



Rising Tide of White Supremacy in Canada

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Abstract

White Supremacy activism and rhetoric have long been found in Canada. A rampant resurgence of the ideology can be seen in Canada. A historic and modern-day overview of White Supremacy is presented herein.

Introduction

On Saturday morning, October 27th, 2018, Jewish worshippers attended services at the Tree of Life synagogue located in a historically Jewish suburb of Pittsburgh. A white supremacist named Robert Bowers walked into the synagogue carrying his AR-15 semi-automatic rifle coupled with three handguns. He screamed “All Jews must die,” - murdering 11 people; their ages ranging from 54-97. On the heels of this heinous Pittsburgh incident, it becomes exceedingly important that we, as a community, collectively re-assess and evaluate the implications of the white supremacist movement in Canada.

Right-wing extremist ideology and white nationalism is on the rise in Canada. Many perceive this to be a relatively new phenomenon, but truth be known, white supremacists and their alt-right modern day alter-egos have been active for decades.

The concept of white racism is not new-fangled and fresh. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) traces far-right violence back to race riots in Nova Scotia in the 1780s, racial segregation in Ontario schools in the 1840s and violence against Chinese and Japanese immigrants at the turn of the 20th century, not to mention generations of discrimination against Indigenous peoples. (Boutilier, 2018)

Canada’s right-wing extremist movement is a motley crew of white supremacists, anti-government “sovereignists” and pro-militia crusaders who, despite being disorganized and prone to booze-fuelled in-fighting, are more extensive and more active than most people think. (Quan, 2016)

The advent of the more mainstream white supremacist ideological rhetoric we are see in Canada, stemmed from the American-based Ku Klux Klan (KKK). Their bombast emanated from the United States, making its way northwards to the Prairie Provinces in the 1920’s, where several thousand members were enlisted. Swastika clubs became prevalent; their associates responsible for the Christie Pits riot in 1933 (Riot at Christie Pits, n.d.). In the 1930’s and 40’s, Adrian Arcand’s National Social Christian Party, whose logo bore a swastika, was the next major movement to be established in Canada. (Kaplan, 2013) Following World War II, white supremacy and far-right movements fell into the shadows until Neo-Nazism gave rise in the 1960s and 1970s. The formation of such organizations as the Canadian Nazi Party, the Western Guard, Aryan Guard, and Church of the Creator and others helped a fading movement rise-up like a phoenix from the ashes. Groups like the Heritage Front and Holocaust revisionists headlined the movement in the 80’s and 90’s.

Many of these groups are non-operational however, their ideals are being perpetrated by newly formed white supremacist organizations. In 2016, KKK recruitment posters were found across British Columbia. (2016) Groups like the Canadian Nationalist Party emerged with political

aspirations. (Hong, 2014) The editor of the far-right newsletter, Your Ward News, James Sears, a political pundit and his editor-in-chief LeRoy StGermaine, until their November 2018 trial, regularly praised Hitler, presenting repugnant views towards women and Jews (Perkel, 2018). Their website is still operational; containing repugnant and racist material.¹ The rhetoric of Holocaust denial has been found in graffiti and through the dissemination of posters on university campuses thus gaining media attention. White nationalist rallies have been organized in major cities across Canada.

Re-emergence of white supremacy in Canada

Today, media reports referencing white supremacist activity across our nation is a regular occurrence. Headlines featuring the alt-right, right-wing extremists and Canadian players the likes of: Richard Spencer, Andrew Anglin and old-school white supremacist Paul Fromm, have been common since the August 2017, Charlottesville, Virginia Unite the Right Rally. That rally, and the outpouring of hate and racism it was predicated on, seem to have emboldened white supremacist ideology in Canada. These groups have become emboldened, emerging mainstream, leaving their place as keyboard cowboys who found comfort in operating under the veil of anonymity behind their computers where they spread their hateful rhetoric on far-right websites like Stormfront². Despite efforts to become more mainstream, many right-wing extremists still have a proclivity for violence. Some adherents have rallied around mixed martial arts, as it provides “an outlet and training grounds for violence. Even more alarming, some groups have joined outlaw biker gangs, who share similar subcultural characteristics, such as slang, language, dress and a propensity for violence. (Quan, 2016)

It is believed that in excess of 100 white nationalist and alt-right groups are active in Canada. (Gill J. , 2017) Some of the more prominent groups include: Storm Alliance, Soldiers of Odin, Three Percenters, Generation Identity, La Meute, Canadian Nationalist Party, Alternative for Canada, Proud Boys, Edmund Burke Society, NSCLRP and PEGIDA. They join long-standing groups like the KKK, Church of the Creator, Heritage Front, Combat 18, Golden Dawn, Hammerskin Nation, and Aryan Guard. Many white nationalist and alt-right groups utilize music as a propaganda tool and radicalisation instrument.

While some members have tried to create a façade of legitimacy by toning down their rhetoric, running in municipal elections and joining military ranks, others remain a public threat, aligning

¹ Your Ward News website <http://yourwardnews.com/>

² Stormfront.org was the first “hate” website appearing online in 1995. The website was the creation of Klansman David Duke.

themselves with organized crime groups and exploiting hate-filled white power music and propaganda wrought chat rooms. (Quan, 2016)

Many groups attempt to veil themselves under the guises of ‘free speech’ like Paul Fromm’s Canadian Association for Free Expression and Students in Support of Free Speech. These groups are seemingly the new face of the white nationalist movement worming its way into mainstream society, and most troubling, onto Canadian university campuses.

University Campuses

Over the past couple of years, white nationalist propaganda (generally leaflets) have been found on the campuses of universities across Canada:

- In 2015, “Students for Western Civilization” flyers were found on campuses across the greater Toronto area including University of Toronto Mississauga, York University, and Ryerson University. (Press, 'White students union' posters taken down at U of T, Ryerson, York, 2015)
- In September 2017, at St. Thomas University, a predominantly Catholic liberal arts university located in Fredericton, New Brunswick, three signs directing people to white supremacist websites were found posted on a Maliseet language welcome sign amidst a conference on reconciliation with the Indigenous community. The signs included the slogans “Equality is a false god” and “Critical thought is a crime”. One sign depicted a white man and woman with the words “We have a right to exist”. (Gill J. , 2017)
- In September 2017, at Laval University in the greater Montreal-area, recruitment posters depicting slogans like “defend your identity” and “defend your freedoms” from alt-right group Generation Identity, were discovered. (Noel, 2017)
- In the same month, posters from far-right group Atalante were found on campus at Laval University September 2017 – The posters read “the left stifles the debate! No cultural Marxism in our schools”. (Bouchard, 2017)
- In October 2017 at University of New Brunswick, the same posters which appeared at St. Thomas University were found on campus. The leaflets depicted a young white man and

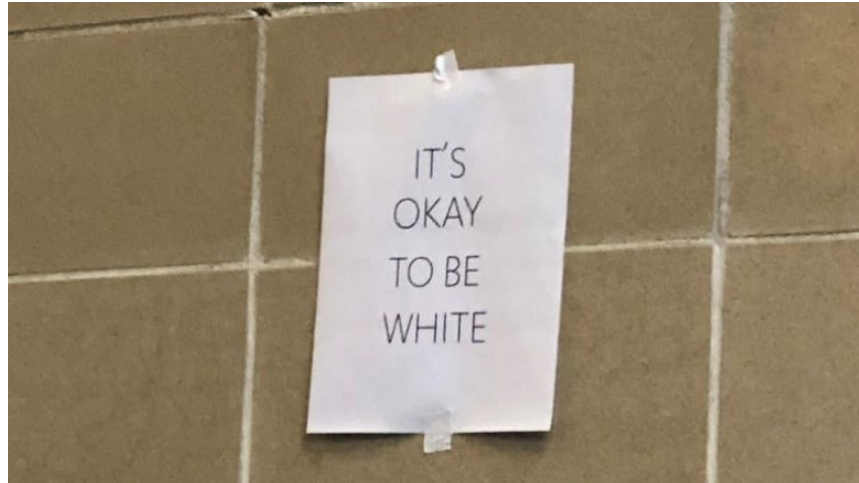
woman predominantly displayed with the slogan- “We Have a Right to Exist”. (Gill J. , 2017)

- In October 2017, Ottawa’s Carleton University discovered the presence of anti-immigration posters from group, Generation Identity. (Librach, 2017)
- In October 2017 on the campuses of Montreal’s McGill University posters from Generation Identity were discovered. The prints advertised a book entitled “Canada in Decay” encouraging anti-immigration sentiments; the subtitle referenced the “ethnocide of Euro-Canadians”. (McCready, 2017)
- In November 2017, at British Columbia’s University of Victoria, posters with slogans like “(((Those))) who hate us will not replace us” were found. The triple parentheses are used online by neo-Nazis to identify Jews. The slogan “Jews will not replace us” was chanted during the Charlottesville rally. (Mooney, 2017)
- In November 2017, “*It’s okay to be white*” posters were found on multiple campuses across the country in November 2017 including Toronto’s University of Toronto St George Campus, University of Waterloo, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Saskatoon, and University of Regina. The well-organized campaign was prearranged online via the website 4chan as a “proof of concept” that a “harmless message” would cause outrage in the media. Similar posters and campaigns were also found on university campuses across the United States, New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom. (Khandaker, 2017)
- In January 2018, White nationalist ‘ID Canada’ posters were found in the vicinity of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. The posters included slogans like: “Stop the ethnocide of old-stock Canadians” and “Defend your freedom” and “Defend your identity.” (O’Brien,

2018)



- On January 16, 2018 on the campuses of the University of New Brunswick, brochures depicting the marginalization of indigenous peoples were discovered. (Sturgeon, 2018) The student newspaper published an interview with National Socialist Canadian Labour Revival Party (NSCLRP) President, Michael Thurlow, a Nazi sympathizer, who claimed white supremacy was a mythical diatribe invented by Jews. Thurlow and his supporters disseminated anti-Semitic and anti-Indigenous rhetoric. (Press, 2018)
- On October 31, 2018 the campus of the University of Manitoba was peppered by posters whose slogans read "It's ok to be white". Faxes with the same phrase were sent to offices around the campus, including the women's and gender studies program. The University of Manitoba denounced the posters, which the school president David Barnard stated are part of a co-ordinated international effort by neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups. He went on to state that "the university unequivocally condemns this and any other racist actions... There is no tolerance for hate and discrimination, as I made clear yesterday in my remarks at the vigil in honour of the shooting victims in Pittsburgh: We share a sense of revulsion and need to act because of what we see happening around us. The treatment of refugees. The tone of anger and hatred in political discourse. The installation of corrupt regimes. A distressing number of hate crimes. Terrorist attacks." (CBC, 2018)



- On November 1, 2018 on the campuses of Ottawa's Carleton University, the same posters as were found on the walls of University of Manitoba, bearing the slogan "It's ok to be white" appeared. The same posters were found splattered across the downtown corridor. (Boyce, 2018) The signs reportedly stemmed from an anonymous post in a thread on message board 4chan³ calling on people to print them out and post them to expose anti-white bias and convert "normies" to the far-right cause. The signs were innocuous, just text without images or symbols, sending a disturbing message to communities who've been targeted by the extreme right. (Gillis, 2018)



³ 4chan is an English-language imageboard website. Users generally post anonymously, with the most recent posts appearing above the rest. 4chan is split into various boards with their own specific content and guidelines

Propaganda campaigns found on Canadian campuses mirror crusades launched by similar alt-right groups on college campuses across the United States. These campaigns have sought to exploit debates over freedom of speech, immigration and Islam. The white supremacist “genocide” conspiracy suggests that demographic and social changes under way in the United States and other countries – including immigration, admission of refugees, an increase in mixed-race marriages and mixed-race children, support for multiculturalism, and feminism – are all part of a secret plot to destroy the white race. (Beckett, 2018) These groups regularly call for radical actions in response. Campaigns like these sprouted up like weeds following the Pittsburgh shooting.

Rallies

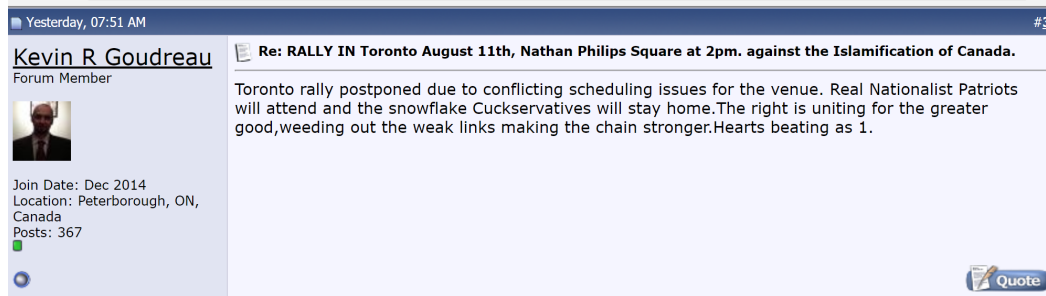
- On July 1, 2017 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Alt-right group ‘Proud Boys’ disrupted a Mi’kmaq Canada Day gathering. The group of five, wearing black polo shirts with yellow piping, were members of the Canadian military. (Young, 2017) The men were temporary suspended, reinstated by summer’s end. (Press, 2017)
- On August 19, 2017, a far-right rally took place in Vancouver, British Columbia. Law enforcement officers made five arrests, citing breach of peace. According to the group’s Facebook event page, the purpose of the event was to protest Islam and Canadian government immigration policies. Only a handful of alt-right protesters showed up, but thousands of counter-protesters streamed into the city hall area, far outnumbering the initial participants. (Lovgreen, 2017) Alt-right and white supremacist rallies and demonstrations have become common in our country; several of them occurring in the wake of the August 2017 ‘Unite the Right’ rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.
- On September 14, 2017, in the city of Toronto, a white nationalist rally was scheduled to take place. A Facebook event page promoted the rally which was scheduled to take place at University of Toronto. The university responded stating the event was not taking place. It was apparently organized by the Canadian Nationalist Party, an unregistered political party, founded by Don Andrews in 1977. (Nasser, 2017)
- In September 2017 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, supporters of the ‘Worldwide Coalition Against Islam’ posted plans on Facebook for an anti-immigration rally to take place in downtown sector of the city. Although the rally was cancelled, approximately 200 counter-protesters still came out for a ‘Diversity Rally Against Hate’ which took place adjacent to the Manitoba CBC building. (News, 2017)

- On September 30, 2017 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, an anti-immigration rally was organized by Quebec-based Storm Alliance. Approximately 20 participants distributed leaflets bearing slogans like: “Keep Canada Canadian. Protect Canadians, Enforce Our Laws.” The group was met by over 100 counter protesters. (Hutton, 2017)
- On September 30, 2017 in Ottawa Ontario, Canadian Coalition of Concerned Citizens protested on Parliament Hill opposing immigration policies. Participants were met by a much larger group of anti-fascist counter protesters. (Provencher, 2017)
- On September 30, 2017 in Saint Bernard de Lacolle, Quebec over 200 Storm Alliance members gathered at the border crossing located on Highway 17, protesting immigration policies of both the federal and provincial governments. They were met by counter protestors representing the anti-racist group, Solidarity Across Borders. (Bellemare, 2017)
- On October 1, 2017 in Peterborough Ontario, an anti-immigration rally was planned by the Canadian Nationalist Front, and Kevin Goudreau- an old-school Canadian hatemonger, Zundel foot soldier and sympathizer, and student of Heritage Front. The event did not occur. Instead, over 1000 counter-protesters attended Confederation Square for Solidarity Weekend. Clashes erupted, and two people were arrested as a result of altercations between anti-racist protestors and a man wearing Nazi t-shirt and clashed with law enforcement. (Kovach, 2017)
- On November 4, 2017, in the city of Toronto, A Toronto alt-right rally organized by Kevin Goudreau, chairman of the Canadian Nationalist Front and White Nationalist Front, billed as "anti-Trudeau" was cancelled a day after Toronto police issued a statement about the protest and a planned counter-protest. The alt-right rally was to be held in Kew Gardens, a park in the city's Beach neighbourhood. The counter-protest, described as anti-fascist, is underway in the form of a block party "to send the clear message that Nazis will never be welcome here," according to the event's Facebook page. An anti-fascist rally in response to the alt-right event was organized, taking place that day. The event was attended by over 50 people who carried placards, welcoming refugees and decrying fascism. (McLaughlin, 2017)

- On November 25, 2017 in Quebec City⁴, tensions flared during rival demonstrations by right wing groups and their opponents, prompting police to arrest dozens as they worked to keep the two sides apart. 21 counter balaclava-wearing protestors were arrested for plotting to counter right-wing demonstrations. Weapons were discovered. 23 additional counter-protestors were arrested later in the day for failing to disperse. Nearly 1000 people participated in the two rallies. IT started with alt-right groups, Storm Alliance and La Meute congregating to march throughout the downtown core. Storm Alliance supporters waved flags, sang the French national anthem while denouncing the provincial government. La Meute supporters followed in a silent protest. Opposing groups gathered in front of Quebec's legislature. (Boissinot, 2017)
- On April 29, 2018 in Quebec City, La Meute, a French Canadian far-right group held an anti-immigration protest, demonstrating against the immigration policies of both the federal and provincial governments. Nearly 200 members participated in a silent march in the vicinity of the National Assembly. Approximately 300 counter protestors representing various anti-fascist groups were present. The counter protestors were the violent ones, engaging in violent clashes with police officers and throwing bricks at protesters.⁵ A dumpster was set on fire, bottles and chairs were smashed in the street, and a Global News cameraman was assaulted. (Lowen, 2018)
- On August 11, 2018, a White Nationalist Front rally- lead by notorious Kevin Goudreau, was scheduled to take place at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto. The event promoted via Stormfront message board, White Nationalist Front mailing and social media platform Gab, was cancelled due to a scheduling mishap. (Corb, 2018)

⁴ It is important to note that much of the activity in Quebec is derived from Bill-62, which, under the of neutrality, denies niqab- wearing Muslim women from delivering or receiving public service. It has been argued that this law, legislated discrimination as it attempts to homogenize society by erasing difference and diversity.

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An anti-racism demonstration did however transpire. There were approximately 235 participants who were outnumbered by law enforcement. Law Enforcement officers indicated that there were over 300 police officers present, both uniformed and plain clothes. Most attendees were representatives of ARA, Antifa, union members, socialist group members, as well as Jewish community members. (Corb, 2018)





Each rally was met with counter demonstrations, but in many instances countering actions, particularly those by anti-fascist groups, were more hostile and volatile, dwarfing those of the groups they denounced.

Other Events

- In July 2017 Paul Fromm held a memorial service at the Richview Public Library in Etobicoke, Ontario for Barbara Kulaszka, a lawyer well known for her defence of white supremacists, including Ernst Zundel. (Sienkiewicz, 2017) In November of the same year, Fromm attempted to host a meeting of like-minded individuals in Winnipeg-based hotel. Once the hotel caught on, he was refused service; all other area hotels followed suit. (Thorpe, 2017)

In Politics

- White supremacist rhetoric has in the past, seeped into the political arena. Editor of neo-Nazi newsletter ‘Your Ward News’, James Sears, ran as a Toronto city council candidate in Ward 32, receiving 797 votes. He also ran in Toronto as an independent candidate in the 2015 federal election in the riding of Beaches-East York receiving 254 votes. Sears has since announced he will run for office in future Ontario provincial elections and Toronto mayoral elections.
- Don Andrews, under the Nationalist Party of Canada, has run for mayor several times in Toronto, most recently in 2014, finishing in 6th with 0.1% of the vote.
- Edmund Burke Society leaders Paul Fromm, Don Andrews, and Leigh Smith joined and took over the Ontario Social Credit Party in the early 70s – 3/5 OSC candidates in 1971 provincial election were identified as EBS members.
- In the 1930’s, the National Unity Party (Christian National Socialist Party and Canadian Nationalist Party) lead by Adrien Arcand, was banned under the War Measures Act. Arcand and his followers were jailed. In 1949, representatives of the party ran in the federal election, coming in second with 29% of vote. The party came in 2nd with 39% of vote in the 1953 federal election. 1965 marked the party’s last rally.
- Former MP Claude Patry is a member of La Meute.
- The Western Block Party, lead by lawyer Doug Christie (who represented Ernst Zundel) ran in federal elections in 2006, 2008, and 2011.
- The New Constitution Party of Canada (Le Parti de la Nouvelle Constitution du Canada) has meetings and a website. The group is lead by James Sears of Your Ward News. The group’s mandate reads as follows: “The New Constitution Party of Canada (NCP) is an all-inclusive federal party based on Libertarian doctrine, Christian values, and National Socialist ideology. Our political movement incorporates the intellect of Dr. Ron Paul, the heart of Chancellor Adolf Hitler, and the soul of Jesus Christ, into one powerful political Chimera that will crush the Marxist beast. Our basic tenet is that we are one nation under God, composed of founders of many races and religions. God grants us Dominion over the Earth, including all plants and animals on it. In exchange, we must be responsible stewards of God’s project, and unite to protect his creation from the dark, Satanic armies of Marxism.” (Sears, 2018)

Connection to Antisemitism

Even though the majority of white supremacist flyers and rallies mentioned in this study have not specifically mentioned Jews, anti-Semitism has played a pivotal role in the movement. Many of the proponents of recent events are notorious anti-Semites:

- Michael Thurlow, leader of the Nationalist Socialist Canadian Labour Revival Party (NSCLRP), the group responsible for the UNB posters.
- Paul Fromm, former Etobicoke school teacher, notorious Holocaust denier and anti-Semite, and leader of Canada First
- Monika Schaefer, outspoken Holocaust denier and blogger, who served time in a German jail charged with Holocaust denial.

Historically, white supremacy held anti-Semitism as a primary focus. Today's white extremists seem to readily focus on anti-immigration sentiments as immigration policies in Canada have opened the nation's borders to refugees. Canada Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) reports indicate that within right-wing extremist groups is a dangerous subset which either overtly, or under the guise of non-violent, cultural or religious preservation, focus their online hate towards Islam, Muslim immigrants, multiculturalism and those Canadian politicians who are supporting Muslim-friendly legislation. The agency's assessment recognizes that Canada's far-right movement is changing. Hate crimes have been steadily rising, primarily targeting Jewish and Muslim communities. While many of the far-right groups identified by CSIS a decade ago have disbanded, "numerous" incidents of right-wing extremist violence have been recorded since then. (Boutilier, 2018) These groups have been heavily influenced by immigration issues which have been played across the media over the past few years. Regardless, anti-Semitism is still a major tenet of the white supremacist movement.

Military

Racism, or any form of discrimination or harassment, is not tolerated in the Canadian Forces (CF). The CF is committed to the principle of equality of all people and the dignity and worth of every human being. CF members must always be guided by this principle in dealings with each other, the public, and all those with whom they come in contact.

The CF defines racist conduct as conduct that promotes, encourages or constitutes discrimination or harassment based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour or religion. Racist conduct also

includes belonging to or participating in the activities of a group or organization that a CF member knows, or ought to know, promotes such discrimination or harassment. Racist attitudes are not compatible with military ethos and with effective military service. (2018)

The presence of white supremacists in the ranks of the Canadian Forces and racist tenets have been issues dogging the military for years. Right-wing rhetoric and neo-Nazi groups are attractive to some members of Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces. Major recruiting tools used by these groups are websites and social networking sites the likes of Facebook, Gab, and YouTube. The music is also known to be a major recruitment and radicalisation tool. Far right extremist ideology has the potential to cause an individual to change allegiances. Belonging to a white power, skinhead, and/or neo-Nazi group could foster the spread of hate for minorities. The Canadian Forces has come under increasing scrutiny of late for right-wing extremism within its ranks. In the past few years, several cases of soldiers associated with far-right groups have been exposed:

- In the mid-1990s, the Canadian Airborne Regiment was disbanded after an inquiry into the beating death of Somali teenager Shidane Arone at the hands of two Canadian soldiers. There were reports of white supremacist activity at the regiment's home of CFB Petawawa.
- In 2011, Military police investigated a teenage reservist from Winnipeg who allegedly planned to attend a white-pride demonstration in Calgary.
- A trove of chat posts dating from 2015 to 2017, obtained from the now defunct IronMarch⁶ website gives key insights into Canadian members of the neo-Nazi haven and their view of the military. A 2015 post by username Nikolajević bragged about carrying knives to stab “commies” and boasted about membership in the Canadian military. In 2016, he encouraged other Canadian members to join the reserves, “its fun, volunteer-only for deployments and they give you a solid 8K to get yourself educated.” (Lamoureux B. M., 2018)
- In July 2017, five members of the Canadian Forces who said they were members of the Proud Boys were removed from duties and training after they disrupted a Mi'kmaw ceremony on Canada Day. Four of the five resumed their duties under probation at the end of Aug. 2017. The fifth member left the Forces of his own accord. No charges were laid against them.
- Three founders of Québec anti-Islam/immigrant alt right group La Meute are ex-military. Radio-Canada found that 75 members of La Meute's private Facebook group were Canadian Forces members. (CBC, 2017)

⁶ <http://www.ironmarch.com> —defunct online forum once boasting itself as a sort of fascist Facebook and main neo-Nazi chat site

- Four Canadian Forces soldiers who operated a Calgary-based online military surplus store have been suspended from the military following allegations they catered to a white supremacist clientele. The web store, called Fireforce Ventures, features “world military history” memorabilia and clothing “inspired by the legendary Fireforce soldiers of Southern Africa.” And while the company’s slogan on its Facebook page reads “we sell history, not politics,” the retailer has come under fire for selling merchandise tied to the white-minority-rule state of Rhodesia, which later became Zimbabwe. “Canadian Armed Forces members involved in the online business called Fireforce Ventures have been relieved from the performance of their duties (suspended) pending the conduct of a summary investigation.” (Rumbolt, 2018)
- In 2018, Brandon Cameron, a 25-year old former soldier, was allegedly associated with the Atomwaffen Division, an American neo-Nazi terrorist group tied to an attempted bombing, numerous hate crimes, and the killing of a 19-year-old Jewish man in Florida. Cameron denied involvement with the group.

White supremacists in this country continue to look at the military to advance their combat skills in pursuit of their racist objectives.

Online



Using the web to spew vitriol and fearmonger has been in the media as of late. The Pittsburgh shooter who took the lives of 11 Jews at the Tree of Life synagogue, Floridian Cesar Sayoc, who sent pipe bombs to critics of President Trump; amongst others, all vented online earlier than

⁷ Photo taken from CBC <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/hacked-neo-nazi-websites-reveal-canadian-connections-1.1178998> February 1, 2012

committing their crimes. In tumultuous times, alt-right and extremist websites provide simple answers – simple, definitive answers and a soap box for those seeking to vent their fury. In Canada, while ultranationalist groups have been revelling in Trump’s presidency and the Trump effect is moving north, signs that far-right ideology is becoming part of the new normal here.

CSIS claims that the number of online groups dedicated right-wing, extremist positions have gone up significantly in the last few years. The significant growth of online groups focusing on a broad range of extreme right-wing positions, including white supremacy is bolstering the movement and its membership. Canada has Criminal Code provisions prohibiting the incitement of hatred against identifiable groups, the promotion of genocide and the distribution of hate propaganda. The charges come with heavy penalties, including prison time, and have a special provision that requires the sign-off of an attorney general before being laid. For all it has done to revolutionize communications, the internet has also made it possible for hatred and harmful speech to spread much more rapidly. And the speed at which harmful online speech has proliferated has outstripped many governments' abilities to manage it.

- Stormfront.org, widely recognized as the first bonified hate site, has been a hub for the proliferation of online hate rhetoric since it launched in 1995. Stormfront began as a dial-up bulletin board in the early 1990s. Stormfront’s Canadian segment is often used by the far-right to promote events.
- Alek Minassian, accused in the Toronto van attack on April 23, posted to Facebook praising the “incel rebellion.” Incels, a combination of the words involuntary and celibate, refers to misogynist men who believe women are inferior and owe them sex. Before Minassian killed 10 people in a van attack last spring, he put a post on Facebook that has since been taken down that read: “The incel rebellion has already begun! We will overthrow all the Chads and Stacys! All hail the Supreme Gentleman Elliot Rodger!” Incels praised his actions after the attack. (Gerster, 2018)
- Alexandre Bissonnette, who pleaded guilty to the Quebec City mosque attack in January 2017, spent hours on anti-immigrant, far-right websites and told investigators he “wanted to save people” from terrorist attacks. (Gerster, 2018)
- In November 2018, Rupen Balaram-Sivaram plead not guilty to 10 charges, including the rare charge of advocating genocide. The charges stem in part from a series of hateful social media posts and emails he allegedly sent to public figures and media organizations that call for death to Jews, homosexuals, Westerners and Christians. The Judge Toronto reserved his decision in the case of the former paralegal accused of advocating genocide and promoting hatred through email, the internet, and Twitter. Balaram-Sivaram’s 'entire

social media footprint was riddled with evidence of his belief that those of Jewish descent and homosexuals should be exterminated.

- In September 2018, Faith Goldy, a Canadian right-wing political pundit, ran in the recent Mayoral race in Toronto. She wrote and reported for The Rebel Media, including live coverage of events surrounding the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Goldy regularly makes use of Twitter, Facebook and her own website to espouse her views.⁸
- Soldiers of Odin, an anti-immigrant group founded in October 2015, by white supremacists in Kemi, Finland, has a presence in Canada. The group was established as a response to migrants arriving in Finland amid the European migrant crisis. The group denies claims of being a racist neo-Nazi group. In 2017 the far-right group splintered in Canada after the two main factions turned against each other in a dispute over whether to remain aligned with their racist namesake in northern Europe. The split began when the president of Soldiers of Odin Canada, Bill Daniels, denounced the “racist agenda” of Soldiers of Odin leaders in Finland and said his branch was no longer associated with them. While the Canadian chapters have emphasized their community volunteerism, organizing events such as food drives, they have also clashed with anti-racism demonstrators, and posted blatantly anti-Muslim rhetoric on social media. (Bell, 2017) SOO chapters exist throughout the country, each with its own website. In October 2018, the Edmonton faction rebranded, changing their name to Canadian Infidels.

Music

Music that glorifies violence and killing or describes religious groups as sub-human is not merely for the entertainment of extremists, it has the propensity to act as a powerful recruitment and radicalisation tool used to lure alienated, angry youth. Music often wilfully promotes hate rhetoric. Racist hate music these days, is underground and online. The ease with which anyone can access this content is even more alarming when one considers that some of the worst far-right extremists in modern history, from Dylan Roof to Anders Behring Breivik, were in some way influenced by white power music. Music as a vehicle for the message of the far right is emerging from the shadows and seeking new audiences.

Platforms like Soundcloud have given rise to a new audience for white racist music. YouTube has become the “new talk radio” for the far right, and it’s been similarly useful as a stage for the otherwise uncommercial and politically toxic white power music to flourish. User-focused

⁸ <https://www.faithfortoronto.ca/> website of Faith Goldy- Faith for Toronto

platforms like YouTube allow individuals to access white power music like no other platform. In a moment in which experts are increasingly concerned about the capability of a person to self-radicalize oneself via the internet, hate music is finding a new lease, and new listeners, beyond the movement that birthed it. (Lamoureux M. , 2018)

Canada has a deeply rooted history in the world of white hate rock. Resistance Records was once of the first e-commerce racist music repositories online. George Burdi, Canadian leader of one of the biggest racist skinhead bands of the 1990s, RaHoWa, re-emerged with a new band last year after a long period of inaction. “He had been silent for almost 20 years but in 2017 resurfaced, emboldened by the Trump presidency and the turn to the right in Europe. (Hunter-Tilney, 2018)

Conclusion

White supremacy is thriving in Canada. No longer are white supremacists confining themselves to online message boards and chat rooms. They are actively inciting and engaging through recruitment posters on University campuses, rallies and demonstrations. Members from one group, Storm Alliance, appeared at the Prime Minister’s town hall in Quebec City in January 2018. White supremacy no longer lives in the shadows in Canada, and there is nothing to suggest it is about to disappear.

White racist groups have become emboldened and are proving themselves to be a persistent threat to the peaceful fabric of our communities.

If not challenged, far-right rhetoric can erode the established and entrenched Canadian values of tolerance and diversity. It is important that Canadian leaders and lawmakers make it clear that free speech does not equal hate speech.

It will take more than tweets and nicely worded press releases by politicians notorious for condemning extremist behavior to make a real impact which might ultimately curb white supremacy. The spread of far-right ideological rhetoric has contributed to violent outbursts in Canada as seen with the January 29, 2017 shooting incident at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City located in Sainte-Foy on the outskirts of Quebec City. Six worshippers were killed, and nineteen others injured when the lone gunman opened fire just before 8:00 pm, shortly after the end of evening prayers. The perpetrator had mental health issues and ideological views similarly borrowed from white supremacy.

While right-wing extremists are focusing on other groups like Muslims, immigrants and aboriginals, anti-Semitism is and will always be a cornerstone of the movement. With the pledge of “Never Again”, Canadian society cannot afford to be complacent in rooting out and stifling the far-right and their rising tide of vile hate.

Final Thoughts

These groups are amongst many who utilize the Internet to disseminate their supremacist ideological rhetoric. A remedy needs to be found to effectively stop the spread of white supremacist propaganda and pomposity on the Internet.

Strong policies are needed in municipal settings; governments at all levels must ensure they are not providing extremist groups a soapbox to spread their hate.

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