

Russian Propaganda Circulating in Canada:

Open Source Intelligence Summary

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Executive Summary

This report outlines the key disinformation narratives attributed to Russian propaganda currently circulating within Canada. It is part of ongoing OSINT monitoring by Marie Landry's Spy Shop, with a focus on threats to democracy, LGBTQ rights, and public discourse.

1. Key Narratives and Claims

1.1 1. "Biolabs in Ukraine"

Claim: Ukraine hosts secret U.S.-funded biological weapons laboratories.

Spread via: Russian state media, QAnon influencers, conspiracy forums, and Canadian far-right Telegram and Facebook groups.

Status: Officially debunked by the UN, WHO, and U.S. Department of Defense.

Intent: To justify Russia's invasion and spread anti-West sentiment.

1.2 2. Anti-LGBTQ "Groomer" and Pedophilia Tropes

Claim: LGBTQ advocacy is linked to child grooming and moral decay.

Spread via: Russian Orthodox media, Telegram, and Western conservative influencers.

In Canada: Echoed by anti-SOGI groups and far-right protests.

Intent: Undermine social cohesion, LGBTQ safety, and rights protections.

1.3 3. Ukrainians as Neo-Nazis

Claim: Ukraine is controlled by neo-Nazi factions and thus illegitimate.

Spread via: Kremlin media, alternative news sites, Reddit, and Twitter/X clusters.

Impact: Justifies aggression and reduces support for Ukraine aid.

1.4 4. NATO “Encirclement” Narrative

Claim: NATO betrayed Russia by expanding eastward after promising not to.

Used to: Frame Russia as the victim and NATO as the aggressor.

Canadian penetration: Used to turn progressive and anti-war audiences against NATO solidarity with Ukraine.

1.5 5. Division via Social Media Tactics

Tactics:

- Troll farms pushing anti-LGBTQ, anti-vax, anti-immigrant rhetoric.
- Bots using ridicule, whataboutism, and distrust memes.
- Disinfo cloaked as “both-sides” skepticism.

Intent: Destabilize democratic discourse and create chaos.

1.6 6. Exploiting Canadian Institutions

Examples:

- Funding controversies: Canadian grants accused of supporting pro-Russian films.
- Cultural events and NGOs unknowingly platforming soft Kremlin narratives.
- Freedom Convoy messaging: Echoed Russian anti-NATO, anti-West rhetoric.

2. Impact on Canadian Society

- **Erosion of public trust** in NATO, government, and media.
- **Amplification of hate** against LGBTQ, immigrants, and refugees.
- **Undermining support for Ukraine** among Canadian voters.
- **Radicalization of social movements** through foreign-influenced memes.

3. Countermeasures and Recommendations

- **Public education campaigns** on media literacy and digital resilience.
- **Institutional vigilance** by film boards, grant bodies, and NGOs.
- **OSINT collaboration** with trusted cybersecurity and research institutions.
- **Community defense:** Support LGBTQ, Ukrainian, and targeted communities with proactive intelligence-sharing.

Conclusion

The spread of Russian propaganda in Canada is real, multi-layered, and adaptive. It aims to polarize society, erode trust in liberal democracy, and suppress support for Ukraine and human rights. Vigilance, education, and open-source intelligence are key to combating it.

About the Author

Marie Seshat Landry is the founder and CEO of Marie Landry's Spy Shop and MarieLandryCEO.com. As a peace advocate, technologist, and independent researcher, she develops AI-powered OSINT tools to advance public accountability and ethical intelligence.