Organic and Paid Social Media Teardown of Canadian Automakers

Ford has accumulated the largest social following (703K) across its Canadian social media channels.


More than half of Hyundai's, Ford's and Honda's social media audience is concentrated on Facebook.

- Facebook following


YouTube is the second-largest social platform for the car manufacturers - 65\% of Chevrolet's Canadian following is on YouTube.

- YouTube following


Instagram has been an area of the fastest audience growth for car brands. On average their following grew by 32\%, where Ford alone increased its Instagram community by 50\% YoY.
None of the brands have TikTok accounts which presents white space opportunities to tap into the young gen-Z audience.


Nissan is the most active brand on social media, the brand adds $\boldsymbol{\sim} 70$ new posts to its channels every month.


[^0]
## Car brands choose to post most frequently on YouTube, posting car ads and

 walkthrough videos. Nissan adds as many as $\mathbf{\sim} 24$ new videos per month.- YouTube


While Hyundai only posted 30 videos over the last 90 days (Dec ' 20 - Feb ' 21 ), the brand received the highest number of video views (13.5M).

- Number of YT Videos Posted
_工 Video Views


In December Hyundai ran videos ads for Palisade and Santa Fe models which contributed to a high volume of video views.


Over the last 90 days Nissan uploaded 71 car overview videos - each one got around 19 K views.


Views: 7K | Click to view


Views: 132 | Click to view


Views: 29K | Click to view


Views: 3K | Click to view

71


Avg. views per review video: 19K

## Ford has the highest engagement rate at 0.9\%, and has a fairly high post cadence of $\mathbf{2 6}$ posts per month.

- Number of FB posts
- ER

100


1\%

*Facebook ER is not available for Chevrolet and Nissan.

Chevrolet publishes the same post twice - in English and French, which explains their high posting cadence over the last 90 days.


French


Nissan adds both languages to the same post.


Ford has the highest engagement rate among the competitive set (0.9\%). The brand leverages humour and contests to engage its followers in addition to showing off new car models.

Humour
Contests

## Ford Canada

Ford owners love taking and sharing photos of their vehicles. And we're big fans of all the creativity and effort that goes into each shot!
But have you ever taken a photo of your Ford vehicle that didn't quite match the beauty of the vehicle or its surroundings? Want to
give your Ford photo a tune-up? Now's your chance! give your Ford photo a tune-up? Now's your
\#FordCanadaContest \#FordPhotoTuneUp
\#FordCanadaContest \#FordPhotoTuneUp the hashtag \#FordPhotoTuneUp to enter for a chance to w... See


## Ford Canada

Live on the wild side. The all-new Ford Bronco family is here. \#BuiltWild
Request to reserve today at https://www.ford.ca/bronco
*U.S. pre-production models shown. Optional equipment, features and accessories shown. CGI images shown. Available in 2021.


On Instagram, all car brands enjoy higher engagement (avg. 0.9\%) compared to Facebook. Both Hyundai and Ford get the same audience engagement (ER: $1.22 \%$ ) and publish about once per week.

- Number of Instagram Posts
— E


Both Ford and Hyundai keep their content very car-focused. While Ford defaults to professional car photography, Hyundai frequently posts lifestyle-like photos of its cars.
Ford

- Designed feed grid

Neutral tone-of-voice


- Short captions
- Lifestyle car photos (vs. salons)
- Occasional posts are translated to French

Twitter is usually a mirror of Facebook content for most of the car brands and they don't invest efforts in creating unique platform-specific posts.


Honda and Nissan invested the most advertising dollars on paid social media during the first two months of 2021 (\$3M and \$2.6M respectively), which was $\sim 90 \%$ of their total up-to-date digital ad budget.

- Paid social spend, USD


Nissan invested 88\% of its paid social budget in YouTube, while Honda equally spread its budget between the two platforms.


Nissan spent \$903K to advertise Nissan Versa and allocated \$328K and \$241K respectively to promote Sentra and Rogue models.

Nissan

pend: $\$ 648$ K
CPM: \$26.4
Click to view



Spend: \$241K

Honda put the most advertising dollars (\$290K) behind the video promoting its virtual showrooms and continued to promote its "Canadian-built" message.

Honda


Spend: \$290K
CPM: \$37.8

Click to view


Spend: \$223K
CPM: \$26.4
Click to view



Spend: \$197K CPM: \$26.4 Click to view

Nissan effectively converts its social ads investment into web traffic - 4.4\% of website visits come from social channels.


## Key Takeaways

## From the Organic and Paid Social Media Teardown of Canadian Automakers Case Study:

Organic Social - Platform Focus: Most of the car brand audience is concentrated on Facebook, followed by YouTube. While Hyundai, Ford and Honda maintain Canada-specific stand-alone Facebook pages, both Chevrolet and Nissan have Global Facebook pages. All car brands have a sizable YouTube following that on average grew by $6 \%$ over the last year. Instagram proves to be the fastest-growing platform for car brands in terms of audience increase. Car brand's Instagram accounts on average grew by $36 \%$, where Ford alone managed to increase its following by $50 \%$.

Organic Social - Content Focus: Car brands choose to post most often on YouTube, Nissan adds as many as 24 new videos per month. While Hyundai only posted 30 videos in the last 90 days it received the highest number of views, which was driven by several sponsored videos that promoted its Palisade and Santa Fe models. Nissan uploaded the highest number of YouTube videos (71) in the last 90 days. Almost half of them were car overview videos published in both English and French.

Paid Social — Budget Allocation: Honda and Nissan spent about \$3M each on paid social advertising during the first two months of 2021, which is ~90\% of their total digital spend. Nissan invested $88 \%$ of its advertising dollars in YouTube videos, while Honda equality split them between YouTube and Facebook. Nissan's ads promoted different car models, while Honda put $\$ 290 \mathrm{~K}$ behind the video inviting users to book a virtual showroom appointment, and launched several more videos communicating the "Canadian Built" message.


[^0]:    *Total number of posts across all social media platforms.

