



Online Domestic Extremism in Canada Data Briefing – March 2026 to May 2026

Online Domestic Extremism in Canada

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This briefing paper details analysis of Canadian domestic extremists' online activity between 1 March 2026 and 31 May 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

Account Analysis

- ISD has so far identified **822 domestic extremist social media accounts and channels** in Canada across 8 platforms. Where permitted by API's, we gathered data from **479 active accounts and channels in Canada** which published **625,599 posts** between 1 March 2026 and 31 May 2026. This included **473,127 posts on X, 138,826 on Telegram, 7,869 on Facebook, 3,221 on YouTube and 2,556 on Instagram**.
- **X remains the most frequently used platform for Canadian domestic extremists**, with accelerationists, 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 151 of the active accounts and channels as ethnonationalist (209,360), 142 as white supremacist (111,895 posts), 66 as anti-government extremist (124,449 posts), 63 as anti-Muslim extremist (90,170 posts), 55 as neo-Nazi (13,631 posts), 31 as Christian nationalist (21,254 posts), 27 as extreme-right accelerationist (4,917 posts) and 9 as male supremacist (8,915 posts).

- **Male Supremacists received the highest average engagement per post (338), followed by ethnonationalists (179) and anti-Muslim extremists (167)**. While white supremacist accounts are also relatively numerous (142 accounts) and active (111,895 posts), they gained much less engagement as either ethnonationalists, anti-Muslim extremists, or anti-government extremists.
- **Ethnonationalists had the highest number of active accounts per sub-ideology, produced the highest number of posts (209,360 posts) and received the most engagements (37,530,111 combined likes, comments, shares and views)**.

Key Topics

- Our semantic mapping analysis found that calls for large-scale deportation, attacks on Mark Carney and discussions supportive of Alberta Separatism were the most prominent topics for Canadian domestic extremist during this quarter. It should be noted that discussions of Alberta Separatism are of course not inherently extremist though extremists seem to increasingly try to instrumentalize legitimate grievances surrounding the issue.
- These are a number of recurrent topics that have been prominent in previous research periods, including discussions of Trump, QAnon-related conspiracy theories, white supremacy, antisemitism and support for Romania Didulo. Notably, discussions of the Russia-Ukraine conflict were less prominent this quarter, and were not among the ten most discussed topics.

Hate Speech

- Of the 625,599 posts made by the domestic extremist accounts and channels between 1 March 2026 and 31 May 2026, **16,669 (2.6% of the total) were classified**

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as containing hate speech (defined in the **methodological annex** of this report). This is a 0.5 percentage points decrease in the volume of hateful posts from the last reporting period.

- Of the hateful posts made between March 2026 and May 2026, **5,428 (33%) were targeted at migrants, 2,946 (17.6%) at Asian Canadians, 2,738 (16.4%) at Muslims, 2,609 (15.6%) at Jewish people, 2,441 (14.6%) at the LGBTQ+ community, 964 (5.8%) at Black Canadians, 873 (5.2%) at Indigenous communities and 57 (0.3%) at Arab Canadians.** Some posts were identified as targeting multiple groups. Across platforms, **X accounted for 80% of total hate speech** among Canadian domestic extremists, while **Telegram accounted for 18% of such material.**
- A number of significant spikes in hate speech occurred during this reporting period, including a spike on 31 March (Transgender Day of Visibility) which can be attributed to increased hateful posts directed at the LGBTQ+ community. Another spike was observed on 29 April, appearing to target Asian Canadians, while a spike on 25 May can be attributed to increased anti-migrant hate in reaction to Tim Hortons announcing plans to no longer rely on the temporary foreign workers' program.

Violent Speech

- Of the 625,599 posts made by the domestic extremist accounts and channels between 1 March 2026 to 31 May 2026, a total of 2,198 posts (0.35%) were classified as containing violent speech, such as threatening language, incitement to violence or glorification of violence. This represents a slight decline in the proportion of violent posts compared to the previous quarter.
- The largest spike occurred on 1 March (56 posts), when numerous Canadian domestic extremists reacted to the targeted killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Notably, several accounts promoted calls by prominent far-right personality Laura Loomer to "round up" all Muslims in America and "go to war" with Islam.

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 **822** domestic extremist social media accounts and channels in Canada. This includes **357 on X**, **173 on Telegram**, **152 on Facebook**, **44 on YouTube**, **31 on TikTok**, **31 on Instagram**, **22 on Gab** and **12 on Rumble**.

Of these, 479 were active during the period of data collection. This includes 279 on X, 129 on Telegram, 36 on Facebook, 24 on YouTube, and 11 on Instagram. Using the API's provided by these platforms, ISD collected 625,599 posts from 479 Canadian domestic extremist accounts and channels between 1 March 2026 and 31 May 2026. This included 473,127 posts on X, 138,826 on Telegram, 7,869 on Facebook, 3,221 on YouTube and 2,556 on Instagram.

Of these channels, ISD analysts identified 151 as ethnonationalist (209,360), 142 as white supremacist (111,895 posts), 66 as anti-government extremist (124,449 posts), 63 as anti-Muslim extremist (90,170 posts), 55 as neo-Nazi (13,631 posts), 31 as Christian nationalist (21,254 posts), 27 as extreme-right accelerationist (4,917 posts) and 9 as male supremacist (8,915 posts). Definitions for these categories are provided in the Annex of the report.

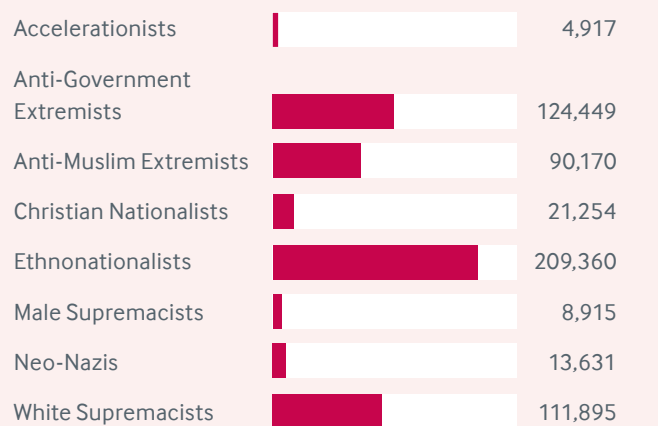
Table 1: Statistics per sub-ideology

Sub-Ideology	Posts	Active accounts	Total engagement
Accelerationist	4,917	27	133,411
Anti-government	124,449	66	8,816,342
Anti-Muslim	90,170	63	15,047,911
Christian Nationalists	21,254	31	1,494,153
Ethnonationalist	209,360	151	37,530,111
Male supremacist	8,915	9	3,014,649
Neo-Nazis	13,631	55	668,401
White Supremacist	111,895	142	5,606,528

Figure 1: Active accounts per sub-ideology



Figure 2: Number of posts per sub-ideology



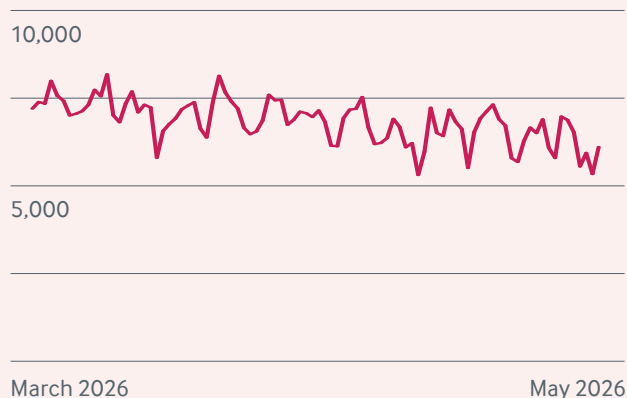
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Figure 3: Total engagement per sub-ideology



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



Ethnonationalists had the highest number of active accounts per sub-ideology, produced the highest number of posts (209,360 posts) and received the most engagements (37,530,111 combined likes, comments, shares and views). Notably, ethnonationalists generated almost more than twice the number of engagements as anti-Muslim extremists (15,047,911), who produced the second highest number of engagements across sub-ideologies.

While white supremacist accounts are also relatively numerous (142 accounts) and active (111,895 posts), they gained much less engagement as either ethnonationalists, anti-Muslim extremists, or anti-government extremists. As in previous reporting

periods, Male Supremacists received the highest average engagement per post (338), followed by ethnonationalists (179) and anti-Muslim extremists (167).

Accelerationist and neo-Nazi accounts continue to receive the least amount of engagement.

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

While there were no major outliers in terms of event-driven activity, there were a few noteworthy spikes in posts during this period. The day which saw the highest volume of posts was 13 March, which did not seem to be dominated by one specific event. High-engagement posts on this day included a mix of anti-Muslim, anti-migrant and anti-trans content. Some of this content came in the context of the war between the US, Israel and Iran, with Canadian domestic extremists accusing Carney of putting Canadian troops in harm's way, and expressing support for Iranian monarchists and the idea that Trump should remove the regimes of Iran and Cuba.

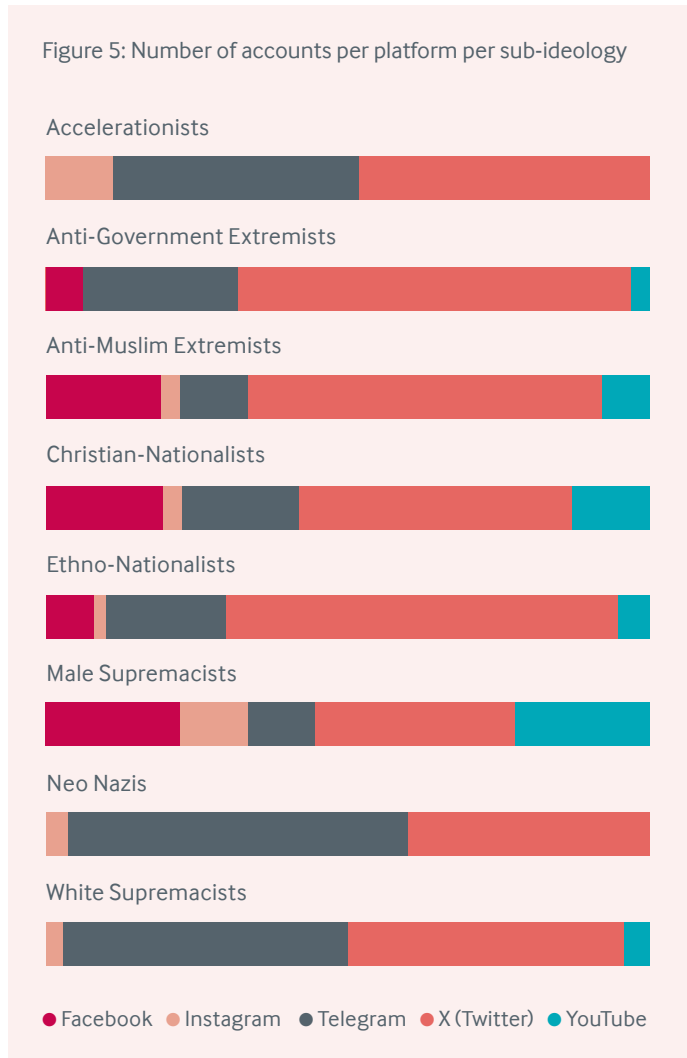
Another significant spike occurred on 31 March (8,113 posts), with popular posts expressing hateful attitudes in response to Transgender Day of Visibility. For example, the most liked post on this day asserted that "Kept my kids home today from school as it's Transgender awareness day and we dont [sic] celebrate mental illness."

4 March saw another spike with 7,968 posts, as several popular posts promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories blaming Israel for the 9/11 attacks, as well as classical antisemitic tropes blaming the Jewish people for killing Jesus. It was not entirely clear why these themes were prominent in the data on this day. Other posts commented on the US war with Iran, generally taking pro-US positions, or contrasted living standards in Canada negatively with those in the US.

X remains a key platform for almost all sub-ideologies and is the most widely used platform for extreme right accelerationists (who were previously more present on Telegram), anti-government extremists, anti-Muslim extremists, Christian nationalists, ethnonationalists, male supremacists, and white supremacists. As in the previous quarter, neo-Nazi accounts remain the only sub-group to favour Telegram. While Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube remain underutilised by the

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accounts in the dataset, extremists on these platforms tend to generate high engagement.

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 625,599 posts made by the domestic extremist accounts and channels between 1 March 2026 and 31

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%
1 March – 31 May 2026	625,599	16,669	2.6%

May 2026, 16,669 (2.6% of the total) were classified as containing hate speech. This is a 0.5 percentage points decrease in the volume of hateful posts from the last reporting period.

Of the hateful posts made between March 2026 and May 2026, 5,428 (33%) were targeted at migrants, 2,946 (17.6%) at Asian Canadians, 2,738 (16.4%) at Muslims, 2,609 (15.6%) at Jewish people, 2,441 (14.6%) at the LGBTQ+ community, 964 (5.8%) at Black Canadians, 873 (5.2%) at Indigenous communities and 57 (0.3%) at Arab Canadians. As some posts were identified as targeting multiple groups, the total of these exceeds the 16,669 posts that were classified as hate speech.

As with previous reports, hate directed at migrants continued to be the most common type of hate speech among Canadian domestic extremist accounts. Hate directed at Asian Canadians was the second-highest form of hate found, rising by 4.4% since the previous report. Anti-Asian hate, often direct against South Asians in particular, has grown in prominence over the past years, becoming increasingly common in our data on Canadian domestic extremists. However, it has never been as visible as during this latest quarter, where it was even more frequent than during previous peaks (in our [June-August 2025 data](#), anti-Asian hate had been the second-most prominent type of hate). Hate directed at Jews and the LGBTQ+ community fell during this

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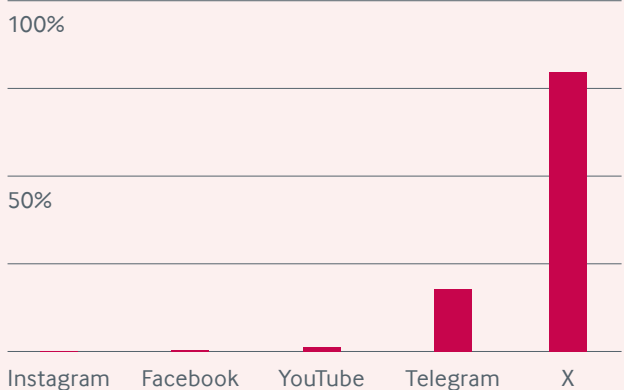
Table 3: Hate Speech by domestic extremists,
broken down by target group

Target of Hate Speech	1 December – 28 February	1 March – 31 May
Anti-Migrant	5,662	5,428
Antisemitic	3,689	2,441
Anti-LGBTQ+	3,196	2,946
Anti-Muslim	3,025	2,738
Anti-Asian	2,406	2,609
Anti-Black	957	964
Anti-Indigenous	699	873
Anti-Arab	66	57

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



Figure 7: Hate speech by domestic extremists,
broken down by platform



reporting period, while anti-Indigenous hate rose by 1.8%.

A number of significant spikes in hate speech occurred during this reporting period. A spike of 31 March can be attributed to increased hateful posts directed at the LGBTQ+ community, particularly the trans community, on Transgender Day of Visibility. Another spike was observed on 29 April; however, this does not seem to be attributable to a single news story or event. Instead, the spike in hate speech appeared to have targeted Asian Canadians, particularly people from India. Highly engaged posts on the day claimed Indians as having low intelligence and a lack of ability to calculate risk, presenting them as a danger to themselves and others.

A spike on 25 May can be attributed to news that Tim Hortons announced plans to hire 10,000 local workers and no longer rely on the temporary foreign workers' program. This was met with derision from domestic extremist actors, who used it as an opportunity to direct hatred towards immigrants.

Across ideological categories, ethnonationalists posted the largest volume of hateful posts (6,729), with 36% of these targeting migrants – the highest number of anti-migrant posts from any of the ideological groups. Ethnonationalists also posted the highest volume of posts targeting the LGBTQ+ community, Asian and Muslim communities. White supremacists posted the second largest volume (5,588) of hate overall, with 30% of these directed at Jews and the largest proportion of anti-Black posts.

Across platforms, X accounted for 80% of total hate speech among Canadian domestic extremists, while Telegram accounted for 18% 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.

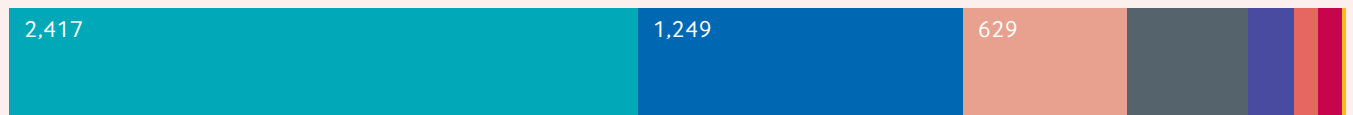
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Treemaps showing the number of posts per ideology per target hate group

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.

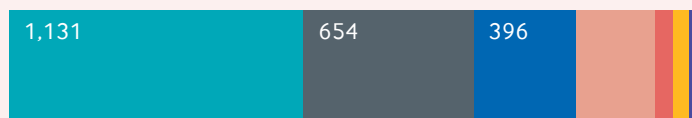
Anti-Migrant



Antisemitic



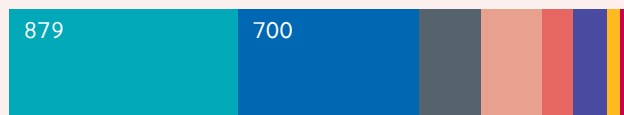
Anti-Muslim



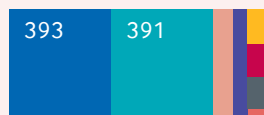
Anti-Asian



Anti-LGBT



Anti-Black



Anti-First Nations



Anti-Arab



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

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Over the three-month period from 1 March 2026 to 31 May 2026, a total of 2,198 posts were classified as containing violent speech. This accounts for 0.35% of the 625,599 posts made by domestic extremist accounts and channels through the entire time period, representing a slight decline in the proportion of violent posts compared to the previous quarter (see Table 5).

The largest spike occurred on 1 March (56 posts), when numerous Canadian domestic extremists reacted to political developments in Iran, including the targeted killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Notably, several accounts promoted calls by prominent far-right personality Laura Loomer to “round up” all Muslims in America and “go to war” with Islam.

The second-largest spike occurred on 14 March (50 posts), when several Canadian extremists again reacted to events in the Middle East with their own calls for violence. Notable posts included calls encouraging the US administration to destroy “Muslim tyrants” and expressions of joy over the killing of Muslims.

Aside from events in the Middle East, which drove relatively high levels of violent discussion in early March, another notable spike in such rhetoric occurred on 4 March (48 posts), when numerous domestic extremists issued violent threats against the Canadian federal government for pursuing policies favourable to Indian nationals. For example, in response to an announcement that the Canadian government would be providing additional scholarship money to Indian students, domestic extremists issued calls to “hang traitors” and to torture federal employees before murdering them.

4 Key Topics

The following section outlines the findings of ISD’s qualitative analysis of key topics among Canadian domestic extremists between 1 March 2026 and 31 May 2026 identified through LLM assisted automated topic modelling (outlined in detail in the **Annex**). **The following section outlines the most common narratives.**

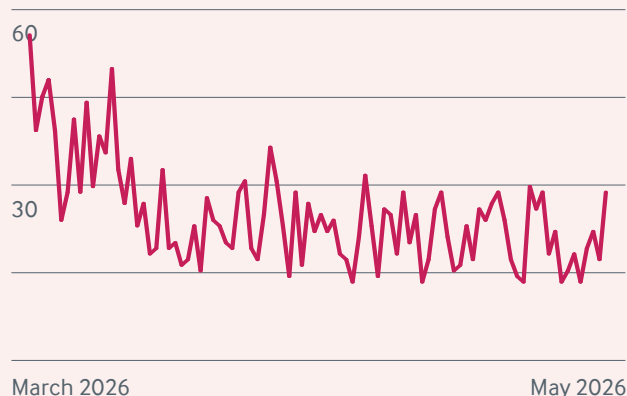
Pro-Deportation and Anti-Immigration

Most comment topic among Canadian domestic extremists was strong anti-immigration sentiment, with frequent calls for remigration policies such as mass

Table 4: Breakdown of violent speech for six 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 2025 – 28 February 2026	578,284	2,655	0.46
1 March – 31 May 2026	625,599	2,198	0.35

Figure 8: Violent speech by Canadian domestic extremists, volume over time



deportation. Users frequently expressed concerns about demographic change, anxiety over perceived threats to Canadian identity and nostalgia for an idealised past. Posts also frequently attacked political elites are common.

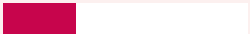
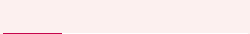
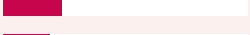
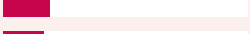
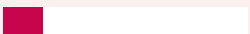
Anti-Carney

The second-most discussed topic centred around attacks on Mark Carney. Frequently, Carney was accused of promoting globalist elite interests and supporting policies perceived as harmful to the Canadian economy and national sovereignty. Allegations against Carney include alleged affiliations to foreign entities and working against Canadian interests for personal and political gain. It should be noted that in June 2026, a far-right activist in Canada was charged with threatening Carney.

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Table 5: Total number of posts per top specific topics

Pro-Deportation and Anti-Immigration		10,405
Anti-Carney		5,625
Alberta Separatism		3,574
Discussions of Trump		3,104
QAnon-inspired Conspiracy Theories		2,892
Anti-Liberal		2,277
White Supremacy		1,985
Support for Romana Didulo		1,957
Divisions within the Catholic Church		1,913
Antisemitism		1,845

Alberta Separatism

Content supportive of Alberta separatism was the third-most topic for domestic extremists in Canada. Whilst not inherently extremist, users expressed common grievances with the Canadian government including federal control over resources and expressed discontent with both federal overreach and provincial leadership. Instead, they called for independence or at least greater autonomy and expressed support for the upcoming referendum, called by Alberta Premier Danielle Smith.

Discussions of Trump

Domestic extremists in Canada also posted a lot of thematically disparate content about Donald Trump, including around his foreign policy, conspiracy theories and stances on Canada. While stances were divided, Canadian domestic extremist discussion was more likely to be neutral or positive rather than hostile towards Trump.

QAnon-inspired Conspiracy Theories

Domestic extremists in Canada frequently accused officials, celebrities, law enforcement, and media of involvement in coordinated crimes such as mass shootings, mind control experiments (e.g. MK ULTRA), child trafficking and cover-ups. Key themes include Freemasons, institutional corruption and claims that

media and social media (particularly Facebook) suppress information about these alleged crimes.

Anti-Liberal

Domestic extremists frequently criticised and mocked liberals and left-wingers, as well as the Liberal Party. These posts accused them dishonesty, incompetence, corruption, and also expressed discontent with alleged media bias.

White Supremacy

Canadian domestic extremists online promoted white supremacist rhetoric, including glorification of whiteness alongside denigration and calls for exclusion of non-white groups. Common themes among these posts included expressions of anti-Black, anti-Asian, and anti-Indigenous sentiment, and claimed that there was substantial anti-white discrimination.

Support for Romana Didulo

Romana Didulo is the self-declared “Queen” of the “Kingdom of Canada” who leads an anti-government movement. Supporters discussed her supposed Royal Decrees, which she invokes “Natural Law” to assert sovereignty and outline policies. Didulo’s followers expressed strong loyalty and attacked mainstream institutions and existing government structures.

Divisions within the Catholic Church

Some Christian Nationalist users discussed internal tensions between progressive and traditionalist factions within the Catholic Church. Discussions revolved around issues such as papal authority, liturgical practices as well as gender and sexuality.

Antisemitism

Finally, Canadian domestic extremists promoted antisemitic hate speech and conspiracy theories, including narratives about Jewish control of politics, cultural institutions and the economy. Topics of discussion included themes such as Holocaust denial, references to the “ZOG” (Zionist Occupied Government) conspiracy theory which was popularised by white supremacist groups, and dehumanising rhetoric directed towards Jewish people.

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6 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.

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 March 2026 and 31 May 2026.

The top three provinces mentioned were Ontario (9,418), Alberta (7,624), and British Columbia (4,612). Highly-engaged posts mentioning Ontario were related to a number of issue areas. One featured a video of Ontario police purportedly acting on a court order to remove an elderly man from his home. The post, which received 2.2 million views, framed this as an example of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) in action, despite there being no evidence that was the case. Another post mentioning Ontario included a photo taken more than ten years ago showing cash left on to of a Toronto metro turnstile after the machine was supposedly “broken”. The photo was shared to claim that such a situation would not take place today, implying the money would be stolen. Highly-

Table 7: Provinces most frequently mentioned by Canadian domestic extremists

Ontario	9,418
Alberta	7,624
British Columbia	4,612
Quebec	3,015
Saskatchewan	845
Manitoba	567
Nova Scotia	453
New Brunswick	146
Newfoundland and Labrador	137
Prince Edward Island	135

Table 8: Canadian cities most frequently mentioned by Canadian domestic extremists

Ottawa	2,986
Toronto	2,583
Vancouver	829
Montréal	789
Calgary	652
Brampton	609
Edmonton	454
Winnipeg	284
Kamloops	267
Surrey	190

Table 9: Countries most frequently mentioned by Canadian domestic extremists (excluding Canada)

Country	Mentions	Country	Mentions
United States	24,363	India	2,966
United Kingdom	9,237	Ukraine	2,366
Israel	6,930	Russia	2,175
China	4,897	France	2,012
India	3,522	Australia	1,846

engaged mentions of Alberta, as in previous reports, were related to the Alberta separatist movement, but also featured viral posts about incidents in Alberta that were used to spread anti-migrant and anti-Muslim hate. Similarly, posts mentioning British Columbia included incidents in the province that were used to portray minority communities in a poor light, in particular Asian communities. Mentions of the school shooting in Tumbler Ridge, specifically updates on survivors were also included in mentions of the province.

The top three most mentioned cities by Canadian domestic extremists were Ottawa (2,986), Toronto (2,583) and Vancouver (829). Non-major cities that drew outsized attention included Kamloops (267 posts), related to the spread of denialism of mass graves found

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at a residential school in the area. Surrey, BC (190) was mentioned in the context of “Indian gangs” that are claimed to have taken over the area, as well as within conversations about the Musqueam First Nations title to land around Vancouver.

The United States was once again the most frequently mentioned country, yet discussions were not focused on one particular topic. Highly engaged posts included mentions of Kentucky Representative Thomas Massie’s primary loss and videos produced by the NELK Boys from Miami. Mentions of Iran consisted of updates and conspiracy theories about the war. Mentions of the United Kingdom, the third most mentioned country, centered around discussions of the Unite the Kingdom rally that took place in May 2026. Conversations about the rally included claims that journalists were barred from entering the country to report on it, to Canadian domestic extremists celebrating the turnout and sentiment behind the march.

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 one identity-based ‘in-group’ over an ‘out-group.’ Extremism advances a dehumanising ‘othering’ mindset 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,

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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:

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

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 supremacists¹:**
 - **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

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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, 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.

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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 625,599 posts from 479 Canadian domestic extremist accounts and channels in Canada across X, Facebook, Telegram, YouTube and Instagram between 1 March 2026 and 31 May 2026. ISD is also collecting data from 4chan's /pol/ board on an on-going basis, filtering for users who use the Canadian flag to identify themselves.

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 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 all messages in the dataset, taking a 5% random sample of 4Chan messages, a 50% sample of Twitter messages, and 100% of messages from all other platforms; a total of 409,836 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 337,057 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 (approximately 200), and (b) was considered a good fit to the data, in terms of minimising the number of unclustered points.

Semantic mapping resulted in 217 distinct clusters, with 53.8% (181,235) 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 155,822 messages categorised into 217 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 accelerationist were also coded as white supremacist, not all white supremacists were also coded as Neo-Nazis or accelerationists.

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