



**Online Domestic  
Extremism in Canada  
Data Briefing –  
December 2025  
to February 2026**

# Online Domestic Extremism in Canada

## Data Briefing – December 2025 to February 2026

This briefing paper details analysis of Canadian domestic extremists' online activity between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026. It explores the platforms they are active on, the topics which galvanize them, and the ways in which they target communities in Canada. It is part of a multi-year study which will provide ongoing insight into Canadian domestic extremist activity through the ongoing delivery of analytical briefs.

ISD used its **definition of domestic extremism** (see Annex) to decide if accounts and channels should be included. This definition states that **extremism can be pursued through violent or non-violent means**. It thereby complements efforts addressing political violence and terrorism by considering the broader risks to democracy, rights, and social cohesion posed by non-violent extremism. This broader focus also aims to highlight the continuum of ideologies and activities that inspire violence and illuminate different pathways to radicalization. A full breakdown of the methodology employed can be found in the **technical Annex**.

### Key Findings

#### Key Events

- **During the period of study, a number of significant events took place that led to spikes in hateful activity by Canadian domestic extremists.** For example, the day following the mass shooting in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, on 10 February 2026 we identified a spike in anti-LGBTQ+ hate, directed primarily at the trans community due to the shooter's transgender identity. Similarly, there was a significant spike in antisemitic hate speech and violent rhetoric on the day of the Islamic State-inspired mass shooting at Bondi Beach in Sydney on 14 December 2025.

#### Account Analysis

- ISD has so far identified **774 domestic extremist social media accounts and channels** in Canada across 8 platforms. Where permitted by API's, we gathered data from **437 active accounts and channels in Canada** which published **578,284 posts** between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026. This included **396,011 posts on X, 169,808 on Telegram, 7,852 on Facebook, 2,256 on Instagram, and 2,357 on YouTube.**

- **X remains the most frequently used platform for Canadian domestic extremists**, with anti-government extremists, anti-Muslim extremists, Christian nationalists, ethnonationalists, male supremacists and white supremacists favouring the use of the platform. Telegram, by contrast, is the platform of choice for Neo-Nazis.
- ISD identified 138 of the active accounts and channels as white supremacist (138,142 posts), 134 as ethnonationalist (178,637), 62 as anti-Muslim extremist (89,531 posts), 50 as neo-Nazi (22,780 posts), 48 as anti-government extremist (101,307 posts), 30 as Christian nationalist (9,582 posts), 24 as extreme-right accelerationist (14,423 posts) and 9 as male supremacist (8,974 posts).
- Whilst white supremacists had the highest number of active accounts per sub-ideology, **ethnonationalist accounts had the highest numbers of posts and engagement numbers.** Notably, ethnonationalists generated almost triple the number of engagements as anti-Muslim extremists, who produced the second highest number of engagements across sub-ideologies.

#### Key Topics

- Our semantic mapping analysis found that anti-immigration narratives, a rejection of gender identity and feminism, and antisemitic stereotypes were particularly common topics of discussion among Canadian domestic extremists this quarter. These are all recurrent topics that have been prominent in previous research periods.
- Other prominent themes included the Epstein Files, geopolitical developments related to the Russia-Ukraine war and the massacres of protestors in Iran, but also anti-government extremist Romana Didulo's

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'Natural Law' Doctrine and the Alberta independence movement.

### Hate Speech

- Of the 578,284 posts made by the domestic extremist accounts and channels between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026, **18,209 (3.1% of the total) were classified as containing hate speech** (defined in the **methodological annex** of this report). This is a 0.1% decrease in the volume of hateful posts from the last reporting period.
- Of the hateful posts made between December 2025 and February 2026, **5,662 (31%) were targeted at migrants, 3,689 (20%) at Jewish people, 3,196 (17.5%) at the LGBTQ+ community, 3,025 (16.6%) at Muslims, 2,406 (13.2%) at Asian Canadians, 957 (5.3%) at Black Canadians, 699 (3.8%) at Indigenous communities and 66 (0.4%) at Arab Canadians.**

### Violent Speech

- Of the 578,284 posts made by the domestic extremist accounts and channels between 1 December 2025 to 28 February 2026, a total of 2,655 posts (0.46%) were classified as containing violent speech, such as threatening language, incitement to violence or glorification of violence. This continues a trend of relatively high levels of violent posts from the previous quarter.
- The largest spike was on 14 December 2025 (61 posts), coinciding with the antisemitic Bondi attack in Sydney. Popular violent posts at this time fell into several categories; posts which called for the attackers to be executed, implying the need for violence to be committed against Muslims and accusing Muslims of being inherently violent due to Quranic verses.

### Note on Account Categorisation

ISD analysts categorised all accounts and channels included into the following sub-categories: White supremacist, Ethnonationalist, Christian Nationalist, Anti-Muslim Extremists, Male Supremacism, Anti-Government Extremism. For white supremacists, ISD additionally coded for two sub-categories, Neo-Nazi and

extreme right accelerationists (i.e. all Neo-Nazis are coded as white supremacists though not vice versa). Accounts and channels could also be ethnonationalist and Christian Nationalist, as these categories sometimes but not always; overlap. Otherwise, accounts and channels have been assigned to one sub-category.

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## 1 Account Analysis

Overall, ISD has so far identified **774** domestic extremist social media accounts and channels in Canada. This includes **322 on X**, **165 on Telegram**, **151 on Facebook**, **42 on YouTube**, **31 on TikTok**, **29 on Instagram**, **22 on Gab** and **12 on Rumble**.

Of these, 437 were active during the period of data collection. This includes 252 on X, 120 on Telegram, 33 on Facebook, 23 on YouTube, and 9 on Instagram. Using the API’s provided by these platforms, ISD collected 578,284 posts from 437 Canadian domestic extremist accounts and channels between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026. This included 396,011 posts on X, 169,808 on Telegram, 7,852 on Facebook, 2,256 on Instagram, and 2,357 on YouTube.

Of these channels, ISD analysts identified 138 as white supremacist (138,142 posts), 134 as ethnonationalist (134), 62 as anti-Muslim extremist (89,531 posts), 50 as neo-Nazi (22,780 posts), 48 as anti-government extremist (101,307 posts), 30 as Christian nationalist (9,582 posts), 24 as extreme-right accelerationist (14,423 posts) and 9 as male supremacist (8,974 posts). Definitions for these categories are provided in the Annex of the report.

Table 1: Statistics per sub-ideology

Sub-Ideology	Posts	Active accounts	Total engagement
Accelerationist	14,423	24	330,498
Anti-government	101,307	48	10,792,158
Anti-Muslim	89,531	62	12,339,777
Christian Nationalists	9,582	30	2,101,220
Ethnonationalist	178,637	134	35,092,886
Male supremacist	8,974	9	2,529,344
Neo-Nazis	22,780	50	762,577
White Supremacist	138,142	138	5,411,879

Figure 1: Active accounts per sub-ideology



Figure 2: Number of posts per sub-ideology



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Figure 3: Total engagement per sub-ideology



Figure 4: Number of posts published by Canadian domestic extremist accounts over time



Whilst white supremacists had the highest number of active accounts per sub-ideology, ethnonationalists produced the highest number of posts (178,637 posts) and engagements (35,092,886 combined likes, comments, shares and views). Notably, ethnonationalists generated almost triple the number of engagements as anti-Muslim extremists (12,339,777), who produced the second highest number of engagements across sub-ideologies. This suggests that followership, influence and reach are disproportionately higher among ethnonationalists compared to other ideological categories. While white supremacist accounts are also relatively numerous (138 accounts) and active (138,142 posts), they do not gain the same amount of engagement as either ethnonationalists, anti-Muslim extremists, or

anti-government extremists. As in previous reporting periods, accelerationist accounts remain among the least active, and together with neo-Nazis receive the least amount of engagement. Male Supremacists received less average engagement than during previous reports, though their average engagement per post remains the highest among all sub-groups.

Figure 4 shows the total volume of posts produced by all accounts in the dataset over the time period analysed.

There were several noteworthy spikes in posts during this period. The day which saw the highest volume of posts was January 23, when domestic extremists were particularly active regarding developments in the US-Canada relationship. Numerous extremists reacted to President Donald Trump’s announcement that he would be revoking Prime Minister Mark Carney’s invitation to the Board of Peace. Many of them saw this revocation as a sign that Canada would be further isolated economically, with some extremists expressing fear that Trump’s distancing from Canada would lead to a deterioration in the Canadian standard of living.

Another significant spike occurred on January 3, which was in large part driven by the US capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. Canadian extremists were mixed in their reactions this event, with some espousing fear that such military intervention would be replicated in Canada, and others expressing hope that Carney would be similarly targeted by the US. Such spikes show how US politics continue to generate considerable engagement among Canadian domestic extremists.

X remains a key platform for almost all sub-ideologies and is the most widely used platform for anti-government extremists, anti-Muslim extremists, Christian nationalists, ethnonationalists, male supremacists, and white supremacists. Meanwhile, neo-Nazi accounts favour Telegram. Notably, unlike in previous reporting periods when Telegram was the favoured platform among accelerationists, this quarter saw accelerationist accounts equally present on X. While Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube remain underutilised by the accounts in the dataset, extremists on these platforms tend to generate high engagement.

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Figure 5: Number of accounts per platform per sub-ideology

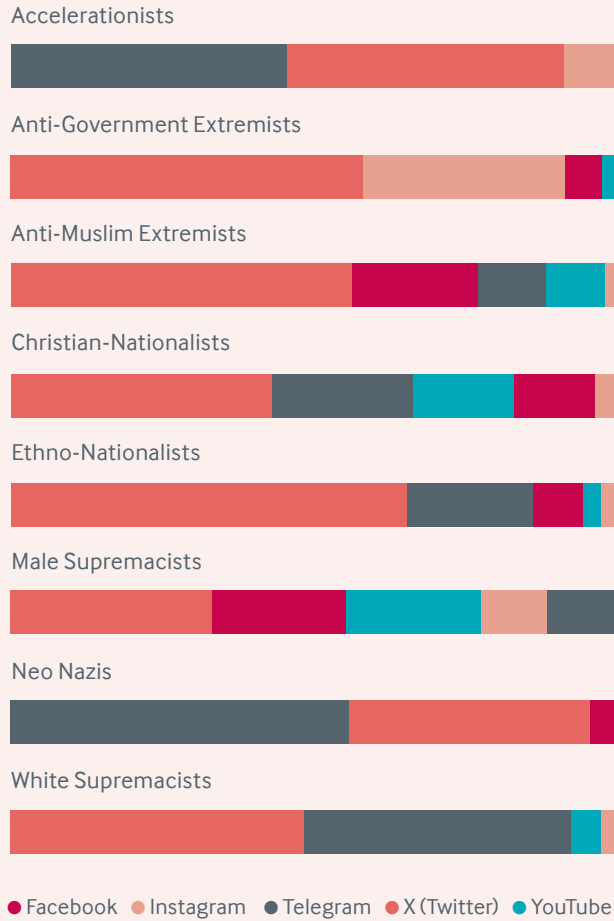


Table 2: Number and percentage of hateful posts in the first four data briefings on Canadian extremists

Reporting Period	Total Posts	Hateful Posts	% Hateful
1 January – 30 August 2024	1,022,427	13,055	1.4%
1 September – 30 Nov. 2024	282,288	9,894	3.5%
1 December – 28 February 2025	413,288	9,512	2.3%
1 March – 31 May 2025	440,010	8,463	1.9%
1 June – 31 August 2025	473,713	11,552	2.4%
1 September – 30 Nov. 2025	591,253	19,150	3.2%
1 December – 28 Feb. 2026	578,284	18,209	3.1%

## 2 Hate speech

To better understand the ways domestic extremists target different communities, we used Natural Language Processing to classify hate speech in the messages gathered targeting Jewish people, migrants, Muslims, Asian Canadians, Black people, Indigenous communities, Arab Canadians and LGBTQ communities. A full breakdown of the methodology employed can be found in the technical Annex.

Of the 578,284 posts made by the domestic extremist accounts and channels between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026, 18,209 (3.1% of the total) were classified as containing hate speech. This is a 0.1% decrease in the volume of hateful posts from the last reporting period.

Of the hateful posts made between December 2025 and February 2026, 5,662 (31%) were targeted at migrants, 3,196 (17.5%) at the LGBTQ+ community, 3,689 (20%) at Jewish people, 3,025 (16.6%) at Muslims, 2,406 (13.2%) at Asian Canadians, 957 (5.3%) at Black Canadians, 699 (3.8%) at Indigenous communities and 66 (0.4%) at Arab Canadians. As with previous reports, hate directed at migrants continued to be the most common type of hate speech among Canadian domestic extremist accounts, however this level fell by 13% since the last briefing. By contrast, increases in hate speech targeting the LGBTQ+ community (+16%) and Jews (+7%) were noted within this period.

A number of significant spikes in hate speech occurred within this reporting period. On 14 December, the day of the Islamic State-inspired mass shooting at Bondi Beach in Sydney, hate speech increased by 116%, driven by hate directed at Muslim communities. Canadian domestic extremists used the attack to call for Islam to be banned in Canada and for the mass deportation of Muslims from the country. The Bondi attack also led to a spike in antisemitic hate, with domestic extremists claiming that the attack was an Israeli or Jewish ‘false flag’ operation to justify wars in the Middle East, or suggesting the far-right should “unite with the Muslims to fight ZOG” (Zionist Occupation Government, a white supremacist term).

Another significant spike occurred on 11 February, the day after a mass shooting in Tumbler Ridge, British

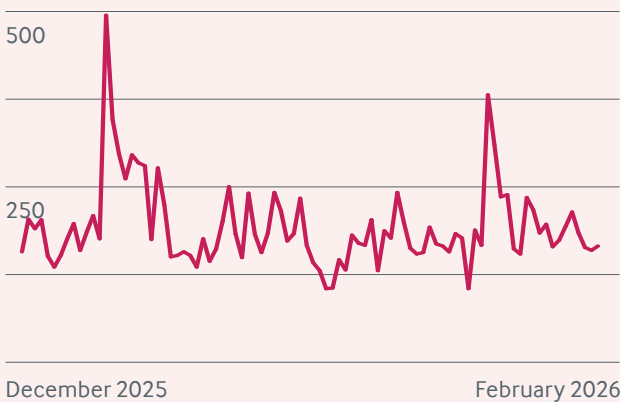
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Table 3: Hate Speech by domestic extremists, broken down by target group

Target of Hate Speech	1 December – 28th February Volume	%
Anti-Migrant	5,662	31.1%
Antisemitic	3,689	20.4%
Anti-LGBTQ+	3,196	17.5%
Anti-Muslim	3,025	16.6%
Anti-Asian	2,406	13.2%
Anti-Black	957	5.3%
Anti-Indigenous	699	3.8%
Anti-Arab	66	0.4%

Figure 6: Number of hateful posts published by Canadian domestic extremist accounts over time



Columbia. As detailed in [separate analysis by ISD](#), the shooting led to a surge in anti-LGBTQ+ hate, directed primarily at the trans community due to the shooter’s transgender identity. Domestic extremists used the incident to spread false narratives linking the trans community to an “epidemic” of violence and claimed that trans people are “mentally ill”. Highly-engaged hateful posts also directed vitriol towards the shooter’s mother, who supported her child’s transition and was killed in the attack.

Across ideological categories, white supremacists posted the largest volume of hateful posts (8,289), with one third of these targeting Jews – the highest number

of antisemitic posts from any of the ideological groups. White supremacists also posted the highest volume of posts targeting the LGBTQ+ community, Asian and Black communities. Ethnonationalists posted the second largest volume (6,181) of hate overall, with 36% of these directed at migrants and the largest proportion of anti-Muslim posts.

Across platforms, X accounted for 76% of total hate speech among Canadian domestic extremists, while Telegram accounted for 23% of such material. Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube hosted marginal amounts of hateful content compared to these platforms.

### 3 Violent Speech

To better understand the ways domestic extremists target different communities we used Natural Language Processing to classify violent speech such as threats of, incitement to, and glorification of violence. A full breakdown of the methodology employed can be found in the **technical Annex**.

Over the three-month period from 1 December 2025 to 28 February 2026, a total of 2,655 posts were classified as containing violent speech. This accounts for 0.46% of the 578,284 posts made by domestic extremist accounts and channels throughout the entire time period, continuing the trend of relatively high levels of violent posts from the previous quarter (see table 5).

The largest spike was on 14 December 2025 (61 posts), coinciding with the antisemitic Bondi attack in Sydney. Popular violent posts at this time fell into several categories; posts which called for the attackers to be executed, implying the need for violence to be committed against Muslims and accusing Muslims of being inherently violent due to Quranic verses.

The second-biggest spike followed on 28 February (59 posts) when the war between the US, Israel and Iran started. These posts often celebrated or called for violence against various officials or citizens of countries involved. For example, one post stated “Long live the Ayatollah, death to pissrael”, while others hoped for Iran to hit civilians in Dubai. On the flipside, there were also posts calling for the “extermination” of members of the Iranian regime, or Islamist extremists more broadly.

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## Treemaps showing the number of posts per ideology per target hate group

Please note that ideology annotations are non-mutually exclusive - i.e. an account (and hence, any posts created by that account) can belong to multiple ideologies. Hence, figures within each per-hate target group treemap do not necessarily sum to the overall, un-broken-down, count for that target group.

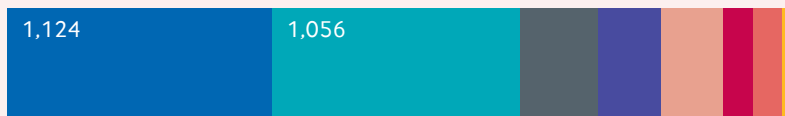
### Antisemitic



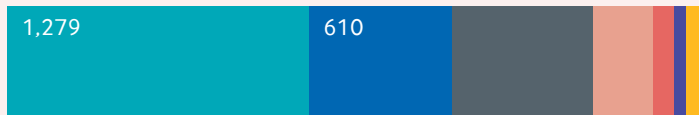
### Anti-Migrant



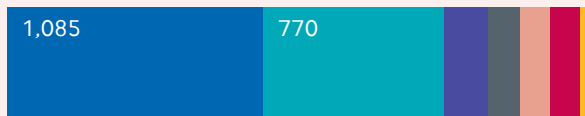
### Anti-LGBT



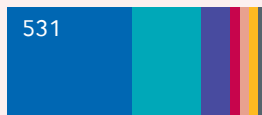
### Anti-Asian



### Anti-Muslim



### Anti-Black



### Anti-First Nations



### Anti-Arab



- Accelerationist
- Ethno-Nationalist
- Anti-Government extremist
- Male Supremacist
- Anti-Muslim extremist
- Neo-Nazi
- Christian-Nationalist
- White Supremacist

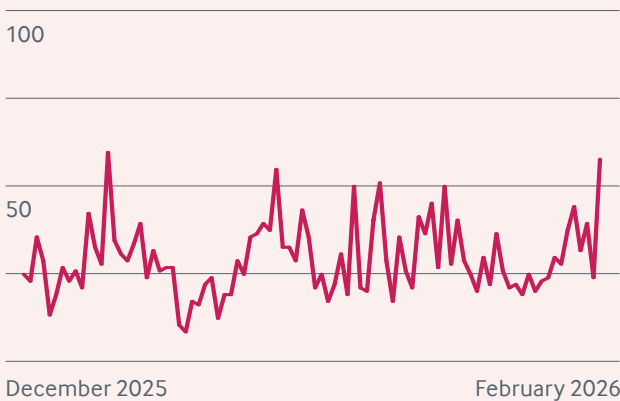
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Table 5: Breakdown of violent speech for five three-month periods

Reporting Period	Total Posts	Violent Posts	% Violent
1 Dec 2024 – 28 Feb 2025	413,288	1,500	0.36
1 Mar – 31 May 2025	444,010	1,299	0.29
1 June – 31 August 2025	473,713	1,688	0.36
1 Sept – 20 November 2025	591,253	2,869	0.49
1 Dec 2026 – 28 February 2026	578,284	2,655	0.46

Figure 7: Violent speech by Canadian domestic extremists, volume over time



The other spike in violent speech observed on 9 January (56 posts) was not driven by one specific event but contained a mixture of violent rhetoric against Jewish people and left-wingers, as well as speculation that there could be civil war in Canada.

### 4 Key Topics

The following section outlines the findings of ISD’s qualitative analysis of key topics among Canadian domestic extremists between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026 identified through LLM assisted automated topic modelling (outlined in detail in the **Annex**). **The following section outlines the most common narratives.**

#### Canadian Policies on Identity and Immigration

The most prominent theme was focused on criticism directed at the Canadian government, especially under Liberal leadership, due to its handling of immigration and its impact on national identity and cultural values. Economic concerns such as housing affordability and wage suppression were tied to immigration by Canadian domestic extremists who called for more emphasis on policies to support white Canadians.

#### Rejection of Gender Identity and Feminism

These posts took hostile positions towards gender identity and transgender rights, arguing against gender-affirming care. Canadian domestic extremists also expressed scepticism towards media and government stances on gender rights. Additionally, they connected these anti-trans narratives with a rejection of modern feminism which they blamed for societal decline, instead advocating for traditional roles for women centered on motherhood.

#### Antisemitic Stereotypes and Conspiracy Theories

Another common theme among Canadian domestic extremists were antisemitic stereotypes and conspiracy theories. These posts blamed Jews for various societal issues and engage in antisemitic tropes alleging Jewish control of media and politics, and portraying Jews as manipulative and deceptive.

#### Epstein Files

Domestic extremists discussed the revelations surrounding Jeffrey Epstein which continue to implicate numerous high-profile individuals, including politicians and celebrities. Posts discussed the alleged roles of intelligence agencies, including the CIA and Mossad, as well as the role of Canadian politicians and business leaders.

#### Russia-Ukraine War

Domestic extremists frequently discussed the Ukraine-Russia conflict, focusing on military strategies, aid and debates around international alliances. Key themes included the potential impact of Ukraine joining NATO and concerns over Western energy dependency. The posts often highlighted accusations of corruption within Ukraine and skepticism over foreign aid (especially from Canada). Opinions diverged between Canadian domestic extremists in terms of whether Russia was the aggressor and the role of Western governments.

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Table 5: Total number of posts per top specific topics

Canadian Policies on Identity & Immigration	10,109
Rejection of Gender Identity and Feminism	6,195
Antisemitic Stereotypes & Conspiracy Theories	5,691
Epstein Files	4,164
Russia-Ukraine War	3,856
Iran Protests & Massacres	3,763
Romana Didulo's 'Natural Law' Doctrine	3,688
Anti-Immigration & Mass Deportation Narratives	2,508
MK Ultra in Canada	2,308
Alberta Independence Movement	2,226

### Iran Protests and Massacres

The widespread anti-regime protests and government massacres in Iran led to considerable attention by Canadian domestic extremists. They expressed major concerns about potential regime change by Israeli and US forces.

### Romana Didulo's 'Natural Law' Doctrine

Romana Didulo's supporters discussed her governance system based on 'Natural Law' doctrine, highlighting her decrees focus on food and housing prices, as well as allegedly protecting citizens from economic coercion and opposing digital financial systems. Her followers expressed gratitude for her perceived leadership against traditional legal frameworks.

### Anti-Immigration and Mass Deportation Narratives

Canadian domestic extremists promoted anti-immigrant views, persistently calling for mass deportations and remigration of ethnic minorities. They criticised both legal and illegal immigration, blaming them for societal and economic problems. Domestic extremists expressed a fear of cultural degradation, coupled with extreme rhetoric advocating ethnic cleansing as a solution.

### MK Ultra in Canada

This quarter, Canadian domestic extremists discussed conspiracy theories connecting the MK Ultra mind control program to violent incidents and political figures in Canada. Key figures mentioned include journalist Tamara Cherry, who was accused of involvement alleged criminal activities such as mass shootings, satanic rituals, and murders. These posts claimed that covert conspiratorial activity in Canada was connected through a network known as Club 33.

### Alberta Independence Movement

Domestic extremists in Canada discussed the Alberta independence (which is not itself inherently extremist) movement, advocating for separation from Canada. Supporters among domestic extremists drew on broader criticism of federal government financial policies towards Alberta. Some posts advocated for Alberta becoming a US state.

## 5 Geographic Overview

Identifying the places extremists mention online helps identify potential targets, recruitment areas and local grievances. This can therefore support efforts to prevent extremist mobilisation and aid more effective and targeted security and policy responses.

Table 6: Provinces most frequently mentioned by Canadian domestic extremists

Ontario	7,311
Alberta	6,734
British Columbia	3,967
Quebec	2,351
Saskatchewan	896
Nova Scotia	439
Manitoba	304
New Brunswick	163
Newfoundland and Labrador	153
Prince Edward Island	109

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Table 7: Canadian cities most frequently mentioned by Canadian domestic extremists

Ottawa	2,094
Toronto	2,019
Calgary	971
Montréal	556
Tumbler Ridge	545
Vancouver	517
Brampton	502
Edmonton	497
Surrey	281
Winnipeg	165

Table 8: Countries most frequently mentioned by Canadian domestic extremists

Country	Mentions	Country	Mentions
United States	26,735	Ukraine	3,193
United Kingdom	6,629	Australia	2,673
China	4,479	Russia	2,626
Israel	3,470	Spain	2,266
Iran	3,281	India	2,211

To identify places within and outside of Canada that were heavily referenced by domestic extremists, ISD collected all mentions of countries (excluding Canada) as well as provinces and cities within Canada between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026.

The top three provinces mentioned were Ontario (7,311), Alberta (6,734), and British Columbia (3,967). Highly-engaged posts mentioning Ontario were related to a number of viral videos; one showing a man leaving a food bank in Brampton, ON and getting into a Lexus, which was used to insinuate that he was not deserving of the charity. Another video featured a “Toronto man” giving a “taxpayer’s acknowledgement” (a critical reference to land acknowledgements of Indigenous lands) at a city council meeting. Highly-engaged mentions of Alberta,

as in previous reports, were related to the Alberta separatist movement, while posts mentioning British Columbia were related to the school shooting in Tumbler Ridge. The top three most mentioned cities by Canadian domestic extremists were Ottawa (2,094), Toronto (2,019) and Calgary (971). Non-major cities that drew outsized attention included Tumbler Ridge (545 posts), related to the February mass shooting and Surrey, BC (281), mentioned in the context of “Indian gangs” that are claimed to have taken over the area.

The United States was once again the most frequently mentioned country, with discussions focused on the disclosures from the Epstein Files, statements made by President Trump and the potential for the US to make Canada the “51st state”. Mentions of the United Kingdom, the second most mentioned country, centered around claims that the UK is a “Muslim country” and that “UK-style rape gangs” had come to Canada. Mentions of Iran peaked a number of times during this reporting period, with many highly engaged posts supporting the US and Israel’s war in the region seeing it as an avenue to free the Iranian people from the regime. Australia also appeared in the top ten most mentioned countries, with conversations mostly centred around the mass shooting at Bondi Beach in December 2025.

### Methodological Annex

#### Definitional Framework and Thresholds for Inclusion

Often, extremism has been narrowly framed around security threats related to terrorism and violent extremism. By contrast, ISD has sought to conceptualise extremism as an ideology centred around social identity that promotes supremacy of an in-group, justifies discrimination of out-groups and therefore runs counter to the very idea of universal human rights. This definition complements efforts focused on political violence and terrorism, and considers the broader risks to democracy, rights and social cohesion presented by the non-violent promotion of extremist ideologies. At the same time, the definition draws a key distinction between radical critiques of the status quo that do not promote supremacist or authoritarian societies and extremist ideologies which do.

- **ISD’s Definition of Extremism** is the advocacy of political and social change in line with a system of belief that claims the superiority and dominance of

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one identity-based ‘in-group’ over an ‘out-group.’ Extremism advances a dehumanising ‘othering’ mind-set incompatible with pluralism and universal human rights and can be pursued through violent or non-violent means.

These quarterly data briefings focus specifically on domestic extremism. ISD has developed a definition of **domestic extremism** that is rooted in our definition of extremism and informed by complementary work led by Professor Barbara Perry and right-wing extremism expert Cas Mudde.

Domestic extremism is a belief system that is characterised by its reference to racial, ethnic, cultural supremacy which advocates a system of belief in inequality based on an alleged difference and the perceived threat posed by out-groups. This extremism is often framed in terms of white power and commonly exhibits nationalism, racism, xenophobia, anti-democracy, misogyny, hate against minority communities, and strong state advocacy.

This definition is necessarily broad and captures a range of extremist subcultures and harmful activity, which is reflective of the diversity of groups and trends within domestic extremism. It should be noted that our definition is not limited to illegal content and behaviour but overlaps and intersects with several existing legal categories. Our definition of extremism encapsulates a spectrum of activity and related frameworks which are relevant to different stakeholders. This is intentional, as it is hoped that our analysis will demonstrate the continuum of ideologies and activity which inspires different types of harm, and evidence pathways to radicalization and violence.

Legal but harmful	Criminal	National security
Conspiracy theories	Hate crime	IMVE
Mis/disinformation	Illegal hate speech	PMVE
Hate speech below criminal threshold	Online abuse	RMVE
	Harassment	
	Property destruction	
	Incitement to violence	

### Account Discovery

These quarterly data briefings draw on analysis across the digital ecosystem occupied by domestic extremists, including quantitative insights from Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, X and Telegram, as well as qualitative insights from platforms that do not offer API access.

ISD originally identified a list of seed accounts and channels belonging to Canadian domestic extremists for the first data briefing covering the period from January to August 2024. These were identified through a three-step process:

- ISD drew on existing lists of domestic extremists from [previous projects](#) analysing right-wing extremism in Canada, as well as an extensive review of existing research and reporting on extremist mobilisation in Canada.
- With its technology partner CASM, ISD conducted an automated account discovery analysis to identify accounts and channels that were recommended by or engaged with known Canadian domestic extremists.
- ISD analysts then reviewed these accounts and channels against our definitional thresholds for domestic extremism.

ISD and CASM are now replicating this exercise on a quarterly basis to identify newly emerging accounts and channels missed or non-existent during the initial set-up phase

### Categorisation of accounts and channels

ISD drew on its definition of domestic extremism to guide its’ decisions about if a group, individual or community should be classified as domestic extremist. Decisions were made based on if an account or channel analysed:

- Is clearly based in Canada
- and
- Explicitly self-identify as right-wing extremists (or as “domestic extremists”) or
  - Can be clearly characterised as such based on existing literature and previous research or
  - Can be clearly characterised as such based on a review of a sample of content they have produced.

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In the latter case, ISD ensured that the group, individual or community has posted 5 or more pieces of content that clearly promote features such as nationalism, racism, xenophobia, anti-democracy or strong state advocacy. ISD analysts recorded a rationale in the coding document with relevant screenshots.

Also included were accounts associated with movements with transnational adherents known to have an impact on Canada (e.g. Terrorgram).

To account for the ideological heterogeneity within domestic extremism, ISD additionally identified ideological sub-categories. ISD analysts have therefore categorised the following sub-categories:

- **White supremacist:** White supremacists believe in the superiority of whites over people of colour and advocate that white people should be politically and socially dominant over people of colour. This can extend to a belief in the need for violence against, or even the genocide of, people of colour.
- **Sub-Categories of white supremacists<sup>1</sup>:**
  - **Neo-Nazi:** A movement promoting National Socialist ideology and symbols.
  - **Extreme Right Accelerationist:** 'Accelerationism' is a term used by white supremacists and other extremist groups to refer to "their desire to hasten the collapse of society as we know it". Generally, acceleration is used in the context of white genocide conspiracy theories, which believes white people are under threat and are being systematically targeted through e.g. immigration and other means. A collapse of modern societal structures and political systems is seen as the only means through which to stop these perceived injustices against white people. Indeed, many accelerationist groups desire this collapse and call for replacing modern society.
  - **Ethnonationalist:** Ethnonationalism is a form of nationalism where the nation is defined in terms of ethnicity. Central to ethnonationalism is the belief that nations are tied together by a shared heritage and culture that is based on ethnicity. Ethnonationalists are often marked by implicit

rather than explicit racism, and rarely promote overt supremacism.

- **Christian Nationalist:** According to US academic Cynthia Miller-Idriss, Christian Nationalism is based on the proposition that your country 'is and should remain a Christian nation and that Christianity should be prioritized by the state.' Christian Nationalists therefore explicitly reject the separation between the Church and the state.
- **Anti-Muslim Extremists:** The anti-Muslim movement is a loose network of groups and individuals who share the fear that Western cultures are threatened by an 'Islamic takeover'. Anti-Muslim groups are marked by their opposition to Islam as an ideology, and Muslims as a people.
- **Male Supremacism:** The manosphere is a loose collection of movements marked by their overt and extreme misogyny. Movements include 'incels', Men Going Their Own Way (MGTOW) and men's rights activists (MRAs).
- **Anti-Government Extremism:** Sovereignists are marked by their and militia groups rejection of court and state authority. Joining these groups together is the rejection of the authority of the federal state, and commonly adherence to a range of conspiracy theories. In some instances, sovereignists may mobilise as militia.

### Hate speech

As with extremism, there are a wide range of definitions of hate or hate crime offered by legislators, advocacy and community groups or social media companies. Usually, hate speech is differentiated from offensive speech, based on the understanding that in democracies offensive speech must be permitted. However, speech that threatens individual's rights or may cause violence against certain groups can be regulated and prevented—often through the frame of illegal hate speech.

Over the course of this project, ISD will track the weaponization of targeted hate (including illegal hate speech) as a tactic used by domestic extremists in Canada. Hate speech spread by non-extremists is beyond the scope of this project. ISD defines targeted hate as activity which seeks to dehumanise, demonize, harass,

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threaten, or incite violence against an individual or community based on religion, ethnicity, race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, national origin or migrant status. Targeted hate may be considered a key tool for extremists to target members of an out-group, they consider inferior or intimidate political opponents. It should be noted that our definition does not exclusively cover illegal hate speech.

This definition is generally aligned with the definition in the Canadian Criminal Code, which argues that hate crime “needs to be expressed in a public way or place, targets a group of people that have a protected characteristic (race, religion, sexual orientation); uses extreme language to express hatred against that person/group because of their protected characteristic.”

ISD used keywords to filter each message in the overall dataset of 1,064,966 posts gathered across platforms: a message that did not have any keywords and phrases relevant to potential target groups was marked as not hateful, the rationale being that hate speech needs a recognisable target. Target groups from the previous briefing were Jewish people, migrants, Muslims, Asian Canadians, Black people, First Nations communities and Arab Canadians. For this briefing, LGBTQ communities were added as a target group.

These messages were then run through a LLM prompt classifier, based on the group the keyword was from. The LLM prompts were tested on a manually labelled dataset for each target, along with variations to the prompt such as different wording and providing more guidance and examples. The labelled dataset itself was constructed with a label to identify if the message was hateful or not, and another label to state whether it was a ‘boundary case’, where it could be argued whether it fell into the hateful category. The evaluations took this into account and the results were evaluated both with and without the boundary cases, where the clear-cut messages were given priority to be correct over boundary cases. The two models that were used for this were GPT-4o and GPT-4o-mini.

### Violent Speech Classifier

Violent speech encompasses any language that explicitly or implicitly endorses, incites, or glorifies physical harm or violence against individuals, groups, or entities, including infrastructure.

ISD and CASM trained a classifier to detect violent speech such as:

- 1. Direct Threats:** Statements that explicitly threaten physical harm to a specific individual or group.
- 2. Incitement to Violence:** Calls to action encouraging others to commit violence, even if not directed at a specific target.
- 3. Threatening Language:** Statements that create a sense of imminent danger through referencing an individual’s safety or violent tropes without directly threatening an individual or group
- 4. Glorification of Violence:** Celebrating, endorsing, or praising violent actions or individuals who commit violence.
- 5. Violent Rhetoric:** Language that normalizes, trivializes, or romanticizes violence as a means of resolving disputes or achieving goals.
- 6. Hate Speech with a Call to Violence:** Language targeting a group based on race, religion, gender, etc., combined with a suggestion or call to violence.
- 7. Attacks Against Infrastructure:** Language advocating for harm to infrastructure or property damage likely to result in harm to people or disrupt essential services, such as attacks on utilities, transportation systems, or similar infrastructure.

362 exact words/phrases were used to identify mentions of violence. These messages were then run through a LLM prompt classifier. The LLM prompts were tested on a manually labelled dataset for violent speech. The two models that were used for this were GPT-4o and GPT-4o-mini.

### Topic Modelling

ISD collected 578,284 posts from 437 Canadian domestic extremist accounts and channels in Canada across X, Facebook, Telegram, YouTube and Instagram between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026.

The process of semantic mapping involves (1) computing numeric representations of messages that capture semantics of the text, (2) clustering message representations to identify groups of semantically similar

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messages, and (3) manually coding clusters into themes and subthemes. For computing numerical representations, we utilised “bge-m3”. For clustering we used a widely adopted approach of applying UMAP to simplify numerical representations to a lower-dimensional space, suitable for applying HDBSCAN to identify clusters. We utilised the BERTopic package to encapsulate this process.

We applied the semantic mapping pipeline to a representative sample of messages in the dataset: excluding all YouTube comments, taking a 5% random sample of 4Chan messages, and a 50% random sample per-platform of all other platforms - a total of 581,005 messages. We perform standard preprocessing techniques to (1) remove all hashtags, user mentions, emojis, and URLs from the text of the messages and (2) remove any subsequently empty messages. This resulted in 496,033 messages.

We performed a grid search of 48 configurations of clustering hyperparameters, and selected the configuration that (a) resulted in a suitable number of clusters for review, and (b) was considered the best fit to the data, in terms of minimising the number of unclustered points.

Semantic mapping resulted in 228 distinct clusters, with 53.8% (266,731) of the messages remaining unassigned to any cluster (assigned to an ‘outlier’ category). The outlier category acts as a bucket for messages that HDBSCAN doesn’t consider similar enough to any of the identified dense clusters, and due to the noisy nature of social-media data is quite typical to be around half the dataset. This left us with 229,302 messages categorised into 228 clusters.

These clusters were subsequently manually assessed by analysts based on a random sample of 10-20 related comments and qualitatively grouped into subthemes and themes. The most popular themes are analysed in the key narratives section above.

### Named Entity Recognition (NER)

We used a language model from SpaCy (en\_core\_web\_lg) to automatically find references to people, locations, and organizations in the text. Since this approach does not attempt to canonicalise extracted entities, we additionally apply the Mordecai3 geoparsing tool to the text to identify and map locations into countries, top-level Canadian administrative divisions (territories and provinces), and Canadian cities, where possible.

### Endnotes

- 1 While all accounts and channels coded as Neo-Nazi or an accelerationist were also coded as white supremacist, not all white supremacists were also coded as Neo-Nazis or accelerationists.

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