

**Title:** Right-Wing Extremism in Canada

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**Research Question:**

What factors may promote violent right-wing extremism in Canada, and how is it connected to similar movements in the US and Europe? What impacts might this violence have on radicalization within other communities, and what strategies can security and intelligence organizations employ to detect or reduce violent right-wing extremism?

**Importance:**

Canada's Counter-Terrorism Strategy notes that violence from domestic terrorist groups including white supremacists persists, but little contemporary research exists on Canadian right-wing extremism. US government reports have noted a national resurgence in right-wing extremism over the last decade, which has adopted concerns over immigration as a call to action. It is plausible that right-wing extremist violence could be inspired by or imported into Canada from right-wing extremists abroad. There is an urgent need for a broad-based assessment of this threat to promote evidence-based policy and improve security operations.

**Research Findings:**

There has been a steady level of right-wing extremist activity within Canada over the last 50 years, and anti-immigrant sentiment continues to crop up across the country. Canada has been home to a collection of right-wing extremists that have been surprisingly influential in the global movements associated with white supremacy, Neo-Nazism, Identity Christianity, Creativity, skinheads, and others. Based on historically strong connections and exchanges between Canadian extremists and those abroad, it would be imprudent to presume that Canada is immune to the importation of the rising right-wing extremism in the United States and Europe.

**Implications:**

Canadian security officials and intelligence organizations should remain vigilant in monitoring the highly heterogeneous right-wing extremist network, including a variety of financial and non-traditional media like white power music. Both the United States and Norway have modified their policies to better handle lone wolf terrorism following recent attacks. Canada would do well to reorient more of its focus towards detecting and intercepting lone actors, since it will likely see similar future incidents. The radicalization processes of lone operators and small cells are not well-studied, and more work is needed in this area. There are historical precedents for reciprocal radicalization between right-wing extremists and other groups, so Canada should not discount the potential for violent escalations. There is room for more engagement of civic leaders, charities, and immigrant interest groups in identifying hate crimes and low-level violence before they build into more lethal manifestations. More can also be done to articulate the threat, as well as the history of political violence and extremism in Canada via the Canadian Incident Database (CIDB).