM 91.9 Ramz Punjabi*)

Results and analysis

Caribbean

“What this election proved, more than anything else, is that the immigrant vote cannot be dismissed as irrelevant or unimportant. In the cities where Trudeau won big, it was the immigrants who handed him his second term. In spite of the other parties running ethnic minority candidates by the dozens to try to woo that vote, at the end of the day it was the Liberals who won the day, as they were judged on their actions in their first term, not by the colour of their candidates' skin. Trudeau, after all, was the first Prime Minister in Canadian history to include so many visible minorities in his cabinet. He also elevated some to the government's most senior positions, including defence and immigration.” (25 October, Caribbean, *Equality News*)

Chinese

“...the Chinese community should continue to reflect on the election as Chinese social media was being manipulated by certain political parties, but the Chinese community failed to respond to this as a whole. In contrast, mainstream Canadian voters had a very strong and clear political stand and were less influenced by the campaign tactics.” (25 October, Chinese, *Chinese Canadian Times*)

“According to Chinese Canadians, Justin Trudeau’s Liberal Party is too far left, too silly and too naive. They think the Liberals have broken Canada, and that it’s time to let the Conservatives take over. They are known to be practical. The Americans have woken up and have given up on the Democrats by choosing a president that will do what he promises. Canada should learn from the US and change the culture. Hence, many Chinese Canadians voted in support of the Conservatives and are eager to remove Trudeau Liberals. Some Chinese Canadians are worried that, if Trudeau serves another four years, Canada will become a refugee camp and 'drug-use central’” (23 October, Chinese, *Van People*)

“...a new topic for debate has surfaced. Left-wing Chinese Canadians are blaming their right-wing counterpart for not following Canada values, being short-sighted, and are annoyed by their ways of voting. So what counts as knowing how to vote? ...Because the system is democratic, right-wing Chinese Canadians can still voice their disagreement with left-wing values. Canada needs critical thinkers and active participants in the voting debate. After the election, many left-wing Chinese media were showing off that they chose the winning party, while blaming the right-wing Chinese voters for not being open-minded. But if voters did not vote based on the values they believe in, then what is the point of voting?” (29 October, Chinese, *Van People*)

Greek

“Justin Trudeau and the Liberals won the most seats in the election, this time with only a minority. Four Greek Canadians have been elected in their respective ridings: Niki Ashton, Emmanouella Lambropoulos, Annie Koutrakis and Peter Fragiskatos. One Greek Canadian candidate, Tom Pentefountas, did not win in his riding, despite his involvement in the community and his experience in politics. His riding, Laval-Les Iles, is a Liberal stronghold that was won by Faycal El Khouri. El Khoury has always been very present in the riding and he has ensured the Greek community has received its fair share and more of federal funding despite rumours to the contrary.” (26 October, Greek, *Ta Nea*)

Gujarati

“Trudeau had relaxed immigration laws and Indians had derived the most benefit from that. That is likely to continue. Similarly, a Trudeau government will bring more MPs of Indian origin into the cabinet. The last cabinet had quite a few and they helped him get a respectable number of seats in this election. He might increase the number of Sikh members of his cabinet to get closer to the NDP, whose leader is a Sikh. The influence of the Sikh community is likely to increase in the Trudeau Government 2.0, which will also benefit Indians.” (25 October, Gujarati, *Swadesh*)

Jewish

“...many Jews were concerned that the conflict between the election date and the holiday of Shemini Atzeret would lead to a lower proportion of observant Jews turning out to vote. After a concerted campaign by Jewish institutions to educate voters about their electoral options, and the opening of additional service points in ridings with large Jewish populations, Jewish candidates in those ridings were satisfied that the conflict did not hinder people from voting. However, some of the candidates believe the election date hindered their campaigns in other ways.” (25 October, Jewish, *Canadian Jewish News*) Italian

“Corriere publisher Joe Volpe exhorts Anne McLellan, advisor to Justin Trudeau, to tell the Prime Minister to get rid of those federal ministers who never should have been called to government, first among them Ahmed Hussen. As Immigration Minister, Hussen has been a complete disaster. Nonetheless, approximately 300,000 new entrants, as well as international student visa holders, refugees, and the more than one million undocumented workers (and their families), are at his mercy. Closer to home, he has not lifted a finger to make use of the human resources potential of Italian emigrants ‘young, educated and skilled’ who are leaving Italy each year, going everywhere except Canada. Dismiss him before he causes more damage to the country’s demographic fabric and the Liberal brand, Volpe says.” (1 November, Italian, *Corriere Canadese*)

Punjabi

“Conservatives didn’t bring anything different, whether it was to address the budget deficit, the economy or job opportunities. They could have taken Ontario Premier Doug Ford along with them and made a major announcement. The highway, hospital and university are provincial matters. However, if Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer announced he would bring a hospital to Brampton, or a highway in the GTA, or a transit project, and if Ford promised to work on these projects with federal funding, it could have made a difference. The Conservatives got no seats in Toronto.” (22 October, Punjabi, WTOR 770 AM Radio South Asian Pulse Prime Time)

“Immigration levels are poised to rise even further under a Liberal minority government. Under the Liberals' current plan, the target will increase from 330,800 in 2019 to 350,000 by 2021, and their election platform suggested this pattern would continue if they obtained a new mandate. All eyes will now be on the Municipal Nominee Program, which the Liberals promised in order to help smaller cities across Canada attract more immigrants. The Atlantic Immigration Pilot (AIP) will become permanent. The Liberals' pledge to waive citizenship fees for eligible permanent residents suggests that Canada’s already high rate of citizenship acquisition will increase even further. Adults must currently pay \$530 plus a right of citizenship fee” of \$100 to support their citizenship application.” (25 October, Punjabi, *Hamdard Daily*)

Russian

“The blame for the defeat lies with the Conservatives themselves. Andrew Scheer was unable to compete effectively with Justin Trudeau. How could he lose against the Liberal Party leader who was tarnished by high-profile scandals? In addition... the Conservative Party's program consists of an overblown set of promises in which key ideas are drowned. For the most part, these promises do not differ fundamentally from Liberal ones, with the exception of the abolition of

'climate fees' and the restriction of illegal migration. The author believes that in order to win, the Conservatives need a clear idea that outlines the contours of the future in which Canadians will wish to exist — and they seem to need a different leader.” (25 October, Russian, *Russian Express*)