

## Canada's ethnic media reveals grim reality

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Hundreds of multilingual media outlets are "canaries in the coal mine", warning of everything from foreign interference to psychological stress on new [immigrants](#)



The report says many newcomers feel "stuck between their past and present lives" as they try to connect news from home to realities in Canada. (Illustration taken from a discussion paper titled *Diaspora Dynamics - Ethnic Media and Foreign Conflict in Multicultural Canada*.)

Canadian President Andrés Machalski said Canada's [ethnic media](#) is the "canary in the coal mine," sounding warnings about everything from foreign interference to the psychological stress on new immigrants, whether they come from Iran, China, Russia, India, South Korea, the Middle East or elsewhere. Multilingual International Media Studies ([MIREMS](#)).

But the government is not taking advantage of these abundant resources. Their lack of understanding of the powerful role played by ethnic media "enables Chinese and Indian operatives to (influence) public opinion... and opens the door to homegrown subversion of [Canadian](#) democracy," Machalski said.

MIREMS's 54-page report finds the media invaluable in understanding the situation in dozens of diaspora communities.

The report even suggests that many newcomers suffer from anxiety and depression related to "complex post-traumatic stress disorder" as they try to make sense of news and perspectives from home in their new lives in Canada.

The MIREMS report says that while many of the views expressed in minority media are predictable, there is a range of views. MIREMS tracks more than 800 media outlets in 30 languages in Canada and around the world.

### **Beijing 's Penetration of Canadian Chinese Media**

Jonathan Manthorpe, author of "Panda's Claws: Beijing 's Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in Canada ," wrote in the Vancouver Sun last week that one of the Chinese Communist Party's most "vicious" activities is that it controls "virtually All Chinese" way. "Language Media" in Canada.

"Such an outcome is most despicable for new Canadians"

The MIREMS report doesn't go that far. But it does reflect how Chinese-language newspapers and broadcasters targeting the 1.7 million Chinese-Canadians have often toed the Communist Party line on issues such as human rights abuses in Xinjiang, pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong and the detention of Huawei CEO Meng Wanzhou. Wanzhou and China Interference in Canadian elections.

Because many Chinese- Canadian writers and editors fear they are being monitored by mainland Chinese agents, they often "avoid controversial topics to protect their own interests," the report said. Nonetheless, MIREMS recommends establishing a degree of independent reporting.

### **Russian and Canadian media remain silent on war in Ukraine**

Machalski said that while Russian government-controlled media heavily promoted a devastating invasion of Ukraine, the same could not be said for Russian-language media in Canada. "It was basically silent."

The report said Russian and Canadian media were much more "balanced" than their own media and were sometimes even sympathetic to Ukraine.

Canada 's Russian, Ukrainian, Latvian and Polish media serve more than 2 million people. If Ottawa learned from them, Machalski said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau might avoid the embarrassment of inviting a Ukrainian veteran who fought for the Nazis to be honored by visiting Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Zelensky.

### **Canadian Jewish and Arab media de-emphasize 'World War III'**

Mainstream media in Canada are generally more fair and nuanced than diaspora media in reporting on most issues, including the Israel-Hamas war, the report said. But there may be surprises.

While Jewish- Canadian and Arab-Canadian media largely contributed to polarizing the war in Gaza, Machalski, who is from Argentina, said there wasn't at least a lot of talk about "how World War III started" - which Theme This is what happens when the mainstream media covers angry street protests.



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MIREMS report concluded that many people in the Canadian diaspora are psychologically disturbed by being bombarded with disparate messages from the media. (Illustration: Cover of Diaspora Dynamics: Ethnic Media and Foreign Conflict in Multicultural Canada.) sun

### **South Asian media are more open and active**

A variety of viewpoints have been expressed in a variety of multilingual media outlets that have long served South Asian Canadians, with a potential audience of nearly two million people.

Whether serving the country's large Sikh or Hindu populations, the media is now focused on how Canada 's diplomatic ties with India were affected by last year's riot in Britain by Khalistan separatist Hardip Singh Nijjar. The impact of the murders in Columbia.

The Sikh-dominated media largely condemned the Indian government and supported Trudeau's accusations that Indian agents may have been involved. The Hindu media, on the other hand, tends to accuse Trudeau of pandering to Sikh militants.

Taken together, the MIREMS report leads to an insightful theory that Canada's large diaspora, many of whom have dual identities, is psychologically unsettling when bombarded with disparate messages from different media.

"Continued exposure of conflicts in their homeland, through ethnic media on the one hand, and mainstream media on the other, can be traumatic for immigrants as they find themselves caught between their past and present lives," the report said.

"Coverage of ongoing conflicts such as those in Ukraine, India and the Middle East can trigger symptoms similar to complex post-traumatic stress disorder, where stress is chronic and repeated.

" This form of psychological stress is compounded as immigrants struggle to integrate into Canadian society while maintaining ties to their country of origin, resulting in a unique set of mental health challenges."