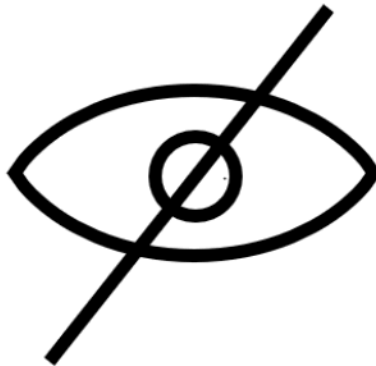




File: 292-30/PSS-2021-11967

WARNING

Sensitive Content



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION
RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND POLICY DIVISION**

**Report on Poverty Reduction
Template: Calendar Year 2019**

**Please complete this template and return by email to
Leah.Squance@gov.bc.ca by May 17, 2020.**

Ministry / Crown Corporation or Agency name

Public Safety and Solicitor General

Initiative #1 – Path Forward: Indigenous Women & Girls Safety Community Sessions

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- Community-based, Indigenous-led engagement sessions were held across the province over the course of Summer 2019, to inform provincial priorities in responding to the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. These sessions also supported community planning and capacity development and resulted in a final report that included tools and resources for use in community.

Key Initiatives' Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- Poverty, mental health and addictions, housing and health continue to be significant systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

Population Groups Affected

- This initiative focuses on Indigenous women and girls, in particular, those who may be experiencing abuse, mental illness, or addiction.

Success Stories - N/A

Images and Graphics

- Images and graphics can be accessed through the final report at:
<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ausc%3A1c64d108-959b-454c-ad08-31ce616f177a&fbclid=IwAR1o0jB5nRJxEdTXygOn2adaPJVCJohlq1urtLdbcErTdkp-njTIXh3ejA>

Initiative #2 – Greater Protections for Payday Loans and Other High-Cost Credit Products

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- Short-term loans, such as payday loans and installment loans, are typically more expensive for borrowers than traditional loans or a line of credit at a bank. Some people use short-term loans or alternative high-cost credit products as they have limited options.

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- In spring 2019, legislative changes were passed to strengthen protections for those who use payday loans, including a prohibition on the sale of insurance on payday loans.
- The legislative changes also establish a new regulatory framework that will provide stronger protections and safeguards for installment loans and other high-cost credit products, limiting the harms to British Columbians who use these products.
- As part of these amendments, a new Consumer Financial Education Fund will be created and funded by licensed high-cost lenders and payday lenders.
- Work is currently underway to develop this new high-cost credit regulatory framework.

Key Initiatives' Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- The prohibition on sale of insurance for payday loans resulted in a significant drop in insurance policies sold (from 26,592 in 2018 to 2,695 in 2019) and fees associated with those policies (a reduction of over \$636,000 in premiums earned by payday lenders).
- High-cost credit grantors generally target people who experience financial hardships and are living paycheck to paycheck. With no other choice but to seek high-cost loans from alternative lenders, people are often faced with terms and conditions that may be more than they can afford. Turning to a high-cost loan or other product could potentially leave the borrower trapped in a cycle of debt payments which makes it difficult to get out of poverty.
- High-cost credit grantors are not currently licensed by the Province, therefore data for the number of licensed high-cost credit grantors and information about consumers accessing these services is currently unavailable.

Population Groups Affected

- Payday lenders generally target people with low to moderate income who are financially vulnerable, often living paycheck to paycheck.
- The additional amendments that came into force strengthen protections for consumers who use payday loans.
- The new regulatory framework for high-cost credit products is anticipated to support financially vulnerable consumers, including those with limited income and lack of access to traditional banking services (such as in rural or remote areas) and credit (including those that don't have an established credit rating).

Success Stories – N/A

Images and Graphics – N/A

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Initiative #3 – Limiting Cheque Cashing Fees

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- People use cheque cashing services instead of a bank for various reasons. For those who use a cheque cashing service to cash a provincial income assistance or disability assistance cheque, the Province capped the fees that can be charged in 2018.
- As of September 15, 2019, the fee cap was extended to include on-demand or “imprest” cheques issued by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- This initiative supports the objective of increasing affordability of goods, services and housing.

Key Initiatives’ Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- Imprest cheques are issued by local MCFD offices to youth, young adults, foster parents, and a very small number of service providers. For example, these cheques are often issued in an effort to ensure ongoing and consistent contact between a social worker and a youth living independently.
- According to the MCFD, the number of cheques issued in a representative month is approximately 4,500 with an approximate value of \$1.5 million. While imprest cheques are not the sole method of funding to any of these clients, many will receive more than one imprest cheque in a month to cover various aspects of support such as rent, groceries and educational fees.
- Fees to cash these cheques are capped at \$2 plus 1% of the value of the cheque up to a maximum of \$10. For comparison, typical fees to cash cheques are between \$0.99 to \$2.99 plus 3% of the value of the cheque.

Population Groups Affected

- Alternative financial services are marketed primarily to financially vulnerable British Columbians, such as youth who may not have the ability or support to open a bank account. These youth and other individuals who receive financial support from MCFD typically have very low incomes, and the high fees can have a significant impact on their finances.
- The cashing fee cap to include MCFD imprest cheques positively impacts youth supported for independent living, young adults supported under the Agreements with Young Adults Program, foster parents and support for children and youth in care and contract advances for service providers.

Success Stories – N/A

Images and Graphics – N/A

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Initiative #4 – Victim Service and Violence Against Women Programs

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- Budget 2018 increased annual funding by \$5 million starting in 2018/19, to better meet the ongoing demand for programs and services such as counselling, court support programs, outreach and crisis support for women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.

Key Initiatives' Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- Poverty reduction is not the primary focus of these programs. However, many of the clients who access these programs or services may be facing challenges related to poverty.
- Criminal victimization may also increase the chances of facing challenges related to poverty in the future. Criminal victimization can be a traumatic experience and studies have shown that trauma can be life changing and have long-term and harmful effects on a person's emotional, physical and/or financial wellbeing.
- Studies have also shown that rates of childhood and adult victimization are higher in communities with higher poverty rates. Victims who have experienced assault may get caught in a cycle of poverty and victimization. Re-victimization doubles the likelihood that women who have experienced assault in the past move below the poverty level over time.
- The ministry's victim service and violence against women programs support victims' healing and reintegration process, helping to reduce their risk of entering a cycle of poverty and supporting those already caught in that cycle to cope with and recover from the effects of their victimization.
- In 2019, 48,720 new clients were supported/served by one of the Ministry's police-based or community-based victim services.

Population Groups Affected

The programs supported by the funding serve all victims of violence, including persons living with or fleeing abuse, ethno-specific and diverse communities, women, youth, children, Indigenous peoples, and immigrant and visible minorities.

Programs include:

- 91 police-based victim services programs that serve victims of all types of crime and trauma and assist police and communities in situations involving multiple injuries or deaths and operate out of RCMP detachments and municipal police departments.
- 66 community-based victim services programs that serve victims of family and sexual violence, ethno-specific and diverse communities, children and Indigenous peoples and operate out of non-profit organizations.

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- 9 Domestic Violence Units that provide coordinated case management in the highest-risk domestic violence cases.
- 1 province-wide helpline, VictimLink BC, which is a toll-free multilingual, confidential telephone service that provides information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence.
- 92 Stopping the Violence Counselling programs that provide individual and group counselling for women who have experienced childhood abuse, sexual assault and violence in their relationships.
- 84 Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment counselling programs for children and youth, aged three to 18 years, who have witnessed abuse, threats or violence in the home.
- 53 outreach programs that help women identify and access the services they need by providing information, referrals, accompaniment and transportation to other necessary services.
- 11 multicultural outreach service programs that provide services to ten communities in up to 24 languages to ensure immigrant and visible minority women receive assistance by workers who speak their own language and are familiar with their culture.

Success Stories – N/A

Images and Graphics – N/A

Initiative #5 – Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grants

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- The Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program provides one-time grants to organizations in B.C. to prevent and reduce crime.
- In fiscal year 2019/20, 123 projects totalling just over \$3.8 million in one-time funding were implemented in the areas of gender-based violence, violence against children and youth, Indigenous healing and rebuilding, and human trafficking, sexual exploitation and vulnerable women in the sex trade.

Key Initiatives' Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- Poverty reduction is not a primary focus of this grant program. However, these one-time grants support projects that make a difference in the lives of some of British Columbia's most vulnerable populations, segments of the population that are either at risk of or already caught in a cycle of poverty and victimization.
- These grants support projects that help fulfil the government's commitment to address violence against women, further respond to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and promote community safety through crime prevention initiatives.

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Population Groups Affected

- Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program awards funding to community-led projects across the province, with funding streams targeting specific segments of the population. Projects were implemented under the following streams in 2019/2020:
 - Child and Youth Advocacy Centres;
 - Violence Against Women – Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault;
 - Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention Programming;
 - Indigenous Healing and Rebuilding;
 - Human Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Vulnerable Women in the Sex Trade;
 - Restorative Justice; and
 - Crime Prevention.

Success Stories – N/A

Images and Graphics – N/A

Initiative #6 – Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach – Situation Tables

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- The Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach (OCR-GO) is leading the implementation of Situation Tables across BC.
- The Situation Table model brings organizations and agencies together to deliver interventions to acutely elevated risk clients (AER). AER means that clients have multiple risk factors that span the mandates of more than two agencies; that the likelihood of a crisis in their lives is imminent; and that the crisis will be severe.
- Referrals to Situation Tables are generated by the involved partner agencies. Information is shared between partners and interventions are provided by applicable agencies.
- Situation Tables improve community safety by proactively identifying and mitigating risk factors within communities such as criminal offending, poverty, mental health, homelessness and others.
- In September 2017, the OCR-GO was provided \$1.2 million over three years (2017/18 through 2019/20) to develop new, and enhance existing, Situation Tables. An additional \$500K was committed through 2020/21 to continue implementation across BC.
- Surrey and Mission led the implementation of Situation Tables in BC. Since 2017, OCR-GO has introduced the Situation Table model into 8 additional communities throughout BC.

Key Initiatives' Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- Situation Tables involve representatives from Social Development and Poverty Reduction and vulnerable clients frequently engage services related to income assistance and community reintegration.

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- In 2019, data was collected and analyzed from five Situation Tables in British Columbia (Chilliwack, Kelowna, Mission, Penticton, and Surrey). From 2015 through 2019, these five Situation Tables received 421 referrals. Of 421 referrals, 4.5% had poverty as a risk factor.
- The top risk factor for all referrals was broken down by age groupings. Poverty was one of the top risk factors for clients in the 5-11 and 80+ age cohorts.

Population Groups Affected

- Situation Tables accept clients who meet the acutely elevated risk (AER) threshold, which includes children, youth, persons of all genders, Indigenous peoples, persons living with disabilities, persons living in rural and remote communities, immigrants and refugees, LGBTQ2S+ persons, seniors, persons and families working and earning low incomes, persons living with or fleeing abuse, persons living with mental illness or addiction, and persons of colour.
- The City of Surrey has a Situation Table that serves clients aged 20+, as well as a youth focused table called the Child and Youth at Risk Table (CHART) which serves vulnerable clients ranging from 6-19 years of age.

Success Stories

- An analytic summary of five Situation Tables from 2015 through 2019 showed that 421 clients were referred by partner agencies to the tables. Situation Tables lowered risk by connecting referrals to services in 236 cases of the 421.

Images and Graphics – N/A

Initiative #7 – ShiftBC

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- ShiftBC is a risk-reduction and individual resiliency program specifically focused on providing support to individuals that are vulnerable to the process of radicalization to violence.
- The program started November 2018 and is receiving \$2M in federally fenced funding over 5 years.
- It facilitates access to social services that focus on, among others, housing, family supports, access to health services (including dental and mental health), employment training, education, and other social supports.
- The program advocates, through training, for the inclusion of individuals experiencing alienation into the community.
- It improves the capacity of the province's community service providers to deal with individuals through training and acting as a consultant to service providers.
- The initiative, through policy implementation and practice, allows service providers to communicate more effectively when working with vulnerable individuals.

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Key Initiatives' Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- ShiftBC seeks to reduce the stigma of poverty and marginalization and increase access to education, employment, and healthcare, and to reduce alienation and hate in BC
- The program hosts an annual training symposium for service providers and other stakeholders from across the country to further maximize the province's capacity in servicing individuals experiencing alienation.
- Through the program's different training initiatives, approximately 400 practitioners received information, training and/or coaching on servicing individuals experiencing alienation.
- In its first six months of operation (until December of 2019), the program was able to advise/facilitate services to three high-risk BC cases – since then (March 2020), the number of high-risk cases has increased to nine.

Population Groups Affected

- The initiative serves individuals experiencing radicalization to violence. This unique expression of alienation from the community is often influenced by socio-economic and other challenges.
- The program supports those experiencing real or perceived alienation, marginalization, and grievances
- The program has established partnerships with organizations that offer services with cross-cultural competency and diverse offering in non-official languages.

Success Stories

- Six participants have experienced quantifiably positive outcomes, including enrollment in higher education, access to counsellors and psychologists, career counseling and job stability, and navigation of language barriers and the healthcare system.

Images and Graphics – see attached

Initiative #8 – Transitioning Clients from Custody to Community

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- The Integrated Transitional and Release Planning (ITRP) teams operate out of seven of our ten correctional centres. These teams consist of a probation officer and a correctional supervisor and they provide case management and release planning support to clients who meet certain criteria, including that they are medium to high risk to reoffend, have community supervision to follow custody and a willingness to participate. The individuals who participate in ITRP tend to struggle with homelessness, mental health and or addictions.
 - These teams have recently increased their coordination efforts with such partners as Community Transition Teams (CTT) (PHSA) and the Community Integration Specialists (SDPR).

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- Some outcomes of these partnerships include enhanced access to disability funding, access and referrals to community resources and if followed by the CTT teams, 30 days of community support to access appropriate medical services for addictions.
- Integrated Transitional Release Planning and Homelessness Intervention Program (ITRP-HIP) is a partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, BC Housing and other support agencies. The goal of this program is to identify those who qualify for the ITRP program and will either be homeless upon release from a correctional centre, or at risk of being homeless. Services included access to housing subsidies, community integration support and access to FASD and Brain Injury assessment.
 - In the last year, housing subsidies and supports have been added to support the expansion of services beyond Victoria and up into Nanaimo.
 - As a result, a greater number of clients have been able to access resources otherwise not available to them.

Key Initiatives' Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- BC Corrections does not track the number of connections its staff make to poverty reduction/support agencies.
- The ITRP-HIP program directly targets the root cause of poverty by linking BC Corrections clients with SDPR and BC Housing supports to provide both funding and at times housing subsidies to those who qualify.
- ITRP caseloads are reflective of the custodial sentences imposed by the courts. On average, the teams provide services to over 100 inmates across the province in any given month. In addition, coordinators assist other individuals who may not fully meet the ITRP criteria by connecting them to services such as housing supports and income assistance. The number of inmates who fall into this category tends to be fluid and dependent on the needs presented by the individual.
- ITRP teams partner closely with initiatives such the Community Integration Specialist (CIS) program and Specialized Intake through SDPR. By doing so, new applications for assistance are expedited and files can be reopened quickly. In addition, applications for Persons with Disability and Persons with Persistent and Multiple Barriers financial aid has been streamlined and funding for treatment beds have been more readily available.
- The costs associated with resourcing ITRP/HIP teams are shared across the ministries and agency partners involved. The Corrections costs to resource an ITRP team (two Corrections branch staff) in a correctional centre is approximately \$170,000.

Population Groups Affected

- BC Corrections works with people who are either awaiting trial (remanded in custody or on bail in the community) or who are sentenced and serving a custodial sentence, community disposition or a mix of both. The client demographic includes those who are homeless or at risk of being homeless (approximately 15%), struggling with mental health conditions and addictions (more than 60% have a diagnosis) and includes a significant

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overrepresentation of Indigenous people (approximately 27% in the community, and 33% in custody).

Success Stories

- Here is one success story stemming from the ITRP-HIP program at Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre
 - At Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre, ITRP-HIP is available to homeless men returning to the Greater Victoria, and as of 2018, in the Duncan and Nanaimo areas. In September 2019, we completed the FASD screening tool with a young man and communicated with his sister. She confirmed her family always believed something was different about him, but they were unable to figure out why. Their mother tragically died a few years previous and could not provide first-hand information. His sister and another family member were therefore supportive of the Asante Centre's FASD assessment and greatly assisted in providing his history which was necessary to proceed with the FASD assessment. Many men in our care do not have the family available to provide this integral piece of the process. In January of 2020, after an online intake with Asante Centre staff, an adaptive assessment interview with family members, and two escorts from VIRCC to Nanaimo to meet with the assessors, FASD was confirmed for this individual. We now have an assessment summary with recommendations and are awaiting the full report. This is timely because the individual has an upcoming Pre-Sentence Report (PSR) and psych PSR. His community probation officer of several years will incorporate the FASD findings into the reports and future case management plans. Perhaps most striking is what the psychologist said regarding the results: "These (recommendations) aren't something that would be nice for him to have. They are *requirements* that must be implemented for him to have a good life". With this diagnosis, the ITRP team at VIRCC can open other avenues for him, such as CLBC connections, possible supportive housing and other supports to help him live the best life he can.

Images and Graphics – N/A

Initiative #9 – Supporting Inmates

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- Volunteers trained through the CRA and participating in the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) have been approved to support inmates in completing their taxes while they are serving their sentence in custody. In many cases this has resulted in the successful submissions of tax returns which in turn increases these individuals' eligibility for other benefits.

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- Acquiring Community-Based Employment Skills (ACES) is a collaborative project involving the John Howard Society of BC and BC Corrections. Through this program, participants receive specialized supports to assist them in employment readiness, coaching and access to employers.
 - It was launched in 2018 and is funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training for \$1.2 million per year.
 - In 2019, additional funding was secured specifically for such groups as young people up to age 24 and individuals leaving abusive situations.

Key Initiatives' Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- BC Corrections does not track the number of connections its staff make to poverty reduction/support agencies.
- Between April 1st, 2019 – Feb 29th, 2020 the ACES program has worked with 186 individuals, provided training for 142 participants, and employed 78.

Population Groups Affected

- BC Corrections works with people who are either awaiting trial (remanded in custody or on bail in the community) or who are sentenced and serving a custodial sentence, community disposition or a mix of both. The client demographic includes those who are homeless or at risk of being homeless (approximately 15%), struggling with mental health conditions and addictions (more than 60% have a diagnosis) and includes a significant overrepresentation of Indigenous people (approximately 27% in the community, and 33% in custody).

Success Stories – N/A

Images and Graphics – N/A

Initiative #10 – Cellphone Billing Transparency and Affordability

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- In the 2019 Throne Speech, government committed to strengthen consumer protections for cellphone services. The Province also committed to advocate for more affordability and transparency in the federally regulated telecom sector.
- In spring 2019, a public online survey was conducted on cellphone services and related consumer issues, with over 15,000 respondents. The results of the survey were shared with the CRTC in its current review of Canada's wireless services.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is supporting MLA Bob D'Eith's lead in federal advocacy efforts for more affordable wireless service plans for families and individuals in BC, including seniors and low-income citizens.
- This work will continue in 2020.

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Key Initiatives' Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- The high costs of cellphone services have a significant impact on people – cellphone costs are a basic monthly expense for most people. Today cellphones are a necessity for most families to stay connected, receive services, and for safety and security or emergency use. BC's online public survey showed that cellphone services are too high for the average citizen, and more affordable plans are needed.
- It is too early to provide evidence of the impact of this initiative on cell phone service affordability.

Population Groups Affected

- Cellphone services are used broadly by citizens across the province, including lower income, vulnerable groups and seniors.
- BC is encouraging the federal government to improve protections for consumers in the regulation of the telecommunications industry in Canada and require service providers to provide more lower-cost/low-usage cellphone plans. Lower cost plans would help seniors and other vulnerable groups who have affordability issues and/or lower-usage needs.

Success Stories – N/A

Images and Graphics – N/A

Initiative #11 – Pill Press

Key Practices, Policies and Programs that Reduce and Prevent Poverty

- The *Pill Press and Related Equipment Control Act* and the associated Pill Press and Related Equipment Control Regulation came into force on January 15, 2019.
- The Act addresses the public health crisis associated with the high rate of illicit drug (opioid) toxicity deaths in BC. A disproportionate number of illicit drug toxicity deaths among individuals facing economic vulnerability.
- The Act limits the ownership, possession and use of manufacturing equipment for pills and capsules to those with a legitimate business or professional purpose. The Act and regulation help to ensure that those who wish to sell controlled equipment register as sellers and are subject to criminal record checks to guard against ties to criminal activity and to address the supply of toxic opioids.
- The objective of the program includes establishment of an online Pill Press Registry to maintain an inventory of controlled equipment and to conduct subsequent inspections in communities to ensure public safety and compliance with the legislation. Those who do not comply with the new legislation can face significant penalties for offences committed in relation to controlled equipment.

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Key Initiatives' Impact on or Relationship to Poverty

- The Act was designed and implemented to address the public health crisis associated with the high rate of illicit drug (opioid) toxicity deaths in BC. Data from the BC Coroners Service and Statistics Canada describe a disproportionate number of illicit drug toxicity deaths among individuals facing economic vulnerability.
- In 2019, 37 owner category applications were received, and 21 pieces of controlled equipment have been registered through the online registry, an important step toward creating an inventory of legal equipment in BC. Compliance and enforcement activities started in 2019/2020.
- The legislation and registry help guard against criminals and organized crime having unlimited access to equipment to manufacture illicit drugs. By restricting pill presses, a key tool is removed from the manufacture of illicit drugs. Given the existing data which indicates a higher rate of death due to illicit drug toxicity among people who are economically vulnerable, the restricted access to pill presses will curb the number of deaths due to drug toxicity.

Population Groups Affected

- This initiative targets reduction of the illegal drug supply in British Columbia. Reports from the BC Coroners Service identify that individuals dying from illicit drug toxicity have substantive history of substance misuse, mental health diagnoses, unemployment, and reside in rural areas of the province. As Minister Judy Darcy stated, "These regulations are another tool in the toolbox to help address the unpredictable toxic illegal drug supply that's killing up to four British Columbians every day".

Success Stories

- Establishment of the Pill Press Registry has led to more frequent and valuable contact between PSSG, Canada Border Services Agency, Health Canada, and law enforcement. The furtherance of these relationships is leading to greater knowledge/ expertise with respect to pill presses which, in turn, contributes to addressing the opioid crisis.

Images and Graphics – see attached

sh/ft

supporting people
for safer communities

Canada



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

/ prevention through intervention

s.15

SHIFT BC | MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

WHAT IS RADICALIZATION TO VIOLENCE?

A process wherein a person or group takes on extreme ideas or beliefs and begins to think they should use violence to support them

Why do people radicalize to violence?

- Complex reasons for each individual
- No one single profile
- Not limited to a single group, social class, religion, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, age or worldview

OUR APPROACH

What makes our
prevention program
so unique?

Countering radicalization to violence

- CRV is an umbrella term
- There are Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary approaches
- Many programs focus on countering the pull of violent extremist organizations' recruitment and influence through publishing counter-narratives and digital literacy (Primary) or attempt deradicalization by directly challenging ideology (Tertiary, can be pre- or post-criminal).
- Shift is a Secondary intervention program, focusing on disengagement and increasing resiliency
- We are:

civilian-led model

individual-level disengagement

preventative
not punitive

mobilization of support

MISSION

to interrupt trajectories of radicalization-
to-violence through facilitating
community-based intervention and
expert support

WHAT IS SHIFT?

A secondary prevention strategy
aimed to achieve macro outcomes
through micro interventions

WHAT IS SHIFT?

A risk reduction and individual resilience pilot program

WHAT IS SHIFT?

Voluntary for participants

Reducing barriers to and amongst
existing expert service providers
(mutual support)

WHY?

- Emergency and law enforcement services are often not in a position to prevent potential violence, they can only react/respond
- Radicalization to violence/ extremism can be seen as a symptom of wider societal problems, such as social polarization, unaddressed mental health concerns, digital illiteracy, and socioeconomic realities; therefore, a wider, multi-disciplinary approach is required to combat the problem.
- Shift's modified hub navigation model is designed to facilitate multi-agency approaches building individual resiliency so the subject's underlying grievances can be addressed in a pro-social, non-violent manner.

PUT SIMPLY...

- Emergency and law enforcement services are often not in a position to prevent potential violence, they can only react/respond
- There is a gap between cases where criminal charges can be laid and individuals the RCMP mandate does not cover, but who still need support and positive intervention.

SO WHY IS RESILIENCY SO IMPORTANT?

- Radicalization to violence/ extremism can be seen as a symptom of wider societal problems, such as social polarization, unaddressed mental health concerns, digital illiteracy, and socioeconomic realities; therefore, a wider, multi-disciplinary approach is required to combat the problem.
- Most of us can interact with violent extremist content/propaganda and not become radicalized to violence. Why?
- Shift's modified hub navigation model is designed to facilitate multi-agency approaches building individual resiliency so the subject's underlying grievances can be addressed in a pro-social, non-violent manner.

Determining success

- Evidence-based and transparent
- Commitment to maintain and inform national best-practice standards
- Member of the Canadian Practitioner's Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism (CPN-PREV).
- Drawing on the expertise from SFU criminology department to evaluate the program and to produce best practice data.

Challenges

- Information sharing and privacy:
four filter approach
- Resources and funding may affect level of partner agency participation
- Must have 'buy in' from key agencies
- Traditionally, no long term follow up after initial contact – This is the primary reason Shift is a 'modified' Hub.
- Participation in treatment is voluntary
- Development of empirical evaluation models

Accomplishments

- 11 Active Participants and 15 historical, representing a 100% uptake rate and 85% retention/ completion rate
- Represent a cost-savings to the Province and Provincial Law Enforcement conservatively estimated at \$3 Million per annum if referral volume remains static
- Consistently positive feedback
- Established structured referral channels with major stakeholders, including-INSET, ^{s.15} and VPD Counter-Terrorism such as unprecedented FOIPPA-Compliant information-sharing protocols

Accomplishments Continued

- Funded four research studies on various related topics of interest to Public Safety in British Columbia. Research has been shared at international forums, the CCACP/BCACP, and is used to develop government policy.
- Created strong linkages with Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism work ongoing in BC and elsewhere
- Developed an ambitious monitoring and evaluation framework
- Successfully advocated for a National Standard of CRV Program evaluation

Getting Involved:

- Our goal is to sustainably grow areas of operation to Northern BC and the Island
- Shift hosts a free annual Community of Practice Symposium each November
- Shift is always interested in referrals.
- Shift provides free in-depth CRV training upon request at the organizational level (including individual detachments). This training comes with certification.

Questions?

CONTACT

program manager

s.15

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/ CRV/VE in the Frontline

s.15

SHIFT BC | MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL



THEORY



PRACTICE

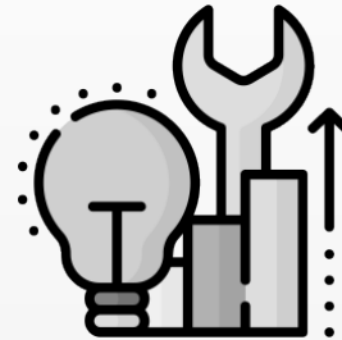
MISSION

to interrupt trajectories of radicalization-
to-violence through facilitating
community-based intervention and
expert support

MANDATE



SUPPORT
REFERRALS



CAPACITY
BUILDING

SUPPORT REFERRALS



MULTI-AGENCY SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

Wraparound

Situation Tables



SUPPORT REFERRALS



Participant



sh/ft



Wraparound
Situation Tables



Personalized
Adaptive

SUPPORT REFERRALS



SUPPORT REFERRALS



CASE STUDY



SUPPORT REFERRALS

I am now way more confident and optimistic about achieving my engineering degree because of the endless support I received. With proper direction I was able to make the correct decisions and plan my future exactly how I wanted. From meeting with advisors to planning for scholarships and grants, the program was helpful in making the journey ahead of me easier and the goals more approachable.

I was also able to combat the issues of my past with similar direction. With simple communication and support, I could address the mental health problems in my family. I was advised to take a mental health first aid course and it did wonders. All in all, I definitely am back on my feet and ready to face the future because of Shift.

CAPACITY BUILDING



CONSULTING



CRV TRAINING



RESEARCH



ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

CAPACITY BUILDING



CONSULTING

Does this person qualify for Shift support?

Advice on public health approach

Guides and Tools

Network

shift@gov.bc.ca

CAPACITY BUILDING



CRV TRAINING

1. Demystifying concepts

(radicalization, radicalization to violence, terrorism, violent extremism)

2. The Process of radicalization to violence

(Sociological experiment)

3. Public Health approach to support victims of radical networks

Shift's Model of service delivery

CAPACITY BUILDING



ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

2021 SYMPOSIUM DATES TBD

SHIFT@GOV.BC.CA

FUTURE PROJECTS



Questions?

CONTACT

program Analyst

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Child & Youth Resilience Measure-Revised (CYRM-R)

CYRM-R

To what extent do the following statements apply to you?
There are no right or wrong answers.

		Not at all [1]	A little [2]	Somewhat [3]	Quite a bit [4]	A lot [5]
1	I cooperate with people around me	1	2	3	4	5
2	Getting an education is important to me	1	2	3	4	5
3	I know how to behave in different social situations	1	2	3	4	5
4	My parent(s)/caregiver(s) really look out for me	1	2	3	4	5
5	My parent(s)/caregiver(s) know a lot about me	1	2	3	4	5
6	If I am hungry, there is enough to eat	1	2	3	4	5
7	People like to spend time with me	1	2	3	4	5
8	I talk to my family/caregiver(s) about how I feel	1	2	3	4	5
9	I feel supported by my friends	1	2	3	4	5
10	I feel that I belong/belonged at my school	1	2	3	4	5
11	My family/caregiver(s) stand by me during difficult times	1	2	3	4	5
12	My friends stand by me during difficult times	1	2	3	4	5
13	I am treated fairly in my community	1	2	3	4	5
14	I have opportunities to show others that I am becoming an adult and can act responsibly	1	2	3	4	5
15	I feel safe when I am with my family/caregiver(s)	1	2	3	4	5
16	I have opportunities to develop skills that will be useful later in life (like job skills and skills to care for others)	1	2	3	4	5
17	I enjoy my family's/caregiver's cultural and family traditions	1	2	3	4	5

For administration instructions and scoring, please refer to the accompanying manual.

When using the measure, please cite the following:

Jefferies, P., McGarrigle, L., & Ungar, M. (2018). The CYRM-R: a Rasch-validated revision of the Child and Youth Resilience Measure. *Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work*, 1-24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23761407.2018.1548403>

Child and Youth Resilience Measure (CYRM-R)

&

Adult Resilience Measure (ARM-R)

Manual 2.2
2019



Resilience
Research
Centre



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

Page 041 of 402 to/à Page 071 of 402

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Copyright

March 11, 2020 Agenda – Shift Steering Committee

#	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD
1	Welcome & Meeting Agenda	s.15
2	Update on Current & Prospective Participants Review Tracking Document & update on MS Access conversion	s.15
3	Training Activities & Financial Update	s.15
4	Break	N/A
5	6 Month Prospectus Challenges	s.15
6	National/Provincial Connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shift & OCR-GO Symposium 2019 National Security Directorate GBA+ Panel Harvard CRV Conference - North Macedonia F/P/T Working Group Anti-Hate Working Group update 	All
7	Next Steps & Questions	All

sh/ft

supporting people
for safer communities

Canada



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

/ prevention through intervention

s.15

SHIFT BC | MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

WHAT IS SHIFT?

A risk reduction and individual resilience pilot program

WHAT IS SHIFT?

A secondary prevention strategy aimed to achieve macro outcomes through micro interventions

WHAT IS SHIFT?

Voluntary for participants

Reducing barriers to and amongst
existing expert service providers
(mutual support)

WHAT IS SHIFT?

Why? There is a gap between cases where criminal charges can be laid and individuals the RCMP mandate does not cover, but who still need support and positive intervention.

Proactive vs. Reactive

MISSION

To interrupt trajectories of radicalization-to-violence through facilitating community-based intervention and expert support

Background

- Conceptualized by a multi-disciplinary team from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General based on interest in the emerging Hub model.
- PSSG received funding from Public Safety Canada's Community Resilience Fund to realize Shift
- Shift, and PSSG more broadly, actively contribute to the National Strategies surrounding our mandate and intend to share aggregate Program outcomes and best-practice with the global Community of practice.

WHAT IS RADICALIZATION TO VIOLENCE?

A process wherein a person or group takes on extreme ideas or beliefs and begins to think they should use violence to support them

Countering radicalization to violence

- CRV is an umbrella term
- Programs often focus on addressing individual or community vulnerabilities that may lead individuals to pursue violence as a means
- Countering the pull of violent extremist organizations' recruitment and influence through increasing individual resilience to their messages, including partnering with organizations that can increase digital literacy or organizations operated by former extremists, such as Life after Hate.

Why do people radicalize to violence?

- Complex reasons for each individual
- No one single profile
- Not limited to a single group, social class, religion, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, age or worldview

OUR APPROACH

What makes our
violence prevention program
so unique?

individual-level disengagement

civilian-led model

preventative
not punitive

mobilization of support

modified hub model

WHAT IS THE HUB MODEL?

Harnessing the expertise of existing local service providers to implement collaborative multi-sector intervention plans

How is the Hub Model applicable?

- Empowering vulnerable individuals
- Clearer determination of client needs
- Reduced barriers
- Better client-service provider relations
- Increased efficiency and access to resources
- Increased interagency communication and collaboration
- Hubs can be easily tailored to specific issues and communities

How Hubs Work

- Partner agencies bring cases to the table and work together to best address the needs of the individual
- Acknowledgement that complex social issues cannot be adequately tackled by one agency/organization alone
- Meet at regular intervals at frequencies keeping with volume of cases
- Each hub is unique to its community and issue

Benefits

- Individual in need is connected to resources quickly
- Individual gains access to resources they may not have known existed
- Increased interagency communication and collaboration for the betterment of the BC service landscape

Challenges

- Information sharing and privacy:
four filter approach
- Resources and funding may affect level of
partner agency participation
- Must have 'buy in' from key agencies
- Traditionally, no long term follow up after
initial contact – This is the primary reason
Shift is a 'modified' Hub.
- Participation in treatment is voluntary
- Development of empirical evaluation models

Determining success

- Evidence-based and transparent
- Commitment to maintain and inform national best-practice standards
- Member of the Canadian Practitioner's Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism (CPN-PREV).
- Drawing on the expertise from SFU criminology department as well as Monash University in Melbourne to evaluate the program and to produce best practice data.

CONTACT

program manager - Shift

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thank you
for having us

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
Policing and Security Branch
BRIEFING NOTE

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) and Director of Police Services.

ISSUE: Shift BC: Countering Radicalization to Violence (CRV)

SUMMARY:

- In 2017 PSB - in partnership with RCMP "E" Division, s.15, the VPD and SFU - successfully applied to Public Safety Canada's (PSC) Canada Centre's Community Resilience Fund for the resources to develop a 5-year pilot project (now Shift BC). Paid over five years, approximately \$1.86M has been awarded to the program from the Community Resilience Fund. Shift is now in fiscal year 3.
- The program is operational (i.e. accepting participants from Law Enforcement, Government Agencies, and trained community non-profit partners). Shift itself is civilian-led and voluntary for participants.
- Shift is a risk-reduction and individual resiliency pilot program that utilizes a secondary prevention strategy aimed at achieving macro outcomes through micro interventions by interrupting trajectories of radicalization-to-violence through facilitating community-based intervention and expert support.
- Along with its ongoing support of Public Safety Canada's (PSC) Canada Centre of Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence (Shift BC's funder), PSB co-chairs the FPT CRV working group informing the National Strategy on CRV.

BACKGROUND:

- Radicalization-to-violence is a process where a person or group takes on extreme ideas or beliefs across and *begins to think that they should use violence to support them*. These acts of violence can take place in Canada or abroad. Different people radicalize to violence for different reasons - it is not a problem facing one group, religion, ethnicity, gender identity, background, or worldview.
- Radical thinking is not a crime in itself in Canada. Sympathizing with radical thinking does not necessarily lead to violence. However, radical thinking becomes a threat to public safety when it leads an individual to engage in or support violence as a means of furthering their ideological cause.
- Shift does NOT seek to combat an individual's ideology (or *deradicalization*), as global best-practice data does not support such programs. Instead, Shift seeks to provide intervention services and therefore redirect participants' trajectories and empower participants to pursue more pro-social behaviours and individual resiliency to violent extremist rhetoric (*disengagement*).

- The intent of this program is not investigative, punitive, or to serve as a condition of peace bonds/court conditions. Rather, Shift seeks to fill a gap that currently exists between cases where criminal charges can be laid and individuals the RCMP/s.¹⁵ mandate does not cover, but where there remains an acknowledgement that support and positive intervention could empower them to disengage with or prevent further movement towards radicalization to violence, hate-motivated violence, and violent extremist rhetoric.
- In short, Shift is proactive vs. reactive by providing services and support to vulnerable individuals before they engage in criminal behaviour.
- To accomplish this, Shift has adapted the increasingly popular, evidence-based Hub Model. This model involves coordinating the development and operation of community-based Hubs of social service providers, organizations, and agencies that will harness existing local resources and expertise to provide collaborative interventions for voluntary participants.
- Shift BC also collaborates with the Ministry of Tourism, Art, and Culture Multiculturalism Branch's Anti-Hate initiatives, as well as the Provincial Hate crimes RCMP Unit and VPD Hate Crimes, as Hate-Motivated Violence and Violent Extremism can be conceived as being on a continuum or spectrum.
- Some of the continuing work of Shift's project team includes:
 - Providing training and support to Hub partners;
 - Funding/leading related research with national and academic partners;
 - Coordinating Hub meetings and facilitating lawful information sharing;
 - Negotiating Shift's referral process and policies with law enforcement agencies and other cross-jurisdictional governmental partners;
 - Outreach and communications activities;
 - Participation in the National CRV Working Group and Community of Practice;
 - Ongoing research on CRV and related best practices.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

Prepared by:

s.15

Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

s.15

Director, Witness Protection Program
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

Tom Steenvoorden,
Executive Director, Public Safety &
Policing Support
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

Brenda Butterworth-Carr;
Tr'injā Shār njit dintlāt
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director
of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
Policing and Security Branch
BRIEFING NOTE

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- The program is operational (i.e. accepting participants from Law Enforcement, Government Agencies, and trained community non-profit partners) and has a number of active participants and volume is expected to increase exponentially. The Program has had no participant drop-off.
- Shift is a risk-reduction and individual resiliency pilot program that utilizes a secondary prevention strategy aimed at achieving macro outcomes through micro interventions by interrupting trajectories of radicalization-to-violence through facilitating community-based intervention and expert support. Shift itself is civilian-led and voluntary for participants.
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 - Outreach and communications activities;
 - Participation in the National CRV Working Group and Community of Practice;
 - Ongoing research on CRV and related best practices.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

Prepared by:

s.15

Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch
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Approved by:

s.15

Director, Witness Protection Program
Policing and Security Branch
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Approved by:

Tom Steenvoorden,
Executive Director, Public Safety & Policing
Support
Policing and Security Branch
s.15; s.17

Approved by:

Brenda Butterworth-Carr;
Tr'injå Shår njit dintlät
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director
of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
POLICE SERVICES BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injā shār njit dintlāt,
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services

ISSUE:

Shift Program: CRV and Training

SUMMARY:

- Update on training and educational activities Shift BC has participated in to assist service providers and needs of program

BACKGROUND:

- Shift BC is a pilot program, funded by Public Safety Canada through the Community Resiliency Fund to counter radicalization towards violence and hate in communities across British Columbia
- Public Safety Canada has indicated portion of their federal funding that was approved in 2017 to be dedicated to the training of Shift BC members to ensure they are able to adapt to the complex needs of a changing and adapting
- The intent of this conference was to introduce the HUB model to those working in the field who may not be aware of its success and ensure the leading research into modified HUB model's and pro-social approach would be harmonized throughout BC, and Canada
- Trainings: TRAP-18, VTRA, GRIP, HCR-20, PTSD Specific Threat Assessment Training
- as

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- as

Prepared by:

s.15

Program Coordinator, Shift BC
Police Services Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

s.15

Program Manager, Shift BC
Police Services Branch

s.15; s.17

Participant #: _____

Date: _____

sh/ft

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

circle your answer

1 Don't agree at all	2	3	4	5 Agree 100%	
I cooperate with people around me	1	2	3	4	5
Getting an education is important to me	1	2	3	4	5
I know how to behave in different social situations	1	2	3	4	5
My parent(s)/caregiver(s) really look out for me	1	2	3	4	5
My parent(s)/caregiver(s) know a lot about me	1	2	3	4	5
If they I am hungry, there is enough to eat	1	2	3	4	5
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I feel secure when I am with my family/caregiver(s)	1	2	3	4	5
I have opportunities to develop skills that will be useful later in life (like job skills and skills to care for others)	1	2	3	4	5
I enjoy their family's/caregiver's cultural and family traditions	1	2	3	4	5

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
Policing and Security Branch
BRIEFING NOTE

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injà shär njit dintlät, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services

ISSUE: The BC Anti-Hate & Anti-Racism Working Group

SUMMARY:

- Disambiguation: The BC Anti-Hate & Anti-Racism Working Group (WG), The BC Hate Crimes Team (BCHCT), and the BC Integrated Hate Crimes Police Unit (IHCU) are distinct entities.
- The WG is an emerging cross-government initiative sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture's (TAC) Multiculturalism Branch and supported by PSB. The vision for the WG arose out of the renewal process of the BCHCT in Q1 of 2019.
- The WG represents a renewed commitment to this collaboration and a broadening of scope to encapsulate a response to hate incidences in the province beyond the narrow definition of "Hate Crime" and the purview of law enforcement, including opportunities for future strategic collaboration, efficient operations and response protocols, and streamlined communication mechanisms.
- The WG is expected to complement the November 2019 announcement of "Resilience BC", and Anti-Racism Network that will be allotted \$540,000 annually to revitalize and replace the previously existing OARH (Organizing Against Racism and Hate) program, which was established in 2001 to support a coordinated community approach to counter racism and hate activity in B.C. OARH members are leaders in anti-racism and multiculturalism work around the province. There are currently 36 communities listed as OARH members in BC.
- PSB sits on both the BCHCT and the WG and is a key stakeholder and contributor to both. PSB will continue to sit on both the BCHCT and the WG until such a time as TAC retires the BCHCT in favour of the WG, if that transpires. The possibility of PSB taking over the BCHCT at TAC's request was decided against in a Decision Note in October 2019 (Cliff #558657).

BACKGROUND:

- The BCHCT was originally created in 1996, but regular meetings and outputs lapsed in 2015. In late 2018, the IHCU requested renewed government attention and an updated ToR (leading to the creation of the WG).

- The WG's vision is, "a British Columbia free from racism and hate" and its mandate is, "to enhance coordination across the Government of British Columbia, with communities, law enforcement agencies and other levels of government, including the federal government, in relation to incidents motivated by hate, based on race, religion, sexual orientation, place of origin, ethnicity, disability, gender, age, or any other identifiable characteristic."
- Organizations currently at the WG table are as follows:
Advanced Education and Skills Training; Attorney General; Canada Heritage (Federal); Children & Family Development; Education; Gender Equity Office; Health; Human Rights Commission; Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; Jobs, Trade and Technology; Mental Health and Addictions; Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSB & EMBC); Social Development and Poverty Reduction.
- The WG's proposed activities include:
Developing a coordinated cross-government Response Protocol; Seeking resources to conduct and/or lead public, police, or government staff education initiatives; Collecting statistics on alleged Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents; External stakeholder consultations with a range of community, minority, and Indigenous groups; Funding research on Hate Activity and Hate Crime in the Province.
- A new Director of the Multiculturalism Branch (TAC) has been hired (January 2020) to lead the Province's anti-hate initiatives, including the WG.
- The WG has had three all-member meetings, with a fourth scheduled for 20/02/20. The WG still has not finalized its scope or outcomes/deliverables.
- To date, PSB staff have contributed significantly to TAC's efforts in developing the WG and the joint BCHCT renewal process, including providing expertise where relevant, providing draft copies and examples of existing response protocols, BNs, participating in a diverse range of meetings, and acting as a liaison between stakeholders, including the RCMP Provincial Hate Crimes Unit and VPD Hate Crimes.
- Neither the WG nor BCHCT investigate or prosecute hate crimes or analyze individual cases.
- Police-reported hate crimes refer to criminal incidents that are found to have been motivated by hatred towards an identifiable group. An incident may be against a person or property, and may target race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, language, sex, age, mental or physical disability or other factors.
- There are four specific offences listed as hate propaganda offences or hate crimes in the *Criminal Code of Canada*: (1) advocating genocide, (2) public incitement of

hatred, (3) willful promotion of hatred, and (4) mischief motivated by hate in relation to property used by an identifiable group.

- Statistics on reported hate crimes are continuing to trend upward in BC.
- After steady but relatively small increases since 2014, police-reported hate crime in Canada rose sharply in 2017, up 47% to 2,073 over the previous year, and largely the result of an increase in hate-related property crimes, such as graffiti and vandalism.
- TAC's Multiculturalism Branch has also recently funded a comprehensive report from Simon Fraser University. The Report outlines a number of potential strategies for creative and innovative responses to Hate incidences.
- The Province is committed to ensuring that police services are delivered in a manner that is equitable and without discrimination. The ministry has developed provincial standards on the promotion of unbiased policing, available online on the government website at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/policing-standards>

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Tourism, Arts, and Culture
- Attorney General

Prepared by:

s.15

Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

s.15

Director, Witness Protection
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

Tom Steenvoorden
Executive Director
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injå shär njit
dintlät,
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of
Police Services
250 387-1100

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
Policing and Security Branch
BRIEFING NOTE

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injā shär njit dintlät, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services

ISSUE: Countering Radicalization to Violence (CRV) Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Working Group

SUMMARY:

- Policing and Security Branch (PSB) co-chairs the FPT Working Group on CRV, which was established by Public Safety Canada (PSC) in 2016. The current co-chair is the Executive Director of Public Safety Policing Support Units (PSB)
- A key initial initiative of this working group was to ensure provincial/territorial input on the National Strategy on CRV, which was released in December 2018.

BACKGROUND:

- Radicalization to violence is a process where a person or group takes on extreme ideas or beliefs and begins to think that they should use violence to support them. These acts of violence can take place in Canada or in other countries. Different people radicalize to violence for different reasons - it is not a problem unique to one religion, ethnicity, socio-economic background, gender identity or worldview.
- Radical thought is not a crime in itself. Sympathizing with radical thinking does not necessarily lead to violence or terrorist action. However, radical ideology becomes a threat to public safety when it leads an individual to engage in violence as a means of furthering their political, ideological, or religious agenda.
- Canada has experienced several violent attacks by radicalized individuals. While violent attacks are the most extreme result of radicalization to violence, Canadians engage in a range of non-violent behaviours, both offline and online, in support of violent extremism:
 - Funding violent extremist or terrorist groups.
 - Spreading messages and narratives that incite violence and hatred.
 - Recruiting individuals to become part of a violent extremist or terrorist group.
 - Travelling to join violent extremists or terrorist groups abroad.
 - Expressing support for terrorist groups
- To better respond to this emerging issue, PSC established the FPT Working Group on CRV in May 2016. British Columbia is currently the co-chair of this FPT CRV Working Group, which has:

- Supported the establishment of the Canada Centre and its governing structures;
 - Provided information on local level programs and best-practices
 - Presented on BC's CRV efforts on the monthly conference calls; and
 - Recommended candidates to serve on the Community Resilience Fund Steering Committee.
- The FPT Working Group on CRV is coordinated by PSC's Canada Centre for Community Engagement and the Prevention of Violence (Canada Centre). The Canada Centre provides national leadership on Canada's efforts to prevent radicalization to violence and works with all levels of governments, not-for-profit organizations, communities, youth, frontline practitioners, academia, law enforcement, and international organizations. Some of the Canada Centre's activities include:
 - Developing and implementing a National Strategy on CRV, which prioritizes action areas for addressing radicalization to violence in Canada;
 - Supporting intervention efforts through funding, research, policy and programming tailored to the Canadian context (including Shift BC);
 - Working with partners to better measure and evaluate strategies for CRV; and
 - Engaging with groups across diverse sectors to foster relationships and create opportunities for collaboration.
 - The Canada Centre does not manage, or advise on, individual cases.
 - The Canada Centre has funded the ShiftBC pilot (formerly BCCRVO), a PSSG CRV initiative in 2017, through 2022 with its Community Resilience Fund.
 - An in-person national forum was scheduled to be held by the CRV working group in BC sometime in the spring, but was canceled due to lack of engagement from other P/Ts.
 - BC is acknowledged by PS as a National Leader in this area and remains the only Provincial Government with a functioning CRV Program (note: other provinces have CRV Programs, but they are not provincially governed).

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

Prepared by:

s.15

Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

s.15

Director, Witness Protection
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

Tom Steenvoorden

Approved by:

Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injà shär njit dintlät,

Cliff:
Date Prepared: February 10, 2020

Executive Director
Policing and Security Branch
s.15; s.17

Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police
Services
250 387-1100

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
Policing and Security Branch
BRIEFING NOTE

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injà shär njit dintlät, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services

ISSUE: Shift BC: Countering Radicalization to Violence (CRV)

SUMMARY:

- In 2017 PSB - in partnership with RCMP "E" Division, s.15 the VPD and SFU - successfully applied to Public Safety Canada's (PSC) Canada Centre's Community Resilience Fund for the resources to develop a 5-year pilot project (now Shift BC). Paid over five years, approximately \$1.86M has been awarded to the program from the Community Resilience Fund. Shift is now in fiscal year 3.
- The program is operational (i.e. accepting participants from Law Enforcement, Government Agencies, and trained community non-profit partners) and has a number of active participants and volume is expected to increase exponentially. The Program has had no participant drop-off.
- Shift is a risk-reduction and individual resiliency pilot program that utilizes a secondary prevention strategy aimed at achieving macro outcomes through micro interventions by interrupting trajectories of radicalization-to-violence through facilitating community-based intervention and expert support. Shift itself is civilian-led and voluntary for participants.
- Along with its ongoing support of Public Safety Canada's (PSC) Canada Centre of Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence (Shift BC's funder), PSB co-chairs the FPT CRV working group informing the National Strategy on CRV.

BACKGROUND:

- Radicalization-to-violence is a process where a person or group takes on extreme ideas or beliefs across and *begins to think that they should use violence to support them*. These acts of violence can take place in Canada or abroad. Different people radicalize to violence for different reasons - it is not a problem facing one group, religion, ethnicity, gender identity, background, or worldview.
- Radical thinking is not a crime in itself in Canada. Sympathizing with radical thinking does not necessarily lead to violence. However, radical thinking becomes a threat to public safety when it leads an individual to engage in or support violence as a means of furthering their ideological cause.
- Shift does NOT seek to combat an individual's ideology (or *deradicalization*), as global best-practice data does not support such programs. Instead, Shift seeks to provide intervention services and therefore redirect participants' trajectories and empower participants to pursue more pro-social behaviours and individual resiliency to violent extremist rhetoric (*disengagement*).

- The intent of this program is not investigative, punitive, or to serve as a condition of peace bonds/court conditions. Rather, Shift seeks to fill a gap that currently exists between cases where criminal charges can be laid and individuals the RCMP's s.15(1) mandate does not cover, but where there remains an acknowledgement that support and positive intervention could empower them to disengage with or prevent further movement towards radicalization to violence, hate-motivated violence, and violent extremist rhetoric.
- In short, Shift is proactive vs. reactive by providing services and support to vulnerable individuals before they engage in criminal behaviour.
- To accomplish this, Shift has adapted the increasingly popular, evidence-based Hub Model. This model involves coordinating the development and operation of community-based Hubs of social service providers, organizations, and agencies that will harness existing local resources and expertise to provide collaborative interventions for voluntary participants.
- Shift BC also collaborates with the Ministry of Tourism, Art, and Culture Multiculturalism Branch's Anti-Hate initiatives, as well as the Provincial Hate crimes RCMP Unit and VPD Hate Crimes, as Hate-Motivated Violence and Violent Extremism can be conceived as being on a continuum or spectrum.
- Some of the continuing work of Shift's project team includes:
 - Providing training and support to Hub partners;
 - Funding/leading related research with national and academic partners;
 - Coordinating Hub meetings and facilitating lawful information sharing;
 - Negotiating Shift's referral process and policies with law enforcement agencies and other cross-jurisdictional governmental partners;
 - Outreach and communications activities;
 - Participation in the National CRV Working Group and Community of Practice;
 - Ongoing research on CRV and related best practices.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

Prepared by:

s.15

Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved January 30, 2020 by:

s.15

Director, Witness Protection Program
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved January 30, 2020 by:

Tom Steenvoorden,
Executive Director, Public Safety & Policing
Support
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

ID: 9032, Title: BN Binder Update - Shift BC (CRV)**Approval Route:** PM > Director > ED > ADM**Assigned To:** s.15**Rush:****Category:** Briefing Note - Information**Signature:** Assistant Deputy

s.15

No

Note

Minister

Branch: Policing and Security Branch **Other Number:** 562872 **Link:****Due Date:** 2020-02-04 **Date Completed:** 2020-02-10 **Date Initiated:** 2020-01-27

Title	Comments	Date
Power, Tom B PSSG:EX [Colleague of Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX] has closed this item for the following reason: Completed.		2020-02-10 3:23:47 PM
Butterworth-Carr, Brenda PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX for action	Approved. B	2020-02-10 2:59:23 PM
Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX [Colleague of PSB Correspondence and BNs] forwarded an eApprovals item to Butterworth-Carr, Brenda PSSG:EX for action	Hi Brenda, for your review and approval please. Thanks! Jenn	2020-01-30 4:15:48 PM
Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to PSB Correspondence and BNs for action	Hi, this is ready for ADM review. Thank you - Cat	2020-01-30 2:21:14 PM
Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX for action	Approved	2020-01-30 1:21:51 PM
s.15 [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX for action	BN updated as requested.	2020-01-30 12:19:25 PM
s.15 added a document: 200127_CRV_BN.docx		2020-01-30 12:18:54 PM
s.15 deleted a document: 200127_CRV_BN.docx		2020-01-30 12:18:45 PM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to s.15 for action	s.15 Please see Tom's request. Please add a short para to that effect and add that a few more are shortly expected from whichever partners. Thanks, s.15	2020-01-30 11:36:01 AM
Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to s.15 PSSG:EX for action	s.15 can we please add a para that speaks to the fact that we have individuals in the program. I believe this will be important for the ADM to know for future reference. Thanks	2020-01-30 11:31:39 AM
Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX for action	Hi Tom, please see attached for your review. Thank you - Cat	2020-01-28 2:01:44 PM
Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX made some changes to this item's details		2020-01-28 1:57:50 PM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX for action	Hi Cat: For Tom's review and approval please. Thanks, s.15	2020-01-27 3:52:48 PM
s.15 [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to s.15 PSSG:EX for action	As per email chain, edits are available in the "show markup" option. When approved, this can be sent to Cat or s.15 for CLIFF entry. Thanks!	2020-01-27 2:18:15 PM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] did not approve the item and forwarded it to s.15 for action	s.15 - please see my comment. Thanks	2020-01-27 1:26:28 PM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] added a comment	s.15 - looks great. Unless I missed it, I don't see the original BN as well, as Tom wanted to see both copies (edited and clean copy). Could you please attach as well. s.15 BN Binder 2020 - Shift BC's update	2020-01-27 1:24:59 PM

Title	Comments	Date
s.15 item to s.15	[Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals PSSG:EX for action	2020-01-27 12:16:38 PM
s.15	created this item	2020-01-27 12:15:35 PM
s.15 200127_CRV_BN.docx	added a document:	2020-01-27 12:15:35 PM

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
Policing and Security Branch
BRIEFING NOTE

PURPOSE: INFORMATION for Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injà shär njit dintlät,
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services

ISSUE: Update on the BC Anti-Hate & Anti-Racism Working Group

SUMMARY:

- Disambiguation: The BC Anti-Hate & Anti-Racism Working Group (WG), The BC Hate Crimes Team (BCHCT), and the BC Integrated Hate Crimes Police Unit (IHCU) are distinct entities.
- The WG is an emerging cross-government initiative sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture's (TAC) Multiculturalism Branch and supported by PSB. The vision for the WG arose out of the renewal process of the BCHCT in Q1 of 2019.
- The WG represents a renewed commitment to this collaboration and a broadening of scope to encapsulate a response to hate incidences in the province beyond the narrow definition of "Hate Crime" and the purview of law enforcement, including opportunities for future strategic collaboration, efficient operations and response protocols, and streamlined communication mechanisms.
- The WG is expected to complement the November 2019 announcement of "Resilience BC", an Anti-Racism Network that will be allotted \$540,000 annually to revitalize and replace the previously existing Organizing Against Racism and Hate (OARH) program, which was established in 2001 to support a coordinated community approach to counter racism and hate activity in BC. OARH members are leaders in anti-racism and multiculturalism work around the province. There are currently 36 communities listed as OARH members in BC.
- PSB sits on both the BCHCT and the WG and is a key stakeholder and contributor to both. PSB will continue to sit on both the BCHCT and the WG until such a time as TAC retires the BCHCT in favour of the WG, if that transpires. The possibility of PSB taking over the BCHCT at TAC's request was decided against in a decision note in October 2019 (reference: 558657).

BACKGROUND:

- The BCHCT was originally created in 1996, but regular meetings and outputs lapsed in 2015. In late 2018, the IHCU requested renewed government attention and an updated ToR (leading to the creation of the WG).

- The WG's vision is, "a British Columbia free from racism and hate" and its mandate is, "to enhance coordination across the Government of British Columbia, with communities, law enforcement agencies and other levels of government, including the federal government, in relation to incidents motivated by hate, based on race, religion, sexual orientation, place of origin, ethnicity, disability, gender, age, or any other identifiable characteristic."
- Organizations currently at the WG table are as follows:
 - Advanced Education and Skills Training;
 - Attorney General;
 - Canada Heritage (Federal);
 - Children & Family Development;
 - Education;
 - Gender Equity Office;
 - Health; Human Rights Commission;
 - Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation;
 - Jobs, Trade and Technology;
 - Mental Health and Addictions;
 - Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSB & EMBC); and
 - Social Development and Poverty Reduction.
- The WG's proposed activities include:
 - Developing a coordinated cross-government response protocol;
 - Seeking resources to conduct and/or lead public, police, or government staff education initiatives;
 - Collecting statistics on alleged hate crimes and hate incidents;
 - External stakeholder consultations with a range of community, minority, and Indigenous groups; and
 - Funding research on hate activity and hate crime in the province.
- A new Director of the Multiculturalism Branch (TAC) has been hired (January 2020) to lead the Province's anti-hate initiatives, including the WG.
- The WG has had three all-member meetings, with a fourth scheduled for 20/02/20. The WG still has not finalized its scope or outcomes/deliverables.
- To date, PSB staff have contributed significantly to TAC's efforts in developing the WG and the joint BCHCT renewal process, including providing expertise where relevant, providing draft copies and examples of existing response protocols, BNs, participating in a diverse range of meetings, and acting as a liaison between stakeholders, including the RCMP Provincial Hate Crimes Unit and VPD Hate Crimes.
- Neither the WG nor BCHCT investigate or prosecute hate crimes or analyze individual cases.

- Police-reported hate crimes refer to criminal incidents that are found to have been motivated by hatred towards an identifiable group. An incident may be against a person or property, and may target race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, language, sex, age, mental or physical disability or other factors.
- There are four specific offences listed as hate propaganda offences or hate crimes in the *Criminal Code of Canada*: (1) advocating genocide, (2) public incitement of hatred, (3) willful promotion of hatred, and (4) mischief motivated by hate in relation to property used by an identifiable group.
- Statistics on reported hate crimes are continuing to trend upward in BC.
- After steady but relatively small increases since 2014, police-reported hate crime in Canada rose sharply in 2017, up 47% to 2,073 over the previous year, and largely the result of an increase in hate-related property crimes, such as graffiti and vandalism.
- TAC's Multiculturalism Branch has also recently funded a comprehensive report from Simon Fraser University. The Report outlines a number of potential strategies for creative and innovative responses to hate incidences.
- The Province is committed to ensuring that police services are delivered in a manner that is equitable and without discrimination. The ministry has developed provincial standards on the promotion of unbiased policing, available online on the government website at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/policing-standards>.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Tourism, Arts, and Culture
- Attorney General

Prepared by:

s.15

Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

s.15

Director, Witness Protection
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved February 10, 2020 by:

Tom Steenvoorden
Executive Director
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

ID: 9714, Title: ADM Binder - Section 13 : Note 71 - Update on the Anti-Hate Anti-Racism WG (prev Hate Crimes Team)

Approval Route: Director > ED > ADM

Assigned To: Thomas, Jennifer
PSSG:EX

Rush:
No

Category: Briefing Note -
Information Note

Signature: Assistant Deputy
Minister

Branch: Policing and Security Branch **Other Number:** 563299 **Link:**

Due Date: 2020-02-12 **Date Completed:** N/A **Date Initiated:** 2020-02-10

Title	Comments	Date
Butterworth-Carr, Brenda PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX for action	Approved. B	2020-02-17 10:48:41 AM
Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Butterworth-Carr, Brenda PSSG:EX for action	Hi Brenda, for your review and approval please. Thanks! Jenn	2020-02-11 12:00:03 PM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX [Colleague of Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX] forwarded an eApprovals item to Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX for action	Hi Jenn, The attached ADM Binder BN (13 : 71) has been approved by Tom Steenvoorden and is being forwarded to you for further action. Thank you, s.15	2020-02-11 11:22:09 AM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX added a document: 71 - 563299 - BC Anti-Hate Anti-Racism Working Group.docx		2020-02-11 11:20:54 AM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX made some changes to this item's details		2020-02-11 11:20:43 AM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX made some changes to this item's details		2020-02-11 11:19:02 AM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX deleted a document: 200210 BC Anti-Hate Anti-Racism Working Group ADM Binder Update.docx	formatted version to be uploaded	2020-02-11 11:17:44 AM
Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX for action	Approved	2020-02-10 3:10:39 PM
s.15 [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX for action	Hi Tom, I have CLIFF'd the BN and forwarded the number for Cat's tracking. For your further review and approval.	2020-02-10 1:20:46 PM
s.15 [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Davis, Brittany for action	Changes made and approved via email. Please CLIFF and send on to ED	2020-02-10 12:40:59 PM
s.15 added a document: 200210 BC Anti-Hate Anti-Racism Working Group ADM Binder Update.docx		2020-02-10 12:40:21 PM
s.15 deleted a document: 200210 BC Anti-Hate Anti-Racism Working Group ADM Binder Update.docx		2020-02-10 12:40:01 PM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] did not approve the item and forwarded it to Reid, s.15 for action	Looks good. I have made a few minor changes. Please amend and re-submit. Thanks, s.15	2020-02-10 9:48:15 AM
s.15 added a document: 200210 BC Anti-Hate Anti-Racism Working Group ADM Binder Update.docx		2020-02-10 1:22:04 AM
s.15 created this item	For your review and approval. Needs to be Cliffed today to be on schedule. Thanks	2020-02-10 1:22:03 AM
s.15 has created a new eApprovals item and assigned it to s.15 PSSG:EX		2020-02-10 1:22:03 AM

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
Policing and Security Branch
BRIEFING NOTE

PURPOSE: INFORMATION for Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injà shär njit dintlät, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services

ISSUE: Countering Radicalization to Violence (CRV) Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Working Group

SUMMARY:

- Policing and Security Branch (PSB) co-chairs the FPT Working Group on CRV, which was established by Public Safety Canada (PSC) in 2016. The current co-chair is the Executive Director of Public Safety Policing Support Units (PSB).
- A key initial initiative of this working group was to ensure provincial/territorial input on the National Strategy on CRV, which was released in December 2018.

BACKGROUND:

- Radicalization to violence is a process where a person or group takes on extreme ideas or beliefs and begins to think that they should use violence to support them. These acts of violence can take place in Canada or in other countries. Different people radicalize to violence for different reasons - it is not a problem unique to one religion, ethnicity, socio-economic background, gender identity or worldview.
- Radical thought is not a crime in itself. Sympathizing with radical thinking does not necessarily lead to violence or terrorist action. However, radical ideology becomes a threat to public safety when it leads an individual to engage in violence as a means of furthering their political, ideological or religious agenda.
- Canada has experienced several violent attacks by radicalized individuals. While violent attacks are the most extreme result of radicalization to violence, Canadians engage in a range of non-violent behaviours, both offline and online, in support of violent extremism:
 - Funding violent extremist or terrorist groups;
 - Spreading messages and narratives that incite violence and hatred;
 - Recruiting individuals to become part of a violent extremist or terrorist group;
 - Travelling to join violent extremists or terrorist groups abroad; and/or
 - Expressing support for terrorist groups.
- To better respond to this emerging issue, PSC established the FPT Working Group on CRV in May 2016. British Columbia is currently the co-chair of this FPT CRV Working Group, which has:
 - Supported the establishment of the Canada Centre and its governing structures;
 - Provided information on local level programs and best-practices;
 - Presented on BC's CRV efforts on the monthly conference calls; and

- Recommended candidates to serve on the Community Resilience Fund Steering Committee.
- The FPT Working Group on CRV is coordinated by PSC's Canada Centre for Community Engagement and the Prevention of Violence (Canada Centre). The Canada Centre provides national leadership on Canada's efforts to prevent radicalization to violence and works with all levels of governments, not-for-profit organizations, communities, youth, frontline practitioners, academia, law enforcement and international organizations. Some of the Canada Centre's activities include:
 - Developing and implementing a National Strategy on CRV, which prioritizes action areas for addressing radicalization to violence in Canada;
 - Supporting intervention efforts through funding, research, policy and programming tailored to the Canadian context (including Shift BC);
 - Working with partners to better measure and evaluate strategies for CRV; and
 - Engaging with groups across diverse sectors to foster relationships and create opportunities for collaboration.
- The Canada Centre does not manage, or advise on, individual cases.
- The Canada Centre has funded the ShiftBC pilot (formerly BCCRVO), a PSSG CRV initiative in 2017, through 2022 with its Community Resilience Fund.
- An in-person national forum was scheduled to be held by the CRV working group in BC sometime in the spring, but was canceled due to lack of engagement from other P/Ts.
- BC is acknowledged by PS as a National Leader in this area and remains the only Provincial Government with a functioning CRV Program (note: other provinces have CRV Programs, but they are not provincially governed).

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

Prepared by:
s.15
Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch
s.15; s.17

Approved February 10, 2020 by:
s.15
Director, Witness Protection
Policing and Security Branch
s.15; s.17

Approved February 10, 2020 by:
Tom Steenvoorden
Executive Director
Policing and Security Branch
s.15; s.17

ID: 9715, Title: ADM Binder BN - CRV FPT WG - Section 13 : Note 76**Approval Route:** Director - ED - ADM**Assigned To:** Thomas, Jennifer
PSSG:EX**Rush:**
No**Category:** Briefing Note - Information
Note**Signature:** Executive
Director**Branch:** Policing and Security Branch **Other Number:** 563298 **Link:****Due Date:** 2020-02-12 **Date Completed:** N/A **Date Initiated:** 2020-02-10

Title	Comments	Date
Butterworth-Carr, Brenda PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX for action	Approved. B	2020-02-17 10:51:16 AM
Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Butterworth-Carr, Brenda PSSG:EX for action	Hi Brenda, for your review and approval please. Thanks! Jenn	2020-02-11 11:05:07 AM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX [Colleague of Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX] forwarded an eApprovals item to Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX for action	Hi Jenn, The attached ADM Binder BN (13 : 76) has been approved by Tom Steenvoorden and is being forwarded to you for further action. Thank you, s.15	2020-02-11 10:45:37 AM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX added a document: 76 - 563298 - CRV FPT WG.docx		2020-02-11 10:44:30 AM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX deleted a document: 200210 FPT WG CRV BN.docx	formatted version to be uploaded.	2020-02-11 10:44:27 AM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX made some changes to this item's details		2020-02-11 10:44:12 AM
Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX for action	Approved	2020-02-10 3:13:11 PM
s.15 [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX for action	Hi Tom, I have CLIFF'd the BN and forwarded the number for Cat's tracking. For your further review and approval.	2020-02-10 1:12:26 PM
s.15 s.15 [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to s.15 for action	Changes made as requested, ready to be Cliffed and forwarded to ED.	2020-02-10 12:43:35 PM
s.15 added a document: 200210 FPT WG CRV BN.docx		2020-02-10 12:42:45 PM
s.15 deleted a document: 200210 FPT WG CRV BN.docx		2020-02-10 12:42:28 PM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] did not approve the item and forwarded it to Reid, s.15 for action	s.15 : Please make minor changes	2020-02-10 10:10:25 AM
s.15 has created a new eApprovals item and assigned it to s.15 PSSG:EX		2020-02-10 2:04:51 AM
s.15 added a document: 200210 FPT WG CRV BN.docx		2020-02-10 2:04:51 AM
s.15 created this item	For your review and approval, needs to be Cliffed Monday to be on schedule	2020-02-10 2:04:51 AM

sh/ft

supporting people
for safer communities

Canada



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

WHAT IS SHIFT?

A risk reduction and individual resilience pilot program

WHAT IS SHIFT?

A secondary prevention strategy aimed to achieve macro outcomes through micro interventions

WHAT IS SHIFT?

Voluntary for participants

Reducing barriers to and amongst
existing expert service providers
(mutual support)

WHAT IS SHIFT?

Why?

A) There is a gap between cases where criminal charges can be laid and individuals who need support the enforcement and security does not cover.

B) Need for an individual-level tailored approach

MISSION

To interrupt trajectories of radicalization-to-violence through facilitating community-based intervention and expert support

Why do people radicalize to violence?

- Complex reasons for each individual
- No one single profile
- Not limited to a single group, social class, religion, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, age or worldview

OUR APPROACH

What makes our
violence prevention program
so unique?

individual-level disengagement

civilian-led model

preventative
not punitive

mobilization of support

modified hub model

WHAT IS THE HUB MODEL?

Harnessing the expertise of existing local service providers to implement collaborative multi-sector intervention plans

How is the Hub Model applicable?

- Empowering vulnerable individuals
- Clearer determination of client needs
- Reduced barriers
- Better client-service provider relations
- Increased efficiency and access to resources
- Increased interagency communication and collaboration
- Hubs can be easily tailored to specific issues and communities

How Hubs Work

- Partner agencies bring cases to the table and work together to best address the needs of the individual
- Acknowledgement that complex social issues cannot be adequately tackled by one agency/organization alone
- Meet at regular intervals at frequencies keeping with volume of cases
- Each hub is unique to its community and issue

Benefits

- Individual in need is connected to resources quickly
- Individual gains access to resources they may not have known existed
- Increased interagency communication and collaboration for the betterment of the BC service landscape

Commonly-cited disengagement factors:

- **Disillusionment with the group** (Altier, Boyle, Shortland and Horgan, 2017; Barelle, 2015; Bubolz & Simi 2015; Gjelsvik & Bjørgo 2012; Horgan 2009; Horgan, Atlier, Shortland & Taylor, 2017; Hwang, 2017; Gadd 2006; Jensen, James, & Yates 2019; Reiners 2011)
- **Personal factors** (Bjørgo 2011; Bjørgo & Carlsson 2005; Fergusson Burgess and Hollywood, 2013; Gadd, 2006; Horgan 2009; Hwang 2017; Jensen et al., 2019; Kimmel 2007; Reiners, 2011; Simi et al., 2019), **this includes but is not limited to becoming a parent and finding a significant other.**
- However, just as socialization into a radicalized group is complex, so is disengagement.

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(Ferguson et al.,
2013; Jensen et al., 2019).”

As such, it is commonly accepted that programs that counter radicalization to violence (CRV), should be flexible enough to deal with the different and unique needs of individuals disengaging.

Determining success

- Evidence-based and transparent
- Commitment to maintain and inform national best-practice standards
- While GBA+ undoubtedly has the potential to improve the ability of national security practitioners to demonstrate accountability, validity, and to pursue effective policies, I would argue that we have to go beyond this framework and ensure that National Security actors are creating programs, policies, and intelligence that fully reflect, encompass, and address the diversity of the Canadian population it seeks to protect.



s.15



SHIFT BC | MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
Policing and Security Branch
BRIEFING NOTE

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injā Shār njit dintlāt
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch

ISSUE: Positive feedback results after modifying strategy in Shift BC-delivered training

SUMMARY:

- As of Q4 in fiscal 2019/2020, Shift's CRV training has been rolled out to partners (including other Ministries' staff, situation tables, NGOs, etc.).
- The standardized training ensures our Shift hub partners are able to engage meaningfully and more confidently with our participants, as well as reducing anxiety and/or stigma around the "radicalization" label.
- Shift has been developing an assessment/feedback tool with the PSA to ensure the training is accountable and meets trainees' needs.
- Due to COVID-19, the scheduled training has been reworked to be delivered virtually. The virtual delivery coincided with the feedback survey rollout.
- Feedback survey shows positive results, strong engagement, and partner/practitioner appetite for the subject matter.
- Shift expects this training to better the service landscape of BC, as well as strengthen its own operations.

BACKGROUND:

- Physical limitations and COVID-19 disrupted the delivery of CRV training to community service providers.
- Training materials were modified for online delivery.
- Working with the PSA's Corporate Management Services Branch, a feedback survey was sent out to participants post-training.
- Feedback is largely positive.
- Training schedule remains as is without cancellations and outlook for increasing participation and numbers is positive.
- Key highlights from feedback:
 - 87% surveyed found the information presented useful;
 - 89% surveyed would recommend this training to their colleagues;
 - 86% surveyed found online platform to be adequate for the needs of the training
 - Zero participants either disagreed or strongly disagreed with any statements in the survey
- Report of survey results is attached (see Appendix A)

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

Prepared by:

s.15

Program Analyst, Shift BC
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved May 1, 2020 by:

s.15

Program Manager, Shift BC
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved May 4, 2020 by:

s.15

Director, Witness Protection
Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Approved by:

Tom Steenvoorden

Executive Director

Public Safety and Policing Support

Policing and Security Branch

s.15; s.17

Attachment(s)

Appendix A: Report on training feedback survey

APPENDIX A:

Attendee Background



Overall training

■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

Participant was engaged and interested throughout the presentation



Training length allowed adequate coverage of the material being presented



Found Zoom platform to be adequate for the needs of the online training being presented



If asked, I would recommend this training to other colleagues



Content

The visual aids used in the presentation
were effective



Information presented in the training
was useful



The presentation was well structured
and flowed logically



■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

Presenter

Answered Participants' questions effectively



Allowed adequate time for discussion



Seemed knowledgeable about the topics
being discussed



Explained concepts clearly



■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

Qualitative Highlights

- Most participants “enjoyed” the training.
- Appreciated the information learned through the exchange of ideas and discussions.
- Participants who had no background on the topic complimented the quality of the introduction to the topic and the hub model.
- Found Behaviour Barometer tool and the use of visuals in the presentation effective.
- Recognized the Government’s strategy in using the hub model. In particular, the cooperation of service providers.
- More time was needed for discussion and Q&A.

ID: 13179, Title: IBN - Shift BC Training Innovation**Approval Route:** Drafter>Mgr>Dir>ED>CC>ADM**Assigned To:** Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX
Rush: No
Category: Briefing Note - Information Note**Signature:** Assistant Deputy Minister**Branch:** Policing and Security Branch **Other Number:** **Link:****Due Date:** 2020-05-30 **Date Completed:** N/A **Date Initiated:** 2020-05-01

Title	Comments	Date
Butterworth-Carr, Brenda PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX for action	Approved. Great information and I appreciate the update. B	2020-05-13 11:49:01 AM
Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Butterworth-Carr, Brenda PSSG:EX for action	Hi Brenda, for your review and approval please. Thanks, Jenn	2020-05-13 9:24:57 AM
Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX deleted a document: 03 ADM IBN - Template.docx		2020-05-13 9:18:34 AM
Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX for action	Hi Jenn, please see attached for ADM review. Thank you - Cat	2020-05-13 9:02:22 AM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX for action	Cat, the section has been added to the document along with the details it requires. Thank you - s.15	2020-05-12 3:39:27 PM
Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to s.15 PSSG:EX for action	Hi s.15 forwarding back to you as we missed the new 'Indigenous Peoples Considerations' section on this IBN. Template has been attached, please add this section and send back to me to have processed for ADM review ASAP. Thank you! - Cat	2020-05-11 3:09:08 PM
Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX for action	Hi Cat, over to you as discussed. Thanks! Jenn	2020-05-11 12:31:57 PM
Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX added a document: 03 ADM IBN - Template.docx		2020-05-11 12:28:42 PM
Sylvén, Les PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX for action	Thank you, Les	2020-05-11 12:25:12 PM
Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Sylvén, Les PSSG:EX for action	Hi Les, please see attached for your review. Once approved, please send directly to Jennifer Thomas to process for ADM review. Thank you - Cat	2020-05-07 10:06:01 AM
Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX for action	Cat, this IBN is approved, can you please add Les' signature block as the IBN needs to go through him before BBC. Thanks	2020-05-06 3:38:43 PM
s.15 [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX for action	Additions made as requested, more background information added. Thank you!	2020-05-06 1:47:26 PM
s.15 added a document: 567383 - IBN - Shift BC Training Results and Innovation.docx		2020-05-06 1:46:41 PM
s.15 deleted a document: 567383 - IBN - Shift BC Training Results.docx		2020-05-06 1:46:32 PM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to s.15 for action	Amended. Please let me know of any other changes :)	2020-05-05 12:56:59 PM

Title	Comments	Date
s.15 [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Abu-Haltam, Sa'ed PSSG:EX for action	Please see e 15 comments and send back to me with changes. Thanks!	2020-05-05 10:24:06 AM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] did not approve the item and forwarded it to s.15 s.15 for action	s.15 ... Tom likes the BN but would like some intro paras as to what SHIFT is all about (to re-fresh Les and Brenda) and a bit more background re the training. Thanks, e 1	2020-05-05 10:02:28 AM
Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to s.15 e 1 PSSG:EX for action	e 1 as discussed. Great IBN but as it is going to BBC and Les we will need to add context and b/g on the Shift program. Thanks	2020-05-05 9:54:02 AM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX [Colleague of Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX] forwarded an eApprovals item to Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG:EX for action	Hi Tom, The attached ADM IBN has been approved by e 1 Young and is being forwarded to you for your approval. Thank you, e 15	2020-05-04 1:42:12 PM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX added a document: 567383 - IBN - Shift BC Training Results.docx		2020-05-04 1:39:45 PM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX deleted a document: 567383 - IBN - Shift BC Training Results.docx		2020-05-04 1:33:39 PM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX added a document: 567383 - IBN - Shift BC Training Results - APPENDIX A.docx		2020-05-04 1:26:29 PM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX added a document: 567383 - IBN - Shift BC Training Results.docx		2020-05-04 1:26:25 PM
Dean, Danielle PSSG:EX deleted a document: 200501 - IBN - Shift BC Training Results.dotx	Formatted version to be uploaded.	2020-05-04 1:26:03 PM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Van Swieten, Catherine PSSG:EX for action	Hi Cat: For your processing and forwarding to Tom please for his review / info. Thanks, e 1	2020-05-04 9:10:56 AM
s.15 [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to s.15 PSSG:EX for action		2020-05-04 9:07:12 AM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] did not approve the item and forwarded it to s.15 s.15 for action	s.15 Looks good, but I am unable to see the survey attachment.	2020-05-01 8:13:29 PM
s.15 created this item		2020-05-01 8:03:45 PM
s.15 has created a new eApprovals item and assigned it to s.15 e 1 PSSG:EX		2020-05-01 8:03:45 PM
s.15 added a document: 200501 - IBN - Shift BC Training Results.dotx		2020-05-01 8:03:45 PM

SHIFT BC Q1 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 25TH, 2020

10:30AM – 11:30AM (Virtual)

#	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD
1	Welcome and Meeting Agenda	s.15
2	Final update from Tom	Tom Steenvoorden
3	Update on Program Status	s.15 & s.15
4	Training & Financial Update	s.15
5	National and Provincial Connections	s.15
6	Next Steps	s.15
7	Discussion & Questions	All

Project Budget

The total budget for this project is \$35,840. The budget breakdown is as follows:

- Capture and translate 10 forums = \$12,000.00
- Data cleaning and preparation for analysis = \$4,500.00
- Data analysis = \$9,500.00
- Final report preparation = \$6,000.00
- GST and PST = \$3,840
- Overhead = \$0

Charge out rates:

- Principal Investigators = \$1,200 per day
- Research Assistants = \$50 per hour (includes all benefits)

Donnybrook Research and Analysis

SERVICE INVOICE

June 01, 2020

BC Countering Radicalization to Violence
c/o BC Policing and Security Branch
PO Box 9285 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9J7

Invoice: CRV0013

Work on report: Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on Radicalization to Violent Extremism

Description	Date	Hours	Rate	Amount
Data Collection	2020-05-11 to 2020-06-05		Flat	\$11,340
Data cleaning	2020-05-18	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Data cleaning	2020-05-19	8	\$50.00	\$400
Data cleaning	2020-05-20	7	\$50.00	\$350
Data cleaning	2020-05-21	7	\$50.00	\$350
Data cleaning	2020-05-22	8	\$50.00	\$400
Data cleaning	2020-05-25	6	\$50.00	\$300
Data cleaning	2020-05-26	8	\$50.00	\$400
Data analysis	2020-05-26	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Data cleaning	2020-05-27	7	\$50.00	\$350
Data analysis	2020-05-28	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Data cleaning	2020-05-28	8	\$50.00	\$400
Data cleaning	2020-05-29	7	\$50.00	\$350

	SUBTOTAL	\$14,640.00
	PST	\$1,024.80
	GST	\$732.00
	TOTAL	\$16,396.80

Thank you,

Garth Davies

APPROVED:

s.15

Business Number: 85598 3292

#51 – 6575 192 Street, Surrey, BC, Canada V4N 5T8

Project Budget

The total budget for this project is \$35,840. The budget breakdown is as follows:

- Capture and translate 10 forums = \$12,000.00
- Data cleaning and preparation for analysis = \$4,500.00
- Data analysis = \$9,500.00
- Final report preparation = \$6,000.00
- GST and PST = \$3,840
- Overhead = \$0

Charge out rates:

- Principal Investigators = \$1,200 per day
- Research Assistants = \$50 per hour (includes all benefits)

https://eapprovals.sp.gov.bc.ca/sites/IPS/eApprovals/prod/SitePages/index.aspx/item/12828

My Classroom - Indigenous C... Accounts Payable - Attorney G... eApprovals

eApprovals Item Details

12828 - Dr. Garth Davies - Financial Project Breakdown - COVID & Radicalization

No number **S.15** Financial - Expense Authority Matrix Director April 28th 2020

ATTACHMENTS DETAILS HISTORY USERS

200423 - Financial Breakdown - Project on effects of covid on radicalization - Dr Garth Davies.docx

Download All Attachments

USER COMMENTS

Davis, Britany - Created: 06/24/20, 9:07 PM
Noting approval and receipt of first invoice - forwarding to AG for action

1 P880-EX - Approved - 04/23/20, 12:50 PM
Thanks Madison

15 Approved - 04/23/20, 12:21 PM
Hi ... here is Garth's cost breakdown. The total will be billed over 3-4 invoices as the project progresses. Thank you!

Davis, Britany - Created: 04/23/20, 11:59 AM
Hey ... This is the document that Dr. Davies provided with a financial breakdown of the costs associated with the project. For your review and to submit to Bob for further review.

You have successfully closed the item!

Search here

3:07 PM
2020-06-24

Indian Residential Schools - In... eApprovals

Item Details

15429 - Donnybrook Research - COVID-19 Project

No number **S.15** Financial - Expense Authority Matrix Director June 25th 2020

ATTACHMENTS DETAILS HISTORY USERS

200624 - Invoice Package - Donnybrook Research - COVID-19 Project.pdf

Download All Attachments

Click here or drag some files

USER COMMENTS

15201 EX - Approved - 06/24/20, 9:06 PM
No Comment

15 - Approved - 06/24/20, 9:39 PM
No Comment

Denis Britany - Created - 06/24/20, 9:31 PM
Hi... For your review. Please forward to Bob for approval once complete. I'll forward to the AG for payment ASAP. Let me know if you have any questions etc about this one.

Type here to search

4:05 PM 2020-06-25

*Supplier Name	Donnybrook Research	*Supplier # -Site #	s.22
*Invoice Date (DDMMYY)	23-Jun-20	*Address Verified	Y N <i>If NO, provide additional Instructions</i>
*Invoice Number	CRV0012		
*Qualified Receiver	s.15	*Expense Authority	s.15
*QR Signature on invoice	Y <i>If NO, please sign</i>	*Invoice Total Amount	\$ 10,560.00
Contract Number		Pay Stub Comment:	

SUB TOTAL	GST	PST	CL	RESP	SL	STOB	PROJ	*LINE DESCRIPTION
10,560.00			010	15980	13400	6001	150000	Q1 Billing - regular payment

Additional Instructions:

Previous notes from Finance team - this is for regular payment to evaluation and no formal contract exists. Please refer to previous CAS payment in regard to contract number for Donnybrook/Garth Davies on behalf of Shift

Donnybrook Research and Analysis

SERVICE INVOICE

June 23, 2020

BC Countering Radicalization to Violence
c/o BC Policing and Security Branch
PO Box 9285 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9J7

Invoice: CRV0012

Re: 2020-2021 Fiscal Quarter 1

Description	Date	Hours	Rate	Amount
Collect data for evaluation	2020-04-03	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Collect data for evaluation	2020-04-06	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Collect data for evaluation	2020-04-13	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Modify analysis framework	2020-04-15	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Data analysis	2020-04-20	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Data analysis	2020-04-24	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Report writing	2020-05-04	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Report writing	2020-05-05	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Report writing	2020-05-06	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-06-05	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-06-11	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-06-12	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
			SUBTOTAL	\$13,200.00
In-kind contribution				-\$2,640.00
			TOTAL	\$10,560.00

Thank you,

Garth Davies

APPROVED:

s.15

Business Number: 85598 3292

#51 – 6575 192 Street, Surrey, BC, Canada V4N 5T8

Browser address bar: <https://eapprovals.sp.gov.bc.ca/sites/IPS/eApprovals/prod/SitePages/index.aspx/item/15428>

Page Title: eApprovals Item Details

Item Information: 15428 - Donnybrook Research Q1 Evaluation Invoice

No number: **s.15** Financial - Expense Authority Matrix Director June 25th 2020

Navigation tabs: ATTACHMENTS DETAILS HISTORY USERS

Attachments:

- 200624 - Invoice Package - Donnybrook Research - Q1 Research Total.pdf

Download All Attachments

User Comments:

- 1520-EX-Approved-06/25/20, 5:48 PM
No Comment
- 15 Approved-06/25/20, 4:28 PM
Please review and return to Brittany if approved. Thank!
- Denis, Brittany-Created-06/24/20, 9:22 PM
For your review. Please forward to Bob for approval once complete. I'll forward to the AG for payment ASAP.

TITLE: PROGRAM COORDINATOR**CLASSIFICATION: AO14****MINISTRY: PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL****WORK UNIT: SHIFT****SUPERVISOR TITLE: PROGRAM MANAGER, SHIFT****SUPERVISOR POSITION # 117132****PROGRAM AREA**

Radicalization to violence is a process where a person or group takes on extreme ideas or beliefs, and considers violence as a way to support them. Individuals at risk to radicalization to violence do not have one single profile, or are limited to a single group, social class, religion, culture, ethnicity, age group or worldview. Shift represents an emerging approach to countering radicalization to violence and crime prevention in British Columbia.

To accomplish this, Shift has coordinated the development and operation of community-based Hubs of service providers. These Hubs will then harness the expertise and resources of local service providers, both external and internal to government, to create and implement intervention plans that will aim to provide support to vulnerable individuals and re-direct them off the path of radicalization to violence. Shift operates in a sensitive and confidential, yet transparent manner to protect the interests of participants.

JOB OVERVIEW

The Project Coordinator, reporting to the Program Manager, provides a variety of administrative, financial and project support services for the unit. This position requires advanced organizational, analytical, problem-solving and interpersonal skills and must have the ability to organize and independently manage one's workload taking into consideration changing priorities, tight deadlines, and a high volume of work. The Project Coordinator will also be responsible for supporting the public awareness functions of Shift and coordinating its correspondence, stakeholder engagement activities, and records management processes.

ACCOUNTABILITIES

Required:

- Anticipates political and sensitive issues, researches information, gathers facts, identifies resource requirements, develops alternatives and coordinates a timely response.
- Takes initiative to assess and evaluate issues referred by the Director and takes appropriate action to resolve those which reasonably fall within the position's purview.
- Coordinates financial activities (administrative management of contractual agreements, accounts payable, purchasing) for the unit ensuring compliance with financial administration and purchasing policies and procedures. Sets up and maintains unit financial tracking systems and files.
- Participates in budget development by reviewing previous years' expenditures, anticipating future program and/or project needs and the impact on the administrative budget (i.e., salary, travel, training, office supplies, and equipment). Also recommends administrative budget needs and expenditures.

Date: June 18, 2020

- Develops, implements, and updates project tracking system to communicate project status, project timelines and identify project risks.
- Develops and implements office administrative procedures and policies to ensure efficient business practices and effective response to changing priorities. Provides guidance and problem solving on administrative issues.
- • Coordinates the flow of correspondence, briefing materials, speaking notes and other information and documents, including requests for action so that priorities are set and deadlines are met. Also types, formats and proofreads as needed.
- Sets up and maintains the ARCS/ORCS records management system for the branch ensuring the proper storage, retrieval and disposal of the branch's records.
- Manages the program's SharePoint site.
- Organizes calendars, events, conferences, meetings and ensures the availability of all appropriate materials.
- Acts as the branch contact for facilities and equipment issues (e.g., furniture, photocopiers, office moves) and ensures problems are resolved.
- Monitors the inventory of supplies, equipment and furniture and orders as required.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Diploma or equivalent in public administration, business administration or related field **PLUS** two years of progressively related experience **OR** an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.
- Experience in office management, budget tracking, and administration.
- Experience in financial support, conducting financial tracking using Excel and tracking invoices.
- Related experience organizing high level meetings and/or events, and taking official meeting minutes that serve as permanent records for future action.
- Experience preparing correspondence, written briefing materials, speaking notes, agreements (e.g. contracts, Letters of Intent, MOUs), backgrounders and reports.

Preference may be given to:

- Experience working productively and cooperatively with internal and external stakeholders.
- Experience in managing a wide range of tasks in a busy environment.
- Experience managing a SharePoint site.
- Successful completion of security screening requirements of the BC Public Service, which may include a criminal records check, and/or Criminal Records Review Act (CRRRA) check, and/or enhanced security screening checks as required by the ministry. Must also be able to obtain Federal Security Clearance of Secret Level

(Note: It is important that you read the job posting carefully to understand the specific security screening requirements pertaining to the position).

BEHAVIOURAL COMPETENCIES

- **Results Orientation** is a concern for surpassing a standard of excellence. The standard may be one's own past performance (striving for improvement); an objective measure (achievement orientation);

Date: June 18, 2020

challenging goals that one has set; or even improving or surpassing what has already been done (continuous improvement). Thus, a unique accomplishment also indicates a Results Orientation.

- **Initiative** involves identifying a problem, obstacle or opportunity and taking appropriate action to address current or future problems or opportunities. As such, initiative can be seen in the context of proactively doing things and not simply thinking about future actions. Formal strategic planning is not included in this competency.
- **Planning, Organizing and Coordinating** involves proactively planning, establishing priorities and allocating resources. It is expressed by developing and implementing increasingly complex plans. It also involves monitoring and adjusting work to accomplish goals and deliver the organization's mandate.

Date: June 18, 2020

Page 164 of 402

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

DUPLICATE ; s.16

Shift BC Refugee & Trauma Training Survey

Shift BC Refugee & Trauma Training Survey

This report was generated on 18/09/20. Overall 12 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes.

I was satisfied with my trainer, John Koop Harder.

Strongly agree (9) 75.0%	Disagree (-) -
Agree (3) 25.0%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (-) -	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

I found my trainer, John Koop Harder, to be engaging.

Strongly agree (10) 90.9%	Disagree (-) -
Agree (1) 9.1%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (-) -	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

The training content met my expectations.

Strongly agree (6) 50.0%	Disagree (-) -
Agree (5) 41.7%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (1) 8.3%	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

The quality of the training met my expectations.

Strongly agree (8) 66.7%	Disagree (-) -
Agree (3) 25.0%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (1) 8.3%	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

The training was relevant to my current job.

Strongly agree (5) 41.7%	Disagree (-) -
Agree (5) 41.7%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (2) 16.7%	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

The content of the training relevant to my organization.

Strongly agree (8) 72.7%	Disagree (-) -
Agree (3) 27.3%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (-) -	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

Shift BC Refugee & Trauma Training Survey

I was satisfied with the length of the of the training provided.

Agree (6) 50.0%	Disagree (-) -
Strongly agree (5) 41.7%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (1) 8.3%	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

I would attend similar training offered by SHIFT BC in the future.

Strongly agree (6) 54.5%	Disagree (-) -
Agree (5) 45.5%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (-) -	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

I was happy with the food items offered.

Strongly agree (6) 50.0%	Disagree (-) -
Agree (3) 25.0%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (3) 25.0%	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

The food items offered met my dietary needs.

Strongly agree (8) 66.7%	Disagree (-) -
Agree (3) 25.0%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (1) 8.3%	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

I was satisfied with the training location, with the understanding that the escorts were a requirement of training at VPDs main office.

Strongly agree (9) 75.0%	Disagree (-) -
Agree (2) 16.7%	Strongly disagree (-) -
Neutral (1) 8.3%	I don't know / not applicable (-) -

Would you like to be contacted about further training opportunities that Shift BC could offer your team or organization based in the CRV and demystifying radicalization field?

Yes (11) 100.0%
No (-) -

The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Radicalization to Violent Extremism

Garth Davies

Richard Frank

Edith Wu

Simon Fraser University

Supported by the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (represented by Shift BC) to invest in research that can be applied to support Government operations and inform evidence-based decisions on policies and programs related to public safety in British Columbia.

September, 2020

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Executive Summary

- There are many reasons to believe that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on radicalization to violent extremism.
- Historically, scapegoating, stigmatization, and the creation and spreading of rumors and false information has been a universal human response to pandemics; these reactions have been prevalent in the current pandemic as well.
- The pandemic has unequivocally produced an increase in internet usage, including traffic to extremist websites and forums.
- The dynamics resulting from measures to prevent or limit the spread of COVID-19 has produced a number of negative consequences for a large number of people, including feelings of anxiety, stress, confusion, loneliness and alienation; these mental health issues may make some people more vulnerable to recruitment and radicalization by extremist groups and movements.
- A wide variety of extremist movements, representing a wide variety of ideological positions, have weaponized pandemic-related issues as a means of increasing recruitment and radicalization to their causes.
- Violent right-wing and incel extremism have seen significant increases in posting behaviour on the forums analyzed in this study.
- The English language jihadist and left-wing forums did not experience significant growth in posting behaviour in the weeks following the onset of the pandemic.
- None of the forums studied revealed a significant rise in the number of new posters; one potential conclusion is that the pandemic served less to draw in new people and more to draw existing forum members deeper into the fold.
- The George Floyd killing at the end of May, along with the US election shifting into overdrive, will make it more difficult to separate out the effect of the pandemic moving forward.

Introduction

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the newly discovered coronavirus disease (COVID-19) to be a pandemic. COVID-19 has upended virtually every aspect of life around the world. Already it is clear that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant changes, some of which may continue for a long time or even result in permanent alterations. One of the immediate implications of the pandemic has been a significant increase in the amount of time individuals have been spending online. It will take some time to fully realize the effects of this spike in activity. But there are some areas where an unexpected rise may be manifesting very quick changes. One such area concerns radicalization to violent extremism (RVE). Although there continues to be debates over the degree to which individuals can become fully radicalized to violence online, there is no doubt that every violent ideological movement or group attempts to publicize its cause and recruit sympathizers and members through the internet, or to promote what is increasingly referred to as self-radicalization. In fact, it would be fair to say that, in the western world at least, the online milieu now dominates recruitment efforts, and online platforms have become central to the mobilization of these groups. At the same time, engagement in forums also allows extremist groups the opportunity to bring adherents, fence-sitters, or the merely curious, further into the fold and increasing radicalization.

The purpose of this study is to present the results of preliminary analyses on how the pandemic has influenced posting behaviour. The study is comprised of several parts. First, it begins with conceptualizing radicalization to violence. Second, it examines the broader context of the pandemic; that is, it tries to set out the rationales for how and why the pandemic may be impacting violent extremist movements and groups generally. This section includes considerations such as the historical background of social responses to pandemics, as well as the increase in internet usage, mental health risks, and disinformation that have accompanied this pandemic. Third, these contextual issues are then applied in the context of specific movements: the far-right, social justice (a.k.a., “the left”), jihadism, and incels. The fourth section of the report presents the empirical analyses of seven extremist discussion forums. This part outlines the methods used for the analyses, including a brief introduction to each of the forums. It then presents the results of two strands of research: aggregate posting behaviours and new posting behaviours. Section four ends with a brief discussion of the results of the analyses. Finally, the report concludes with an epilogue, that tries to frame the findings in relation to events that have transpired since the data on the forums were collected, including the rise of Black Lives Matter, other social justice protests, and the “second wave” (or continuing wave) of the pandemic.

Radicalization to Violent Extremism

One of the most enduring traditions in terrorism and violent extremism research is to begin by noting that there are no universally accepted definitions of terrorism or violent extremism. Following that acknowledgement, the vast majority of authors then proceed to develop their own definition. This practice has led to an all-you-can-eat buffet of definitions that has in no way helped in advancing our understanding of this phenomenon. Increasingly, this tendency toward definitional gluttony has been extended to radicalization studies as well.

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The World Trade Center after being hit by two planes, September 11, 2001 in New York City.
Credit... The Independent, via Getty Images¹

The easiest, more direct explanation of radicalization to violence is provided by Sedgwick, who proffers that it is “what goes on before the bomb goes off”.² This statement succinctly captures the essence of radicalization, but more detail is required. According to Hafez and Mullins, “radicalization involves adopting an extremist worldview, one that is rejected by mainstream society and one that deems legitimate

¹ Dearden, L. (2016, February 3). Osama bin Laden ‘inspired to plan 9/11 terror attacks by EgyptAir flight 990 crash’, al-Qaeda claims. *The Independent*. Retrieved from: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/osama-bin-laden-inspired-to-plan-911-terror-attacks-by-egyptair-flight-990-crash-al-qaeda-claims-a6850561.html>

² Sedgwick, M. (2010). The concept of radicalization as a source of confusion. *Terrorism & Political Violence*, 22(4), 479-494.

the use of violence as a method to effect societal or political change”.³ They further argue that

the consensus view [on conceptualizing radicalization] converges on three elements key to defining the phenomenon. Radicalization is usually a (1) gradual “process” that entails socialization into an (2) extremist belief system that sets the stage for (3) violence even if it does not make it inevitable.⁴

The characterization of these elements as “consensus” is probably an overstatement, as there continues to be quite a bit of debate around the first and second elements. But these three dimensions do provide a solid foundation for understanding radicalization, provided each is properly conceptualized. First, radicalization is a process. With very few exceptions, individuals do not immediately jump into violence. Early models tended to depict radicalization as a linear process, wherein people would advance toward violence sequential through stages or steps (e.g., Borum’s four-stage model,⁵ Wiktorowicz’s joining the cause perspective,⁶ Moghaddam’s staircase approach,⁷ & the NYPD model⁸). These models were useful heuristically, but they failed to capture the reality of radicalization, which is quite a bit messier in practice.⁹ Some researchers have moved away from the terminology of “process”, but the idea that people are generally socialized into violence over a period of time remains central to efforts to create disengagement and de-radicalization programs. Radicalization is a process, but it is a complicated, non-linear process, characterized by twists and turns, reversals, and periods of acceleration and/or dormancy.

The second dimension of an extremist belief system, or ideology, is perhaps the most contentious. Much of this disagreement can be traced back to the finding, from research conducted during the height of the jihadism movement, that many young recruits from the West had little or no actual understanding of Islam. This led some theorists to surmise that other considerations, such as the need for belonging or adventure, were the true drivers of radicalization. To some extent, this proposition confuses, or at least conflates, the definition with the causes of radicalization. Ideology may not be a

³ Hafez, M. & Mullins, C. (2015) The radicalization puzzle: A theoretical synthesis of empirical approaches to homegrown extremism. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 38(11), 958-975, p. 960.

⁴ Hafez & Mullins. (2015). The radicalization puzzle, p. 960.

⁵ Borum, R. (2003, July). Understanding the terrorist mindset. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 7-10.

⁶ Moghaddam, F.M. (2005). The staircase to terrorism: A psychological exploration. *American Psychologist*, 60(2), 161-169.

⁷ Silber, M.D. & Bhatt, A. (2007). *Radicalization in the West: The homegrown threat*. New York, NY: NYPD Intelligence Division.

⁸ Wiktorowicz, Q. (2004, May). Joining the cause: Al-Muhajiroun and radical Islam. Paper presented at *The Roots of Islamic Radicalism Conference*. New Haven, CT: Yale University.

⁹ Sageman, M. (2008). *Leaderless Jihad: Terror networks in the twenty-first century*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.

necessary *cause* of radicalization. But in most cases, it is an important *part* of radicalization. As reflected in the importance of narratives, ideology is what gives meaning to and justifies violence. It is what “holds everything together”.

Finally, the definition of radicalization recognizes the importance of violence, both the willingness to engage in violence (even if violence does not transpire) and the willingness to accept violence (e.g. among supporters). Violence is imperative because it distinguishes extremism that is prohibited from extremism that is acceptable in a free and open society. Although it has become a bit of a cliché, it bears repeating that many important changes in history may be attributed to the efforts of those who would have been considered extremists or radicals in their time. Commonly cited examples include Rosa Parks, Mahatma Ghandi, Nellie McClung and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is important that this sort of extremism, which is not premised on violence, to always be distinguished from extremism that advocates or promotes violence.

Thus, as it is used in this study, radicalization is comprised of the three dimensions set forth by Hafez and Mullins.¹⁰

Historical Context of Pandemic Response

Copyright

Dr. Liise-anne Pirofski¹¹

Although COVID-19 is itself novel, the conditions of a worldwide pandemic are not. Disease transmission on a wide geographic scale, causing massive illness, death, and economic disruption, has occurred repeatedly throughout history.¹² And as sure as these pandemics themselves is the demonization of scapegoats as attendant societal responses. People have traditionally responded to pandemics by spreading rumors and false information, and by portraying the disease as brought by foreigners with malicious intent. Between 1346 and 1353, the Black Death (a.k.a. the Bubonic Plague), often referred to as the greatest catastrophe in history, is estimated to have killed at

¹⁰ Hafez & Mullins. (2015). The radicalization puzzle.

¹¹ As cited in McNeil Jr., D.G. (2009, August 31). Finding a scapegoat when epidemics strike. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/01/health/01plague.html>, para. 5.

¹² Poos, L.R. (2020, March 16). Lessons from past pandemics: Disinformation, scapegoating, and social distancing. *The Brookings Institution*. Retrieved from: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2020/03/16/lessons-from-past-pandemics-disinformation-scapegoating-and-social-distancing/>

least 50 million people in Europe, or some 60% of the population.¹³ Many regarded the plague as a Jewish conspiracy, accusing Jews of intentionally spreading contagion or poisoning wells. The backlash against the Jewish population was devastating, as more than 200 Jewish communities were wiped out.¹⁴

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Quaker Solomon Eagle, who “prophesied evil tidings” during the Great Plague of London in 1665. Engraving from Daniel Defoe’s “A Journal of the Plague Year.” Credit... Davenport after Cruikshank/SSPL, via Getty Images¹⁵

¹³ Benedictow, O. (2005, March). The Black Death: The greatest catastrophe ever. *History Today*, 55(3). Retrieved from: <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/black-death-greatest-catastrophe-ever>

¹⁴ McNeil, Jr. (2009). Finding a scapegoat.

¹⁵ Pamuk, O. (2020, April 23). What the great pandemic novels teach us. *The New York Times*. Retrieve from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/23/opinion/sunday/coronavirus-orhan-pamuk.html>

Other examples of xenophobic and nativist scapegoating abound. In the US, Irish immigrants were blamed for the cholera epidemic in 1832. Throughout the West, Chinese immigrants were wrongly vilified for spreading the Bubonic Plague in the early 1900s. Although historians largely agree that the influenza pandemic of 1918 most likely began in Kansas, the very name Spanish Flu represents an overt form of stigmatization (it appears that the name emerged because it was the Spanish press that originally began covering the story). And in the 1980s, the HIV/AIDS pandemic was predominantly attributed to homosexuals, particularly gay men.

In addition to scapegoating and stigmatization, another universal human response to pandemics has been to create, and spread, rumors and false information. Not surprisingly, “the most common rumors during outbreaks of plague were about who had brought the disease in, and where it had come from”.¹⁶ Pandemics are always portrayed as something that is foreign, that has been brought by outsiders with malicious intent. In response, unexpected and uncontrollable outbursts of violence, hearsay, panic and rebellion are prevalent in accounts of plague epidemics from the Renaissance on. For example, Pamuk notes how, in *The Betrothed*,¹⁷ author Alessandro Manzoni described

a figure that has been a fixture of the popular imagination during outbreaks of plague since the Middle Ages: every day there would be a rumor about this malevolent, demonic presence who went about in the dark smearing plague-infected liquid on doorknobs and water fountains. Or perhaps a tired old man who had sat down to rest on the floor inside a church would be accused by a woman passing by of having rubbed his coat around to spread the disease. And soon a lynch mob would gather.¹⁸

Although written in 1827, this description remains remarkably pertinent. The only difference is that, today, the spreading of innuendo, rumors and misinformation has been supercharged by the internet.

More broadly, these dynamics of blaming and shaming can result in significant societal changes. A recent article argues that the 1918 influenza pandemic profoundly shaped German society in subsequent years and helped fuel the rise of the Nazi Party.¹⁹ Blickle posits that the staggering number of flu-related deaths had a strong effect on the share

¹⁶ Pamuk. (2020). What the great pandemic novels teach us, para. 11.

¹⁷ An 1827 novel written about the outbreak of the 1630 plague in Milan, Italy.

¹⁸ Pamuk. (2020). What the great pandemic novels teach us, para. 14.

¹⁹ Blickle, K. (2020). *Pandemics change cities: Municipal spending and voter extremism in Germany, 1918-1933*. New York, NY: Federal Reserve Bank of New York Staff Reports, no. 921.

of votes won by extremists, specifically the Nazis, and further argues that the influenza pandemic's disproportionate toll on young people may have spurred resentment of foreigners among the survivors and driven voters to parties whose platform matched such sentiments.²⁰ In short, there is clearly a connection between pandemics and politics.

Increased Internet Usage

Copyright

Michael L. Stallard & Katharine P. Stallard²¹

It was clear from its earliest stages that the pandemic could have an unprecedented effect on the internet. Research conducted by the *New York Times* in April concluded that there had been increases, in some cases massive, in online traffic for both local news sites and large media organizations.

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²⁰ Blickle. (2020). *Pandemics change cities*.

²¹ Stallard, M.L. & Stallard, K.P. (2020, March 26). COVID-19 is coinciding with a loneliness epidemic. *Government Executive*. Retrieved from: <https://www.govexec.com/management/2020/03/covid-19-coinciding-loneliness-epidemic/164153/>, paras. 6 & 11.

²² Koeze, E. & Popper, N. (2020, April 7). The virus changed the way we internet. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/07/technology/coronavirus-internet-use.html>

Figure 2. Percent Change in Average Monthly US Traffic – Large Media Orgs.²³
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Interestingly, the report found that the increase was far less conspicuous for what it referred to as *partisan* sites. Koeze and Popper concluded that, “amid the uncertainty about how bad the outbreak could get ... Americans appear[ed] to want few things more than the latest news on the coronavirus”,²⁴ and noted that the primary beneficiaries of this were established media brands. At that time, the increase in visits to the home page for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) outstripped that of all news sites. Koeze and Popper further maintained that the “desire for the latest facts on the virus appears to be curbing interest in the more opinionated takes from partisan sites”.²⁵ If this was true at the time, it did not last very long.

Figure 3. Percent Change in Average Monthly US Traffic – Partisan Sites²⁶
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Research continues to unanimously point to sharp increases in internet usage since the beginning of the pandemic. Several studies have quantified this upsurge in Canada. For example, in May, Rogers Communications Incorporated told a House of Commons committee that home internet usage was up more than 50 percent; Telus Corporation said it was consistently experiencing four times the network traffic of its busiest day pre-COVID-19; and Cogeco Communications Incorporated noted that there had been

²³ Koeze & Popper. (2020). The virus changed.

²⁴ Koeze & Popper. (2020). The virus changed, para. 13.

²⁵ Koeze & Popper. (2020). The virus changed, para. 16.

²⁶ Koeze & Popper. (2020). The virus changed.

60 percent greater use of internet s.¹⁵ during the day since the beginning of the crisis. Even Xplornet Communications Incorporated, the largest rural-focused internet provider in Canada, was experiencing a 30 to 40 percent increase in daytime use.²⁷ Global estimates from March suggested that total internet hits had surged by between 50 and 70 percent.²⁸ While much of this can be attributed to watching more shows on streaming services (such as Netflix or Crave) and spending more time on social media, a worldwide survey conducted by Statista found that the largest categorical increase was in relation to watching more news coverage (see Table 1).²⁹

While aptly demonstrating that the pandemic has greatly increased the general desire of information and connection, these studies do not directly address the issue of radicalization. Anecdotally, there seemed to have been a quick shift in tone and move to competing narratives and heightened partisanship. Commensurate with this change, subsequent research has confirmed that beyond an overall increase in internet traffic, the pandemic has also coincided with users showing elevated interest in extremist content. A study of six major Canadian cities revealed a “statistically significant increase in searches for violent far-right extremist content” in four of them: Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa and the Montréal-Laval area.³⁰ Search traffic also increased in Toronto and Vancouver, “but not to a statistically significant degree”.³¹ In the current climate, right-wing extremist groups are capitalizing on a climate of uncertainty by “crafting narratives around new sources of concern”,³² and channeling some people’s anxieties. Put another way, reminiscent of past pandemics, “[p]eople are looking for some account, some explanation, someone to hold responsible [or] to scapegoat for the issue. And these [far-right] groups provide ready answers for them”.³³

²⁷ Marowits, R. (2020, May 15). Internet usage has risen sharply amid coronavirus pandemic, providers say. *Global News*. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/6946816/canadians-internet-coronavirus-providers/>

²⁸ Beech, M. (2020, March 25). COVID-19 pushes up internet use 70% and streaming more than 12%, first figures reveal. *Forbes Media Limited Liability Company*. Retrieved from: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/markbeech/2020/03/25/covid-19-pushes-up-internet-use-70-streaming-more-than-12-first-figures-reveal/#5c1b38583104>

²⁹ Statista. (2020). In-home media consumption due to the coronavirus outbreak among internet users worldwide as of March 2020, by country. Retrieved from: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1106498/home-media-consumption-coronavirus-worldwide-by-country/>

³⁰ Moonshot CVE. (2020, June 8). Covid-19: Increase in far-right searches in Canada. Retrieved from: <http://moonshotcve.com/covid-19-increase-in-searches-for-violent-far-right-content-in-canada/>, para. 3.

³¹ Moonshot CVE. (2020). Covid-19: Increase in far-right searches, para. 3.

³² Perry, as cited in Britneff, B. (2020, June 12). Searches for extremist content spiked after Canada’s coronavirus lockdown: Report. *Global News*. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7054410/coronavirus-extremist-content-searches-canada/>, para. 6.

³³ Perry, as cited in Britneff. (2020). Searches for extremist content, para. 5.

Table 1. Worldwide in-home media consumption due to the coronavirus³⁴

	Worldwide	Italy	Spain	France	Germany	China	United States
Watching more news coverage	67%	67%	63%	50%	60%	77%	43%
Watching more shows/films on streaming services (e.g. Netflix)	51%	53%	58%	31%	21%	63%	42%
Watching more TV on broadcast channels	45%	55%	43%	53%	35%	46%	42%
Spending longer on messaging services (e.g. WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, etc)	45%	60%	61%	24%	22%	59%	17%
Spending longer on social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc)	44%	52%	49%	27%	21%	50%	32%
Spending more time on computer/video games	36%	41%	48%	39%	21%	29%	29%
Reading more books/listening to more audiobooks	35%	36%	42%	24%	19%	44%	25%
Listening to more streaming services (e.g. Apple Music, Spotify etc)	35%	25%	27%	14%	13%	49%	18%
Listening to more radio	18%	29%	32%	23%	24%	16%	16%
Reading more magazines	16%	23%	22%	14%	17%	14%	12%
Reading more newspapers	14%	18%	14%	14%	10%	17%	12%
Creating/uploading videos (e.g. on Tik Tok, YouTube etc)	14%	10%	15%	7%	5%	17%	6%
Listening to more podcasts	12%	8%	10%	6%	6%	13%	10%

Broader studies have similarly illustrated the co-optation and exploitation of the pandemic by extremist actors online. A report by Moonshot CVE found that, in states

³⁴ Statista. (2020). In-home media consumption./

with extended stay-at-home orders, engagement with violent extremist content online grew 21 percent in early April compared with the eight previous months.³⁵ Research by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue Global revealed that subscriptions to extremist channels jumped markedly during roughly the same period.³⁶

Mental Health Risks

Copyright

Corrine Purtill³⁷

What might account for the uptick in individuals increased engagement with extremist content? To just answer “the pandemic” is clearly insufficient. Given the complex and continuously evolving nature of the pandemic, a multifaceted approach to causality (or at least correlation) is required. There are a number of potential dynamics involved. A key foundational consideration is the mental health aspect of the pandemic.

At the height of social distancing and self-isolation measures, a national poll indicated that half of Canadian respondents felt that their mental health had worsened; 10 percent said it has worsened “a lot”.³⁸ The two most commonly selected answers were “worried” and “anxious”. Perhaps just as importantly, experts argued that these effects were unlikely to dissipate any time soon; in fact, it was more likely that the incidence of mental health issues would intensify over time. Styra notes that,

Right now we’re not seeing all of it because people are trying to deal with their specific needs right now. Housing, finding food... trying to deal with employment. But once all of this settles, people are going to sit back and start thinking about it ... That’s when the current anxieties may intensify.³⁹

Similar evidence is available from the US, where federal agencies have expressed concern that the country may be on the verge of a health crisis, with daily doses of

³⁵ Moonshot CVE. (2020, April 14). COVID-19: Searches for white supremacist content are increasing. Retrieved from: <http://moonshotcve.com/social-distancing-white-supremacy/>

³⁶ ISD Global. (2020, April 9). COVID-19 disinformation briefing no. 2: Far-right mobilisation. Retrieved from: <https://www.isdglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Briefing-02-Institute-for-Strategic-Dialogue-9th-April-2020.pdf>

³⁷ Purtill, C. (2020, April 9). Feeling scatterbrained? Here’s why. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/09/us/quarantine-mental-health-gender.html>, para. 5.

³⁸ Forani, J. (2020, April 27). Half of Canadians report worsening mental health, experts say woes just beginning. *CTV Television Network*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/half-of-canadians-report-worsening-mental-health-experts-say-woes-just-beginning-1.4913642>

³⁹ Styra, as cited in Forani. (2020). Half of Canadians report, paras. 6 & 7.

death, isolation and fear generating widespread psychological trauma.⁴⁰ Officials at WHO have suggested that mental health considerations may be the most important aspect of post-pandemic recovery, stating “[m]ental health repercussions regarding what is happening during this pandemic for people, today and beyond, will really be a problem in general”.⁴¹ Petsanis went on to note that “we know very well that panic leads to bad behavior”.⁴² So pronounced is the mental health aspect of the pandemic that every major health organization includes relevant materials on their websites, including: HealthLinkBC;⁴³ the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH);⁴⁴ the CDC;⁴⁵ and the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH).⁴⁶

The search for answers and meaning spurred by pandemic-related worries and anxiety inadvertently creates a “jumping off” point for the process of radicalization to potentially violent extremism. As noted earlier, one of the few areas of consensus in radicalization theory is the idea of precursors and triggering mechanisms. Simply put, the pandemic has created grievances, personal crises, cognitive openings or even moral outrage in a great many people. The unequal distribution of pandemic impacts across different racial, socioeconomic and age groups has further spurred feelings of deprivation and inequality. In this climate, people go searching for explanation. Perhaps more accurately, many people want easy (or at least easily understood) answers to questions that are, by their nature, complex and difficult; in some cases, these questions may not as yet have satisfactory answers. At the same time, people are looking for redress: “Why” almost inevitably goes hand in hand with “who’s to blame?” and “what can/should be done about it?” Extremists of all stripes wait in this void, weaponizing fears stoked by the pandemic as a means of fostering support for, and attracting recruits to, their causes. It is important to note that the influence the pandemic is by no means limited to new recruits. In the hands of extremists, the pandemic has served as more “fuel for the fire”, yet another means for reinforcing the beliefs of adherents, and perhaps even drawing individuals further down the path to violent extremism.

⁴⁰ Wan, W. (2020, May 4). The coronavirus pandemic is pushing America into a mental health crisis. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/05/04/mental-health-coronavirus/>

⁴¹ Petsanis, as cited in the World Health Organization. (2020, May 29). Facing mental health fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/facing-mental-health-fallout-from-the-coronavirus-pandemic>, para. 2.

⁴² World Health Organization. (2020). Facing mental health, para. 4.

⁴³ <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/mental-health-covid-19>

⁴⁴ <https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/mental-health-and-covid-19>

⁴⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

⁴⁶ <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/messages/2020/coping-with-coronavirus-managing-stress-fear-and-anxiety.shtml>

Hoaxes, Conspiracies, Myths, and Disinformation

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Samuel Volkin⁴⁷

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Jan-Willem van Prooijen & Karen M. Douglas⁴⁸

Although the authorities have endeavored to present scientifically-based information to the public, their efforts have often been thwarted, and dwarfed, by those with divert and contradictory agendas. Admittedly, it did not help that some official statements became contradictory, fueling distrust among the public.^{49, 50, 51} Still, even before the pandemic had become widespread, the massive disinformation machine had begun to spin early reports of a new illness in the Wuhan area of China into competing narratives. What is important to understand about these campaigns of disinformation is that they are not random, nor merely the work of “crackpots” (although some most certainly are). Rather, various hoaxes, conspiracies and outright lies are explicitly designed to reflect particular extremist narratives. Ensnaring some in their metaphorical web, these narratives then “open the door” to the world of extremism.

⁴⁷ Volkin, S. (2020, May 8). Recognizing disinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Johns Hopkins University*. Retrieved from: <https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/05/08/thomas-rid-disinformation-in-covid-19-pandemic/>, para. 4.

⁴⁸ Van Prooijen, J.-W. & Douglas, K.M. (2017). Conspiracy theories as part of history: The role of societal crisis situations. *Memory Studies*, 10(3), 323-333, p. 327.

⁴⁹ Cheng, M. (2020, March 8). UN declines to declare pandemic despite surge in coronavirus across the globe. *Global News*. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/6644915/un-no-pandemic-coronavirus/>

⁵⁰ Green, A. (2020, February 18). Li Wenliang. *The Lancet*, 395(10225). Retrieved from: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30382-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30382-2/fulltext)

⁵¹ Urback, R. (2020, April 7). Dr Tam’s about-face on masks damages trust at a crucial time. *The Globe & Mail*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-dr-tams-about-face-on-masks-damages-trust-at-a-crucial-time/>

Credit... @GeordiMaxwell/Twitter⁵²

The size and scope of the misinformation offensive has been so large and extensive it has spawned a cottage industry dedicated simply to trying to keep up with them all. The following is a (necessarily) limited list (in no particular order) of various falsehoods surrounding COVID-19 and the pandemic:

1. Noxious waves emanating from 5G cellular towers are behind the coronavirus⁵³
2. The coronavirus is an elaborate government ruse devised to confine us to our homes so that they can install more 5G towers unopposed and unnoticed⁵⁴
3. Bill Gates invented COVID-19⁵⁵
4. Bill Gates is using the coronavirus to push a vaccine with a microchip capable of tracking people⁵⁶
5. Dr. Anthony Fauci invented COVID-19
6. COVID-19 does not actually exist

⁵² Montgomery, M. (2020, May 18). Toronto sees largest anti-lockdown protest so far. *Radio Canada International*. Retrieved from: <https://www.rcinet.ca/en/2020/05/18/toronto-sees-largest-anti-lockdown-protest-so-far/>

⁵³ Marsh, C. (2020, May 27). 5G, bioweapons, Bill Gates: Why are COVID-19 conspiracy theories gaining traction? *The National Post*. Retrieved from: <https://nationalpost.com/news/5g-bioweapons-bill-gates-why-are-covid-19-conspiracy-theories-gaining-traction>

⁵⁴ Marsh. (2020). 5G, bioweapons, Bill Gates.

⁵⁵ Marsh. (2020). 5G, bioweapons, Bill Gates.

⁵⁶ Stecula, D., Pickup, M., & van der Linden, C. (2020, July 6). Who believes in COVID-19 conspiracies and why it matters. *Institute for Research on Public Policy*. Retrieved from: <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/july-2020/who-believes-in-covid-19-conspiracies-and-why-it-matters/>

7. Infection rates and death tolls are fabricated or exaggerated⁵⁷
8. COVID-19 only affects the elderly⁵⁸
9. The pharmaceutical industry is involved in the spread of the coronavirus⁵⁹
10. The Chinese government engineered the coronavirus in a lab and intentionally released it into the general population⁶⁰
11. The coronavirus escaped from a lab in Wuhan⁶¹
12. The US military developed the coronavirus as a bioweapon⁶²
13. Spraying or introducing bleach or any other disinfectant into your body will protect you against COVID-19⁶³
14. Being able to hold your breath for 10 seconds or more without coughing or feeling discomfort means you are free from the coronavirus or any other lung disease
15. Regularly rinsing your nose with saline solution can help protect from infection with the coronavirus
16. Hydroxychloroquine is a cure for COVID-19
17. Wearing masks causes health problems; can make COVID-19 worse
18. The push to wear masks in an attempt to sway the election against President Trump

Faced with such a daunting list of dubious claims, it is logical to ask why some people are inclined to accept them. In fact, the study of who believes in conspiracy theories and why comprises its own distinct trade, and there are nearly as many explanations as there are conspiracy theories. The overarching premise for many of these approaches is the notion that conspiracy theories are driven by people, not facts,⁶⁴ and researchers have therefore focused on what individual-level characteristics make people more susceptible to conspiratorial thinking. In many respects, such thinking reflects the pathologizing (in varying degrees) of otherwise understandable motives, such as the desire...

⁵⁷ Marsh. (2020). 5G, bioweapons, Bill Gates.

⁵⁸ Duong, D. (2020, May 1). The latest COVID-19 conspiracy theories, explained. *Postmedia Network Incorporated*. Retrieved from: <https://www.healthing.ca/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus/the-latest-covid-19-conspiracy-theories-explained-with-evidence>

⁵⁹ Stecula, Pickup & van der Linden. (2020). Who believes in COVID-19.

⁶⁰ Chaudhry, S. (2020, July 26). Debunking your favourite COVID-19 conspiracy theories. *The Ubyyssey*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ubyssey.ca/science/covid-conspiracy-theories/>

⁶¹ Stecula, Pickup & van der Linden. (2020). Who believes in COVID-19.

⁶² Stecula, Pickup & van der Linden. (2020). Who believes in COVID-19.

⁶³ Chaudhry. (2020). Debunking your favourite.

⁶⁴ Grohol, J.M. (2020, June 4). A psychologist explains why people cling to conspiracy theories during uncertain times. *Business Insider*. Retrieved from: <https://www.businessinsider.com/psychologist-explains-why-people-believe-conspiracy-theories-during-uncertain-times-2020-4>

- For understanding and certainty
- For control and security
- To maintain a positive self-image⁶⁵

For example, particular *personality traits* have been identified as predisposing factors, including distrust, low agreeability, *Machiavellianism*,⁶⁶ and narcissism.⁶⁷ In terms of *emotions*, anxiety has featured prominently in the discourse around pandemic theorizing. Studies have revealed that feelings of anxiety make people think more conspiratorially. In times of crisis, a conspiracy theory can provide comfort by identifying a convenient scapegoat and thereby making the world seem more straightforward and controllable: “People can assume that if these bad guys weren’t there, then everything would be fine, ... [w]hereas if you don’t believe in a conspiracy theory, then you just have to say terrible things happen randomly”.⁶⁸

In terms of their personal circumstances, people who believe in conspiracy theories are more likely to feel powerless, alienated and socially isolated; in short, they exhibit elevated levels of “anomia”, a subjective disengagement from social norms.⁶⁹ There are a number of related reasons why disengagement may result in expanded conspiratorial thinking. First, individuals who feel alienated from conventional social norms may reject the legitimacy of mainstream sources. Second, individuals who feel alienated from their peers may turn to conspiracist groups for a sense of belonging and community, or to marginalized subcultures in which conspiracy theories are potentially more rife. People who feel powerless may embrace conspiracy theories because these explanations help the individual avoid blame for their predicament. In this sense, conspiracy theories give a sense of meaning, security and control over an unpredictable and dangerous world.⁷⁰

⁶⁵ Ludden, D. (2018, January 6). Why do people believe in conspiracy theories? *Psychology Today*. Retrieved from: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/talking-apes/201801/why-do-people-believe-in-conspiracy-theories>

⁶⁶ Lantian, A., Muller, D., Nurra, C., & Douglas, K.M. (2017). I know things they don’t know!: The role of need for uniqueness in belief in conspiracy theories. *Social Psychology*, 48(3), 160-173.

⁶⁷ Cichocka, A., Marchlewska, M., & de Zavala, A.G. (2015). Does self-love or self-hate predict conspiracy beliefs? Narcissism, self-esteem, and the endorsement of conspiracy theories. *Social Psychological & Personality Science*, 7(2), 157-166.

⁶⁸ Lewandowsky, as cited in Moyer, M.W. (2019, March 1). People drawn to conspiracy theories share a cluster of psychological features. *Scientific American*, 320(3), 58-63. Retrieved from: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/people-drawn-to-conspiracy-theories-share-a-cluster-of-psychological-features/>, para. 8.

⁶⁹ Moulding, R., Nix-Carnell, S., Schnable, A., Nedeljkovic, M., Burnside, E.E., Lentini, A.F., & Mehzabin, N. (2016). Better the devil you know than a world you don’t? Intolerance of uncertainty and worldview explanations for belief in conspiracy theories. *Personality & Individual Differences*, 98, 345-354.

⁷⁰ Moulding et al. (2016). Better the devil you know.

Related research has similarly concluded that conspiracy theories can play a central role in a person's "need for uniqueness". Believing in conspiracy theories makes a person feel special. Lantian et al. explains that "conspiracy theories represent the possession of unconventional and potentially scarce information".⁷¹ Moreover, conspiracy theories rely on narratives that refer to secret knowledge or information, which, by definition, is not accessible to everyone, otherwise it would not be a secret and it would be a well-known fact.⁷² Thus, people who believe in conspiracy theories can feel "special" because they believe they are more informed than others about important events.

Like any other social phenomena, the prevalence of conspiratorial thinking and susceptibility to disinformation cannot be divorced from the broader social and political contexts within which they occur, and at present, those contexts have never been more questioning of expertise and authority. For many, attitudes toward experts and authorities ranging from skepticism to outright hostility, and increasing numbers of people are dismissing or rejecting information from these sources.⁷³ This ethos of "don't trust experts; do your own research; make your own expertise",⁷⁴ has culminated in the phenomenon of *fake news*. In this dystopian ecosystem of postmodernism run amok, there are no longer widely accepted arbiters of truthfulness. In fact, Hirschfeld contends that in this environment, the "facts" of a story do not need to be true. Instead, what matters more is that the story feels true, and that it provides a satisfying answer for particular anxieties, sadness or anger.⁷⁵ Because effective disinformation and conspiracy theories touch on core traits, emotions, or what become central tenets and beliefs, it is exceedingly difficult to dissuade conspiracists from the veracity of their positions.

⁷¹ Lantian et al. (2017). I know things they don't know!, p. 161.

⁷² Mason, F. (2002). A poor person's cognitive mapping. In P. Knight (Ed.), *Conspiracy nation: The politics of paranoia in postwar America* (pp. 40-56). New York, NY: New York University Press.

⁷³ Uscinski, J.E., Enders, A.M., Klofstad, C., Seelig, M., Funchion, J., Everett, C., Wuchty, S., Premaratne, K., & Murthi, M. (2020). Why do people believe COVID-19 conspiracy theories? *Misinformation Review*. Retrieved from: <https://misinforeview.hks.harvard.edu/article/why-do-people-believe-covid-19-conspiracy-theories/>

⁷⁴ Marsh. (2020). 5G, bioweapons, Bill Gates.

⁷⁵ Hirschfeld, as cited in Humphreys, J. (2020, April 30). Why do people believe in conspiracy theories? *The Irish Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/why-do-people-believe-in-conspiracy-theories-1.4236138>, para. 19.

Anti-vaccine activists at anti-lockdown protests in Toronto and Vancouver.
Credit... Facebook⁷⁶

Once upon a time, not so very long ago, conspiracy theorists and adherents to particular disinformation narratives tended to be dismissed as raving members of the lunatic fringe. While some such theories have insinuated themselves into the popular imagination and have perpetuated themselves as cultural artifacts (e.g., the two shooters on the grassy knoll; the fake moon landing; the earth is flat), far more often they have been treated as psychological and sociological curiosities - something to be minimized, if not lampooned. This no longer is the case, for at least two reasons. First, many supporters of these positions have increasingly become more akin to defenders and disciples. As long as there have been conspiracy theories, there have been those who have endeavored to “enlighten” or “wake up” the masses. But more recently, this “persuasion” has taken on a much more confrontational and aggressive tone. In the case of the pandemic, this can be seen in the numerous reports about physical altercations over social distancing measures and masks;^{77, 78, 79} in the threats, including

⁷⁶ Press Progress. (2020, May 8). Canada’s anti-lockdown protests are a ragtag coalition of anti-vaccine activists, conspiracy theorists and the far-right. Retrieved from: <https://pressprogress.ca/canadas-anti-lockdown-protests-are-a-ragtag-coalition-of-anti-vaccine-activists-conspiracy-theorists-and-the-far-right/>

⁷⁷ Li, D.K. (2020, February 5). Coronavirus hate attack: Woman in face mask allegedly assaulted by man who calls her ‘diseased’. *National Broadcasting Company News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/coronavirus-hate-attack-woman-face-mask-allegedly-assaulted-man-who-n1130671>

⁷⁸ Spencer, T. (2020, July 23). Walmart shopper charged with pulling gun during Fla. mask dispute. *CTV Television Network*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/walmart-shopper-charged-with-pulling-gun-during-fla-mask-dispute-1.5036088>

death threats, to directors of health authorities (e.g., Dr. Fauci); and in the brandishing of weapons and general attempts at intimidation at so-called “freedom movement” protests. Increasingly, conspiracists seem to be assuming the roles of anti-science, anti-expert vigilantes. In doing so, they are both feeding off of, and providing fuel for, the polarization and hostility surrounding the pandemic.

This more conflictual turn might be less concerning if the numbers of individuals involved were insignificant. But the count of adherents is neither trivial nor diminishing. Research during the pandemic has illustrated that a significant proportion of people, around 25 percent, believe at least some of the related disinformation. Table 2 shows the breakdown of Canadian perspectives on several COVID-19 conspiracies. Some register comparatively small proportions. But translated into raw numbers, even these percentages are troubling. For example, only four percent of respondents indicated some belief in the claim that there is a link between 5G technology and the coronavirus; however, given that Canada has a population of about 28 million individuals over the age of 17, four percent translates into approximately 1.1 million adults. At the upper end, almost one in five people give some credence to the notion that the Chinese government engineered the coronavirus in a lab, and one in four believe it escaped from a lab in Wuhan. Separate polls have found that 11 percent of Canadians believe COVID-19 is a 5G cover-up, 15 percent believe Bill Gates is responsible, and 15 percent believe COVID-19 does not actually exist.⁸⁰

*Table 2. Which COVID-19 conspiracies do Canadians believe?*⁸¹

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Note: DK = don't know
Source: Vox Pop Labs COVID-19 Monitor

⁷⁹ Reimer, W. (2020, May 22). Woman charged with assaulting Winnipeg bylaw officers over social distancing infractions. *Global News*. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/6975885/woman-charged-assault-winnipeg-bylaw-officers-coronavirus/>

⁸⁰ Marsh. (2020). 5G, bioweapons, Bill Gates.

⁸¹ Stecula, Pickup & van der Linden. (2020). Who believes in COVID-19.

In the UK, cellular towers in Birmingham, Belfast, and Liverpool have been set ablaze by arsonists convinced that they were implicated in the spread of the pandemic. Some 20% of people in England believe COVID-19 is a hoax.⁸² Similarly, five percent of Americans contend that it is “definitely true” that the outbreak was planned and carried out by powerful people, while a further 20 percent hold that this is “probably true”.⁸³ These numbers are not indicative of some fringe. On the contrary, they provide insight into an important pathway into extremism.

Further amplifying the effects of disinformation are the actions and influence of foreign actors with malign intent. At the forefront of such campaigns are Russia and China. The WHO has referred to Russia’s systematic production and dissemination of false information as an “infodemic”.⁸⁴ Through the pandemic, Russia has continued its years-long campaign against democratic institutions and it attempts to further divide the US electorate. For years, Russian operatives have pushed conspiracy theories that global health outbreaks, such as Ebola and deadly forms of the flu, have been manufactured by scientists in the US. Now, however, all Russia needs to do is amplify the false narratives originating in the US about the coronavirus.⁸⁵ Russia uses a full arsenal of weapons, including its media outlets, trolls, bots, and blogs to spread such propaganda; these efforts undermine the public’s faith and trust in both the upcoming November US election and in western governments more generally. China also engaged in the infodemic offensive. Like Russia, China is keen to promote the narrative that democracies are failing and lack the capacity or will to fight the pandemic, while claiming that they are doing a better job at searching for a cure and helping other countries with their pandemic measures.⁸⁶ At the same time, China’s social media misinformation and disinformation efforts are more focused on refuting suggestions that China is to blame for the pandemic and on advancing the alternative narrative that COVID-19 originated elsewhere, such as Italy.⁸⁷ The main story from China, however,

⁸² Marsh. (2020). 5G, bioweapons, Bill Gates.

⁸³ Schaeffer, K. (2020, July 24). A look at the Americans who believe there is some truth to the conspiracy theory that COVID-19 was planned. *Pew Research Centre*. Retrieved from: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/07/24/a-look-at-the-americans-who-believe-there-is-some-truth-to-the-conspiracy-theory-that-covid-19-was-planned/>

⁸⁴ Broad, W.J. (2020, April 13). Putin’s long war against American Science. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/13/science/putin-russia-disinformation-health-coronavirus.html>

⁸⁵ Zaken, V. (2020, April 22). Pandemic propaganda is coming. Be ready for it. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/22/opinion/coronavirus-disinformation.html>

⁸⁶ Thompson, E., Nicholson, K., & Ho, J. (2020, May 26). COVID-19 disinformation being spread by Russia, China, say experts. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/covid-coronavirus-russia-china-1.5583961>

⁸⁷ China Global Television Network. (2020, March 22). Coronavirus may have existed in Italy since November: Local researcher. Retrieved from: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-03-22/Coronavirus-may-have-existed-in-Italy-since-November-local-researcher-P4i2As2OAg/index.html>

is that the US created the coronavirus and brought it to Wuhan in 2019.⁸⁸ Moreover, China seems to be learning from Russia and copycatting its disinformation techniques.⁸⁹

As noted earlier, conspiracy theories and disinformation do not just pop up randomly. They serve the purposes of those who manufacture them. It has been suggested that, in their simplest form, conspiracy theorists come up with ideas to match whatever “fact” they think is true⁹⁰. But campaigns of disinformation are more systematic than that. The “facts” they think are true are grounded in their ideological beliefs. Carvin argues that the pandemic is moving “from a war for survival to a war of ideas and a war of ideology”.⁹¹ Carvin was speaking about the influence of foreign actors, but the sentiments hold true for violent extremism as well. At present, right-wing extremists have far and away been the most effective in weaponizing the pandemic to their own advantage.

Right-Wing Extremism and “Freedom Movement” Protests

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Dr. Barbara Perry⁹²

There are several reasons that the far-right is uniquely positioned to exploit the pandemic. First, at the heart of the discourse surrounding COVID-19 are a number of issues that are well treaded territory, touching on many of the buzzword, bingo issues for the far-right. For example, distrust of government has always been a central tenet of right-wing extremists. A novel virus is fertile ground for speculation regarding sinister governmental motives. A related concern for the far-right is the fear of government overreach. The shutdowns and strict social distancing rules put in place during the (first) peak of the pandemic were taken by the right as proof that the government was merely using the coronavirus as a camouflaged means of controlling the population. Another long established far-right trope is the demonization of “foreigners”. This practice can be seen from attempts to attach labels implying blameworthiness to

⁸⁸ Zaken. (2020). Pandemic propaganda.

⁸⁹ Wong, E., Rosenberg, M., & Barnes, J.E. (2020, April 22). Chinese agents helped spread messages that sowed virus panic in U.S., officials say. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/22/us/politics/coronavirus-china-disinformation.html>

⁹⁰ Grohol (2020). A psychologist explains.

⁹¹ Carvin, as cited in Thompson et al. (2020). COVID-19 disinformation, para. 13.

⁹² Perry, as cited in Britneff. (2020). Searches for extremist content, para. 7.

COVID-19 (i.e., Wuhan Virus, China Virus, & most odiously, Kung Flu) to attacks on persons of Chinese (or more generally Asian) appearance.^{93, 94, 95}

In many instances, the grievances promulgated by the far-right are essentially a repackaging and rebranding of longstanding doctrine: old wine in new bottles. For example, one of the foundations of the white supremacy strain of right-wing extremism is the premise of the white population “under attack”. It is not surprising that right-wing platforms are characterizing COVID-19 as a conspiracy being directed by the New World Order, Agenda 21, George Soros, the Chinese government, and others seeking to eliminate the white race. In response, followers are urged to take up arms to spark a race war that leads to societal collapse, only to be supplanted by a new, white-led order.⁹⁶ A variant of the apocalyptic theorizing is “accelerationism”, the idea that Western governments are irreparably corrupt and that the best thing white supremacists can do is accelerate their demise by sowing chaos and creating political tension.⁹⁷ Accelerationists believe that the scenes of illness and death dominating mainstream news coverage can be amplified to provoke a level of social upheaval that will ultimately usher in the rebuilding of society on the basis of white power.⁹⁸

A second advantage the far-right holds in utilizing the pandemic is its well-established history and practice of exploiting crises and sowing discontent: this has long been the bread and butter of the far-right. The far-right has received the coronavirus pandemic in much the same manner as any other event: with disinformation, conspiracies and scapegoating.⁹⁹ Many seem to see it as a significant opportunity to energize its

⁹³ Al Jazeera. (2020, June 29). Donald Trump calls COVID-19 ‘kung flu’ at rally. Retrieved from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/newsfeed/2020/06/donald-trump-calls-covid-19-kung-flu-rally-200629091258959.html>

⁹⁴ Brend, Y. (2020, March 6). ‘Go back to China’ comment prompts VPD investigation. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/racist-attack-no-frills-covid-19-coronavirus-mask-slur-1.5488923>

⁹⁵ Young, I. (2020, April 30). The secret Covid-19 rate in Richmond, Canada’s most Chinese city, isn’t what racists might expect. It’s dwarfed by the rest of the nation. *South China Morning Post*. Retrieved from: <https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3082232/secret-covid-19-rate-richmond-canadas-most-chinese>

⁹⁶ The Soufan Center. (2020, March 25). IntelBrief: White supremacists and the weaponization of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Retrieved from: <https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-white-supremacists-and-the-weaponization-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19/>

⁹⁷ Beauchamp, Z. (2019, November 18). Accelerationism: The obscure idea inspiring white supremacist killers around the world. *Vox Media*. Retrieved from: <https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/2019/11/11/20882005/accelerationism-white-supremacy-christchurch>

⁹⁸ Gartenstein-Ross, D., Hodgson, S., & Clarke, C. (2020, April 20). The growing threat posed by accelerationism and accelerationist groups worldwide. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*. Retrieved from: <https://www.fpri.org/article/2020/04/the-growing-threat-posed-by-accelerationism-and-accelerationist-groups-worldwide/>

⁹⁹ Wilson, J. (2020, March 19). Disinformation and blame: How America’s far right is capitalizing on coronavirus. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from:

followers and attract new recruits. Not only have right-wing extremists been developing this playbook for a very long time, they were among the first groups to fully embrace the potential for online radicalization and recruitment. More generally in a climate of fear and distrust, the far-right is in the best position to harness anti-government resentment. They are able to say to followers and prospective recruits: "See, we were right! We told you so!".

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Credit... Paul Sancya/Associated Press¹⁰⁰

Finally, the far-right has been aided and abetted by President Trump, who has routinely played to the far-right members of his political base. Many of his talking points about, and responses to, the coronavirus have echoed those promoted by the far-right, further energizing their efforts. From the start of the pandemic, the US president has downplayed the seriousness of COVID-19, arguing that it was equivalent to a minor flu and that it would be over soon. This provided the basis for those who characterize the disease as a hoax. The US president continues to mischaracterize the

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/19/america-far-right-coronavirus-outbreak-trump-alex-jones>

¹⁰⁰ Burnett, S. & Slodysko, B. (2020, April 17). Pro-Trump protesters push back on stay-at-home orders. *United States News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2020-04-16/pro-trump-protesters-push-back-on-stay-at-home-orders>

coronavirus as one that only adversely impacts the elderly so that he may open schools. He bolsters scapegoating efforts by singularly referring to the COVID-19 as the China Virus. Furthermore, he explicitly belittled and ignored the conclusions and advice from health experts and scientists, casting aspersions on both. He advocated treatments that range from the questionable (hydroxychloroquine) to the potentially fatal (ingestion of disinfectants). Overall, he has been instrumental in “muddying the waters” and creating a context within which disinformation thrives. Such narratives also helped spark the “freedom movement” protests.

The freedom movement protests that sprang up in the US, and across much of the Western world, represented attempts to mobilize support for right and far-right concerns, particularly individual rights and liberties. Among the earliest was a “liberty rebellion” staged in Idaho in April 2020. Organizers asserted that orders to avoid group gatherings violated the constitutional right to peaceful assembly.¹⁰¹ Similarly, protests aimed at lifting what they characterized as “lockdowns” quickly spread around the US: Indianapolis, Indiana; Frankfort, Kentucky; Annapolis, Maryland; Carson City, Nevada; Raleigh, North Carolina; Austin, Texas; Olympia, Washington; and Brookfield, Wisconsin.^{102, 103} And as they proliferated and expanded, they incorporated broader right-wing issues. In Michigan, some protestors arrived carrying rifles and other weapons, ostensibly in defense of their Second Amendment rights. Although firearm stores in most parts of the US remained open for business, the National Rifle Association paid country music legend Charlie Daniels to record a promotional video warning “They want your guns. They want ‘em all”.¹⁰⁴ After President Trump wrongly insinuated that Muslims celebrating Ramadan would not be subject to the same social distancing requirements as Christians observing Easter, the closing of churches was portrayed as an assault on religious freedoms.¹⁰⁵ For the far-right, the pandemic was subsumed into the wider culture wars.

A notable current running through this patchwork of grievances concerned the collateral fiscal impact of pandemic-induced limitations and the desire to re-open

¹⁰¹ Baker, M. (2020, April 7). A ‘liberty’ rebellion in Idaho threatens to undermine coronavirus orders. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/07/us/coronavirus-idaho-bundy-patriot.html>

¹⁰² Bogel-Burroughs, N. (2020, April 16). Opponents of stay-at-home orders organize protests at state capitols. *The Chicago Tribune*. Retrieved from: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/coronavirus/sns-nyt-stay-at-home-opponents-protest-capitols-20200416-pvfmtj5k3ja3djida6sy37xqlq-story.html>

¹⁰³ Fernandez, M. (2020, April 18). Conservatives fuel protests against coronavirus lockdowns. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/18/us/texas-protests-stay-at-home.html>

¹⁰⁴ Peters, J.W. (2020, April 20). How abortion, guns and church closings made coronavirus a culture war. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/us/politics/coronavirus-protests-democrats-republicans.html>, para. 4.

¹⁰⁵ Peters. (2020). How abortion, guns and church closings.

businesses, hastening a “return to normal”. The economic ideological dimensions also helps explain the structure of many of these protests, which were not as “spontaneous” or “grassroots” as they first appeared to be. Early on, the protests were “relatively small and scattershot” and seemed to be “organized by conservative-leaning groups with some organic attendance”.¹⁰⁶ It quickly became apparent, however, that the protests, were being amplified, coordinated and coopted by an informal coalition of influential conservative leaders and groups, some with close connections to the White House,¹⁰⁷ who were intent on nurturing and channeling discontent. Similarities in online organizing efforts behind different protests prompted accusations of “astroturfing”¹⁰⁸ and concerns that they were not, in fact, locally driven campaigns, but rather, were being manipulated by Washington conservatives and Republican megadonors. This would include groups such as the *Convention of States* (an offshoot of Citizens for Self-Governance), *Michigan Conservative Coalition*, *Reopen America Political Action Committee*, and *Save Our Country* (which includes the American Legislative Exchange Council), as well as *FreedomWorks* and the *Tea Party Patriots*.^{109 110 111}

None of this is to say that the frustration and anger expressed at these protests were not genuine. Simply that organizations, such as those listed above, were looking to further stoke culture war fault lines and manufacture a false national narrative.¹¹² In reality, the protests themselves tended to be comparatively small. At the same time, polls continued to show that the majority of Americans were more concerned about reopening the country too quickly than they were about the damage to the economy.¹¹³

¹⁰⁶ Haberman, M. (2020, April 20). Trump, head of government, leans into antigovernment message. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/us/politics/trump-coronavirus.html>, para. 11.

¹⁰⁷ Vogel, K.P., Rutenberg, J., & Lerer, L. (2020, April 21). The quiet hand of conservative groups in the anti-lockdown protests. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/21/us/politics/coronavirus-protests-trump.html>

¹⁰⁸ Astroturfing is the deceptive tactic of simulating grassroots support for a product/cause/etc., undertaken by people or organizations with an interest in shaping public opinion (see <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/astroturfing>). The involvement of these people or organizations is not disclosed to the public.

¹⁰⁹ Vogel et al. (2020). The quiet hand of conservative groups.

¹¹⁰ Graves, L. (2020, April 22). Who’s behind the ‘reopen’ protests? *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/22/opinion/coronavirus-protests-astroturf.html>

¹¹¹ Stanley-Becker, I. & Romm, T. (2020, April 22). The anti-quarantine protests seem spontaneous. But behind the scenes, a powerful network is helping. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from: https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/inside-the-conservative-networks-backing-anti-quarantine-protests/2020/04/22/da75c81e-83fe-11ea-a3eb-e9fc93160703_story.html

¹¹² Warzel, C. (2020, April 19). Protesting for the freedom to catch the coronavirus. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/19/opinion/coronavirus-trump-protests.html>

¹¹³ Bosman, J. & Baker, M. (2020, April 24). Most people back stay-at-home orders. Here’s why some are protesting them. *World Reports*. Retrieved from: <https://world-reports.com/2020/04/24/most-people-back-stay-at-home-orders-heres-why-some-are-protesting-them/>

But if the efforts of various organizations to sow discord were unconvincing to the majority of Americans, they certainly grabbed the attention of the dedicated few. From a radicalization perspective, the freedom movement protests were evidence of those groups' achievement: mission accomplished.

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A group protesting COVID-19 restrictions gathered in Kitsilano, Vancouver, British Columbia. Credit... Nick Procylo/Postmedia Network Graphics¹¹⁴

Although the freedom protests originated in the US, the issues they raised resonated with right-wing movements across the world. Among the earliest imitation protests occurred in Vancouver on 19 April, as about 25 people gathered to object to stay-at-home measures.¹¹⁵ A second "No More Lockdowns" demonstration of about 50

¹¹⁴ Carrigg, D. (2020, April 20). COVID-19: Small group protests coronavirus restrictions in Vancouver. *The Vancouver Sun*. Retrieved from: <https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/covid-19-vancouver-police-escort-small-group-protesting-government-restrictions/>

¹¹⁵ Carrigg. (2020). COVID-19: Small group protests coronavirus restrictions.

individuals marched through Vancouver a week later.¹¹⁶ Similar protests were experienced in Edmonton,¹¹⁷ Toronto,¹¹⁸ and Winnipeg.¹¹⁹ While many news reports suggested that the anti-lockdown protesters were mainly motivated by economic and business concerns, this was not wholly accurate. At least some of the rallies were organized by “Free North Patriots”. The lead organizer of this group has previously been connected to a number of fringe causes. Indeed, many attendees at these events seemed less interested in the “lockdown” and more about other issues. For example, demonstrations in both Vancouver and Toronto featured anti-vaxxers, 5G truthers, flat earthers, and yellow vesters, as well as white supremacists and neo-Nazis.¹²⁰ Highlighting the same types of far-right bromides while featuring the same strange mix of extremists, conspiracy theorists and ordinary citizens witnessed in the US and Canada, analogous protests spread to Europe, including France,¹²¹ Germany,¹²² Italy,¹²³ Spain,¹²⁴ and the UK,¹²⁵ as well as parts of Asia, Africa, and South America.

¹¹⁶ St. Denis, J. (2020, April 26). Protesters march against COVID-19 prevention measures in Vancouver. *CTV Television Network*. Retrieved from: <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/protesters-march-against-covid-19-prevention-measures-in-vancouver-1.4912767>

¹¹⁷ Boothby, L. (2020, April 30). Hundreds flock to Alberta legislature to protest COVID-19 restrictions. *The Edmonton Journal*. Retrieved from: <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/hundreds-flock-to-alberta-legislature-to-protest-covid-19-restrictions>

¹¹⁸ Herhalt, C. (2020, April 25). ‘A bunch of yahoos,’ Ont. Premier says of people protesting COVID-19 emergency measures. *CTV Television Network*. Retrieved from: <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/a-bunch-of-yahoos-ont-premier-says-of-people-protesting-covid-19-emergency-measures-1.4911861>

¹¹⁹ Izri, T. (2020, May 9). Protesters demand end to Manitoba’s COVID-19 lockdown measures. *CTV Television Network*. Retrieved from: <https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/protesters-demand-end-to-manitoba-s-covid-19-lockdown-measures-1.4932606>

¹²⁰ Press Progress. (2020). Canada’s anti-lockdown protests.

¹²¹ McAuley, J. (2020, April 25). Violent protests in Paris suburbs reflect tensions under lockdown. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/paris-suburbs-protests-villeneuve-la-garenne/2020/04/25/55f5a40c-85a1-11ea-81a3-9690c9881111_story.html

¹²² Euronews. (2020, May 10). More than 130 detained after protests against coronavirus restrictions in Germany. Retrieved from: <https://www.euronews.com/2020/05/10/more-than-130-detained-after-protests-against-coronavirus-restrictions-in-germany>

¹²³ British Broadcasting Corporation. (2020, June 6). Coronavirus: Far-right Rome protest turns briefly violent. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52951920>

¹²⁴ News Wires. (2020, May 21). Spain to extend lockdown to June 6 despite outcry from protesters and right-wing opposition. *France 24*. Retrieved from: <https://www.france24.com/en/20200521-spain-coronavirus-lockdown-pedro-sanchez-covid-19>

¹²⁵ Sabbagh, D. (2020, May 14). Police vow to break up planned and lockdown protests in UK cities. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/14/police-vow-to-break-up-planned-anti-lockdown-protests-in-uk-cities>

Clockwise, from top left: Berlin, Germany; Madrid, Spain; Rome, Italy; London, United Kingdom. Credit (respectively)... Paul Zinken/Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH via Associated Press,¹²⁶ Sergio Perez/Reuters,¹²⁷ Reuters,¹²⁸ Guy Corbishley/Alamy Stock Photo.¹²⁹

¹²⁶ Euronews. (2020). More than 130 detained after protests.

¹²⁷ Deutsche Welle. (2020, May 23). Coronavirus latest: Spain anti-lockdown protest draws thousands of far-right supporters. Retrieved from: <https://p.dw.com/p/3cen9>

¹²⁸ British Broadcasting Corporation. (2020). Coronavirus: Far-right Rome protest.

¹²⁹ Sabbagh. (2020). Police vow to break up planned and lockdown protests.

Social Cleavages, Social Justice, and Antifa

Covid-19 is exposing a lot of the structural disadvantages that low-income people face, including a lack of job security and uneven access to health care.

*Adie Tomer*¹³⁰

When white America catches a cold, black America catches pneumonia

*Steven Brown*¹³¹

Further complicating the already fraught discourse around the pandemic is the fact that it had laid bare social cleavages and disparities across the world. The medical, economic, and political effects of the coronavirus have not been entirely random; nor have they been uniform across various neighborhoods, communities, and social groups. The deleterious effects of both the coronavirus itself and the measures put in place to combat its spread have disproportionately fallen on racial minorities and the poor.

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Credit... Jonathan Hayward/The Canadian Press¹³²

¹³⁰ Valentino-DeVries, J. Lu, D., & Dance, G.J.X. (2020, April 3). Location data says it all: Staying at home during coronavirus is a luxury. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/03/us/coronavirus-stay-home-rich-poor.html>

¹³¹ Kaur, H. (2020, May 8). The coronavirus pandemic is hitting black and brown Americans especially hard on all fronts. *Cable News Network*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/08/us/coronavirus-pandemic-race-impact-trnd/index.html>

Although the extent to which grievances overall play a role in radicalization to extremist violence remains contentious, the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic have to be considered in the current discourse.

Not long after the pandemic started, mortality statistics revealed that certain groups were more vulnerable to the coronavirus. Various reports found that Blacks in the US were significantly more likely than any other groups to die from the coronavirus; the estimated rates of deaths for Blacks were anywhere between three and nine times greater than Whites.¹³³ ¹³⁴ These findings were consistent across a wide variety of states, including Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.¹³⁵ These health disparities are also evident in Canada. Figure 4 shows that Blacks comprise 21 percent of COVID-19 cases in Toronto, despite making up only nine percent of the city's population.¹³⁶ Overall, people of colour make up just over half of Toronto's population, but they account for 83 percent of COVID-19 cases.¹³⁷ Data from Montreal paint a familiar picture: many of the hardest-hit areas are home to lower-income people, immigrants and refugees. These racial disparities have been compounded by socioeconomic inequalities, as the pandemic has created a self-reinforcing feedback loop that is deepening the consequences of inequality.¹³⁸

¹³² Wherry, A. (2020, June 13). One country, two pandemics: What COVID-19 reveals about inequality in Canada. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/pandemic-covid-coronavirus-cerb-unemployment-1.5610404>

¹³³ Wolfe, J. (2020, April 6). African Americans more likely to die from coronavirus illness, early data shows. *Reuters*. Retrieved from: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-race/african-americans-more-likely-to-die-from-coronavirus-illness-early-data-shows-idUSKBN21O2B6>

¹³⁴ American Public Media Research Lab Staff. (2020, August 5). The color of coronavirus: COVID-19 deaths by race and ethnicity in the U.S. Retrieved from: <https://www.apmresearchlab.org/covid/deaths-by-race>

¹³⁵ Taylor, K.-Y. (2020, April 16). The black plague. *The New Yorker*. Retrieved from: <https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/the-black-plague>

¹³⁶ Cheung, J. (2020, July 30). Black people and other people of colour make up 83% of reported COVID-19 cases in Toronto. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-covid-19-data-1.5669091>

¹³⁷ Cheung. (2020). Black people and other people of colour.

¹³⁸ Fisher, M. & Bubola, E. (2020, March 15). As coronavirus deepens inequality, inequality worsens its spread. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/15/world/europe/coronavirus-inequality.html>

Figure 4. COVID-19 cases by Ethno-Racial Groups in Toronto (16 July 2020)¹³⁹

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Numerous propositions have been put forward to explain these differences in health outcomes, most of which are rooted in structural racism and systemic inequality. For example, the coronavirus is more lethal to individuals with pre-existing health conditions, such as diabetes or heart disease. These conditions can make the virus up to 10 times more deadly.¹⁴⁰ One of the reasons that Blacks have been hardest hit by coronavirus deaths is that they are more likely to have these chronic health ailments. The same is true for individuals of lower economic status. Racial minorities and the poor have less access to, and ability to afford, appropriate health care. Over time, these restrictions translate into a higher prevalence of chronic health problems for these groups. Research has indicated that people with lower incomes tend to develop chronic health conditions between five and 15 years earlier in life.¹⁴¹ Thus, while health organizations have warned that people over 70 are at drastically greater risk of dying from the coronavirus, the threshold may be as low as age 55 for people of lower socioeconomic status.

Apart from pre-existing conditions, there are many other ways that the pandemic has been made worse by, and further exacerbated, inequality. The primary social measures for “flattening” the curve, self-isolation and social distancing, are less of an option of poorer people. For example, those working in the service industry, or at manual labour jobs, do not have the option of working from home, in contrast to many higher-income

¹³⁹ Cheung. (2020). Black people and other people of colour.

¹⁴⁰ Fisher & Bubola. (2020). As coronavirus deepens inequality.

¹⁴¹ Elo, I.T. (2009). Social class differentials in health and mortality: Patterns and explanations in comparative perspective. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 35, 553-572.

people who have more resources, stability, and flexibility.¹⁴² Nor do lower income workers have the option not to go to work. Many were classified as “essential services” during the pandemic, and even if they were not, they did not have the resources to stay at home. Moreover, many low income workers do not have paid sick leave, and are less likely to qualify for unemployment benefits if they quit.¹⁴³ At the same time, many lower-paid jobs, such as those involving cleaning, health care, child care and retail, come with inherently higher risks of infection.¹⁴⁴ Even getting to work, or mobility more generally, present differential risks of exposure, as those with fewer economic resources are more likely to be forced to use public transit. Thus, unable to isolate at home, these workers are put at greater risk of contracting COVID-19.

While the social unrest that engulfed the US and the West in June and July (& continues in particular areas) was triggered by the killing of George Floyd on 25 May 2020 in Minneapolis, it came against the backdrop of the same structural racism and inequality already intensified by the pandemic. The subsequent upheaval has raised the profile of groups such as Black Lives Matter (BLM), which has protested police brutality since 2013.¹⁴⁵ BLM is not just about policing, however; it is part of a more extensive movement that advocates for a wide range of changes oriented toward Black liberation.¹⁴⁶ Even more broadly, BLM and related organizations comprise an element of a social justice ecosystem that encompasses a number of other movements, including feminism, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) rights, climate activism, economic justice, and immigration reform.¹⁴⁷ Collectively, this constellation of movements is often loosely referred to as “the left”. Not necessarily the “far-left” of President Trump’s nightmarish imagination, but an informal coalition of causes clustered around notions of “social justice” as a necessary remedy for a system that has historically privileged and insulated the wealthy, the White, the heteronormative, and the male. Although these groups all purport to be “non-violent”, violence has nonetheless marred some of their events.

¹⁴² Scheiber, N., Schwartz, N.D., & Hsu, T. (2020, March 27). ‘White-Collar Quarantine’ over virus spotlights class divide. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/27/business/economy/coronavirus-inequality.html>

¹⁴³ Valentino-DeVries et al. (2020). Location data says it all.

¹⁴⁴ Cain, P. (2020, May 20). Across the world, coronavirus hits poor neighbourhoods harder. Here’s why. *Global News*. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/6958322/coronavirus-poor-neighbourhoods/>

¹⁴⁵ Black Lives matter began one social media (#BlackLivesMatter) in 2013 after George Zimmerman was acquitted in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

¹⁴⁶ Roberts, F.L. (2018, July 13). How Black Lives Matter changed the way American fight for freedom. *American Civil Liberties Union*. Retrieved from: <https://www.aclu.org/blog/racial-justice/race-and-criminal-justice/how-black-lives-matter-changed-way-americans-fight>

¹⁴⁷ Linscott, C.P. (2017). Introduction: #BlackLivesMatter and the mediatic lives of a movement. *Black Camera*, 8(2), 75-80.

Credit... Pierre Crom/Conde Nast Traveler¹⁴⁸

At this point, in terms of the potential for radicalization, it has become very challenging to conclusively separate the effects of the pandemic from those of the social justice protests; so, we will not try to do so. Together, they have highlighted and promoted massive, widespread social change in an unprecedented way. Together, their online rhetoric and offline actions have provided the bases for recruitment. Although nothing is certain in these uncertain times, the sheer magnitude of the movement is inspiring hope and belief that “this time will be different”. It has been suggested that BLM may be the largest movement in US history.¹⁴⁹ In the two weeks following the killing of George Floyd, support for the BLM movement increased as much as it had in the preceding two years. Online research concluded that the level of support for the movement increased from a 17-point majority (58.5 versus 41.5 percent) to a 28-point

¹⁴⁸ Erdekian, A. (2020, June 10). Powerful photos of Black Lives Matter protests around the world. *Conde Nast Traveler*. Retrieved from: <https://www.cntraveler.com/gallery/black-lives-matter-protests-around-the-world>

¹⁴⁹ Buchanan, L., Bui, Q., & Patel, J.K. (2020, July 3). Black Lives Matter may be the largest movement in U.S. history. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/03/us/george-floyd-protests-crowd-size.html>

margin (64 versus 36 percent).¹⁵⁰ These figures were corroborated by polls:¹⁵¹ 76 percent of Americans consider racism and discrimination a “big problem”, up 26 points from 2015; 57 percent thought the anger behind the demonstrations was fully justified, while a further 21 percent called it somewhat justified; and a majority of Americans believe that the police are more likely to use deadly force against African-Americans, and that there is a lot of discrimination against black Americans in society. Such sentiments are in contrast with the results from 2013, when BLM began, where a majority of those polled disagreed with all of these statements.¹⁵² Given that societal-level changes in political opinions tends to be glacial in nature, the shifts identified above are nothing less than tectonic. And while the protests have abated, support for the movement has not. History may well look back at this moment as a turning point in time.

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Credit... Stephanie Keith/Reuters¹⁵³

¹⁵⁰ Cohn, N. & Quealy, K. (2020, June 10). How public opinion has moved on Black Lives Matter. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/10/upshot/black-lives-matter-attitudes.html>

¹⁵¹ Monmouth University Polling Institute. (2020, June 2). Protestors' anger justified even if actions may not be. Retrieved from: https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/reports/monmouthpoll_us_060220/

¹⁵² Monmouth University Polling Institute. (2020). Protestors' anger justified.

¹⁵³ Al Jazeera. (2020, June 1). What is Antifa? Retrieved from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/06/antifa-200601170721571.html>

A thornier element of the left is the anti-fascist movement, or Antifa. Many believe Antifa to be a relatively new movement because it became prominent as a resistance movement countering the violence and intimidation of the far-right following the election of President Trump in 2016. But Antifa has a much deeper lineage, one that can be traced back to the fight against European fascism in the 1920s and 1930s.¹⁵⁴ Bray contends that the modern American Antifa movement began in the 1980s with a group called Anti-Racist Action.¹⁵⁵ The movement had been largely dormant through the 2000s, until the resurgence of right-wing extremism that was both inspired, and fanned, by President Trump. Although the newest incarnation of Antifa is anti-authoritarian and has primarily been focused on engaging the threat of right-wing extremism in Canada and the US, it has roots in more traditional left-wing ideologies such as anti-capitalism, socialism, Marxism, and communism.¹⁵⁶ Antifa International, predominantly active in Europe, has also incorporated anti-racism; its slogan is “The worldwide fight against fascism and racism”.¹⁵⁷ In its confrontations with right-wing protestors, Antifa has utilized violence actions. Because Antifa is not a formal organization, it is virtually impossible to estimate its size and numbers. However, just as the pandemic has provided fuel for far-right efforts at recruitment and radicalization, so too is it reasonable to assume that the pandemic (as well as the events that have transpired since) has raised interest in Antifa. Simply put, the rise of violent right-wing extremism abets the recruitment and radicalization of those on the opposite end of the political ideological spectrum.

Jihadism, Continued

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*Anonymous European Intelligence Official*¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁴ British Broadcasting Corporation. (n.d.). Seven things you need to know about Antifa. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/X56rQkDgd0qqB7R68t6t7C/seven-things-you-need-to-know-about-antifa>

¹⁵⁵ Bray, M. (2017). *Antifa: The anti-fascist handbook*. Brooklyn, NY: Melville House.

¹⁵⁶ Al Jazeera. (2020). What is Antifa?

¹⁵⁷ Antifa International. (2020, August 18). The worldwide fight against fascism and racism. *Tumblr*. Retrieved from: <https://antifainternational.tumblr.com/>

¹⁵⁸ As cited in Mekhennet, S. (2020, April 10). Far-right and radical Islamist groups are exploiting coronavirus turmoil. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/far-right-wing-and-radical-islamist-groups-are-exploiting-coronavirus-turmoil/2020/04/10/0ae0494e-79c7-11ea-9bee-c5bf9d2e3288_story.html, para. 6.

Efforts by jihadists to seize on the turmoil and panic created by the pandemic to advance their violent agendas have been less conspicuous in the West, and the “far-right has gone much further in directly exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic”.¹⁵⁹ Still, groups such as Islamic State, al-Qaeda, and other radical Sunni networks have ramped up recruitment efforts, encouraged attacks, and advanced hate-filled conspiracy theories about the coronavirus beginning in early April 2020.¹⁶⁰ Ironically, jihadist groups appear to be using many of the same tactics as far-right organizations, as well as many of the same online platforms. The pandemic has not altered the general strategies of these groups: to continue attacking the enemy. In effect, these groups have simply modified their discourse around the pandemic to mirror their long-standing theology. They allege that the coronavirus is an act of God against the enemies of Islam. Through its central media outlet, al-Qaeda issued a statement in English and Arabic claiming that the pandemic was a sign of God’s fury toward humanity for its sins and failure to adhere to God’s rules. It urged Muslims to repent and fight against “the Crusader Enemy”. At the same time, they are trying to foment violent opposition to leaders in the Middle East, accusing those who have discouraged large gatherings, particularly religious ones, as defilers of the faith. The same al-Qaeda communique condemned “the tyranny” of Muslim leaders and the “obscenity and moral corruption” sweeping majority-Muslim countries.¹⁶¹ In a clear extension of previous edicts, Islamic State has urged its members to step up their attacks on “crusader nations” while they are distracted by the coronavirus, and to commit “lone-wolf” attacks to capitalize on the paralysis and fear caused by the pandemic.¹⁶²

Incels, Ascendant

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Zach Beauchamp¹⁶³

¹⁵⁹ Rita Katz, as cited in Mekhennet. (2020). Far-right and radical Islamist groups, para. 8.

¹⁶⁰ Mekhennet. (2020). Far-right and radical Islamist groups.

¹⁶¹ Mekhennet. (2020). Far-right and radical Islamist groups.

¹⁶² Magid, P. (2020, April 6). Islamic State aims for comeback amid virus-expedited U.S. withdrawal. *The Foreign Policy Group*. Retrieved from: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/04/06/iraq-islamic-state-comeback-coronavirus-us-withdrawal/>

¹⁶³ Beauchamp, Z. (2018, April 25). Incel, the misogynist ideology that inspired the deadly Toronto attack, explained. *Vox Media*. Retrieved from: <https://www.vox.com/world/2018/4/25/17277496/inceltoronto-attack-alek-minassian>

Involuntary celibates, or “incels”, have quickly moved from obscurity to front page news. Concern over the link between the incel movement and extremist violence is often traced by to the case of Elliot Rodger, who killed six people and injured 14 others during a murderous rampage through Isla Vista, California, in 2014. In a YouTube video posted before his spree, Rodger explained that he wanted to punish women and sexually active men – the former for rejecting him and the latter because he envied them. His frustrations fueled his desire for “retribution”. But the foundation for Rodger’s violence was laid 25 years earlier, when Marc Lépine massacred 14 women¹⁶⁴ at the École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1989. In one classroom, he separated the men from the women, before shooting the women while claiming that he was “fighting feminism”. He subsequently moved through the school, targeting only the women, before killing himself. He left a suicide note stating that feminists were ruining his life. This event was the genesis of what has become the incel movement, and Rodger himself recognized Lépine in his manifesto.

Until quite recently, incel-related violence has generally been minimized. It has been sporadic, and, as has habitually been the response to emergent forms of extremist violence, the perpetrators and their ideas have generally been written off as “crazy” (for lack of a better euphemism). In fact, the most common response to these incidents has been to prompt debate about whether this sort of violence really does constitute terrorism (newsflash, it does!). This was the norm even two years ago, when Alek Minassian murdered 10 people and injured 16 others by ramming them with a van in Toronto in April 2018. In a Facebook post, Minassian wrote: “The Incel Rebellion has already begun! We will overthrow all the Chads and Stacys! All hail the Supreme Gentleman Elliot Rodger!”.¹⁶⁵ Even in its immediate aftermath, there was a reluctance to classify the attack as terrorism. This is despite the fact that incels have killed over 50 people and injured at least 58 more since 2014.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁴ Lépine wounded another 10 women and four men.

¹⁶⁵ As cited in Tomkinson, S. Harper, T., & Attwell, K. (2020) Confronting Incel: Exploring possible policy responses to misogynistic violent extremism. *Australian Journal of Political Science*, 55(2), 152-169, p. 152

¹⁶⁶ Tomkinson et al. (2020) Confronting Incel.

Credit... Global News¹⁶⁷

In the past two years, however, incel violence has become increasingly better recognized as a legitimate threat in law enforcement and security circles. In May 2020, a 17-year-old boy who fatally stabbed Ashley Noelle Arzaga (& injured two others) in an incel-inspired attack was charged with terrorism offenses.¹⁶⁸ The movement is not directly responsible for the violent attacks and explicit hatred against women that are becoming more prevalent, but the two are certainly related. Incels fuel and feed upon this swelling misogynistic violence. Incels have evolved into a self-identified (albeit still fringe) movement and legitimate threat, complete with its own language, code of behaviour, and semi-fully fledged, if terribly flawed, ideology.

There are at least three reasons to include the incel movement in this analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. First, compounding the threat posed by incels is the fact that they are progressively becoming intertwined with the far-right. There are clear overlaps between the core tenets of both groups, including grievances about women's empowerment and immigration.¹⁶⁹ The rise in extreme right-wing sentiment has served

¹⁶⁷ Westoll, N. (2019, April 23). Looking back at the Toronto van attack: How 7 minutes changed the city. *Global News*. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/5177737/toronto-van-attack-anniversary-timeline/>

¹⁶⁸ British Broadcasting Corporation. (2020, May 20). Teenage boy charged in Canada's first 'incel' terror case. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52733060>

¹⁶⁹ Hoffman, B., Ware, J., & Shapiro, E. (2020) Assessing the threat of incel violence. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 43(7), 565-587.

to further energize and embolden incels. Second, loneliness and alienation are already among the defining characteristics of men drawn to the movement. They may be particularly susceptible to the effects of the pandemic's distancing requirements, and in turn are more vulnerable to recruitment and radicalization. Finally, the mode of communications may place incels uniquely at risk. The movement is almost wholly online. In contrast to the other ideologies identified here, there are no incel meetings or jamborees; there is little to nothing in the way of offline connection. Thus, anything that influences the online space, such as an uptick in chatter about a novel coronavirus and associated grievances, are very likely to register in the incel movement ecosystem.

Analyses of Extremist Platforms

The obvious takeaway from the preceding discussion is that there are any number of reasons to suspect that the pandemic may be playing a role in increasing recruitment and radicalization efforts on the part of extremist groups and movements across the ideological spectrum. The following section of the report presents the results of empirical analyses of seven extremist discussion forums. The goal of the analyses is to determine the impact of the pandemic on posting behaviour on these forums.

Methods

Due to the nature of the pandemic, it is reasonable to hypothesize that its effects are primarily online. For this reason, this study is focused on the online impact of the pandemic. The first task was to select appropriate online sites. To maintain complete transparency, only forums that are open to the public were eligible for selection. That is, forums that required any sort of account, membership, or password to view discussion threads and post were deemed ineligible. Unfortunately, this excluded platforms that are popular with extremists, such as *reddit* and *Telegram*. To examine the wide diversity of extremism, forums were divided into four broad ideological categories: far-right, far-left, incels, and jihadist. For the jihadists, the search was limited to English language discussion boards. Finally, forums were selected based on their "popularity" (i.e., level of posting) and/or representativeness. In other words, the message boards studied here were not randomly chosen but purposive, and no claim is made about their representativeness. However, if nothing else, all forums presented here are well-known and easily accessible venues of discussion. This process ultimately produced a list of seven forums: two far right (Stormfront & Free Republic);^{170, 171} two incel (Incel.co &

¹⁷⁰ <https://www.stormfront.org/forum/>

¹⁷¹ <http://www.freerepublic.com>

Lookism);^{172, 173} two jihadist (Gawaher & TurnToIslam);^{174, 175} and one left-wing (LibCom).^{176, 177} Each of these forums is outlined in greater detail next.

The Forums

Stormfront

Copyright

Stormfront is a news and discussion website for the White Nationalist Community. In particular, the website is designed for “racial realists and idealist ... White Nationalists who support true diversity and a homeland for all peoples, including [White people]. [Stormfront is] the voice of the new, embattled White minority!”.¹⁷⁸ This website was founded in 1995 by Don Black and is primarily focused on the US (although it has grown to include country-specific variants, such as Stormfront.ca for Canada). Recent

¹⁷² <https://incels.co/>

¹⁷³ <https://lookism.net/>

¹⁷⁴ <https://www.gawaher.com/>

¹⁷⁵ <http://turntoislam.com/>

¹⁷⁶ <https://libcom.org/>

¹⁷⁷ There are relatively few left wing cites that met the selection criteria for this study.

¹⁷⁸ Stormfront. (2020, August 10). Welcome to Stormfront. Retrieved from: <https://www.stormfront.org/forum/>, para. 1.

topics on its forums include women (regarding marriage), racism in other countries, the coronavirus and masks, President Trump, guns, and baby names.¹⁷⁹

In addition to its forum, Stormfront also features live audio streams on weekdays (recorded as well), a chatroom, and blogs. Registration is required to post and access certain pages (e.g., chatroom), but most forums are free to browse. Stormfront is maintained through donations from *sustaining members*, who contribute to the site monthly or through one-time payments by check, money orders, and cryptocurrencies (i.e., Bitcoin, Ethereum, & Litecoin).¹⁸⁰ Credit cards are not accepted because the “increasingly sovietised America [and] the new generation of Jewish wannabe commissars have succeeded in shutting down all [of Stormfront’s] credit card processing accounts”.¹⁸¹

Free Republic

Copyright

¹⁷⁹ Stormfront. (2020). Welcome to Stormfront.

¹⁸⁰ Stormfront. (2020). Welcome to Stormfront.

¹⁸¹ Stormfront. (2012, January 17). Keep Stormfront and SF media alive and growing! Retrieved from: <https://www.stormfront.org/forum/t1211646/?postcount=1#post14080008>, para. 6.

The Free Republic is an active internet forum.¹⁸² Founded by James and John Robinson in 1996, the website is operated from Fresno, California, in the US. According to the website,

[t]he Free Republic forum is intended for Conservative users who wish to have a serious discussion about political events, conservative principles, and the elimination of government corruption and abuse. This is a news and information site not a chat room. ... Free Republic is a supporter of free speech on the Internet but we believe that along with the privilege of free speech comes the responsibility to respect the rights of others.¹⁸³

Consistent with the forum's free speech advocacy, there is no censorship on the site; however, Free Republic reserves the right to remove any content subjectively deemed as inappropriate.¹⁸⁴

The Free Republic contains news from around the world (e.g., Germany, China, & Indonesia), but focuses primarily on the US. Recent articles relate to police officers, COVID-19, President Trump, climate-change extremism, Hong Kong, as well as local disasters, such as fires.¹⁸⁵ Each article presents a brief summary to initiate discussions for members and is accompanied by a link to the original article, which are from an assortment of sources. Anyone can browse the website freely. However, registration is required to post new articles (i.e., threads for discussion) and comments on any forum. The website is supported through donations from its members – both regular (monthly/daily) and one-time donors – via FReepathons. Based on the scoreboard, members from California, Texas, and Florida are the most substantial contributors.¹⁸⁶

¹⁸² Free Republic. (2020, August 10). Welcome to Free Republic! Retrieved from: <https://www.freerepublic.com/home.htm#copyright>

¹⁸³ Free Republic. (n.d.). Registration and user agreement. Retrieved from: <http://www.freerepublic.com/perl/register>, para. 2.

¹⁸⁴ Free Republic. (n.d.). Registration.

¹⁸⁵ Free Republic. (2020). Welcome to Free Republic!

¹⁸⁶ Free Republic. (2020). Welcome to Free Republic!

Formerly incels.me,¹⁸⁷ Incels.co is an active website containing online forums, a blog, and wiki page catered to men who are involuntary celibates.¹⁸⁸ The homepage for Incels.co also features a link, titled *PornDude*, that redirects the user to a substantial catalogue of internet pornography websites.¹⁸⁹ According to their official Twitter account, Incels.co is “a community for men who lack romantic relationships”.¹⁹⁰ Incels.co was created on 7 November 7 2017 by SergeantIncel, who continues to administer the site.

While registration is only required for posting and creating threads, Incels.co is strictly intended for males age 15 and older – preferably those who desire, but are unable, to be in romantic relationships.¹⁹¹ Any men who mention they are not incel are immediately banned. Although the terms and rules state that posts should not contain, or direct to, “any Content which is defamatory, abusive, hateful, threatening, spam or spam-like, likely to offend, contains adult or objectionable content, contains personal information of others, risks copyright infringement, encourages unlawful activity, or otherwise

¹⁸⁷ Involuntary Celibate (Incels.co.). (2020, August 10). Formerly <http://Incels.me>. The official account for <http://Incels.co>, a community for men who lack romantic relationships. Retrieved from: <https://twitter.com/IncelsCo>

¹⁸⁸ Incels.co. (2020, August 10). Welcome to Incels.co. Retrieved from: <https://incels.co/>

¹⁸⁹ Incels.co. (2020). Welcome to Incels.co.

¹⁹⁰ Involuntary Celibate (Incels.co.). (2020). Formerly <http://Incels.me>, para. 1.

¹⁹¹ Incels.co. (2020). Terms and rules. Retrieved from: <https://incels.co/help/terms/>

violates any laws whatsoever”,¹⁹² it appears the definition of such terms are used loosely based on the topics discussed. Nested under *Inceldom Discussion*, recent topics involve the lack of attention Sri Lankan women give Sri Lankan men, how being an incel is worse than being raped, the difficulties for men to ascend, and asking other members if they would prefer to have sex with 100 18-, or 25-, year-old foids (short for femoids – a dehumanizing term for female).¹⁹³

Lookism.net

Copyright

As the self-proclaimed *forefront of the coping movement*, Lookism.net is an active internet forum for people 18 years and older who are struggling to find romance.^{194, 195} Information about the creators and origin of the site, if available, is inaccessible to the general public. Based on the *Official Lookism.NET Glossary* thread, the forum appears to be established on, or prior to, 28 June 2015 by poobear and The_Coordinate, and currently has 14 administrators and moderators.¹⁹⁶ Given that the terms and rules set out by Lookism.net are identical to those on Incels,¹⁹⁷ there may be a connection

¹⁹² Incels.co. (2020). Terms and rules, para. 4.

¹⁹³ Incels.co. (2020). Welcome to Incels.co.

¹⁹⁴ Lookism.net. (n.d.). Terms and rules. Retrieved from: <https://lookism.net/help/terms/>

¹⁹⁵ Lookism.net. (2020, August 13). Lookism Forums – Aesthetics, self-improvement and dating. Retrieved from: <https://lookism.net/>

¹⁹⁶ Lookism.net. (2020). Lookism Forums.

¹⁹⁷ Incels. (n.d.). Terms and rules. Retrieved from: <https://incels.net/help/terms/>

between the two forums beyond the content. Diverging from Incels,¹⁹⁸ however, Lookism.net¹⁹⁹ is not restricted to men. As with the men on the forum, women on Lookism.net primarily seek resources to improve their attractiveness to the opposite sex, while paradoxically ridiculing those they deem unattractive.²⁰⁰

The three forums with the most traffic are *Shitty Advice*, *Looksmxing*, and *Moneymaxing*. Within the first forum, described as mental masturbation galore, the most recent threads include “Wet[-]Ass Pussy”,²⁰¹ “[i]magine having a daughter”, and “do you come off as intelligent and well adjusted irl?”. According to Lookism.net,²⁰² Looksmxing contains advice and guides to prevent lookism discrimination. Topics discussed in this thread relate to surface qualities with popular treads titled: “Neck Training Thread”, “Addressing Facial Fat and Defining Fat Pads and Regions”, and “MSE²⁰³ is ascending me so hard”. Lastly, Moneymaxing is a forum to discuss various methods to make money, particularly through cryptocurrency trading. There are no overt signs as to how Lookism.net is financially supported.²⁰⁴

¹⁹⁸ Incels. (n.d.). Terms and rules.

¹⁹⁹ Lookism.net. (2020). Lookism Forums.

²⁰⁰ Lookism.net. (2020). Lookism Forums.

²⁰¹ This is in reference to a 2020 song and music video, of the same name, by an American rapper, Cardi B.

²⁰² Lookism.net. (2020). Lookism Forums.

²⁰³ Maxillary Skeletal Expander

²⁰⁴ Lookism.net. (2020). Lookism Forums.

Created in 2002, Gawaher is an English-based forum that focuses on issues pertaining to Islam.²⁰⁵ The purpose of the forum is to offer a space to “explore and learn about Islam ... in the light of Qur’an and Sunnah”,²⁰⁶ and it explicitly targets non-Muslims interested in the religion. Despite this emphasis on Islam, the forum does not allow discussions regarding other sects, as proper engagement “requires[s] more than ordinary Muslim’s knowledge”.²⁰⁷ Gawaher has neither an explicit owner nor point of origin, and its staff resides in various countries, including Canada, Egypt, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, the UK, and the US.²⁰⁸ There are 48 moderators listed and although three of them have been active in 2020, Gawaher is a relatively inactive forum as most of its moderators have not been online in a number of years.

Based on the structure of the website, hospitality is central to Gawaher, as the *reception lounge* is at the top, followed by the *Islamic*, *general*, and *community* forums.²⁰⁹ Users’ ability to post operates on a point-system, whereby violations against guidelines (e.g., improper citations, supporting civilian killings/un-Islamic behaviour, English-slang, & un-Islamic photos of unveiled women on member’s profile photos) result in warnings

²⁰⁵ Gawaher. (2020, August 8). Islamic forum. Retrieved from: <https://www.gawaher.com/>

²⁰⁶ Gawaher. (n.d.). Guidelines. Retrieved from: <https://www.gawaher.com/guidelines/>, para. 17.

²⁰⁷ Gawaher. (n.d.). Guidelines, para. 40.

²⁰⁸ Gawaher. (2020). Islamic forum.

²⁰⁹ Gawaher. (2020). Islamic forum.

and point-deductions. This Islamic forum is funded through online advertisements, specifically *PropellerAds*.²¹⁰

TurnToIslam

Copyright

TurnToIslam, used interchangeably with Salamyoun, is an active English-based Muslim social networking site with mobile and web platforms.²¹¹ Based in San Jose, California, TurnToIslam was created in 2006. The website promotes engagement with people of various nationalities (e.g, Arabic, Bosnian, Dutch, French, & Italian).²¹² According to their inactive official Twitter page, one of the goals of TurnToIslam is “[c]orrecting Common Misconceptions About Islam & Muslims [sic]”.²¹³ To achieve this goal, community engagement is encouraged through forum discussions and a comprehensive library of Islamic articles relating to the Qur’an and Sunnah.

²¹⁰ Gawaher. (2020). Islamic forum.

²¹¹ TurnToIslam. (n.d.). The Muslim lifestyle network. Connect and share over what matters to you. Retrieved from: <http://turntoislam.com/>

²¹² TurnToIslam. (n.d.). The Muslim lifestyle network.

²¹³ TurnToIslam. (2013, December 5). The official TurnToIslam page on twitter. A Muslim Social Network. Correcting common misconceptions about Islam & Muslims. *Twitter*. Retrieved from: https://twitter.com/turntoislam_com, para. 1.

Registration is required to use the social networking component of TurnToIslam, post, or like comments on the website, but anyone can view the forums and libraries.²¹⁴

Libcom.org

Copyright

Based on the political idea of “libertarian communism”, Libcom.org was created in 2005 and serves as an online resource for the working-class struggle, with hopes of “escalating class warfare online (and off!)”.²¹⁵ According to their official site, the problem is that “[w]e are not human beings, we are human resources, cogs in a machine that knows only one purpose: profit”.²¹⁶ In order to break free from these chains, the website provides resources for ordinary people. The base of operations for Libcom.org is not explicitly stated; however, their GoFundMe page uses the British pound, so the UK is likely their origin.²¹⁷

Libcom.org contains news on various topics (e.g., police, Pride Marches, & ANTIFA), discussion forums, and is a repository for anarchist and communist literature (over

²¹⁴ TurnToIslam. (n.d.). The Muslim lifestyle network.

²¹⁵ Libcom Dot Org. (2020, March 22). Help upgrade libcom.org. Retrieved from: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-upgrade-libcomorg>, para. 6.

²¹⁶ Libcom.org. (2006, September 11). Libcom.org: An introduction. Retrieved from: <https://libcom.org/notes/about>, para. 3.

²¹⁷ Libcom Dot Org. (2020). Help upgrade.

20,000 articles).²¹⁸ The site advocates for workers' self-organization around the world by offering its content and resources in multiple languages, such as Bengali, Chinese, Indonesian, and Spanish. Registration is necessary to post comments, but not required to access the material. Independent from trade unions and political parties, Libcom.org is supported by donations and subscriptions through direct payments and companies (e.g., Patreon & GoFundMe).²¹⁹

The Terrorism and Extremism Network Extractor

After the forums were identified, the next step was to extract the data (i.e., all of the posts), so that they could be analyzed. This was done via the Terrorism and Extremism Network Extractor (TENE). TENE is a fully customizable internet crawler developed by Dr. Richard Frank, in collaboration with several colleagues. TENE has been adapted to variety of contexts. Please consult previous publications for more details concerning how TENE functions.^{220, 221, 222}

Analytic Time Frame

TENE retrieved all the posts from all seven forums. Owing to structural differences between the forums, there was some variation in the length of time required for TENE to complete the extraction of data from each forum. Consequently, the end dates for the retrieved data were not consistent between forums. To force uniformity, and with it, comparability, the final date of analysis for all forums was set to 21 April 2020. To illustrate medium-term trends in posting, the start date of 1 January 2019 was used. The medium-term trends are primarily descriptive and are useful for visualizing the broader posting context for forum. For short-term analyses, which are the focus on this study, the time frame used was 1 January 2020 to 21 April 2020. To assess the impact of the pandemic, the study employed a standard before and after interrupted time series design. The demarcation line between the before and after was specified as 11 March

²¹⁸ Libcom.org. (2020, August 8). Donate now to help upgrade libcom.org. Retrieved from: <https://libcom.org/>

²¹⁹ Libcom.org. (2020). Donate now.

²²⁰ Scrivens, R. & Davies, G. (2018, January 18). Identifying radical content online. *Policy Options*. Retrieved from: <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/january-2018/identifying-radical-content-online/>

²²¹ Scrivens, R., Davies, G., & Frank, R. (2018). Searching for signs of extremism on the web: An introduction to sentiment-based identification of radical authors. *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism & Political Aggression*, 10(1), 39-59.

²²² Scrivens, R., Davies, G., & Frank, R. (2020). Measuring the evolution of radical right-wing posting behaviors online. *Deviant Behavior*, 41(2), 216-232.

2000, the date WHO officially declared COVID-19 as a pandemic.²²³ Thus, the “before” or “pre” period (the time before the pandemic) was specified as 1 January 2020 to 11 March 2020, while the “after” or “post” period (the pandemic) was 12 March 2020 to 21 April 2020.

The 11 March 2020 delimitating date is reasonable and justifiable, but it does present one minor drawback: it truncates the “after” period of the analyses. The minimum number of days that should be used to assess the effects of an intervention (i.e., the start of the pandemic) is 30 time periods (i.e., 30 days). Ideally, the follow-up period here would have been at least 50 days; however, the actual time for the “after” period is 41 days. This relatively short follow-up period, coupled with the high level of variability in trends across most forums, requires a certain modest interpretation of the results. Further cautions to the interpretation of the results are delineated below.

Dimensions of Posting Behaviour

This preliminary analysis of the forum data revolves around changes in two particular dimensions of online posting behavior: aggregate numbers of posts and the number of new posters. The daily count of posts on a forum was taken as evidence of the level of interest and engagement in the discourse occurring on that forum. More to the point, an increase in the daily number of posts following 11 March 2020 are assumed to be indicative of an increase in overall intensity, and therefore, an increase in the potential for radicalization on that forum. New posters refers to individuals who have never previously posted to the forum.²²⁴ Growth in the number of new posters following 11 March 2020 suggests that more individuals are moving down the pathway of potential recruitment and radicalization. Neither aggregate counts of posts nor counts of new posters is an ideal proxy for online engagement or the potential for radicalization. They do, however, offer a useful preliminary indication of posting behaviour. Subsequent analyses will need to supplement the results presented here with further analytic approaches, including qualitative assessments, sentiment analysis, and quantitative text analysis.

Segmented Regression Analysis

A common way to evaluate interrupted time series data is segmented regression analysis. Among the several advantages of this technique is that it is not overly

²²³ The choice of March 11, 2020 as the pandemic demarcation date is arbitrary, but not random. Other specifications of the separation date, including March 1 (start of the month) and March 4 (one week prior to the WHO declaration), were analyzed, but did not change the substantive results of the analyses.

²²⁴ This presumes that individuals have not previously used other usernames.

technical and is open to fairly straightforward interpretation. Consider the hypothetical example provided by the figure below.

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The green data points represent the total number of posts on this extremist forum for the pre-intervention period (from 1 January to 11 March 2020). The blue data points represent the total number of posts on this extremist forum for the post-intervention period (from 12 March to 21 April 2020). Segmented regression estimates three parameters of interest. First, it calculates the slope (a.k.a., angle or trajectory) of the trend line for the pre-intervention period. This is the dotted red line in the figure. This slope is important, as it illustrates what was happening (i.e., what was the posting behaviour) on the forum before the pandemic was declared. The second matter segmented regression attends to is comparing the pre-intervention trend line with the post-intervention trend line (the solid red line). This comparison determines whether there was a significant *change* in the trend line after the intervention. The third part of the segmented regression analysis compares the average number of posts pre- and post-intervention. Thus, each segmented regression analysis allows for three research questions to be answered. These questions will be addressed in relation to every forum:

1. Prior to the pandemic, was the trend line for posting rising, falling, or flat?
2. After COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, has there been a change in the trajectory of posting behaviour?

3. Is there a difference in the mean number of daily posts before and after the pandemic officially began?

A Note of Caution about Interpretation

As this is preliminary research, it is subject to a number of caveats. For example, the comparatively short follow up period is less than ideal for evaluating trends. Having said that, assessing long-term trends was not the goal of this study. Rather, this study provides a snapshot of the immediate impact of the pandemic. Second, the measures of posting behaviour used here are not sophisticated and they do not capture central aspects on online communication, such as topic and tone. They do, however, provide useful measures for the snapshots. In light of these limitations, it is important not to overstate the findings presented here, both those that are significant and those that are not.

Posting Activity

Stormfront

The medium-term posting pattern illustrated in Figure 5 is typical of daily analyses of posting behavior. First, there is notable variation from day-to-day. Second, there are peaks and valleys, often indicative of particular external events. Third, there are trajectories that can be discerned below the “noise”. Stormfront experienced a gradual decline in post from January 1, 2019 until about the end of the first week of November. Posting stayed comparative low for about a month, after which it rose, on average faster than it has been declining previously. Although a trend line has been superimposed on the data in Figure 1, the fit of the line is not very good. Of all the forums, the variability in posting was the most resistant to modeling; that is, the posting pattern on Stormfront is erratic, making it difficult to express its trend on a line.

Figure 5. Aggregate Posts – Stormfront – January 1, 2019 to April 21, 2020

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As noted in the *Methods* section, the primary interest in this section of the report is the analysis of the short-term posting behavior around 11 March 2020, the date that the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a pandemic. Figure 6 shows these changes in posting for Stormfront. There are three aspects that are of analytic interest here. First, the slope (or trajectory) of the posts before the pandemic, as indicated by the dotted red line. Second, a comparison of the slopes for posting behavior before and after the declaration of the pandemic (the dotted red line versus the solid red line). And finally, a comparison of the average number of daily posts prior to 11 March (green series) with the average number of daily posts after 11 March (blue series).

Figure 6. Aggregate Posts – Stormfront – January 1 to April 21, 2020

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These three key parameters were estimated using segmented regression analysis, the results of which are presented in Table 3. The first parameter, *Trajectory Before*, shows that the slope of posting behavior between 1 January and 11 March is negative ($\beta = -0.55$); that is, on average, fewer posts were being made each day. However, the coefficient is not statistically significant ($t = -0.90$). Thus, for statistical purposes, the line is essentially flat. In terms of comparing the trajectories before and after the pandemic was declared, the *Slope Before vs. After* parameter is positive ($\beta = 1.66$), suggesting the number of daily posts on Stormfront increased after the pandemic started. Again, however, this parameter is not statistically significant ($t = 1.66$). Put another way, although the slope was increasing, the magnitude of change could simply have happened by chance. It is not large enough to claim with 95% certainty that the change in slopes is “real”. Finally, the comparison of the average number of posts pre- and post-WHO’s declaration shows a statistically significant increase ($t = 3.12$). Controlling for the effects of the other variables in the model, the average number of posts on Stormfront went up by about 130 per day after 11 March. One possible explanation for this notable increase could be increased attention to and speculation about issues surrounding the pandemic.

Table 3. Segmented Regression Analysis of Posting Behaviour – Stormfront

Indicators	Coefficient (β)	Standard Error	T-Value
Trajectory Before	-0.55	0.61	-0.90
Slope Before vs. After	1.66	1.53	1.09
Average Level Before vs. After	130.49	41.87	3.12*

* $p < .05$; ** $p < 0.001$

Free Republic

Consistent with the figure for Stormfront, Figure 7, which shows the medium-term postings for Free Republic, demonstrates considerable day-to-day fluctuation. Overall, however, the underlying trajectory is more straightforward. The posting trend of Free Republic is basically flat for all of 2019, but starts to rise conspicuously around January 2020.²²⁵

Figure 7. Aggregate Posts – Free Republic – January 1, 2019 to April 21, 2020

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Figure 8 highlights short-term posting trajectories for Free Republic. Immediately noticeable is the fact that, from the start of 2020, the average number of daily posts grew rapidly. The coefficient for *Trajectory Before* shown in Table 4 ($\beta = 20.40$) indicates that, adjusted for the other variables in the model, the number of posts went up by

²²⁵ This trend was best captured with a third-order polynomial equation.

approximately 20 per day. This increase is significant ($t = 2.62$). Thus, posting activity was already on the increase before the officially declared onset of the pandemic. As news of the pandemic actually began circulating as early as December 2019, and given that conspiracy oriented platforms were among the first to begin discussing the new virus in earnest, it is hard to discern how much of the pre-11 March increase was already beginning to capture the effect of the coronavirus.

Figure 8. Aggregate Posts – Free Republic – January 1 to April 21, 2020

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After 11 March, the number of daily posts flattened out, and actually somewhat decreased. The coefficient for *Slope Before vs. After* in Table 4 ($\beta = -29.35$) confirms that the post-11 March trajectory is negative, in comparison to the pre-11 March period. However, the difference between these two slopes is not significant ($t = -1.51$). That is, statistically speaking the slopes are the same. The conclusion is that, in its first five to six weeks, COVID-19 did not result in pronounced changes in day-to-day posting behaviour on Free Republic.

Table 4. Segmented Regression Analysis of Posting Behaviour – Free Republic

Indicators	Coefficient (β)	Standard Error	T-Value
Trajectory Before	20.40	7.79	2.62*
Slope Before vs. After	-29.35	19.39	-1.51
Average Level Before vs. After	2590.79	532.10	4.87**

* $p < .05$; ** $p < 0.001$

In contrast, Table 4 clearly points to huge changes in the average number of posts before and after the pandemic was declared. Adjusting for the other factors, there were, on average, almost 2,600 more daily posts on Free Republic ($\beta = 2590.79$) at the outset of the pandemic. Again, one plausible explanation for this elevated posting is the heightened discourse around COVID-19.

Incel.co

The overall medium-terms posting pattern evidenced for Incel.co in Figure 9 is quite similar to the pattern observed for Free Republic (Figure 7). Again, the overall trend for posting on Incels.co is essentially level for most of 2019, but starts to rise steadily by the end of the year.

Figure 9. Aggregate Posts – Incels.co – 1 January 2019 to 21 April 2020

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As was the case with the Free Republic forum, Figure 10 reveals a noteworthy increase in daily posts on Incels.co prior to the declaration of the pandemic. The adjusted daily rise in the number of posts, about 14 per day ($\beta = 14.19$, Table 5), was less dramatic than it was for Free Republic, but it was nonetheless significant ($t = 1.97$). Contrary to the pattern demonstrated on Free Republic, however, the volume of posting on Incel.co continued to climb. In fact, following the onset of the pandemic, Incel.co saw a significant increase ($t = 4.98$, Table 5) of an extra 90 posts per day ($\beta = 89.21$, Table 5). Something, very possibly the pandemic, was generating a sustained increase in activity.

Figure 10. Aggregate Posts – Incels.co – 1 January to 21 April 2020

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Despite the obvious change in the composite posting trajectory on Incels.co after March 11, Table 5 indicates that the average number of posts per day did not change significantly ($t = 1.65$). This finding, however, must be viewed in context. According to Table 5, there were more than 800 more posts following the start of official pandemic procedures, on average. This seems like a whopping difference. However, the volatility in the number of posts (as indicted by the standard error) was also great. For this reason, the otherwise massive difference is not statistically significant. Findings of this sort are not at all uncommon over relatively short time spans. Thus, to some degree, the results for the *Average Level Before vs. After* parameter may be considered an artifact of the data. If the pattern demonstrated here were to persist, even for a few more weeks, it

is very likely that the changes in average number of posts before and after March 11 would be significant.

Table 5. Segmented Regression Analysis of Posting Behaviour – Incels.co

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Coefficient (β)</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>T-Value</i>
Trajectory Before	14.19	7.20	1.97*
Slope Before vs. After	89.21	17.93	4.98**
Average Level Before vs. After	812.26	491.79	1.65

* $p < .05$; ** $p < 0.001$

Lookism

Due to the data missing from Figure 11, it is not possible to identify an underlying pattern for postings on Lookism in the medium-term. Because of the circumstances surrounding the missing data,²²⁶ this analysis will only consider data accumulated since the start of 2020.

Figure 11. Aggregate Posts – Lookism – January 1, 2019 to April 21, 2020

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²²⁶ According to threads on Lookism.net, it appears that the missing data may have been deleted by a forum moderator.

Like Free Republic and Incels.co, Figure 12 shows a sustained increase in posts on Lookism between 1 January and 11 March. Table 6 indicates that the number of posts grew significantly, by an excess of 20 posts per day ($\beta = 21.05$; $t = 5.83$), during this period. After March 11, the underlying trajectory completely leveled off, albeit with huge day-to-day variation. This visual representation is confirmed by the significant negative parameter estimate for *Slope Before vs. After* ($\beta = -19.45$; $t = -2.17$).

Figure12. Aggregate Posts – Lookism – 1 January to 21 April 2020

Copyright

In the same way that the enormous variability in daily posts produced an insignificant estimate for the *Average Level Before vs. After* parameter for Incels.co, so too does an inflated standard error disguise another very substantial jump in average posting levels. In the post-phase, the average number of posts was in excess of 160 larger for the period ($\beta = 21.05$). But because the actual distribution of posts was “all over the place”, fluctuating by as many as 1,000 posts per day, this difference is not significant ($t = 0.66$). At the risk of being unduly speculative, particularly given the fluctuation just noted, there appears to be evidence of a pronounced upward trajectory beginning on 10 April 2020. Secondary analysis found that this increase was sustained through the end of April. As with the comments for Incels.co, there is a strong possibility that an expanded time frame could demonstrate a statistically significant increase in the average before-and-after posting.

Table 6. Segmented Regression Analysis of Posting Behaviour – Lookism

Indicators	Coefficient (β)	Standard Error	T-Value
Trajectory Before	21.05	3.61	5.83**
Slope Before vs. After	-19.45	8.98	-2.17*
Average Level Before vs. After	161.77	246.42	0.66

* $p < .05$; ** $p < 0.001$

Gawaher

Once among the largest and most notorious English language jihadi forums, Gawaher is now virtually non-existent, generating only a handful of posts per day. Even with the pandemic, the number of posts spiked at 16. Simply put, there is little to say about the medium-term trajectory for Gawaher.

Figure 13. Aggregate Posts – Gawaher – January 1, 2019 to April 21, 2020

Copyright

As illustrated in Figure 14, the pandemic did nothing to revive Gawaher's flagging fortunes. The red trend lines seem to show a marginal downward pattern, but this is more of an illusion caused by the very small scale for the Y-axis (number of posts). The results in Table 7 show that the parameter estimates for both *Trajectory Before* and *Slope Before vs. After* are both essentially 0. Moreover, the level of posting after the pandemic

was declared is virtually identical to the level of posting that preceded the outbreak. In contrast to the extreme right-wing and incel forums, the pandemic thus far has not had an appreciable impact on posting behaviour on Gawaher.

Figure 14. Aggregate Posts – Gawaher – 1 January to 21 April 2020

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Table 7. Segmented Regression Analysis of Posting Behaviour – Gawaher

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Coefficient (β)</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>T-Value</i>
Trajectory Before	-0.03	0.02	-1.81
Slope Before vs. After	0.01	0.04	0.25
Average Level Before vs. After	0.23	1.21	0.19

* $p < .05$; ** $p < 0.001$

TurnToIslam

Like Gawaher, TurnToIslam was once an important English language jihadist discussion forum. While the decline in participation on this forum has not been as drastic as that which characterized Gawaher, it nonetheless saw far less traffic than it did at its peak. Even more so than Gawaher, the overall trend depicted in Figure 15 is obscured by frequent spikes in posting behaviour.

Figure 15. Aggregate Posts – TurnToIslam – 1 January 2019 to 21 April 2020

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The short-term trends shown in Figure 16 do not reveal anything of note. The trend line for pre-pandemic declaration posts does show an upward trajectory, but this slope is skewed by the dramatic uptick in posts in the week prior to WHO's declaration. Moreover, Table 8 indicates that this trajectory is not statistically significant ($\beta = 0.24$; $t = 1.77$). The increases in the number of daily posts after 11 March was roughly comparable to the pre-pandemic slope; that is, the pattern of increase remained relatively constant. Table 8 confirms that the coefficient for *Slope Before vs. After* is similarly insignificant ($\beta = 0.34$; $t = 1.00$); the declaration of the pandemic did not appreciably influence daily posting behavior on the TurnToIslam forum.

Figure 16. Aggregate Posts – TurnToIslam – 1 January to 21 April 2020

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Finally, Table 8 shows that the average number of posts after 11 March did increase relative to the prior period ($t = 3.47$). However, mirroring the effects demonstrated in the analyses of both Incels.co and Lookism, the excessively large standard error also rendered this rise insignificant.

Table 8. Segmented Regression Analysis of Posting Behaviour – TurnToIslam

Indicators	Coefficient (β)	Standard Error	T-Value
Trajectory Before	0.24	0.14	1.77
Slope Before vs. After	0.34	0.34	1.00
Average Level Before vs. After	3.47	9.31	0.37

* $p < .05$; ** $p < 0.001$

LibCom

Like the jihadi forums, the results of the analyses for LibCom stand out for what they do not show. The number of posts presented in Figure 17 are a mere fraction of those highlighted for the right-wing and incel forums. The overall medium-term trend is essentially flat.

Figure 17. Aggregate Posts – LibCom – 1 January 2019 to 21 April 2020

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The pre-pandemic “rise” and subsequent “fall” depicted in Figure 18 are, once again, more a function of scale. Table 9 shows that, taken together, these trajectories effectively cancel each other out ($\beta = -0.02$; $t = -0.29$). Furthermore, the average number of daily posts on LibCom dropped following the onset of the pandemic ($\beta = -1.69$), but this decrease was statistically insignificant ($t = -0.80$). Based on these results, there is no reason to surmise that the pandemic had any type of effect on posting behaviour on LibCom.

Figure 18. Aggregate Posts – LibCom – 1 January to 21 April 2020

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Table 9. Segmented Regression Analysis of Posting Behaviour – LibCom

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Coefficient (β)</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>T-Value</i>
Trajectory Before	0.03	0.03	0.89
Slope Before vs. After	-0.02	0.08	-0.29
Average Level Before vs. After	-1.69	2.11	-0.80

* $p < .05$; ** $p < 0.001$

New Posters

Given that notable levels of activity were evident only for the right-wing extremist and incel forums, the following analyses focus solely on these forums. None of the forums experienced an avalanche of new posters, but there were some interesting findings. The general patterns of short-term posting evident in Figures 19 through 21 are very similar: a decreasing number of new posters prior to the start of the pandemic, followed by an increase after 11 March. On Stormfront (Figure 19), the downward pre-pandemic trajectory was significant (Table 10, $\beta = -0.02$; $t = -2.78$). The trajectory following 11 March, while not large, was also significant ($\beta = 0.07$; $t = 2.67$). Although Figure 20 reveals a similar overall pattern for Free Republic, neither of its slope parameters was significant (Table 10, *Trajectory Before*, $\beta = -0.01$, $t = -0.27$; *Slope Before vs. After*, $\beta = -0.07$, $t = -1.52$). On the other hand, the difference in the average number of new posters pre- and post-pandemic onset was substantial ($\beta = 5.00$; $t = 3.87$). For Incels.co, only the *Slope Before vs. After* parameter was significant ($\beta = 0.06$; $t = 2.31$). On Incels.co, the daily number of new posters rose noticeably.

Figure 19. Number of New Posters – Stormfront – 1 January to 21 April 2020

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Figure 20. Number of New Posters – Free Republic – 1 January to 21 April 2020

Copyright

Figure 21. Number of New Posters – Incels.co – 1 January to 21 April 2020

Copyright

The pattern of new posters on Lookism outlined in Figure 22 was distinct from the other forums. The trajectories for new posters before and after 11 March were roughly flat. The average daily number of new posters was in fact lower after the pandemic was declared, but not much lower. In sum, none of the parameter estimates for Lookism displayed in Table 10 are significant.

Figure 22. Number of New Posters – Lookism – 1 January to 21 April 2020

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Table 10. Segmented Regression Analysis for New Posters

Indicators	Coefficient (β)	Standard Error	T-Value
Stormfront			
Trajectory Before	-0.03	0.01	-2.78*
Slope Before vs. After	0.07	0.03	2.67*
Average Level Before vs. After	0.34	0.77	0.45
Free Republic			
Trajectory Before	-0.01	0.02	-0.27
Slope Before vs. After	-0.07	0.05	-1.52
Average Level Before vs. After	5.00	1.29	3.87**
Incels.co			
Trajectory Before	-0.02	0.01	-1.48
Slope Before vs. After	0.06	0.03	2.31*
Average Level Before vs. After	-0.36	0.70	-0.51
Lookism			
Trajectory Before	0.01	0.03	0.47
Slope Before vs. After	-0.10	0.08	-1.30
Average Level Before vs. After	-0.33	2.11	-0.16

* $p < .05$; ** $p < 0.001$

Discussion

As expected, the short-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was pronounced on right-wing extremist and incel forums. As noted during the earlier contextualization, the pandemic is perfectly suited to the far-right conspiracy and disinformation machine. The effect of the pandemic varied across different websites, but the results show several significant increases in posting behaviour. On both Stormfront and Free Republic, for example, the average number of daily posts was markedly higher after the official declaration of the pandemic. On Incels.co, the number of posts grew perceptibly each day after 11 March. These results, while by no means definitive, are noteworthy in light of the extreme variability and short time span of the data. In a period of just over five weeks, discernible changes in posting behaviour were evident.

In addition to confirming the synchronicity between right-wing extremism and the pandemic, the results shown here also further highlight the growing potential of the threat from incel extremists. Although the core tenets of the incel movement revolve around misogynistic violence, there is nevertheless considerable overlap and affinity

between this movement and the extreme right. At a fundamental level, both exist as reflections of a broad range of perceived grievances. The issues raised by the pandemic are not as directly related to incels as they are to the extreme right, but one can still plausibly speculate that they provide additional fuel for the anger that drives the incel movement. At the same time, incels also adapted their rhetoric to fit with the pandemic. For example, the increased traffic on incel forums may partly reflect a certain *schadenfreude*. During the initial lockdown phase of pandemic, incels took delight in the fact that “attractive people” and “normies” were unable to have sex. Many posts on these forums regard the coronavirus as karma for having casual sex.²²⁷ Moreover, members of these forums seek to use the need for self-isolation and social distancing as a validation of their lifestyle. Finally, incels take pleasure in the wearing of masks, which they regard as a sort of “equalizing force”, making it hard to distinguish “perfect tens” from others who may be less attractive.²²⁸ Thus, like right-wing extremists, the incel movement has attempted to exploit the pandemic for the purposes of recruitment and radicalization.

Of course, the effects of the pandemic have not been uniform across the ideological spectrum. Although jihadist groups, such as al-Qaeda and Islamic State, have been active throughout the pandemic (e.g., continued to commit attacks, tried to inspire/provoke attacks, & attempted to incorporate COVID-19 into their fundamentalist narratives), the influence of the pandemic on the English-based jihadi forums studied here proved to be negligible. This is not to suggest that jihadist groups are no longer a threat, or even a diminished threat; particularly now, when jihadism has been pushed off the front pages by other events, most notably the pandemic and protests motivated by various social justice movements. Jihadist groups have proved to be remarkably resilient in the past. But at this time, the large-scale attacks that have been their calling cards for recruitment and radicalization are particularly difficult: physical movement has been curtailed; people tend not to congregate in groups; and there is an absence of dramatic large (but soft) targets, such as sporting events and concerts. Of course, at the height of their influence, jihadist groups were also dynamic forces on the internet. It is difficult to believe that they have abandoned even the English language aspect of their recruitment and radicalization operations. Still, if the pandemic has had an impact on jihadi messaging in the West, it has occurred on more private and secure platforms than those examined in this research.

²²⁷ Manavis, S. (2020, March 24). Incels are celebrating lockdown because attractive people can't have casual sex. *The New Statesman*. Retrieved from: <https://www.newstatesman.com/science-tech/coronavirus/2020/03/incels-celebrating-lockdown-casual-sex-chad-stacy-4chan-reddit>

²²⁸ TVOntario. (2020, May 13). Transcript: How extremists are exploiting COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://www.tvo.org/transcript/2615859/how-extremists-are-exploiting-covid-19>

In a similar vein, there is no evidence that the pandemic influenced posting behaviour on a well-known left-wing forum. In comparison with the far-right, there are relatively few open access left-wing forums that can even remotely be considered to be extreme. There is, for example, no open access forum for Antifa. Again, all of the provisos are valid here: the extreme left may simply be operating on different platforms or in different spaces. But given the success the far-right has had in generating interest in the movement (not to mention recruitment) on the open internet, the reasons for the relative absence of far-left forums remain unclear.

This is not to say, however, that the pandemic has not had an impact on the social justice movement more broadly. On the contrary, there is every reason to suspect that the pandemic may have contributed to the timing of the George Floyd protests and other associated movements. One of the key (if somewhat overlooked) questions about the tremendous upsurge in support for BLM is “Why now?”. BLM has existed since 2013, when it began as an online protest after George Zimmerman was acquitted of killing Trayvon Martin. While it has established itself as a formidable voice in the fight for Black liberation and equality, it has never before achieved the elevated status it is experiencing currently experiencing. Again, “Why?”. The immediate, but facile and woefully insufficient, answer is George Floyd.

Black men and women have died in incidents involving the police many times before: Ahmaud Arbery, Michael Brown, Philando Castille, Stephon Clark, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Botham Jean, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Alton Sterling, and Breonna Taylor, to name a few. In comparison to these other police-involved killings, there is no readily apparent circumstance that is unique to Floyd; many of the previous cases have been equally egregious and most of these killings have video-evidence. Many of these other killings prompted protests, sometimes violent, and instigated some changes, though often minor or superficial in nature. But none have produced the shifts occurring today. So, what is different this time? Giving the timing, it is not unreasonable to propose that the difference is one of context; more precisely, that the pandemic played a role in focusing longstanding social cleavages. In relation to the coronavirus, racial differences have quickly become matters of life and death. To be sure, this has been the case for quite some time. It is well-established, for example, that Black individuals and the poor suffer higher rates of chronic illness, and that these conditions inevitably result in shorter life spans. But somehow this reality has “flown under the radar”, unnoticed by the majority of White people. The pandemic, with its onslaught of media coverage, has presented these social cleavages and highlighted racial (& socioeconomic) disparities and injustices in an unparalleled manner. Increasingly larger numbers of people are finding it impossible to turn away. Simultaneously, various other social justice movements are also capitalizing on the current climate to advocate for substantive change.

There is heated debate over whether or not a fabled “turning point” in history is occurring, but that can only be adjudicated in time. At present, what can be said is the pandemic caused by COVID-19 has been exploited by some groups, most notably right-wing extremists and the incel movement, to bolster their causes. The pandemic may also have unintentionally played a role in establishing a context that has assisted in advancing social justice movements of all stripes.

Epilogue

Owing to the complexity of the hyper-connected world, and the frantic speed at which conditions can change, assessment on the effects of particular conditions are usually fraught with booby-traps. However, up until late May 2020, it was feasible to quasi-isolate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in part because it so dominated everything at that time. The killing of George Floyd on 25 May and the subsequent reactions to his death on both the left and right have rendered evaluations of the separate influence of the pandemic nigh on impossible. Adding to this, is possibly one of the ugliest and most contentious elections ever in the US. Much of the world is experiencing such unprecedented levels of polarization that the media appears to be on the verge of prefixes: hyper-polarization; ultra-polarization; mega-polarization; uber-polarization.²²⁹ In this environment, virtually aspect of life has become politicized, with an endless smorgasbord of grievances. Politically, the pandemic has simply become additional fodder for partisan debate and clashes. The pandemic has been appropriated to politicize (or further politicize) schooling, church attendance, mail delivery, and census taking. Even the seemingly innocuous act of wearing (or not wearing) a facemask has sparked furious reactions on both the political left and right. Most disturbingly, science itself has become politicized.

Where the coronavirus has played, and continues to play, a defining role is in highlighting the fundamental ideological differences that fan the flames of extremism. The nature and dynamic of the pandemic have laid bare the individualistic instincts that animate the right and the collectivist sentiments that epitomize the left. Albeit inadvertently, the pandemic has pitted extremists on both sides against one another in a no-holds-barred cage match. Online attempts at recruitment and radicalization represent an important dimension of this battle.

As is often the case, extremism has quickly morphed in the wake the pandemic, with the far-right leading the way. The once fringe QAnon movement, which contends that “the world is run by a cabal of Satan-worshiping pedophiles who were plotting against [President] Trump while operating a global child sex-trafficking ring”,²³⁰ has experienced record growth on Facebook, much of it coinciding with the start of the pandemic in March.²³¹ Concerns about the spreading of false allegations prompted Facebook to remove 790 QAnon groups and restrict more than 10,000 QAnon- related

²²⁹ The last two might not be real.

²³⁰ Roose, K. (2020, August 20). What is QAnon, the viral pro-trump conspiracy theory? *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/what-is-qanon.html>, para. 7.

²³¹ Frenkel, S. (2020, August 19). Facebook removes 790 QAnon groups to fight conspiracy theory. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/19/technology/facebook-qanon-groups-takedown.html>

accounts.²³² As a measure of the progress that the movement is making, explicit QAnon supporters have won Republic primaries in Georgia²³³ and Colorado.²³⁴ Both Republicans could become members of the US Congress.

Another right-wing group that has a rising profile is the Boogaloo movement (or Boogaloo Bois), a loose affiliation of anti-government, anti-police extremists that claims to be preparing to (or trying to incite) a second civil war. The danger posed by Boogaloo was underscored by the assassinations of police and security officers carried out in Oakland²³⁵ and Santa Cruz,²³⁶ California in May and June 2020. The movement has existed since 2012 but it was only earlier this year that it started to garner greater attention.²³⁷ Although the Boogaloo Bois' rise overlaps with the timing of the pandemic, it seems that Boogaloo was driven more-so by the killing of George Floyd. According to one article, the Floyd protests divided the group: "Some Boogaloo Boys ... have called for violence against protesters that they described as looters and members of the anti-fascist or Antifa movement. Others pledged themselves – and their firearms – to protect protesters from the police".²³⁸

Antifa, of course, has been one of the groups singled out for blame by the far-right. Speaking of the protests that were raging at the beginning of June, President Trump claimed that the violence "is being led by Antifa and other radical left-wing groups who are terrorizing the innocent, destroying jobs, hurting businesses and burning

²³² Frenkel. (2020). Facebook removes 790 QAnon groups.

²³³ Rosenberg, M., Herndon, A.W., Corasaniti, N. (2020, August 11). Marjorie Taylor Greene, a QAnon supporter, wins house primary in Georgia. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/11/us/politics/marjorie-taylor-greene-qanon-georgia-primary.html>

²³⁴ Walters, J. (2020, July 1). Who is Lauren Boebert, the QAnon sympathizer who won a Republican primary? *The Guardian*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jul/01/who-is-lauren-boebert-republican-primary-qanon-trump>

²³⁵ Gartrell, N. (2020, July 29). Federal grand jury returns indictment against California men accused of murdering federal officer after meeting on 'Boogaloo' Facebook group. *The Mercury News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/06/29/federal-grand-jury-returns-indictment-against-california-men-accused-of-murdering-federal-officer-after-meeting-on-boogaloo-facebook-group/>

²³⁶ Whiting S. & Gafni, M. (2020, June 7). Air Force sergeant arrested in ambush of Santa Cruz deputy; link to Oakland shooting eyed. *San Francisco Chronicle*. Retrieved from: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Air-Force-sergeant-arrested-in-ambush-of-Santa-Cruz-deputy-link-to-Oakland-shooting-eyed-15323113.php>

²³⁷ Zadrozny, B. (2020, February 19). What is the 'boogaloo'? How online calls for a violent uprising are hitting the mainstream. *National Broadcasting Company News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/social-media/what-boogaloo-how-online-calls-violent-uprising-are-getting-organized-n1138461>

²³⁸ Ore, J. & Sanchez, P. (2020, June 5). How the Boogaloo movement rose from an internet joke to an armed movement in the U.S. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/day6/from-little-rock-to-george-floyd-a-poem-for-the-protests-the-boogaloos-pride-during-a-pandemic-and-more-1.5598305/how-the-boogaloo-movement-rose-from-an-internet-joke-to-an-armed-movement-in-the-u-s-1.5598461>, para. 1.

down buildings”.²³⁹ Some have also acknowledged that Black Lives Matters is engaging in violence.²⁴⁰ More generally, the right refers to a “radical left” that is wreaking havoc. The precise nature of this “movement” remains elusive, but notable conservative commentators have repeatedly raised fears of a “revolution”.²⁴¹

The profanity-laced tirade launched at Minister Catherine McKenna's constituency office on 6 August serves as yet another unneeded reminder of the virulence of misogynistic hate crime.²⁴² Recent research from the Cambridge Cybercrime Centre has confirmed the conclusions drawn here about the influence of the pandemic on incels, concluding that

[t]he outbreak intensified the incel subculture in April 2020, no doubt because lockdowns led to people spending more time online. The pandemic thus fueled self-pity, extremist fantasies and hostility towards attractive men and women. This intensification appears to be a rise in activity by existing users rather than new, casual, contributors.²⁴³

With many places facing worrisome upturns in new COVID-19 cases and renewed calls for more stringent preventive measures, it is unlikely that the pressures contributing to incel radicalization will abate any time soon.

Finally, jihadist groups have certainly capitalized on the pandemic and upped the ante on violence. In April, Islamic State militia groups began re-asserting themselves by escalating deadly attacks in Iraq and Syria. As governments are pre-occupied with the coronavirus, jihadist groups have been rebuilding networks, raising funds, and re-emerging as a threat in several areas.²⁴⁴ There are concerns that the pandemic could weaken the international community's resolve to help professionalize armed forces. In particular, Knights asserts that “[i]f training relationships are not rebuilt quickly during or after the pandemic, then Iraq will be far worse off, and its counterinsurgency effort

²³⁹ As cited in Suerth, J. (2020, June 2). What is Antifa? A closer look at the controversial group. *CTV Television Network*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/what-is-antifa-a-closer-look-at-the-controversial-group-1.4965032>, para. 3.

²⁴⁰ Etzioni, A. (2020, June 29). The Black Lives Matter Movement must solve its violence problem. *The National Interest*. Retrieved from: <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/black-lives-matter-movement-must-solve-its-violence-problem-163732>

²⁴¹ Greenwald, A. (2020, September). Yes, this is a revolution. *Commentary Magazine*. Retrieved from: <https://www.commentarymagazine.com/articles/abe-greenwald/yes-this-is-a-revolution/>

²⁴² Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. (2020, August 10). Police launch crim investigation after man yells obscenities at Catherine McKenna's office. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/hate-crime-obscenities-catherine-mckenna-office-1.5680926>

²⁴³ Vu, A.V. (2020, August 4). *COVID Briefing Paper #5: The pandemic as incels see it*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: University of Cambridge, Cambridge Cybercrime Centre. Retrieved from: <https://www.cambridgecybercrime.uk/COVID/COVIDbriefing-5.pdf>, p. 2.

²⁴⁴ Von Hein, M. (2020, May 22). 'Islamic State' exploiting coronavirus and conflict to rise again. *Deutsche Welle*. Retrieved from: <https://www.dw.com/en/islamic-state-exploiting-coronavirus-and-conflict-to-rise-again/a-53529720>

will be greatly diluted”.²⁴⁵ There are reports of Islamic State trying to use the cover of the pandemic to release its prisoners in Iraq, and to return to cities such as Mosul.²⁴⁶

While COVID-19 certainly did not open Pandora’s Box of violent extremism, it provided a greatly permissive context. All things being equal, the pandemic afforded opportunities for extremists of all stripes to speak directly to an increasingly attentive audience at a time of heightened vulnerability. All groups have tried to take advantage of these opportunities, but the findings of this study suggest that some efforts were more effective than others. The pandemic is no more under control than it was in March and April; its impact has only been exacerbated by intervening events. And so, the current arc of radicalization to violent extremism continues.

²⁴⁵ Zelin, A.Y. & Knights, M. (2020, May 29). The Islamic State’s resurgence in the COVID era? *The Washington Institute*. Retrieved from: <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/the-islamic-states-resurgence-in-the-covid-era-from-defeat-to-renewal-in-ir>, para. 14.

²⁴⁶ Abu Haneyeh, H. (2020, June 3). How COVID-19 facilitated the rebirth of global jihadism. *Pulitzer Center*. Retrieved from: <https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/how-covid-19-facilitated-rebirth-global-jihadism>

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BUSINESS EXPENSE APPROVAL FORM INSTRUCTIONS

BUSINESS MEETING AND PROTOCOL EVENT EXPENSE POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

Refer to **CPPM C.17** for Business Meeting and Protocol Event Expenses procedure.

- B.C. Government facilities should be used for business meetings/protocol events when available in accordance with **CPPM 18.3.4**.
- Meal expenses are not appropriate when a meeting can reasonably be adjourned over the meal period.
- A BEA form is not required for claims that are \$100 or less.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A Business Expense Approval (BEA) form may be used to obtain pre-approval and support claims for all costs associated with business meetings/protocol events, excluding travel costs for BC government employees and meeting registration fees. A BEA form can also be used for the purchase of protocol related gifts (e.g. when required for foreign dignitaries). One BEA Form is usually completed for each event. "Blanket" BEA forms may be used to cover costs of regularly scheduled meetings over a fiscal year – in these cases attach a photocopy of the BEA form to support receipts.

FORM COMPLETION

SECTION 1 – ORIGINATOR INFORMATION

This section should be completed by the originator of the business meeting/protocol event expense.

SECTION 2 – NAME/NATURE OF EVENT

Describe the nature of the expense. In general terms, name the event, the number of people and the affiliation of those attending. For example: Annual Regional Meeting – 20 BC Government employees, 2 s.15 contractors.

SECTION 3 – INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED IN MEAL CLAIMS

Complete this section **only** if a meal is included in the claim. For all individuals who had their meal provided, identify their name and either the Ministry or company they are affiliated with. If necessary, attach a separate list. This information is required in order to cross reference to travel vouchers and s.15 contract invoices to ensure duplicate meal claims are not made.

SECTION 4 – BUSINESS EXPENSES REQUESTED

Identify an estimated amount in the appropriate categories. Identify an "Estimated Total" for the claim. The estimated total should not be exceeded.

Subsequent approval for business meeting/protocol event expenses is not required when the actual cost exceeds the maximum estimated total cost, if **all** the following conditions are met:

- a) the nature of the business meeting/protocol event has not changed;
- b) the overage of costs is minimal (reasonable); and
- c) the actual amount remains within the approval level of the delegated ministry official who pre-approved the business meeting/protocol event expense.

If **ALL** conditions are not met, subsequent approval by the appropriate expense authority is required.

Enter the appropriate STOB if it is not identified (categories 6, 7 and 8).

SECTION 4 (cont'd)

Category 1: Identify the cost of the meeting room.

Category 2: Identify costs associated with renting equipment/furniture (e.g. overhead projectors, coffee machines, etc).

Category 3: Identify office services charged by the facility (e.g. photocopying, faxing, telephone charges).

Category 4: For business meetings/protocol events held in a government or commercial facility, identify the type of food and/or beverages provided.

Category 5: For business meetings/protocol events involving meals in restaurants, identify the type of meal.

Category 6: Identify costs associated with payments to event planners, speakers, performers, etc.

Category 7: Identify costs associated with paying travel expenses for non-BC Government participants.

Category 8: Identify any "other" business expenses not identified in Categories 1 through 7. "Other" would include protocol gifts for foreign dignitaries.

SECTION 5 – EXPENSE AUTHORITY PRE-APPROVAL

This section is to be completed and approved by the appropriate expense authority official prior to the event.

Note that pre-approval may be obtained via e-mail instead of completing Section 5, as long as the e-mail request identifies the nature of the business expense and the estimated total. In these cases, attach the approved e-mail to the BEA form when submitting claims for processing.

SECTION 6 – EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION

Complete this section **only** if reimbursing an employee for expenses they have paid personally. Enter the payee name, cheque mailing address, and reimbursement total. The employee signs as Qualified Receiver certifying for goods/services received. For other payees, the payee information will be reflected on their attached invoice.

9636 - BEA - Training Request - Internal & External Partners - SHIFT BC



No number **s.15** Financial - BEA - (Business Expense Authorization) Executive Director February 13th 2020

ATTACHMENTS

DETAILS

HISTORY

USERS

200206 - BEA - Training - CATAP - Refugee Partner Training.pdf

CTRI On-site Fee Structure.pdf

Download All Attachments

Click here or drag some files

USER COMMENTS

Tucker, Shannon PSSG-EX - Forward - 02/11/20, 10:48 AM
Over to you, my friend.

MacAulay, Jim PSSG-EX - Forward - 02/07/20, 8:46 AM
Approved - no financial impact to the Province because 100% federally funded

Steenvoorden, Tom PSSG-EX - Approved - 02/06/20, 3:05 PM
No Comment

Young, Bob PSSG-EX - Approved - 02/06/20, 3:01 PM
Tom: I support this training request. I see it as relevant to the program and we have the available funds. The training session will also provide a good opportunity to network and market our program. For your review and support please. Thanks,

Davis, Brittany - Created - 02/06/20, 1:45 PM
Hi This is to host training for our various partners, as we have a budget we wanted to add some value added services/resources. After speaking with **s.15** she supports me getting this training set up. The training specifically looks as the complex case of refugees and additional cultural/societal considerations for them when arriving and through the threat assessment process. This training given the expeditious nature of some participants that we may be called to support, could greatly add confidence in our partners to do so. Let me know if you have any questions about the training and can submit further information to review. Thanks! Again noting, NO FINANCIAL IMPACT TO PROVINCE; Federally fenced

Browser address bar: <https://eapprovals.sp.gov.bc.ca/sites/IPS/eApprovals/prod/SitePages/index.aspx/item/20052>

Search:

eApprovals Item Details

20052 - CTRI Trainer - Invoice Package

No number **s.15** Financial - Expense Authority Matrix Executive Director October 20th 2020

ATTACHMENTS DETAILS HISTORY USERS

201001 - Invoice Package - CTRI Trainer Expenses.pdf

Download All Attachments

Click here or drag some files

USER COMMENTS

Sims, Brian & PSSGEX - Approved - 10/16/20, 9:58 AM
Approved

Young, Ben PSSGEX - Approved - 10/16/20, 5:16 PM
Brian: Expense claim for SHFT related training expense - for your review and approval please. Thanks.

Reid, Madan - Forward - 10/16/20, 5:07 PM
Hi - routine approval for pre-approved CTRI training expenses back in September (trainer's personal reimbursement). (I'll leave it up to you if you want to pass this on to Brian as you have EA now and these were pre-approved by Tom.

Davis, Britany - Create - 10/16/20, 4:15 PM
Hey - Attached is the invoice package for John from CTRI for the approved training that we hosted at the end of August. Please affix your signature to the invoice template to confirm the payment (there is no formal invoice for you to sign as you would normally). Please forward to Bob and subsequently Brian for approval. Thanks!

Windows taskbar: Type here to search | 1:51 PM 2020-10-19

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
Policing and Security Branch
BRIEFING NOTE

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injà shär njit dintlät, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services

ISSUE: The BC Anti-Hate & Anti-Racism Working Group (The WG) & Resilience BC

SUMMARY:

- The WG is a cross-government initiative created in 2018 by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture's (TAC) Multiculturalism Branch.
- The WG represents a broadening of the BC Hate Crimes Team scope to encapsulate a response to hate incidents in the province beyond the narrow definition of "Hate Crime" and the purview of law enforcement, including opportunities for future strategic collaboration, efficient operations and response protocols, and streamlined communication mechanisms.
- The WG is now tied directly to the November 2019 announcement of "Resilience BC", a Provincial Anti-Racism Network that was allotted \$540,000 annually to revitalize and replace the previously existing 2001 legacy program, OARH (Organizing Against Racism and Hate). Due to increased attention on these issues, the funding amount was raised significantly (more than doubled) in September 2020 as part of the BC Government's Recovery Plan.
- Due to aligning mandates, Shift BC represents PSB on the WG, contributing between 5% and 25% of weekly time on WG-related activities and contributing significantly to TAC's efforts in developing the WG. These include providing subject-matter expertise, providing draft copies and examples of existing response protocols, BNs, participating in a diverse range of meetings, and acting as a liaison between stakeholders, including the RCMP Provincial Integrated Hate Crimes Unit and VPD Hate Crimes.
- TAC launched a new website for public information on Hate Crimes and Incidents with input from the RCMP, AG, and PSSG PSB: <https://hatecrimesinbc.resiliencebcnetwork.ca/>. A key item to note is that the Resilience BC Hub is seeking reporting data on hate crimes, and intends to set up a non-law enforcement-based public reporting tool. This is being closely monitored – PSSG/AG advice is being solicited, but it may require ADM/DM briefing as the situation unfolds.
- TAC is developing public education videos designed to be shared on social media in partnership with the Vancouver Asian Film Festival. They will be available in English and six East Asian languages, Farsi, Arabic, Punjabi, Hindi, French, and Spanish. PSSG and AG were consulted minimally, but feedback from both was received.

BACKGROUND:

- In late 2018, the Integrated Hate Crimes Unit (RCMP E-DIV) requested renewed government attention and an updated ToR (leading to the creation of the WG). Since then, increased public and government attention on an anti-hate and anti-racism initiatives have increasingly led to further scope expansion and funding.
- The WG's vision is "a British Columbia free from racism and hate" and its mandate is "to enhance coordination across the Government of British Columbia, with communities, law enforcement agencies and other levels of government, including the federal government, in relation to incidents motivated by hate, based on race, religion, sexual orientation, place of origin, ethnicity, disability, gender, age, or any other identifiable characteristic."
- Organizations currently at the WG table are as follows:
Advanced Education and Skills Training; Attorney General; Canada Heritage (Federal); Children & Family Development; Education; Gender Equity Office; Health; Human Rights Commission; Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; Jobs, Trade and Technology; Mental Health and Addictions; Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSB & EMBC); Social Development and Poverty Reduction.
- The WG's proposed activities include:
Developing a coordinated cross-government Response Protocol; Seeking resources to conduct and/or lead public, police, or government staff education initiatives; Collecting statistics on alleged hate crimes and hate incidents; External stakeholder consultations with a range of community, minority, and Indigenous groups; and funding research on hate activity and hate crime in the Province.
- The WG has had six all-member meetings, with a fourth scheduled for 21/02/20. The WG still has not finalized its scope or outcomes/deliverables.
- The WG does not investigate or prosecute hate crimes or analyze individual cases.
- Police-reported hate crimes refer to criminal incidents that are found to have been motivated by hatred towards an identifiable group. An incident may be against a person or property, and may target race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, language, sex, age, mental or physical disability or other factors.
- There are four specific offences listed as hate propaganda offences or hate crimes in the *Criminal Code of Canada*: (1) advocating genocide, (2) public incitement of hatred, (3) willful promotion of hatred, and (4) mischief motivated by hate in relation to property used by an identifiable group.

- Official statistics on reported hate crimes are continuing to trend upward in BC. Anecdotal evidence has suggested that this has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- After steady but relatively small increases since 2014, police-reported hate crime in Canada rose sharply in 2017, up 47% to 2,073 over the previous year, and largely the result of an increase in hate-related property crimes, such as graffiti and vandalism.
- TAC's Multiculturalism Branch funded a comprehensive report from Simon Fraser University. The Report outlines several potential strategies for creative and innovative responses to hate incidences.
- Shift BC facilitated a research call-out on behalf of the WG through PSSG's CRRP, which is in the proposal review phase.
- Shift BC will also facilitate a research call-out on behalf of Saanich PD regarding best practice strategies for law enforcement to engage the community on perceptions of racism and bias in policing in the December 2020 intake.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Tourism, Arts, and Culture
- Attorney General

Prepared by:

s.15

Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch

s.15

Approved October 28, 2020 by:

s.15

Director, Witness Security Program
Policing and Security Branch

s.15

Approved October 28, 2020 by:

Brian Sims
Executive Director
Policing and Security Branch

s.15

Approved November 4, 2020 by:

Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injā shār njit
dintlāt,
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of
Police Services
250 387-1100

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Prepared by:

s.15

Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch

s.15

Approved October 28, 2020 by:

s.15

Director, Witness Security Program
Policing and Security Branch

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Approved October 28, 2020 by:

Brian Sims
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Approved November 4, 2020 by:

Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injā shār njit
dintlāt,
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of
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250 387-1100

ID: 20330, Title: IBN - Anti-Racism Anti-Hate working Group & Resilience BC Update

Approval Route: Director > ED > Deputy Director > ADM

Assigned To: Thomas, Jennifer **Rush:** No **Category:** Briefing Note - Information Note

Signature: Assistant Deputy Minister

Branch: Policing and Security Branch **Other Number:** 577976 **Link:**

Due Date: 2020-11-10 **Date Completed:** N/A **Date Initiated:** 2020-10-23

Title	Comments	Date
Butterworth-Carr, Brenda PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX for action	Approved. B	2020-11-04 11:04:43 AM
Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Butterworth-Carr, Brenda PSSG:EX for action	Hi Brenda, for your review and approval please. Thanks, Jenn	2020-10-28 2:56:15 PM
Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX made some changes to this item's details		2020-10-28 2:54:42 PM
Kiewiet, Nargis PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Thomas, Jennifer PSSG:EX for action		2020-10-28 1:43:24 PM
Sylven, Les PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Kiewiet, Nargis PSSG:EX for action	Thank you all - Les	2020-10-28 1:03:52 PM
Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Sylven, Les PSSG:EX for action	Approved, thanks	2020-10-28 12:22:49 PM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX for action	Brian: For your and ADM's info, attached is an IBN providing an update on the inter-departmental Anti-Racism / Hatred Working Group. Thanks, s. 1	2020-10-28 11:12:28 AM
s.15 [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Young, Bob PSSG:EX for action	Hi s. 1 No changes are noted - so must not have saved. Back to you to try and update and save the new file. Thanks!	2020-10-27 3:24:29 PM
s.15 PSSG:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to s.15 for action	Brittany: Looks good. Please make minor changes and put it into CLIFF. Thanks, s. 1	2020-10-26 2:20:18 PM
s.15 [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to s.15 PSSG:EX for action	Hi s. 1 Item has been CLIFF'd as requested. Please review and should edits be required please forward back to me for completion in s.15 absence. Thanks!	2020-10-26 12:41:34 PM
s.15 has created a new eApprovals item and assigned it to Davis, Brittany		2020-10-23 9:21:16 PM
s.15 created this item	Hi Brittany, please CLIFF this and send to Bob for his review prior to going to Brian and Brenda. if they have edits, please make them in my absence. Thank you!	2020-10-23 9:21:16 PM
s.15 added a document: 201023 - IBN - Cross-Ministry Anti-Hate Anti-Racism Working Group.docx		2020-10-23 9:21:15 PM

Shift BC 2020 Symposium: Emerging Trends in CRV

08:30-08:45	Welcome & Introduction	s.15 Program Manager, Shift BC
8:45-9:30	Trident Intelligence Initiative	Cst. Derek Havens , Calgary Police Service & Fraser Waldron , A/Director of OCR-GO
9:30-10:30	A Witch's Brew of Grievances: The Potential Effects of COVID-19 on Radicalization to Violent Extremism	Dr. Garth Davies , Simon Fraser University
10:30-10:45	BREAK	
10:45-11:45	BC Integrated Hate Crimes Team	Cpl. Anthony Statham , RCMP E-DIV
11:45-12:45	Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE): a Canadian Overview	Intelligence Analyst, Canadian National Security
12:45-1:30	LUNCH	
1:30-2:30	The Office of Crime Reduction & Gang Outreach: Community Resilience through Situation Table Implementation	Maja Langrish , Analyst, OCR-GO
2:30-3:30	CRV/VE Programming: Lessons Learned from the Australian Context Pts.1 & 2	Karol Petrovska & Sarah Andruchow , The Government of New South Wales
3:30-3:40	BREAK	
3:40-4:30	Optional Small Group Discussion & Networking	Group Facilitators

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Page 274 of 402

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

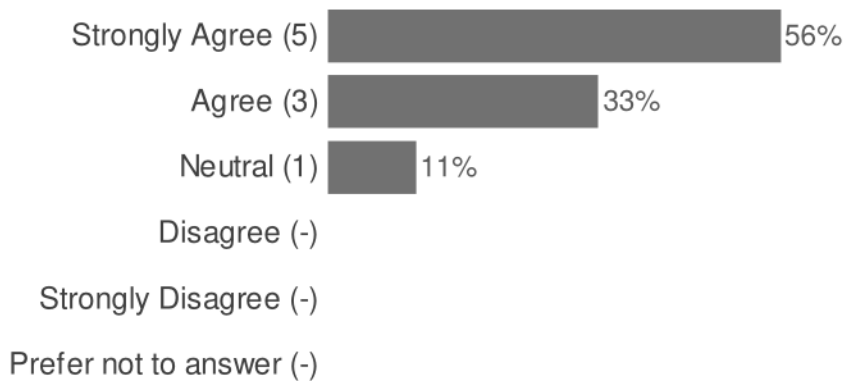
Shift BC Training Assessment

Shift BC Training Assessment

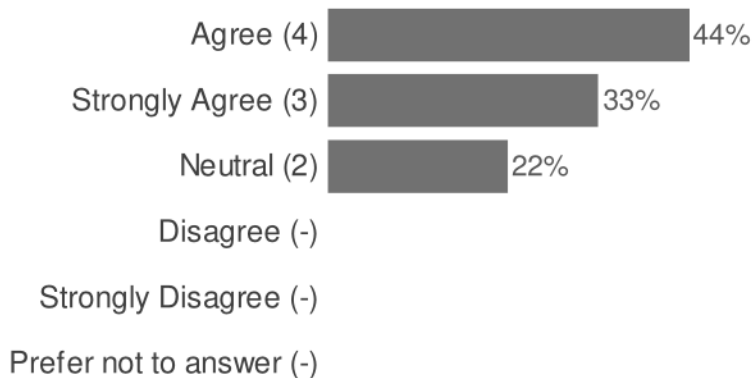
This report was generated on 20/04/20. Overall 9 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

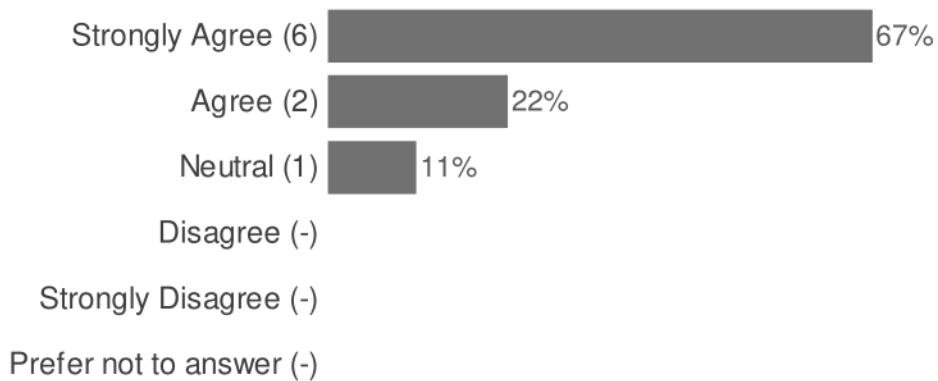
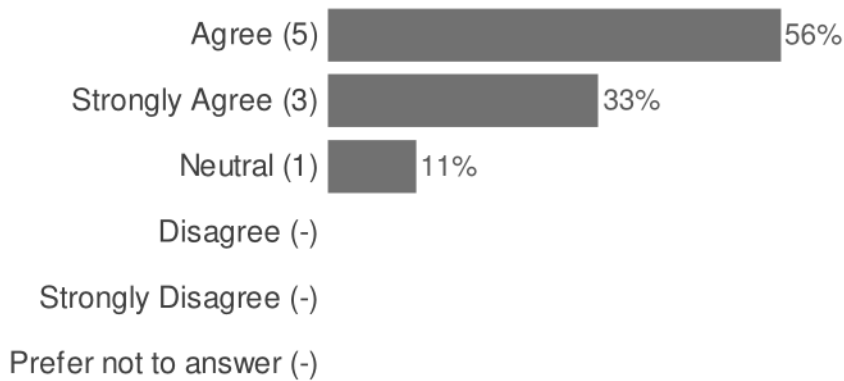
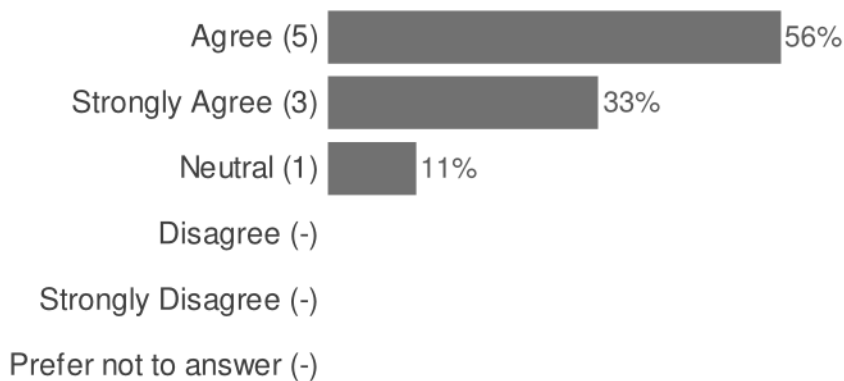
The presenter answered participants questions effectively.



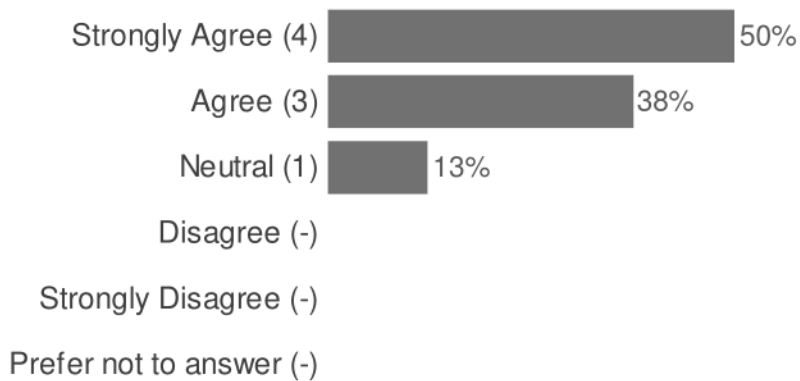
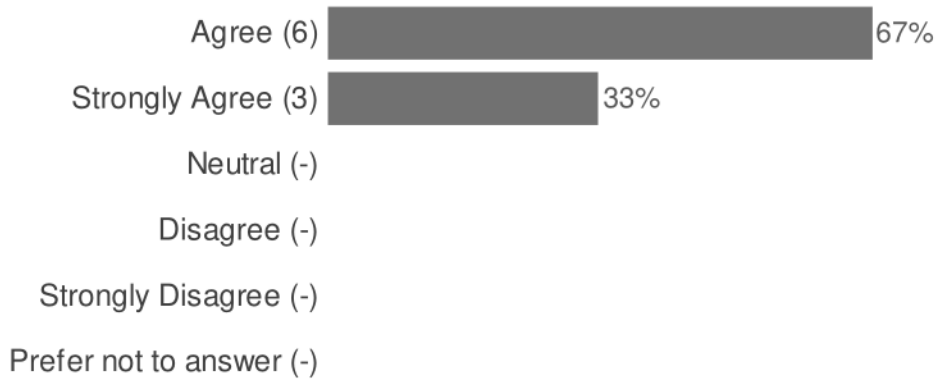
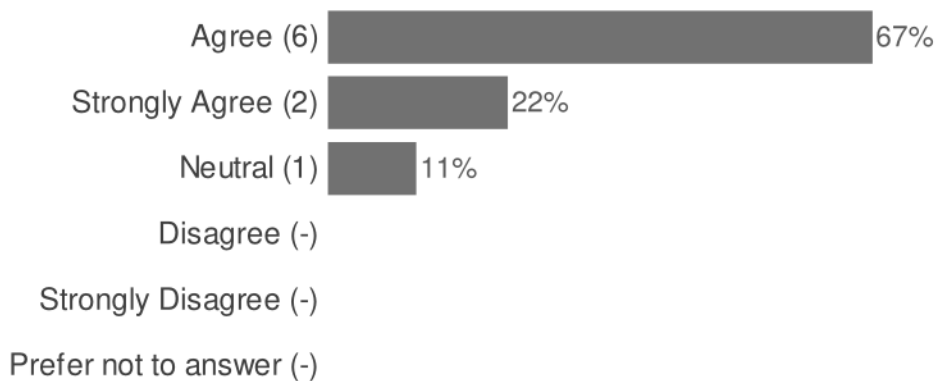
The presenter allowed adequate time for discussion.



Shift BC Training Assessment

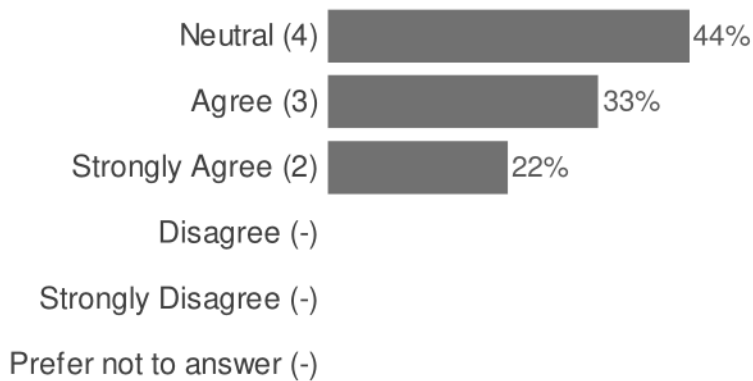
The presenter seemed knowledgeable about the topics being discussed.**The presenter explained key concepts clearly.****The visual aids used in the presentation were effective.**

Shift BC Training Assessment

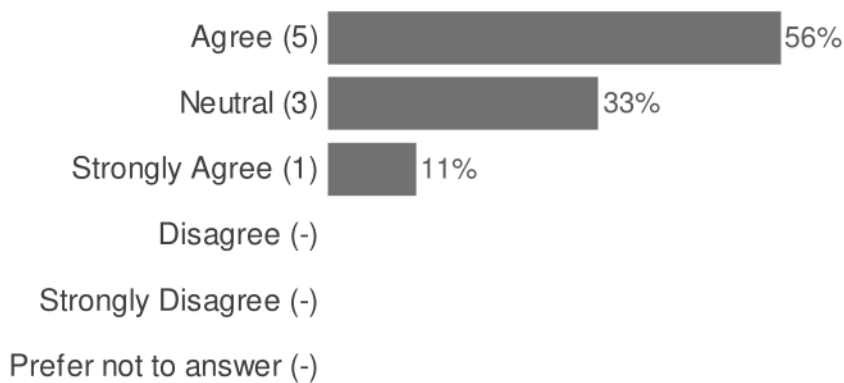
Information presented in the training was useful.**The presentation was well structured and flowed logically.****I was engaged and interested throughout the presentation.**

Shift BC Training Assessment

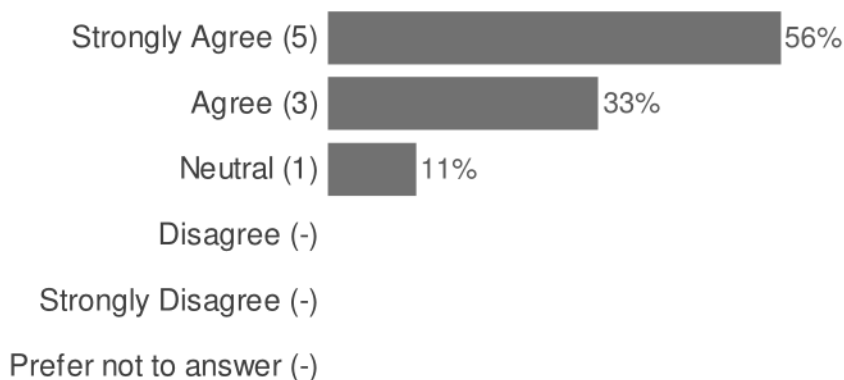
The training length allowed adequate coverage of the material being presented.



I found the Zoom platform to be adequate for the needs of the online training being presented.



If asked, I would you recommend this training to other colleagues?



Shift BC Training Assessment

Is there anything you would like me to know about the training that has not been asked? For example: What did you most appreciate/enjoy about the training, or what would have made the training better?

Rich Testing

the training was very informational and had a great time listening to the facilitator and other's ideas.

I enjoyed the topic and the way it was explained. I am not as familiar with the topic, so I appreciate that saed's explanations were newbie-friendly. I can't think of ways the training could have been better.

I appreciate that radicalization to violence has got a strong platform to deal with. I liked the hub model, deliberately designed to make it a common point of contribution by all stakeholders and making the concern more visible. Thanks for this learning opportunity.

I highly enjoyed the material I hope If you would kindly allocate more time so the participants/audience may have more time for a Q&A. Thank you.

I really enjoyed that you shared the Behaviour Barometer and the visuals with the stairs as well as the videos.



Research Brief: Shift BC Post-Symposium Survey

Compiled December 4, 2020



Corporate Management
Services Branch

Business Research and Diagnostics Group
Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety & Solicitor General
Dr. Richard Brown, Georgina Nicoll, Cliona Quail-Bradley & Anna Parrott

Summary Overview:

This research brief is based on the *Shift BC Post-Symposium Survey*, conducted by Shift BC to obtain feedback from participants in their 3rd Annual Symposium: Emerging Trends in Countering Radicalization to Violence (CRV) on November 17th, 2020.

The survey ran from November 17th to December 3rd, 2020. The response rate for the survey was **29** completed returns out of a total population of **125**. The total completion rate for the survey was therefore **23.20%**, which makes the survey accurate to within +/- **16.01**, 19 times out of 20.

This research brief differs from a full research report in that it does not make any recommendations or pursue any form of analysis beyond what is needed to present the results in a clear and concise manner.

The survey on which these results are based was completely anonymous and contained single answer quantitative questions, along with a final open-ended qualitative question. Data was collected via a secure research server accessible only to the Business Research & Diagnostics Team.

All information is presented in aggregate form to ensure respondent anonymity pursuant to provincial and federal legislation and research ethical guidelines. All data for this survey was collected and managed under *PIA PSSG19023* and is consistent with the *Tri Council Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Research*.

Survey Results:

All quantitative results are rounded to the nearest hundredth of a percent automatically by the software being used and will therefore not total 100% in some cases due to the slight rounding error. In many cases the sum of all the responses presented in a results table may be less than the total number of people who completed the survey. This is because not every person taking the survey answered every question.

Qualitative responses are not edited in any way, other than to correct obvious spelling errors or remove information that may compromise the anonymity of the respondent.

If you have any questions about this report, please email businessresearch@gov.bc.ca or contact any of the following members of the Business Research and Diagnostics Team:

Dr. Richard Brown (250) 217-0372
Georgina Nicoll (250) 507-7963
Cliona Quail-Bradley (250) 818-4544
Anna Parrott (250) 217-7283

Quantitative Results by Question

The following tables show the number and percentage of respondents who selected each response option. Percentages are based on the number of respondents who responded to each question, not the number of respondents to the entire survey.

I was able to register for the event easily.

Yes (29)	100.00%
No (-)	-

I was able to access the event easily.

Yes (28)	96.60%
No (1)	3.40%

I was engaged by the virtual format of the event.

Strongly agree (9)	31.00%
Agree (15)	51.70%
Neutral (4)	13.80%
Disagree (-)	-
Strongly disagree (-)	-
I don't know / not applicable (1)	3.40%

Overall, I was happy with the platform used for the event.

Strongly agree (12)	41.40%
Agree (14)	48.30%
Neutral (1)	3.40%
Disagree (1)	3.40%
Strongly disagree (-)	-
I don't know / not applicable (1)	3.40%

I found the content to be of good quality.

Strongly agree (15)	53.60%
Agree (10)	35.70%
Neutral (2)	7.10%
Disagree (-)	-
Strongly disagree (-)	-
I don't know / not applicable (1)	3.60%

I found the panelists engaging.

Strongly agree (13)	46.40%
Agree (13)	46.40%
Neutral (1)	3.60%
Disagree (-)	-
Strongly disagree (-)	-
I don't know / not applicable (1)	3.60%

I found the panelists knowledgeable.

Strongly agree (17)	60.70%
Agree (10)	35.70%
Neutral (-)	-
Disagree (-)	-
Strongly disagree (-)	-
I don't know / not applicable (1)	3.60%

I found the most interesting topic to be:

Trident Intelligence Initiative – Cst. Derek Havens & Fraser Waldron, OCR-GO (2)	7.40%
The Potential Effects of COVID-19 on Radicalization to VE – Dr. Garth Davies, SFU (12)	44.40%
BC Integrated Hate Crimes Team – Cpl. Anthony Statham, RCMP (6)	22.20%
Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE): a Canadian Overview – Canadian National Security (6)	22.20%
Community Resilience through Situation Table Implementation – Maja Langrish, OCR-GO (-)	-
CRV/VE Programming: Lessons Learned from the Australian Context Part 1 – Karol Petrovska, Government of NSW (1)	3.70%
CRV/VE Programming: Lessons Learned from the Australian Context Part 2 – Sarah Andruchow, Government of NSW (-)	-

I found the least interesting topic to be:

Trident Intelligence Initiative – Cst. Derek Havens & Fraser Waldron, OCR-GO (2)	10.00%
The Potential Effects of COVID-19 on Radicalization to VE – Dr. Garth Davies, SFU (2)	10.00%
BC Integrated Hate Crimes Team – Cpl. Anthony Statham, RCMP (1)	5.00%
Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE): a Canadian Overview – Canadian National Security (2)	10.00%
Community Resilience through Situation Table Implementation – Maja Langrish, OCR-GO (5)	25.00%
CRV/VE Programming: Lessons Learned from the Australian Context Part 1 – Karol Petrovska, Government of NSW (2)	10.00%
CRV/VE Programming: Lessons Learned from the Australian Context Part 2 – Sarah Andruchow, Government of NSW (3)	15.00%

The content was relevant to my organization.

Strongly agree (12)	44.40%
Agree (10)	37.00%
Neutral (3)	11.10%
Disagree (1)	3.70%
Strongly disagree (-)	-
I don't know / not applicable (1)	3.70%

I was satisfied with the length of the presentations.

Strongly agree (13)	46.40%
Agree (9)	32.10%
Neutral (3)	10.70%
Disagree (1)	3.60%
Strongly disagree (-)	-
I don't know / not applicable (2)	7.10%

I was satisfied by the opportunities to ask questions.

Strongly agree (11)	39.30%
Agree (11)	39.30%
Neutral (2)	7.10%
Disagree (1)	3.60%
Strongly disagree (-)	-
I don't know / not applicable (3)	10.70%

Qualitative Results by Question

What can we do to improve next year's symposium (keeping in mind that this year's virtual format was necessitated)?

- Thank you for pulling this together. Unfortunately I missed the last 2 presentations due to an emergency but great job! I appreciated the opportunity to participate.
- I work in a high school where one of my students was referred to SHIFT. The morning presenters were more interesting and somewhat related to my concerns. I'm not sure what I could have expected different from the presentations, but definitely the morning was more valuable. I will be in contact with [name removed] who has offered to do some in school training. I know my counselling team is keen to become more knowledgeable recognizing the signs of radicalization amongst high school youth. I think the virtual symposium was very organized, ran smoothly. I was very impressed with the effort considering the weather which played havoc with some of the planning. Excellent facilitating - PowerPoints were very helpful. Looking forward to receiving a copy of the PowerPoint presentations. Many thanks, [name removed to protect respondent anonymity.]
- Obviously, the virtual aspect of the conference detracted from the engagement and ability to network. Clearly, not the fault of the organizers. I appreciated with effort put into ensuring that the conference was able to happen given the circumstances.
- It was great! Keep it up with the great speakers and timely topics!
- Generally speaking the presenters were knowledgeable and well prepared, but there was no diversity or differing opinion; or really succinct options or thoughts about how to counter radicalization. It was focused on a police and intelligence perspective and that is really disappointing in this day and age where police and other intelligence, protective services must recognize their culpability in allowing these issues to be present in their lines of work. What are they doing to improve their services and be proactive, and at the same time rout out these dangerous individuals, and or mentalities from their places of work (organizations).
- Unfortunately, I was unable to attend as planned, but was hoping for a copy of any materials available. Thanks!
- Make it more interactive.
- Keep with the virtual format to ensure those of us not in BC are able to attend.
- I know that there were some reservations about having the symposium online, but this actually made it accessible. Had it been in person I would never have received funding and travel approval from my organisation to attend. I actually think this is a big issue with C/PVE training in Canada with Shift being one of the rare offerings in Western Canada, usually everything is eastern centric and we have to go to Ontario or Quebec for the majority of stuff which is financially restrictive. So I would recommend exploring ways to have a dual presentation process in the future.
- I found the whole day to be very engaging and it was very relevant to my work. The virtual format can be challenging, so hopefully we are back in person again next year!

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
POLICING & SECURITY BRANCH****SECTION 1: BACKGROUND & KEY INSTITUTIONAL FEATURES**

The Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (PSSG), with the support of RCMP "E" Division, s.15 the Vancouver Police Department and Simon Fraser University has successfully applied to Public Safety Canada's (PSC) Canada Centre's Community Resilience Fund for the resources to develop a 5-year pilot project to Counter Radicalization-to-Violence and Violent Extremism (CRV/VE). The pilot project shall hereafter be referred to as Shift BC, or simply 'Shift'. \$1,860,704.48 in total Federal Funding has been awarded to the program, to be paid over five years. \$256,490.00 (or 14%) of that total is earmarked exclusively for its Evaluation (of both process and impact).

Shift BC's primary focus is to reduce the risk of violent extremist events in British Columbia by countering the root process of radicalization-to-violence at the individual (secondary) level. Radicalization-to-violence is a process wherein a person or group takes on ideas or beliefs which are not shared by the dominant society and begins to think they should use violence to further them. Violent extremism refers to the process of taking radical views and putting them into violent action. While radical thinking is not a crime in itself in Canada and sympathizing with radical thinking does not necessarily lead to violence, radical thinking nevertheless becomes a threat to national security when violence is promoted or pursued as a means of furthering political, ideological, or religious views. Shift aims to accomplish this mandate by implementing a vulnerability-reduction and individual resiliency pilot program that utilizes a secondary prevention strategy aimed at achieving these macro outcomes through micro interventions by interrupting trajectories of radicalization-to-violence through facilitating community-based intervention and expert support. Shift will not seek to directly combat an individual's ideology (known in the literature as 'deradicalization' or Tertiary Intervention), as global best-practice data does not support the efficacy such programs. Instead, Shift seeks to provide intervention services to individuals vulnerable to the process of radicalizing to violence¹, thereby redirecting participants' trajectories and empowering them to pursue more pro-social behaviours and demonstrate individual resiliency to violent extremist rhetoric (known in the literature as 'disengagement' or Secondary Intervention).

PSSG is an ideal administrator of this type of program, due to its pre-existing relationships as a key funder, legislative authority, and/or stakeholder to community services, other government bodies, national and local law enforcement, and academic institutions. It also has access to extant administrative data that will support in the design and evaluation, including police records and crim data, national census data, and a body of research commissioned on the subject.

1.1 Motivation

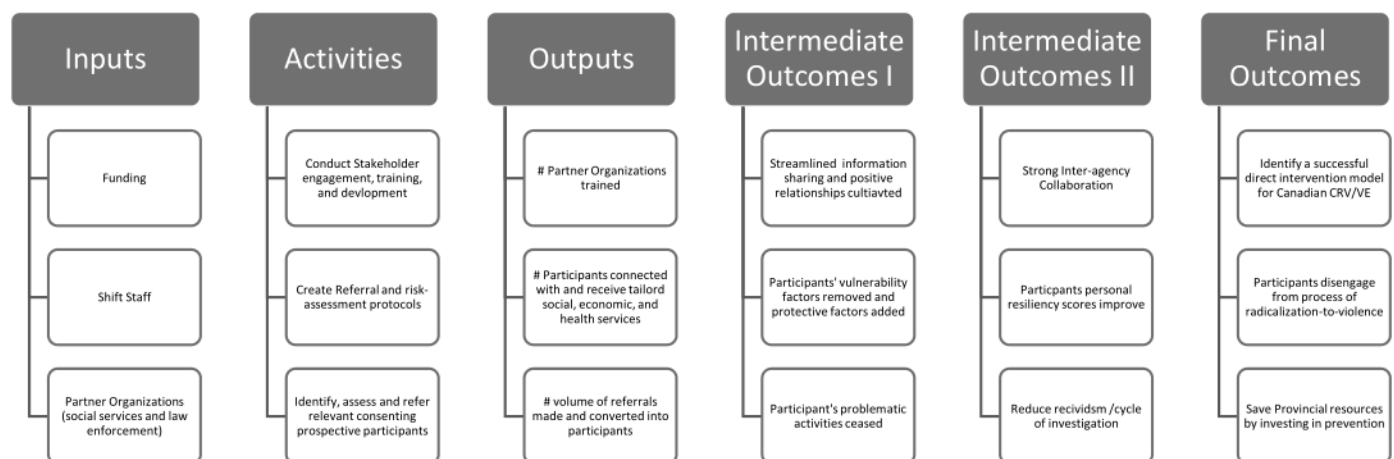
CRV/VE is a field that requires increased attention and action. Canadians have experienced a diverse range of terrorist and extremist threats in recent history. From the 1985 Air India bombings to the more recent cases of Aaron Driver (an ISIS supporter who died during an altercation with police while carrying a bag of explosives onto a cab after it was discovered he planned to attack a mall later that day), Alexandre Bissonnette (right-wing perpetrator of the 2017 Quebec City Mosque attack which killed 6 worshippers), and Alek Minassian (a self-styled 'Incel' who, in 2018, drove a van across a length of sidewalk in Downtown Toronto, killing 8 women and 1 man). In recent years, BC has seen several instances of individuals being charged with criminal offenses stemming from violent radical behaviour; that is, individuals who either sought to commit violence, or promoted violent acts. For instance, in 2013, John Nuttall and Amanda Korody were arrested after placing an explosive device near the BC Legislature building. In 2014, Burnaby resident Hasibullah Yusufzai was charged with leaving Canada to join Islamist fighters in Syria. In 2015, Othman Ayed Hamdan, a resident of Fort St. John, was charged with terrorism-related offenses, including counselling to commit murder for the benefit of a terrorist group. A terrorism peace bond application was made in December 2016 against an unnamed New Westminster resident based on the grounds that he may commit a terrorism offence. These examples highlight that individuals becoming radicalized-to-violence pose a threat to public safety in BC. Moreover, the RCMP has identified numerous extremist groups capable of carrying out violent acts rooted in radical beliefs such as right-wing extremists, white supremacists, eco-terrorists, and lone actors inspired by an extremist movement.

¹ 'at-risk' individuals will be identified by national and local law enforcement and intelligence agencies from a pool of investigations which did not result in charges being laid, but where there remains an acknowledgement that support and positive intervention could empower their subject(s) to disengage.

To date, most policies developed with similar goals have focused on either broader prevention such as countering violent extremist narratives amongst the general population, or on reactive punitive measures after an event. There is a manifest need to move from community-level to individual-level disengagement. E-Division and s.15 organizations involved in frontline interactions with at-risk individuals, have noted that there is a clear and pressing need for a 'prevention through intervention' model and have affirmed their ongoing support for such an initiative. Presently, there are at-risk individuals residing throughout the province who would benefit from such a program. Thus, Shift will bridge a gap that currently exists between cases where criminal charges can be laid (individuals the RCMP^{s.15} mandate does not cover or who are in the pre-criminal space), but where there remains an acknowledgement that support and positive intervention could empower them to disengage with or prevent further movement towards radicalization-to-violence, hate-motivated violence, and violent extremist rhetoric.

SECTION 2: LOGIC MODEL AND EVALUATION QUESTIONS

2:1 Logic Model (or, Theory of Change):



2:2 Main assumptions (internal and external):

The underlying theoretical underpinnings of this policy, supported by a systematic review of the relevant literature, hinge on the fact that most of us could spend a week immersed in extremist propaganda of any stripe and not become radicalized-to-violence or begin to actively engage with violent extremist rhetoric and/or groups. Why? Because we are not vulnerable to these messages. Why? Because we have no underlying relevant grievances pushing us or associates or beliefs pulling us towards them². Therefore, any intervention or policy which does not address these root-cause grievances (which can be understood as vulnerability factors) will never be as effective. In order to address these grievances, a public health, pro-social model of intervention is called for, one that can effectively identify good candidates and their individual social, economic, and political grievances and any mental or physical wellness concerns and reduce barriers to service once that process is complete. Championing the Hub model in order to ensure strong interagency collaboration and information sharing will ensure service across providers is streamlined, efficient, and documented.

2:3 Evaluation Questions:

1. Does addressing the underlying socioeconomic grievances and mental wellness concerns of individual participants increase their personal resiliency; and, if so, does that result in their disengagement from the reported problematic violent extremist or radicalized activities?
2. Is the collaborative Hub model the best vehicle through which to accomplish this? ³
3. Does investing in this more proactive, public health approach result in cost- and time-savings in the long term compared to these cases remaining in lengthy and cyclical police investigations

² For example, an individual may experience real or perceived difficulty making social or romantic connections, particularly with members of the sexually desired gender, and is therefore more vulnerable to violent Incel ideologies which place the blame for their difficulty on feminism, promiscuity, and genetic bad-luck, and advocate for disturbing-levels of violence, overwhelmingly against women.

SECTION 3: IMPACT EVALUATION DESIGN AND DATA COLLECTION PLAN**3:1 Expected Outcomes of 5-year Pilot:**

1. Participants ultimately disengage from the process of radicalization-to-violence and increase their personal resiliency after s.15 delivery partners address their unique underlying socioeconomic grievances and mental wellness concerns, thereby mitigating or removing vulnerability factors and adding protective factors.
2. Conserve provincial resources by implementing a proactive public health model in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, federal, provincial, and municipal governments, community services, and academia rather than relying on expensive and time-consuming protracted investigations which ultimately result in no action, and;
3. Ultimately identify a successful direct intervention model for countering violent extremism in a Canadian Context moving forward.

3:2 Evaluation Design:

This Evaluation Design and the subsequent Program Evaluation itself is the result of Partnership model between Provincial Government (PSSG) staff (Shift BC) and a small Research Team (one Principle Investigator and two post-graduate research assistants) from Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Criminology Department. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the SFU Researcher prior to funding being awarded to ensure that the Project proposal was submitted with a workable plan for meaningful evaluation in place. This model will not only ensure the research and policy teams work in close collaboration and adjustments, where necessary, can be made with agility, but will also provide an acceptable level of transparency and accountability for the policy team with the inclusion of an outside academic researcher.

In terms of the design itself, it should be obvious that programs which ultimately aim to prevent violent extremist events cannot be evaluated on that outcome, as the hypothetical occurrence - or lack thereof - of these events (the counterfactual) can never be proven or disproven. In short, it is not enough to say "no violent extremists have attacked British Columbian residents or infrastructure (etc.) after the implementation of this Program, and so it is a success", as there is no magical crystal ball by which prove an event would have occurred without said implementation, nor that the program would have been the sole factor in the avoidance of any event.

It should also be obvious that Randomized Control Trials (or the use of comparable control subjects period) in this context would not only be subject to a host of practical and political constraints, but also would be highly unethical and unsafe. A simple before-and-after comparison of the data would be likewise unable to demonstrate the counterfactual as it too would not take into consideration extraneous confounding factors and selection bias which could be the cause of any recorded trends. Moreover, in cases involving non-criminal online or offline engagement with violent extremist groups or rhetoric, any disengagement on the part of the subject (whether after referral by law enforcement or naturally without intervention) would most likely represent 'Regression to the Mean', as the number of individuals who go on to actually perpetrate (an) act(s) of criminal violence represent a mere fraction of those who engage with violent extremist groups, rhetoric, or activities

Shift program staff do not determine who the potential participants are once the inclusion criteria (referral) has been met, and the Program requires potential participants to choose to enrol and cannot exclude potential participants who want to enrol. In addition, Shift has a budget that is big enough to offer the program to the entire eligible population immediately as referrals come in (assuming referral volume remains as expected). Therefore, randomly assigning participants to treatment and comparison groups and excluding potential participants for the sake of an evaluation would be unethical. This may call for an instrumental variables (IV) method, specifically the treatment on-the-treated (TOT) as we are interested in knowing the impact of the program for the group of individuals who are offered the program and actually participate. It is important to note that since individuals who participate in the program when offered likely differ from individuals who are offered the program but opt out, the TOT impact is not necessarily the same as the impact we would obtain for those who did not choose participate, should they hypothetically have become participants. With these realities in mind, this evaluation will utilize a joint IV and Regression Discontinuity Design Method to evaluate the first and third evaluation questions (2:3, above). Those participants who are referred versus those under consideration for being referred but who were ultimately retained by law enforcement share extremely similar characteristics. Their risk factors and protective factors can be tracked using the same criteria, assuming consent is given. Moreover, recidivism can be measured in repeat investigations being opened in both groups. Keeping track of cases retained by partners and not referred will also allow for a calculation of time and financial costs versus those

incurred by Shift (Shift has access to administrative data establishing a baseline of the cost of national security and intelligence investigations per week and detailed data on its own operational costs).

3:3 Tracked Indicators of Implementation & Data Collection Instruments:

As has now been established, the treatment effect will be measured in part by the reduction or removal of vulnerability factors and the addition of protective factors. The presence of relevant vulnerability factors is also the inclusion criteria for accepting Program Referrals. Thus, it is necessary to both define and track these independent variables. To that end, an official referral form⁵ to be used across referring organizations was developed, detailing a near-exhaustive list of vulnerability factors, protective factors, and other inclusion criteria that were drawn from a meta-analysis of criminological sociological, and psychological studies as well as clinical data from the Canadian Practitioner's Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence (CPN-PREV), a collective of clinical practitioners and the Canadian Gold-standard of research in the CRV/VE field. It is important to note that, while CRV/VE is an emerging field, the study of socioeconomic and wellness factors which correlate with increased risk of general criminality, gang-involvement, and violence is certainly not, and there is a sizable body of evidence from which to draw. Though Shift works with those specifically at risk of radicalized or extremist violence, the literature and clinical data support vulnerability factors remaining largely similar. The completion of the referral form functions as the initial needs assessment and tally of factors present. Each service provider attached to a participant (ex. a psychiatrist, career councillor, life skills coach, etc.) will be contacted bi-weekly to record administrative and service delivery hours (for the RDD of evaluation question 3), any diagnoses or developments, and the status of vulnerability factors and protective factors⁶.

As an added measure of personal resiliency, Dalhousie University Resilience Research Centre's Adult Resilience Measure (ARM) (or Children and Youth Resilience Measure [CYRM] as the case may be) is administered upon enrolment into the Program, and again as the final step in program participation by shift staff who are certified to do so. The differences in personal resiliency scores can then be compared.

As has been detailed, this Impact Evaluation relies primarily on quantitative data, but it should be noted that participants will be asked to optionally volunteer structured qualitative data about their experience after Program Participation has ended via a one-time standardized interview template which will provide secondary and enriched insight to the impact of the intervention on their personal resilience.

3:4 Assessment of risks and threats to internal validity:

Firstly, because the sample size will be limited to the referrals made to the program who meet the inclusion criteria, it will result in a **small sample size** of an estimated 40-50 over the operational period of the pilot (years 3-5). However, while of significant public and political interest and potential impact, the subjects of the study – individuals who are engaged in the process of radicalization-to-violence and violent extremism but who are not such a high threat level that they are no longer under investigation by national security and/or law enforcement partners– are not common, and so the pool of potential subjects is small to begin with.

As the intent of this program is not investigative, punitive, or to serve as a condition of peace bonds or other court conditions, and must meet standards of informed consent in order to comply with the governing privacy legislation discussed in Section 4:2, Shift is voluntary for participants, who are free to cease program involvement at any time. The program is thus particularly exposed to participant **attrition** or even refusal to give consent to be referred at the outset. The systematic literature review and meta-analysis conducted jointly by Shift staff and the SFU research team of CRV/VE programs and more general crime prevention programs also utilizing the Hub model did suggest that programs which offered concrete socioeconomic and mental wellness supports to participants immediately as part of program participation saw an uptake rate of 98%, but no data was available on the rate of Program completion. As well, even if a participant does not directly drop-out of the program, they may still demonstrate **non-compliance** may not engage earnestly with the s.15 and intervention partners they are connected with by Shift. Alternatively, these partner organizations may not provide high-quality or timely s.15 to participants (however, as these are extant government agencies or vetted NGOs/Non-profits, this risk is small). However, the Hub model design is intended to combat this risk of non-compliance by reducing participant barriers to s.15 including a dedicated Social Worker as

⁵ The referral form is sometimes completed by Shift staff using reported vulnerability factors.

⁶ Example of a vulnerability factor removed: "participant no longer unemployed"; Example of a protective factor added: "participant and spouse are actively attending family counseling sessions and report that the relationship is improving"

part of core Shift BC staff, and mandated inter-agency collaboration resulting in a clearer determination of client needs, better client-service provider relations, increased efficiency and access to resources⁷.

Lastly, perhaps the most glaring single threat to internal validity in this Program is the **Hawthorne Effect**, or the likelihood that participants will display and/or espouse disengagement with violent extremist rhetoric, groups, or activities simply due to the fact that they were referred to, and are now participating in, a government program. Though surveillance is not a feature of Shift (and indeed is antithesis to the policy's spirit) and this fact is clearly communicated to the participant on the consent form, the perception of being closely observed may nevertheless persist. It is for this reason that the pre- and post-intervention resiliency scores as well as the ongoing tracking of vulnerability factors and protective factors for each participant (3:3) will be instrumental in demonstrating change; even if the clear causality between personal resiliency and disengagement is not statistically significant, demonstrating the treatment effect on the participants will still be possible.

SECTION 4: PRACTICALITIES, ETHICAL ISSUES, AND RISKS

4:1 Ethical Considerations

Not only is the data collected personal and therefore sensitive, but connection with Shift would represent extreme risk to participants' reputation and safety. Shift BC completed a Strategic Threat Risk Assessment prior to operationalization to ensure that the level of risk to the Province and to Participants was acceptable. FOIPPA and PIPPA compliant policies will be used, and partner organizations will be chosen from FOIPPA-mandated options only. In data gathering and tracking activities, strict anonymization via the assignment of random participant ID numbers will allow data to be shared, while preserving privacy. Referral form data is recorded using participant numbers and then destroyed (the record that referral was made is noted for transparency). The only document linking names to participants IDs is encrypted, password protected, stored on government servers, and does not include any other identifying information. All other reporting data is aggregated.

Though the program is consent-based, there could be a very real risk of perceived pressure to consent if the referral is coming from law enforcement (ie fear of law enforcement, fear of reprisal, threat of punitive alternative measures etc.). This is mitigated by a clear statement on the consent form stating that any investigation has been concluded and the individual is free to consent or not without any legal consequences, as well as both a senior, specialized officer from the referring agency and a Shift Social Worker being present when the consent document and the Program is explained. These ethical considerations have been cleared by both the Government of British Columbia's and SFU's institutional review boards.

4:2 Logistical and Resource Challenges

Apart from the practical risks of attrition and non-compliance discussed in Section 3:4, there are several factors that could pose logistical issues: before any individual can be connected to services through Shift, they must first provide informed consent on a voluntary basis to engage with the program and agree to the sharing of information. Second, the RCMP will conduct a risk analysis of the individual to ensure that individuals who are at imminent risk of committing an act of violence, or whose activities should fall under the scope of law enforcement, are not program participants, nor are individuals who are legally expressing radical views or opinions but are not deemed to be at risk of engaging in violence. Sensitivity towards confidentiality and freedom of speech issues will remain at the forefront of this initiative and the project team will work with PSSG's Privacy Officer to ensure adherence to appropriate privacy legislation. The Program requires buy-in and support from a number of politically powerful and not always aligned organizations to be successful.

SECTION 5: DISCUSSION & POLICY IMPLICATIONS

As CRV/VE (a proactive policy) is an emerging field (as opposed to counter-Terrorism (a reactive policy)), the transparency and evaluation of this program's outcomes will ideally contribute to National best-practice standards in the field and the viability of post-pilot roll-out and/or expansion. Shift is well-positioned to impact federal policies after the pilot period if the evaluation supports continuation or expansion of the policy, as the validity of the protocol will be evaluated over the course of the program.

⁷ Reminder that the efficacy of the Hub model in this context will be evaluated as part of a process evaluation.

Page 291 of 402

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
POLICE SERVICES BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Wayne Rideout, A/Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services

ISSUE: Overview of attendance, feedback, and outcomes of the 2020 Annual Practitioner's Symposium hosted virtually by Shift BC

SUMMARY:

- On November 17th, 2020 ShiftBC hosted their 3rd Annual Practitioner's Symposium - which focused on radicalization in a time of COVID-19 in the online space, current trends in right wing extremism from National Security partners, and more. The symposium costs were solely paid by Shift BC, however this year the costs were minimal due to virtual hosting.

BACKGROUND:

- Due to the ongoing Pandemic, the 2020 Symposium was hosted on Zoom.
- Collaboration between areas throughout the Province of British Columbia is of utmost importance to ensure timely access to services and supports.
- The networking and stakeholder engagement this symposium provides is vital, even more so during the time of COVID-19 pandemic when the larger BC community is experiencing a higher rate of isolation and distance from their communities.
- This symposium brings together community organizations, law enforcement, scholars and policymakers to exchange knowledge and good practices related to CRV from across different disciplinary and geographic contexts.
- The intent of this conference was to continue to offer current and emerging research in the area of countering radicalization towards violence and emerging trends in radicalization due to COVID-19.
- Speakers at the two day conference represented various provincial, national, and international partners, including RCMP, ^{s.15} OCR-GO, and SFU.
- Topics covered at the Symposium composed of topical areas of concern throughout the province (such as the BC Hate Crimes team and ^{s.15} and others), research conducted by Shift BC on trends in radicalization online due to COVID-19, and international adaptations of similar situation tables to British Columbia. There was also discussion on new emerging trends of white supremacy in the Canadian landscape from National Security partners.
- Overview of attendees (total attendees:135)
 - RCMP Attendees: 8
 - Municipal Police Force Attendees: 34
 - Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General: 29
 - Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture: 3

- Other provincial government attendees (AB, NW and NB): 6
- Municipal Government attendees: 12
- Federal Government attendees: 7
- Academic Institution attendees: 5
- BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres: 2
- Community organization attendees: 17
- International Attendees: 12
- Feedback from attendees post-symposium questionnaire:
 - Overall satisfaction with presenters: 85%
 - Overall satisfaction with information presented: 97%
 - Engaged in virtual format (tech permitting): 97%
- Key highlights from feedback:
 - "It was great! Keep it up with the great speakers and timely topics!"
 - "Keep with the virtual format to ensure those of us not in BC are able to attend."
 - "I know that there were some reservations about having the symposium online, but this actually made it accessible. Had it been in person I would never have received funding and travel approval from my organisation to attend."
 - "the whole day to be very engaging and it was very relevant to my work. The virtual format can be challenging, so hopefully we are back in person again next year!"

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- No other ministries were impacted; however other ministries were in attendance

Prepared by:

s.15

Program Coordinator, Shift BC
Police Services Branch

s.15: s.17

Approved by:

s.15

Program Manager, Shift BC
Police Services Branch

s.15: s.17

Approved by:

s.15

Director, Witness Protection
Policing and Security Branch

s.15: s.17

Approved by:

Briam Sims

Executive Director
Policing and Security Branch

s.15: s.17

Attachment(s)

Attachment included

1. Program for 3rd Annual Practitioner's Symposim
2. Report on attendee information & feedback report by Business Research and Diagnostics compiled by Corporate Management Services Branch

*Supplier Name	Dr. Garth Davies (Donnybrook)	*Supplier # - Site #	2784318
*Invoice Date (DDMMYY)	Oct 28 2020	*Address Verified	Y N
*Invoice Number	CRV0014		
*Qualified Receiver	s 15	*Expense Authority	Brian Sims
*QR Signature on invoice	Y If NO, please sign	*Invoice Total Amount	\$ 19,432.00
Contract number	N/A	Pay Stub Comment:	COVID-19 Research - Second Payment
Receipt number	N/A		

SUB TOTAL	GST	PST	CL	RESP	SL	STOB	PROJ	*LINE DESCRIPTION
\$ 17,350.00	\$ 1,214.50	\$ 867.50	10	15980	13400	6001	1500000	COVID-19 Research Pmt 2

Additional Instructions:

Approval for funding attached, please be aware as noted this is regular project work that Donnybrook/Garth Davies does for Shift. There is no formal contract for this or GSA - please be advised Finance from PSSG-PSB has advised notification of this is sufficient. Information can be referenced in other CAS orders for funding.

NB: ITEM IS FINAL PAYMENT FOR COVID PAPER PROPOSAL PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED.

s.15

Donnybrook Research and Analysis

SERVICE INVOICE

October 27, 2020

BC Countering Radicalization to Violence
c/o BC Policing and Security Branch
PO Box 9285 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9J7

Invoice: CRV0014

Work on report: Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on Radicalization to Violent Extremism

Description	Date	Hours	Rate	Amount
Data cleaning	2020-07-02	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Data analysis	2020-07-06	7	\$50.00	\$350
Data analysis	2020-07-07	7	\$50.00	\$350
Data analysis	2020-07-14	7	\$50.00	\$350
Data analysis	2020-07-15	7	\$50.00	\$350
Data analysis	2020-07-18	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Literature Collection	2020-07-22	7	\$50.00	\$350
Data analysis	2020-07-22	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Data analysis	2020-07-23	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Data analysis	2020-07-24	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Literature Review	2020-07-27	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Literature Review	2020-07-28	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Data analysis	2020-07-30	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Report Writing	2020-08-03	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Report Writing	2020-08-04	8	\$150.00	\$1,200

Report Writing	2020-08-10	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Report Writing	2020-08-12	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
Report Writing	2020-08-14	8	\$150.00	\$1,200
			SUBTOTAL	\$17,350.00
			PST	\$1,214.50
			GST	\$867.50
			TOTAL	\$19,432.00

Thank you,

Garth Davies

Business Number: 85598 3292

#51 – 6575 192 Street, Surrey, BC, Canada V4N 5T8

Indian Residential Schools - In... eApprovals

Item Details

15429 - Donnybrook Research - COVID-19 Project

No number 15 Financial - Expense Authority Matrix Director June 25th 2020

ATTACHMENTS DETAILS HISTORY USERS

200624 - Invoice Package - Donnybrook Research - COVID-19 Project.pdf

Download All Attachments

Click here or drag some files

USER COMMENTS

Young Suk P2020-EX - Approved - 06/24/20, 9:06 PM
No Comment

Reid Madson - Approved - 06/24/20, 9:39 PM
No Comment

Devis Britany - Created - 06/24/20, 9:31 PM
Hi, For your review. Please forward to for approval once complete. I'll forward to the AG for payment ASAP. Let me know if you have any questions etc about this one.

Type here to search

4:05 PM
2020-06-25

*Supplier Name	Dr. Garth Davies (Donnybrook)			*Supplier # -Site #	s.22		
*Invoice Date (DDMMYY)	Oct 28 2020			*Address Verified	Y	N	If NO, provide additional Instructions
*Invoice Number	CRV0015						
*Qualified Receiver	s.15			*Expense Authority	Brian Sims		
*QR Signature on invoice	Y	If NO, please sign		*Invoice Total Amount	\$	12,320.00	
Contract number	N/A			Pay Stub Comment:	Dr. Davies - In Kind Q3		
Receipt number	N/A						

SUB TOTAL	GST	PST	CL	RESP	SL	STOB	PROJ	*LINE DESCRIPTION
\$ 12,320.00	\$ -	\$ -	10	15980	13400		1500000	Dr. Davies - In Kind Q3

Additional Instructions:

Donnybrook Research and Analysis

SERVICE INVOICE

October 28, 2020

BC Countering Radicalization to Violence
c/o BC Policing and Security Branch
PO Box 9285 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9J7

Invoice: CRV0015

Re: 2020-2021 Fiscal Quarter 3

Description	Date	Hours	Rate	Amount
Construct Access database	2020-07-01	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-07-08	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-07-15	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-07-22	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-07-29	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-08-05	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-08-12	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-08-19	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-08-26	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-09-02	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-09-09	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-09-16	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-09-23	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Construct Access database	2020-09-30	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
			SUBTOTAL	\$15,400.00
In-kind contribution				-\$3,080.00

	TOTAL	\$12,320.00
--	-------	-------------

Thank you,

Garth Davies

Business Number: 85598 3292

#51 – 6575 192 Street, Surrey, BC, Canada V4N 5T8

Browser window showing the eApprovals system interface. The URL is <https://eapprovals.sp.gov.bc.ca/sites/IPSS/eApprovals/prod/SitePages/index.aspx/item/25999>.

eApprovals Item Details

25999 - Shift BC - Donnybrook Q3 - Payment

No number **s.15** Financial - Expense Authority Matrix Executive Director February 26th 2021

ATTACHMENTS DETAILS HISTORY USERS

20210223 - Invoice Package - Donnybrook Q3.pdf

Download All Attachments

Click here or drag some files

USER COMMENTS

Sim, Brian & PSS/EX - Approved - 02/24/21, 5:18 PM
Approved, thanks

SPSS/EX - Approved - 02/24/21, 12:34 PM
Brian: This Shift invoice is for services rendered by Dr. Davies. These are federally funded monies with no impact on the province. For your review and approval please. Thanks, _____

Approved - 02/23/21, 5:04 PM
No Comments

Davis, Brian - Created - 02/23/21, 4:31 PM
Hi _____ Attached is the information for Dr. Garth Davies Q3 payment to be processed. Please note this is separate from the previous invoice and Dr. Davies regular transactional payments for work done on behalf of Shift - in this case building the research database. Please affix your signature to the invoice template, and forward to Bob and subsequently Brian for approval. Will forward to AG for action once complete. PLEASE NOTE: FEDERALLY FENCED - NO IMPACT TO PROVINCE.

Page 302 of 402 to/à Page 303 of 402

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

Page 304 of 402 to/à Page 305 of 402

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.15 ; s.16

*Supplier Name	Dr Garth Davies (Donnybrook Research)		*Supplier # -Site #	s.22	
*Invoice Date (DDMMYY)	20-Mar-21		*Address Verified	Y	N
*Invoice Number	CRV0016				
*Qualified Receiver	s 15		*Expense Authority		
*QR Signature on invoice	Y	If NO, please sign	*Invoice Total Amount	\$	11,928.00
Contract number			Pay Stub Comment:	Q4 FINAL Payment	
Receipt number					

SUB TOTAL	GST	PST	CL	RESP	SL	STOB	PROJ	*LINE DESCRIPTION
\$ 11,928.00	\$ -	\$ -	10	15980	134000	6001	1500000	Q4 Donnybrook Charge

Additional Instructions:

no formal contract - on going services for Shift BC however most applicable STOB to cover work. Pls note: federal funding; 100% fenced - no financial impact to province.

Donnybrook Research and Analysis

SERVICE INVOICE

March 20, 2021

BC Countering Radicalization to Violence
c/o BC Policing and Security Branch
PO Box 9285 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9J7

Invoice: CRV0016

Re: 2020-2021 Fiscal Quarter 4

Description	Date	Hours	Rate	Amount
Revise Access database	2021-01-07	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-01-08	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-01-14	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-01-15	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-01-21	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-01-28	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-01-29	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-02-04	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-02-06	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-02-12	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-02-13	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-02-19	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Revise Access database	2021-02-25	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Finalize Access database	2021-02-28	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Finalize Access database	2021-03-04	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
Finalize Access database	2021-03-05	8	\$137.50	\$1,100

Finalize Access database	2021-03-11	8	\$137.50	\$1,100
			SUBTOTAL	\$18,700.00
In-kind contribution				-\$6,772.00
			TOTAL	\$11,928.00

Thank you,

Garth Davies

Business Number: 85598 3292

#51 – 6575 192 Street, Surrey, BC, Canada V4N 5T8

s.15



USERS



Click here or drag some files

Sims, Brian A P00033 - Approved - 03/26/21, 2:56 PM
Approved, thanks

☐ - [Suppression](#)

Hi everyone, So C
today so I can see

Madison, please inform, forward to Bob and Brian for final approval. Once approved I will forward to the AG for payment. Any questions as always just let me know. Again, please note **FEDERALLY FENCED NO FINANCIAL IMPACT TO PROVINCE.**



FAR-RIGHT EXTREMISM EXPERT PANEL: EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT RWE BUT WERE TOO AFRAID TO ASK

Presentations followed by moderated Q&A

20 May 2021 • 9:00 AM EST • BY REGISTRATION

sh/ft
supporting people
for safer communities

Canada



sh/ft

supporting people
for safer communities

Canada



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Welcome

s.15

Program Analyst

Countering Radicalization to Violence (CRV)







CRV \neq



CRV = Countering
Radicalization
To Violence

What this training is/not



1. Scientific (evidence based) look at CRV;
2. Relatively new field: new research is published frequently;
3. Introduction – Not clinical;
4. A Sociological experiment in empathy.

April 23, 2018



Copyright

25-year-old

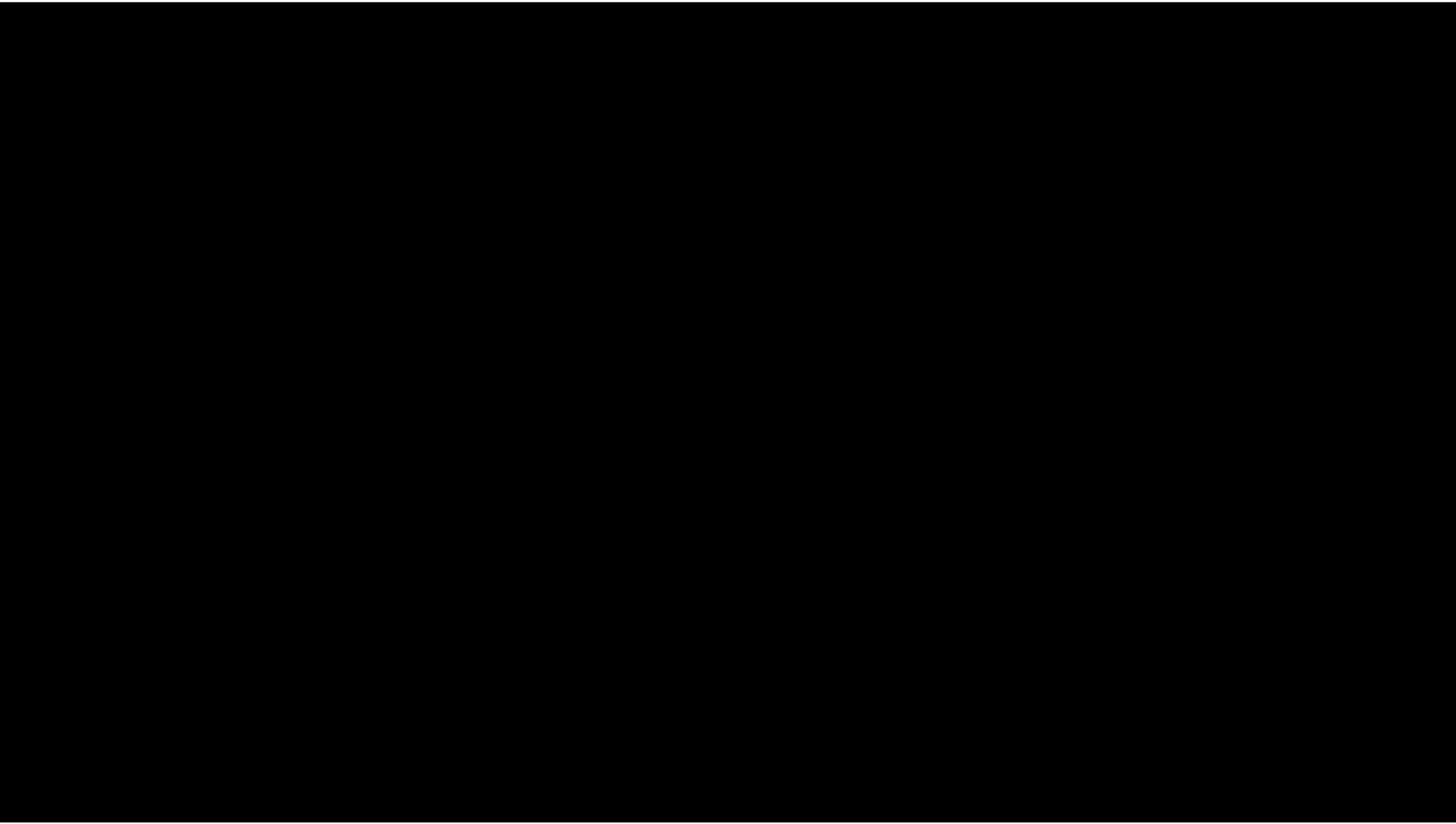
(at the time of the attack)

Non-theist

Born in Canada

software development

VIDEO





Introduction

Defining Key
Concepts

Understanding
Radicalization
to violence

The Hub Model

/ Introduction

WHAT IS SHIFT?

A risk reduction and
community resilience
program

MANDATE

Facilitate support for
consenting, vulnerable
individuals who may be on
the path of Radicalization to
Violence.

MISSION

To interrupt the process of
radicalization through
community-based
intervention

What is unique about Shift?



Civilian Led



Individual-level
Intervention



Facilitation
of service
(Hub Model)



Preventative
not punitive
(Public Health Approach)

Why does British Columbia need a CRV program?



Global threat



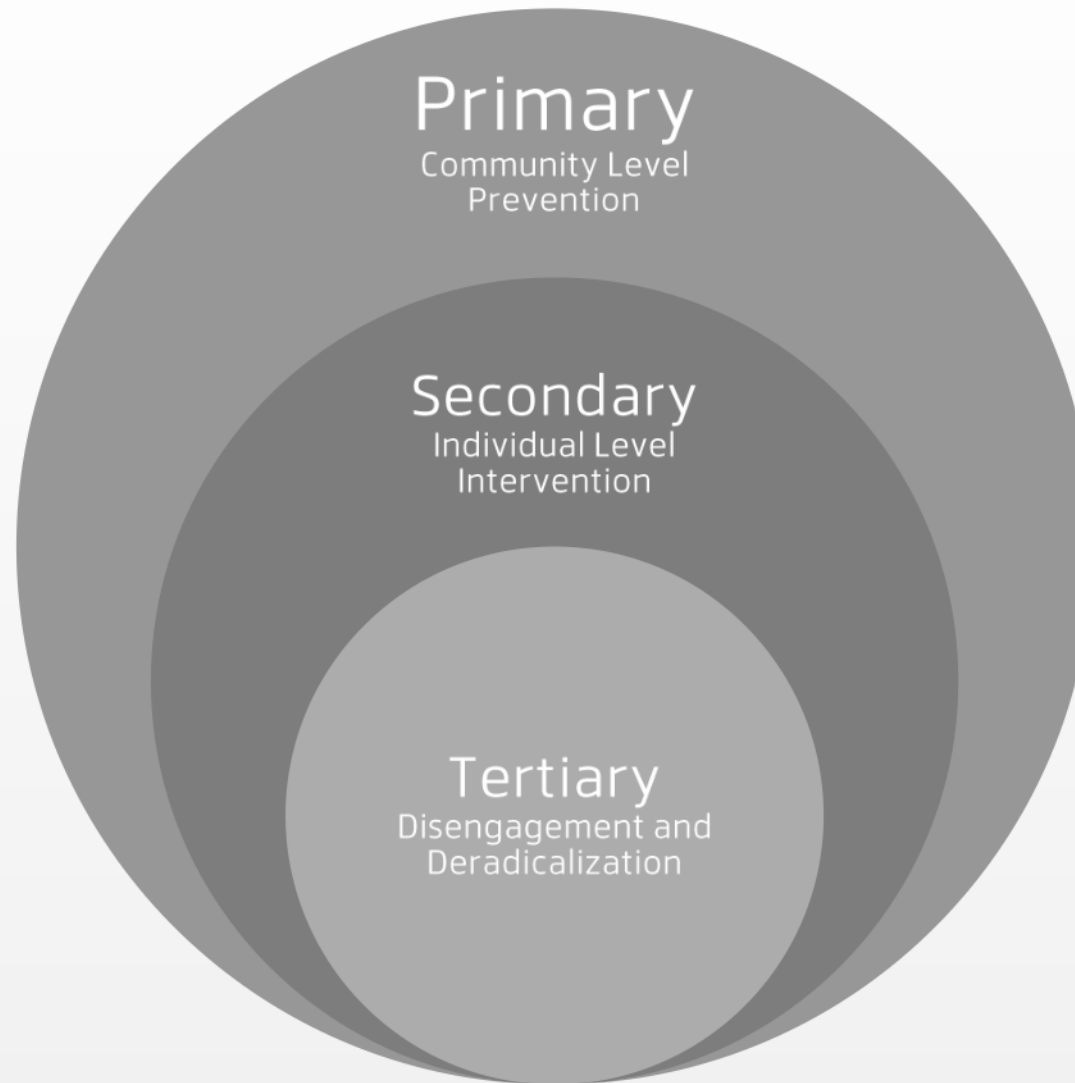
Groups identified
in Canada



Related charges
in BC

How do we Counter Radicalization to Violence/Violent Extremism?

Approaches to CRV



- ✓ Introduction to shift, its mandate and mission
- ✓ What is unique about Shift
- ✓ Why BC needs a CRV program
- ✓ Approaches to CRV

Questions?

/ Key Concepts

RADICALIZATION

What do you think of when
you hear the word?

Copyright

Copyright



Radical



Steve Jobs

Mary Ann Shadd Cary



RADICALIZATION COMES IN MANY FORMS AND RADICAL THINKING DOES
NOT NECESSARILY LEAD TO VIOLENCE

RADICALIZATION

A process by which an individual or a group gradually adopts extreme positions or ideologies that are opposed to the status quo and challenge mainstream ideas.

WHAT IS RADICALIZATION TO VIOLENCE?

A process where a person or group takes on extreme ideas or beliefs and *begins to think they should use violence to support them*



VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The act of putting radical views
into violent action



TERRORISM

The unlawful use of violence and intimidation against specific targets, especially civilians and critical infrastructure in the pursuit of political, religious or ideological aims.

DISENGAGEMENT

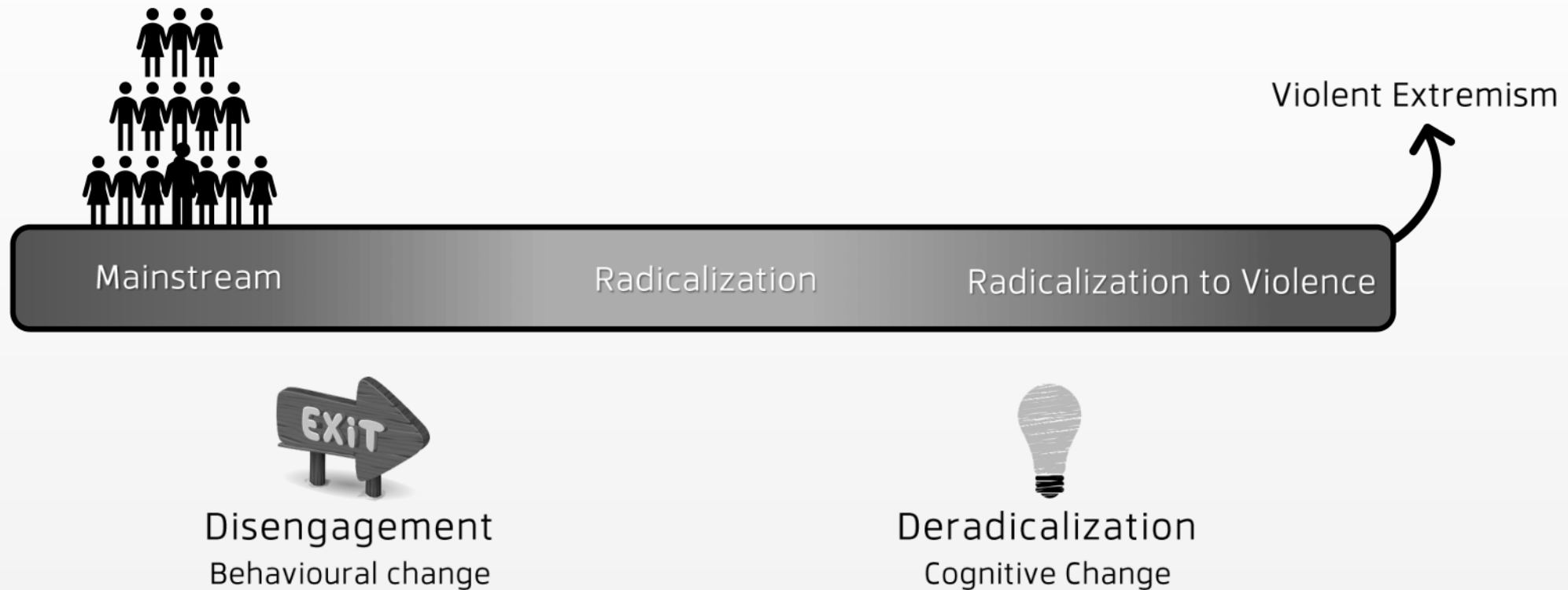
Refers to a behavioural change. It does not involve a change in values or ideals, but the relinquishment of support for violence as a motor for change

DERADICALIZATION

The process of change during which a radicalized individual abandons their radical ideological position and the use of violence, while accepting the gradual nature of change.

Deradicalization implies a cognitive shift.

Summary



Questions?

/ Understanding Radicalization to Violence

What makes a violent extremist?
The process to violent extremism

Radical ≠ Violent

Sympathisers

Agree with cause but not violent means

Supporters

Justify Illegal/Violent Actions

Activists

Legal/non-violent actors, support network & potential recruits

Extremists

Illegal/Violent Actors



Religion/
Background



Economic
Status



Political
Affiliation

Different people radicalize to violence for different reasons and it is not a problem facing one type of religion, culture or background. Individuals drawn to this path cannot be reduced to a single profile.



Education Level



Age



Bias

What do we look for to identify individuals at risk of radicalization?



1 Behaviours

2 Process



CENTRE FOR THE
PREVENTION
OF RADICALIZATION
LEADING TO VIOLENCE



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PREVENTION
OF RADICALIZATION
LEADING TO VIOLENCE

[CPRLV](#)

[RADICALIZATION](#)

[HATE INCIDENTS](#)

[PREVENTION](#)

[SUPPORT](#)

[RESEARCH](#)

[FRANÇAIS](#)



[Preventing Radicalization](#)[Presentations and Conferences](#)[Training Programs](#)[Prevention Activities](#)[Guides](#)[Tools](#)[Videos](#)



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PREVENTION
OF RADICALIZATION
LEADING TO VIOLENCE

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PREVENTION
OF RADICALIZATION
LEADING TO VIOLENCE

Copyright

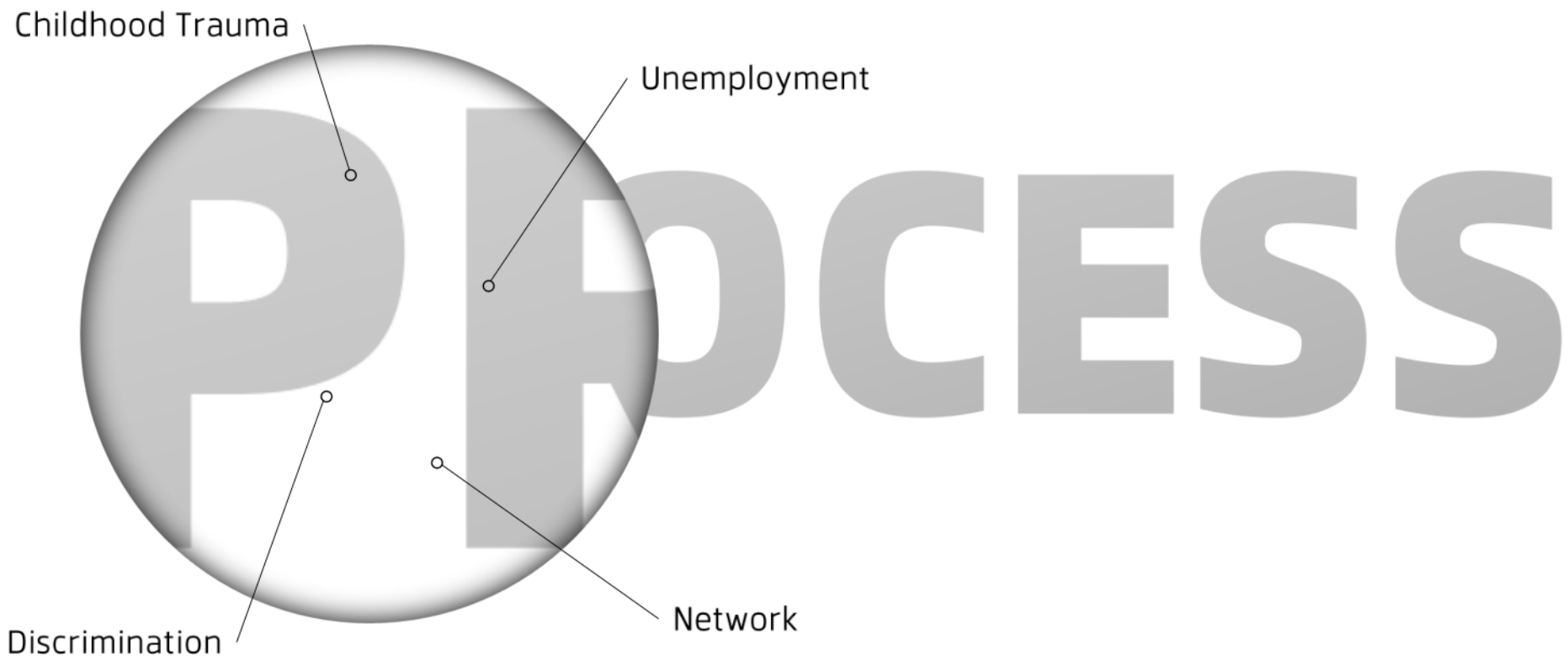
What do we look for to identify individuals at risk of radicalization?

- 1 Behaviours
- 2 Process

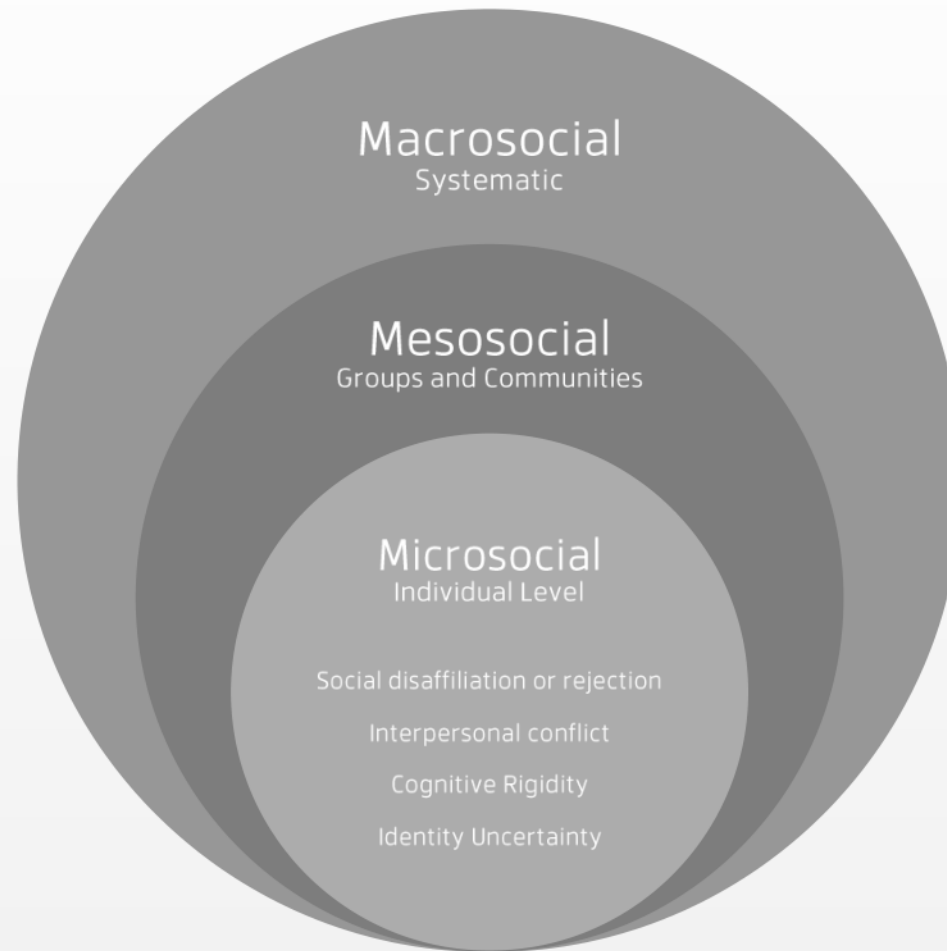
Contributing Factors

PROCESS

Contributing Factors



Contributing/Risk Factors



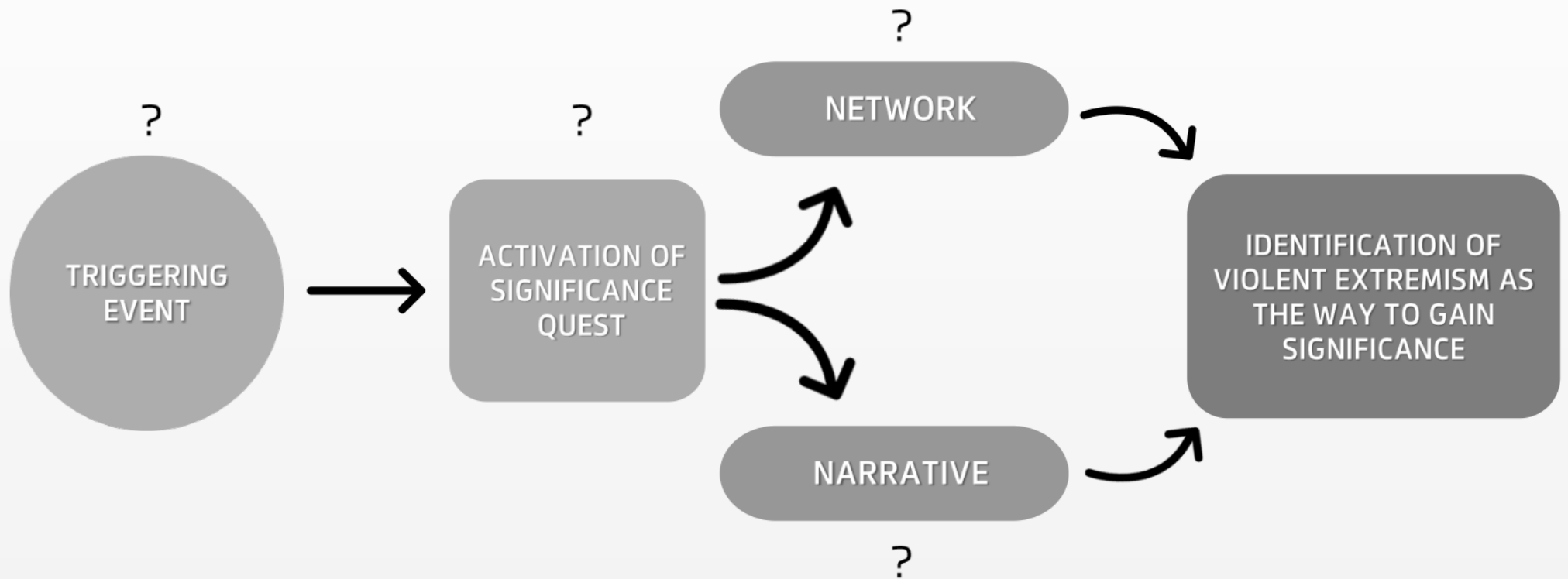
Copyright

The Process

Experts have developed various models that can at least help us better understand individuals' possible progression to violence and the factors involved.

Significance Quest Theory

Arie Kruglanski



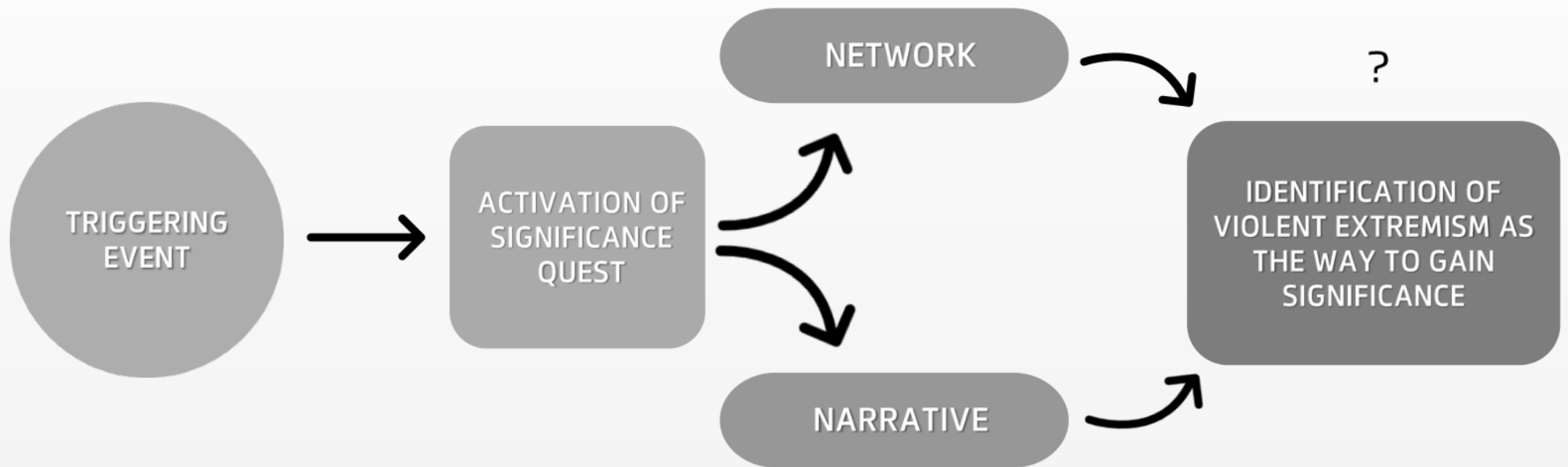
Page 361 of 402

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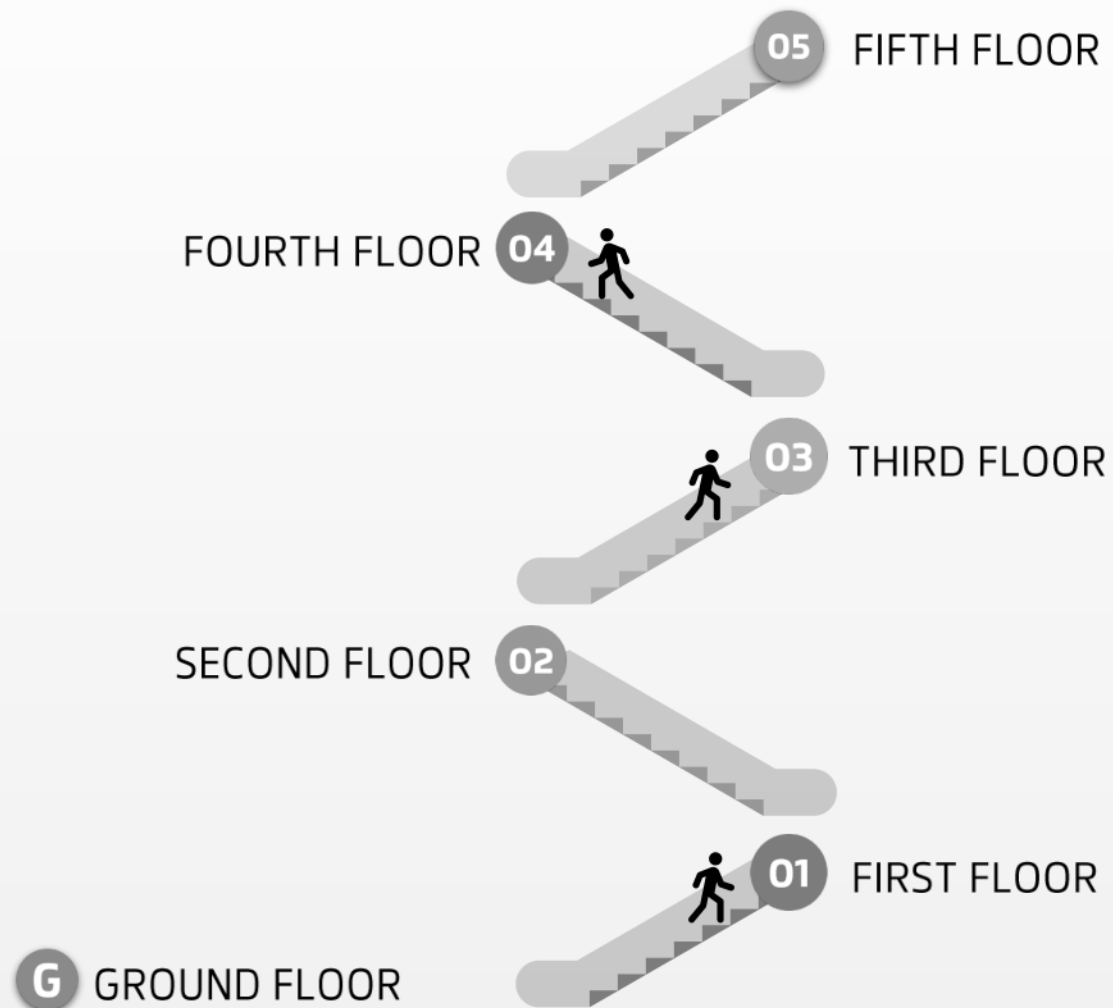
Copyright

Significance Quest Theory

Arie Kruglanski



Pathway to Justification



Ground Floor

Interpretation Of Material Conditions

Millions of people occupy this floor because they feel their situation or society is unfair and feel relatively deprived.

First Floor

Perceived Options To Fight Unfair Treatment

People consider their options for improving their situation. People who find options to improve their individual situation and influence decision-makers leave the staircase at this floor in order to pursue non-violent paths.

People who are unsatisfied with their available options move onto the second floor.

Second Floor

Displacement Of Aggression

Still perceive unfairness and experience anger and frustration. It is possible that they can be influenced to direct this anger through aggression at an 'enemy'.

People who are more likely to physically direct their aggression at their perceived enemies can continue to climb the staircase.

Third Floor

Moral Engagement

Individuals who make it to the third floor can undergo the most pivotal change. That is, individuals may begin to accept the “morality” of a terrorist organization. Recruits begin to believe that violence is an acceptable tactic or even one's duty. Potential recruits are offered a new social identity as members of a selective ingroup who aim to bring justice to the world.

Also according to Moghaddam:

1. Terrorist groups/networks can be seen as the only option for reforming society.
2. The network can act as some sort of “home” for disaffected individuals.

People who find this offer appealing will move on to the fourth floor.

Fourth Floor

Perceived Legitimacy Of The Terrorism Organization/Cause

It is here that thinking such as 'us' versus 'them' is promoted.

Recruits are isolated from friends and family, strict secrecy is imposed and the legitimacy of the organization is emphasized. People who reach this floor will rarely withdraw and exit the staircase alive.

They will move onto the fifth floor if an opportunity to do so presents.

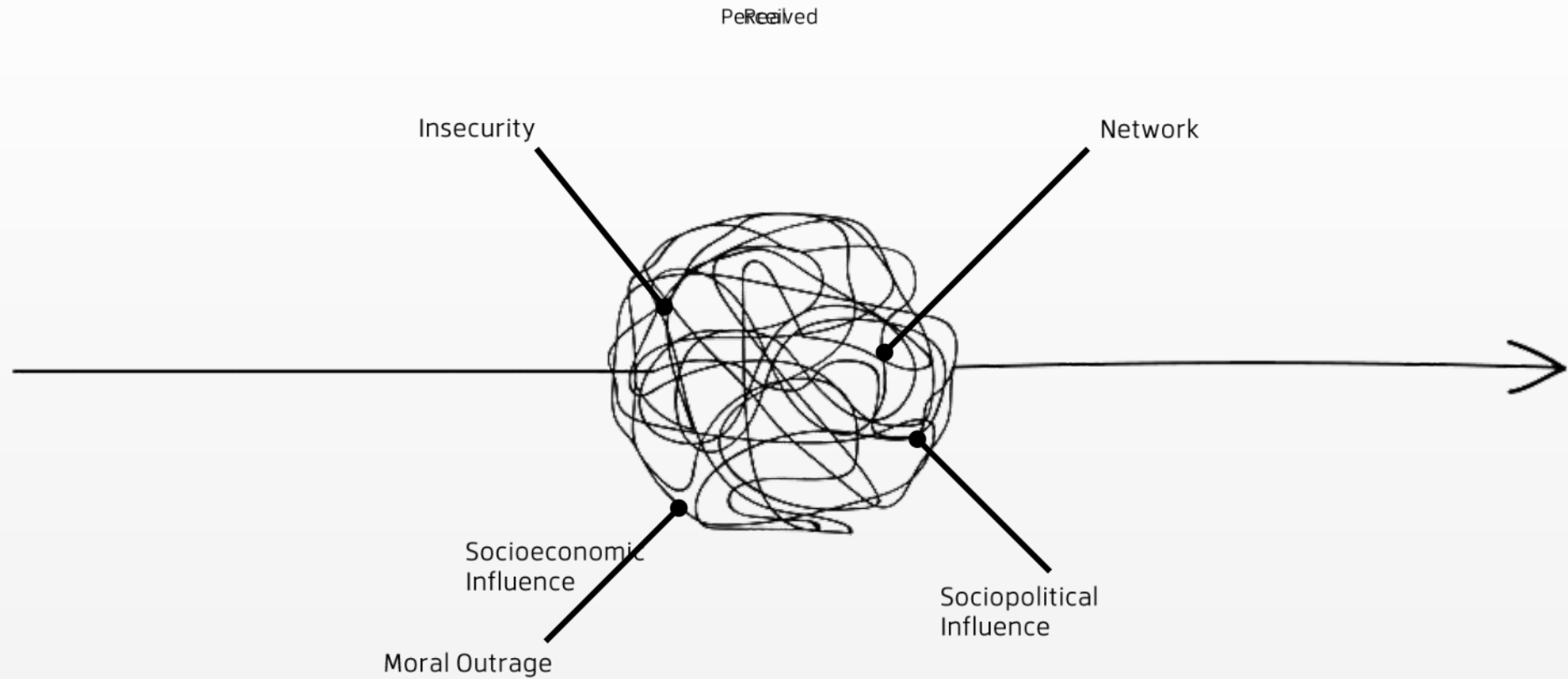
Fifth Floor

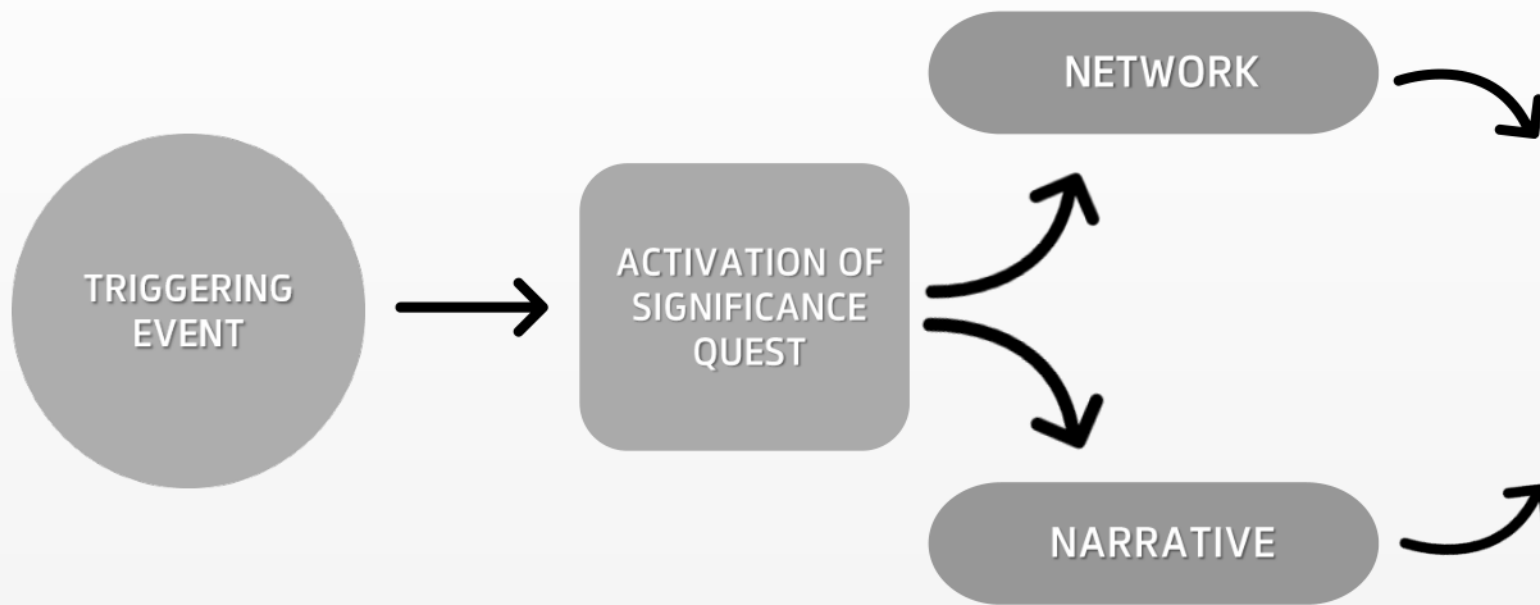
Terrorist Act And Loss Of Inhibitory Mechanism

Individuals may learn how to work around thoughts and moral barriers that could prevent them from injuring and/or killing others and themselves.

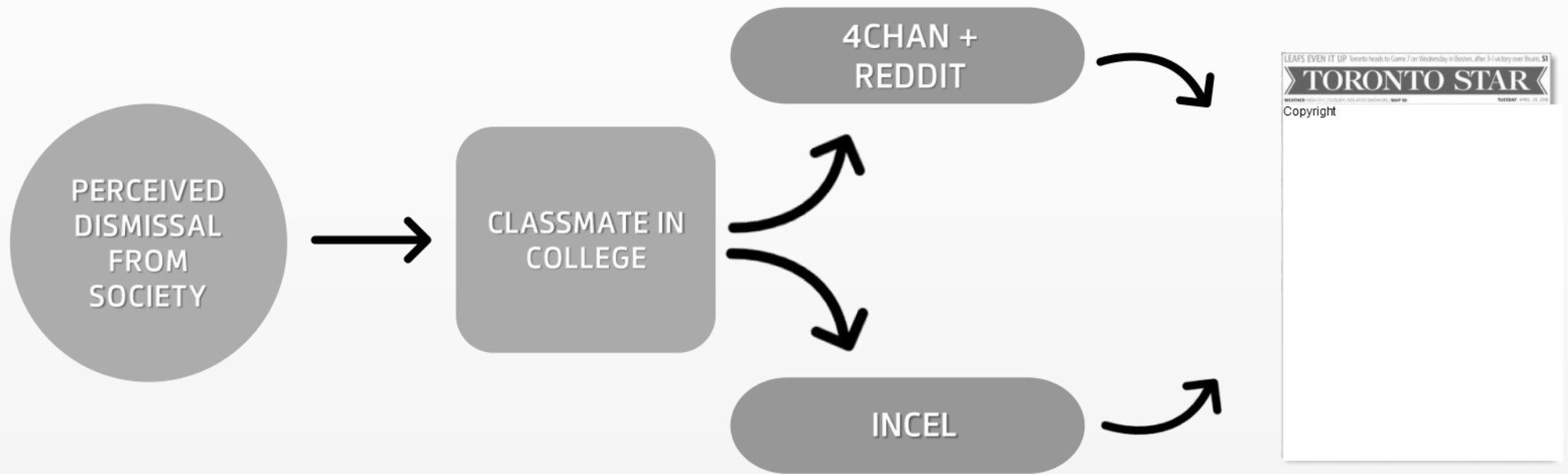
Individuals at this stage may carry out an attack.

Non-linear





TEARS EVENT IT UP Toronto heads to Game 7 on Wednesday in Boston, after 3-1 victory over Bruins. **\$1**
Copyright



Four Prongs of Radicalization

GRIEVANCE

MORAL
OUTRAGE

RESONANCE
WITH PERSONAL
EXPERIENCE

MOBILIZATION
BY NETWORK(S)

ENABLING
NARRATIVE

GRIEVANCE
MORAL
OUTRAGE

RESONANCE
WITH PERSONAL
EXPERIENCE

MOBILIZATION
BY NETWORK(S)

ENABLING
NARRATIVE

What do we look for to identify individuals at risk of radicalization?

- 1 Behaviours
- 2 Process

Questions?

Copyright

Abu Muhajir
@abu_muha1



Follow

Copyright

Damian Clairmont



Copyright

Moral outrage – Grievance

Contributing/risk factors

Narrative

Network

Moral outrage – Grievance

Contributing/risk factors

Narrative

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NATIONAL POST

NEWS • FULL COMMENT • SPORTS • CULTURE • LIFE • MORE • JOBS • CLASSIFIEDS • DRIVING • SUBSCRIBE • FINANCIAL POST • VIDEO



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Questions?

/ Hub Model

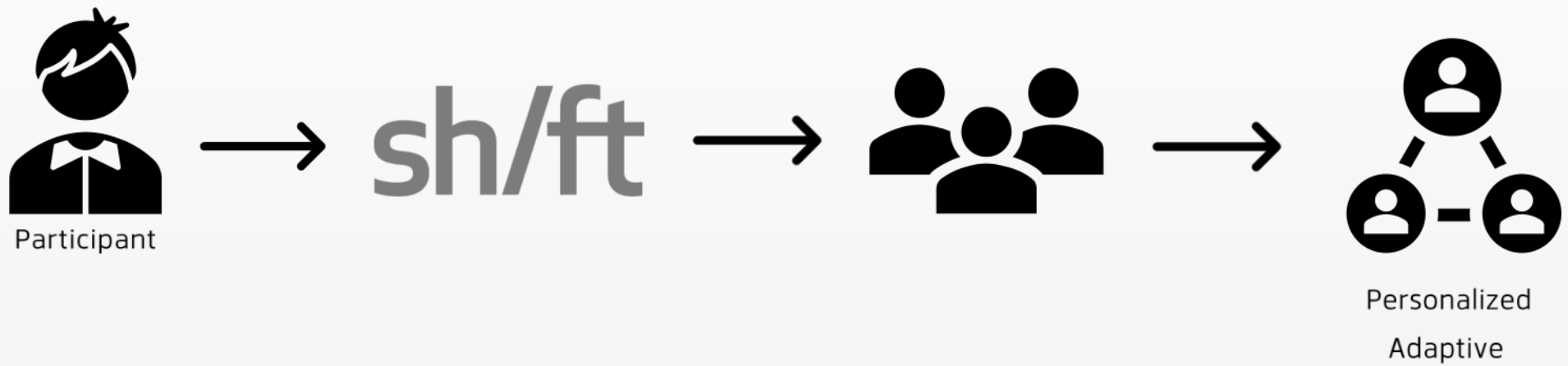
WHAT IS THE HUB MODEL?

Using the expertise of local providers to implement collaborative multi-sector intervention plans

s.15

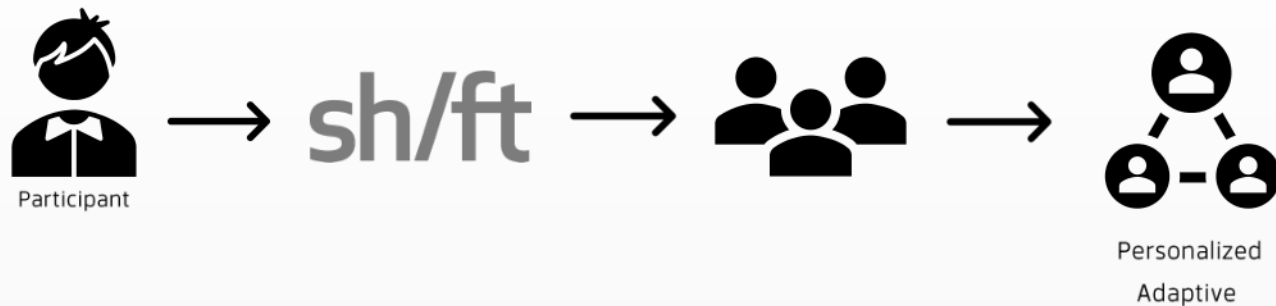
The Hub Model

Aka Situation Tables



The Hub Model

Aka Situation Tables



Reduces the barriers to support

Improves communication among agencies

Protects and respects the participant's rights

Enables a more holistic assessment of participant's needs

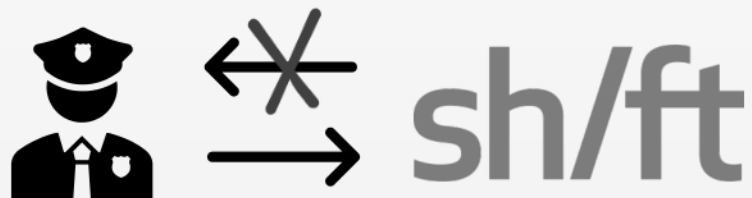
Employs a four-filter process to protect the participant's information

Four-Filter Process

Filter 1

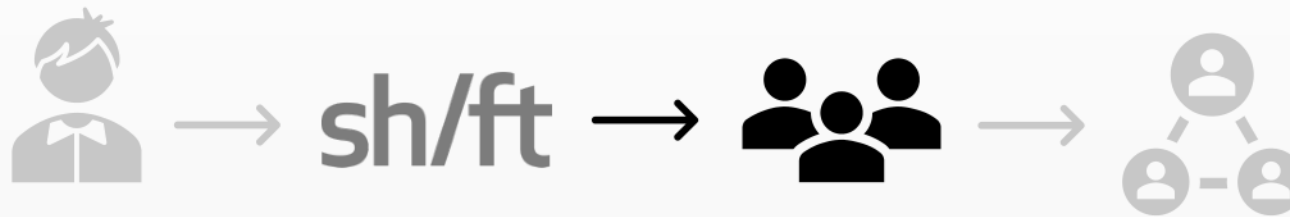


Shift requires that its participants provide informed consent before their information is shared with Shift and its hub members.



Four-Filter Process

Filter 2



Age Group

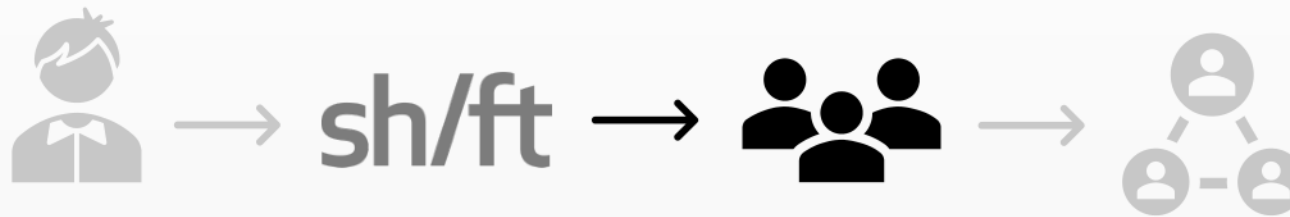
Gender Identity

Short Description of risk factors

Previous efforts made by the referring organization to resolve the situation. (if any)

Four-Filter Process

Filter 3

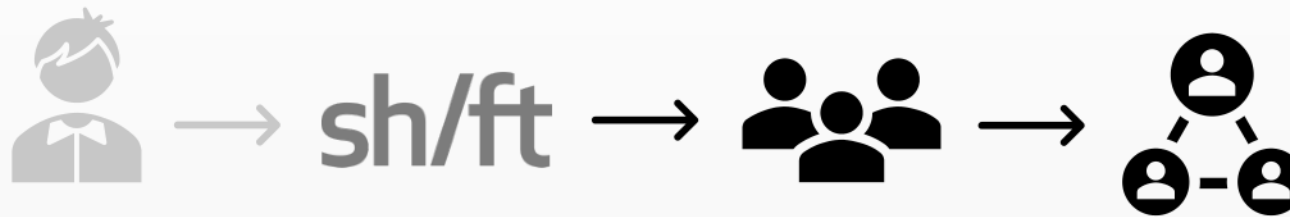


Name
Date of Birth
Postal Code

Determine if you are already involved with the participant.
Appoint the intervention's lead and secondary organization(s).

Four-Filter Process

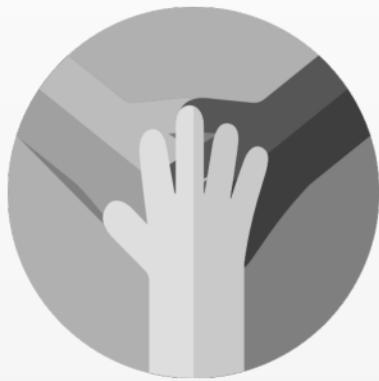
Filter 4



Personal and Health Information
Full Address
Relevant social circumstances and connections

Connect Risk Indicators with partner services.
Develop an intervention plan.

Finally



Offer of services



Follow-up



Program exit

Questions?

Thank you

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
Policing and Security Branch
BRIEFING NOTE

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Wayne Rideout, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services

ISSUE: Updated Hate Crimes, Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Statistics

SUMMARY:

- The anti-Hate and Anti-Racism portfolio sits with MAG's Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch (multi-branch) (prior to December 2020 this branch was in MTAC). PSB's Shift BC provides support when requested and coordinates related PSSG Correspondence and IBNs.
- There are four specific offences listed as hate propaganda offences or hate crimes in the *Criminal Code of Canada*: (1) advocating genocide, (2) public incitement of hatred, (3) willful promotion of hatred, and (4) mischief motivated by hate in relation to property used by an identifiable group.
- Police-reported hate crimes refer to criminal incidents that are found to have been motivated by hatred towards an identifiable group. An incident may be against a person or property. Note that police-reported hate crimes do not always provide the whole picture; (1) Of all forms of criminality, hate incidences are likely to be among the most underreported offences and (2) only crimes which fit the narrow criminal code definition/are chargeable are included in police-reported stats.
- In 2019, police reported 1,946 criminal incidents in Canada that were motivated by hate. Hate crimes accounted for less than 0.1% of the over 2.2 million police-reported crimes in 2019 (excluding traffic offences).
- Hate crimes targeting the Black and Jewish populations remained the most common types of hate crimes, representing 18% and 16% of all hate crimes, respectively. As well, hate crimes targeting sexual orientation accounted for 14% of all hate crimes.
- Anecdotal evidence from 2020-2021 does suggest that COVID-19 has had a negative effect on hate crime and hate incidences. The only official stats on this are from VPD. They issued a report in Oct. 2020 saying that reports of anti-East-Asian racist acts and hate crimes are still prevalent in the city, that hate crimes/incidents in Vancouver increased 116%, and anti-Asian hate crime incidents rose by 878%. As a response, the VPD initiated more measures to assist in combatting hate crimes.

BACKGROUND:

Statistical information

- **Overall** - The number of police-reported hate crimes increased by 7%, or 129 more incidents, in 2019 compared to the previous year. In 2017, the number of hate

crimes increased markedly by 47% and has remained at comparable levels in 2018 and 2019.

- **Racially motivated** - Between 2018 and 2019, the number of police-reported crimes motivated by hatred of a race or ethnicity increased 10%, from 793 to 876. Much of this increase was a result of more hate crimes targeting the Black (+40 incidents) and Arab (West Asian) populations (+35 incidents).
- **Sexual Orientation** - Police-reported hate crimes targeting sexual orientation increased 41% in 2019 to 263 incidents, compared with 186 incidents a year earlier.
- **Religious** - For the second year in a row there was a decline in the number of police-reported hate crimes motivated by religion, declining from 657 to 608 incidents (-7%). This decrease was due to fewer police-reported crimes motivated by hate against the Jewish population, which declined from 372 incidents to 296 incidents in 2019 (-20%). Hate crimes against the Muslim population rose slightly in 2019, from 166 to 181 incidents (+9%).
- **Provincial Rates** - In 2019, almost all provinces and all territories reported increases, including British Columbia (+49 incidents), Ontario (+43 incidents), Quebec (+23 incidents), New Brunswick (+18 incidents) and Manitoba (+14 incidents). Only the province of Alberta reported a decrease from 2018, with 38 fewer incidents.
- **Urban/Rural** - While increases were reported in the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) including Vancouver (+24 incidents), overall, there was a larger increase in police-reported hate crimes outside of CMAs (+86 incidents, +37%) compared to within CMAs (+43 incidents, +3%).
- **Violence** - Based on the reported characteristics of hate crimes, both non-violent hate crimes (+6%) and violent hate crimes (+8%) increased in 2019. As in other years, non-violent hate crimes accounted for the majority of incidents (56%). Compared to 2018, there were increases in all types of non-violent hate crime. The number of violent hate crimes rose from 798 to 861, the result of increases in common assault (+24%) and uttering threats (+12%).

Government Response

- Four anti-racism initiatives have been boosted by \$1.9 million in provincial funding since November 2019 as part of the Stronger BC program after increased public interest in these issues and a significant rise in hate-related incidences in BC. They include a one-time “expansion and enhancement” of the year-old Resilience BC anti-racism network, and an anti-racism public education campaign.
- Parliamentary Secretary Rachna Singh has been tasked with spearheading new provincial anti-racism legislation. The Act will include a mandate on gathering race-based data - which could impact Policing - as well as ensuring equal treatment in the health care system.

- Announced on April 30, the Province will develop a “racist incident hotline”. The hotline is intended to be a multilingual service, not delivered by police, for British Columbians to report racist incidents and receive support and referrals. The data collected from the hotline will be “used to support future anti-racism initiatives”. PSSG and various Law Enforcement entities have expressed concerns regarding the creation of this hotline and will seek to ensure all messaging encourages victims and witnesses to report incidences to their POJ.
- Parliamentary Secretary Singh, responsible for Anti-Racism initiatives, is intending to proclaim the last week of May as “Anti-Racism Awareness Week” (May 23 – 29, 2021).
- The latest round of the Multiculturalism Grants announced on March 31 will invest more than \$1.2 million in more than 190 anti-racism projects across the province.
- The Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) was direct awarded the \$300,000 contract to develop trauma-informed response training for frontline service providers who are supporting victims of hate.
- Provincially, BC is the only Province in Canada with a dedicated integrated Hate Crimes unit which has recently been able to undergo branding and website creation (a value of \$150,000) in partnership with the Province (MAG).

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Indigenous peoples continue to be targeted by hate and racism. Multi-year analysis shows that victims of police-reported violent hate crimes targeting sexual orientation and the Indigenous population tend to be the youngest among hate crime victims and sustain the highest rate of injury.
- Government and Law Enforcement initiatives designed to address these issues include those detailed above. The RCMP’s Indigenous Policing program provides culturally-sensitive service to the more than 200 Indigenous communities in B.C.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Attorney General

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