Five Things to Know About Right-Wing Extremism in Canada

CASIS Vancouver Fifth Generation Research Project

1. RWE Groups are Engaging in Unified Nation-Wide Training and Mobilization

In December 2018 the leader of the 111% Kazz Nowlin put out a nationwide order for his followers to buy airsoft rifles (Lamoureux, 2018). The post read: *"All active III% members are required to buy one airsoft rifle and one airsoft sidearm for training purposes, this is a national order from the top and is being implemented countrywide to standardize training among our ranks,"* and was posted in the organization's private Facebook group (Lamoureux, 2018; see Appendix 1, a). Nowlin claims this is in order to nationalize, unify, and ramp up their paramilitary trainings, and conduct such legally without intervention (Lamoureux, 2018). Kazz has stated that the 111% members are currently undergoing close quarters combat training, counter-strike tactics, simulated cover and conceal trainings ambushing, conducting opposing strike teams dressed as innocents, and practicing the skills to track down and attack opposing patrols, as well as camps. RWE groups continuously splintering, appear to contain ideals of joining together into larger entities (see Appendix 1 b).

2. Right-Wing Extremism is a Social Movement

RWE is transnational and inherently violent. This violence can occur via soft as well as hard kinetic violence such as in New Zealand. Soft violence takes the form of hate language which may not meet the threshold of hate crime (Kelshall & Dittmar, 2018). Soft violence might also be logos, clothing and other accessories from which intimidating associations might be drawn. These groups are polycentric, segmentary and reticulate (Kelshall & Dittmar, 2018). This means that they can cover many different issues but not have to rely on any one issue as a central theme. In other words, it can be appealing as a concept but you don't have to agree with everything- just one aspect. The reticulate nature implies that the movement is spread by networks which can be both on and offline (Kelshall & Dittmar, 2018). Either way there is no vertical chain of command and no hierarchical structure from which instructions emanate. Individuals who share the same ideas can self-mobilize and self-actualise but they are not lone wolves as they are part of a broader social movement, which can utilize identity as the main basis upon which people affiliate with the group. Considering that there are multiple issues, it is expected that there are also multiple points of leadership and advocacy for key messages and therefore no need for centralized command. Therefore, messengers may also relate to and distribute distinct elements of core doctrines. The yellow vest movement which has been co-opted by right wing extremists has advocated– anti globalism, anti-Trudeau, pro-pipelines, anti-immigration and anti-Islamic sentiments. These are separate and distinct issues which are allegedly shared and organised by core right wing elements.

3. RWE Groups are Infiltrating and Cooperating with Legitimate Political Parties

See Appendix 1, c & d.

A number of Canadian political leaders have recently been spotted making connections with white nationalists and neo-nazis, arguably normalizing their presence and their messaging. For instance, in September, 2018, Premier Doug Ford was pictured with controversial "fringe mayoral candidate" Faith Goldy, as well as members associated with RWE groups, like ID Canada (Press Progress, 2018, para 5). The danger of groups such as ID Canada can be exemplified in their mission statements, including the following example: "Canada is a nation of Europeans values, traditions, customs and culture. Canada was never meant to be a melting pot of third-world migration. Diversity is in fact, our greatest weakness" (ID Canada). Andrew Scheer, the national leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, has also been in contact with Faith Godly, taking part in the arguably alt-right media outlet Rebel Media in 2017 (Rebel Media, 2017). His participation could be seen as an endorsement for the hateful rhetoric spread through this outlet. Another political figure that has lent their support to the "United We Roll" convoy is Conservative Senator David Tkachuk. Senator Tkachuk when he announced to the protestors "roll over every Liberal left in the country ... Because when they're gone, these bills are gone". Furthermore, sen. Tkachuk refused to apologize for this comment. (Cook, 2019).

In a less overt way, Scheer has recently spoken to a group of "United We Roll" protesters, arguably expressing empathy for their plight (Beer, 2019, para 4). This could be considered problematic as the Yellow Vest Movement responsible for this protest has been infiltrated by RWE members from groups such as the Soldiers of Odin and the III% (CASIS Vancouver, 2018, para 3). Therefore, Scheer's endorsement for this group and their values could be understood as an acceptance of the more radical members as well. Maxime Bernier, leader of the People's Party of Canada (PPC) spoke at the United We Roll (formerly Yellow Vest Convoy) about pipelines (Beattie, 2019). Additionally, the PPC's official stance on immigration policy is that it should not aim to forcibly change the cultural character and social fabric of Canada, as radical proponents of multiculturalism want, additionally to reduce immigration numbers to 250,000 per year (PPC, n.d.).

4. Right-Wing Extremism in Canada Exists to a Concerning Extent

On top of the hundreds of right-wing groups previously identified by Perry & Scrivens, such as the Neo-Nazis, Aryan Guard, Blood and Honour, Western European Bloodlines, Hammer Heads, Northwest Imperative, The White Boy Posse, True White Boys, The Northern Guard, the Proud Boys, Soliders of Odin, Three Percenters, Vinland Front Skinheads, Canadian Combat Coalition, Atlante, Combat 18, Freeman on the Land, La Meute, The Canadian Revolution, INCELs, the Cultural Action Party, The Worldwide Coalition Against Islam, and numerous more. On top of these groups CASIS-Vancouver is monitoring several others which maintain their own forums and websites.

The Christchurch Shooting which killed forty-nine people in two mosques, led by an Australian by the alleged name Brenton Harrison Tarrant was not the first of its' kind. As the biggest terror attack in the history of the country, the Christchurch shooting represents a bigger violent transnational, movement. The Manifesto titled "The Great Replacement" which Tarrant published on the same day of the attack, states values along of the lines anti-Islam, pro-hard violence, pro-white male, ethno-nationalist, right wing extremist, globalist. These beliefs draw parallels to right wing extremist movements in Canada such as ID Canada whose motto includes "Canada is a nation of European values, traditions, customs and culture. Canada was never meant to be a melting pot of third-world migration. Diversity is in fact, our greatest weakness." (ID Canada, 2018). This shares similar ethno-nationalist, and anti-immigrant values as Tarrant's Manifesto. The Canadian Patriots, another nationalist group state on their Facebook page that "We will not be silenced, nor will we be forced to accept unruly immigrants who will not assimilate in our way of life...We will not surrender our weapons, we will keep them ready to use in the defence of Canada on our grounds" (Facebook, "The Canadian Patriots"). This proves an example of another group propagating anti-immigration, Euro-centric values.

5. Right-Wing Extremism and the Canadian Armed Forces: There are currently 55 cases under investigation in the CAF

Right-wing extremist elements in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) represent a threat to Canadian national security. Investigations conducted by CAF and multiple news organizations have identified military personnel who are members of extremist groups or hold discriminatory values. An internal CAF assessment found that approximately 55 service members were part of RWE groups or held extremist views between 2013 and 2018 (Campion-Smith, 2019). Recently, the Toronto Star revealed that CAF was aware of around 30 personnel that are known to be members of RWE groups or had made discriminatory statements or actions. These actions ranged from making inappropriate comments in barracks to espousing extremist views online. Furthermore, General Jonathan Vance acknowledged that CAF detects about five new instances of individuals expressing or acting on extremist ideals per year. (Campion-Smith, 2019) Investigations by news organizations into the extent of RWE elements in CAF have identified members of the Proud Boys, La Meute and the Three Percenters as active military personnel. (Hutter, 2018) In 2017, an investigation by Radio-Canada found approximately 75 CAF members in a private La Meute Facebook group that were visibly identifiable by their uniforms. (2017)

Appendix 1: Corresponding images

a.



(Lamoureux, 2018).

b.



(Facebook, “The Clann - Canadian Infidels Support.”)

c.



(Press Progress, 2018)

d.



(Rebel Media, 2017)