

# [***Canadian Lawmaker Likely Targeted By Chinese Disinformation Campaign***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:68X4-9321-DXVP-53PB-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 517 words

**Byline:** Ty Roush, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** The alleged campaign spread misleading narratives about the official on WeChat.

**Body**

**Topline**

A member of Canada s Conservative Party was likely targeted by an online disinformation campaign orchestrated by China earlier this year, Global Affairs Canada said Wednesday the latest allegation against the Chinese government for interfering in Canadian ***politics***.

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The alleged campaign spread misleading narratives about Michael Chong on WeChat.

Toronto Star via Getty Images

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**Key Facts**

Michael Chong, Canada s Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, was allegedly targeted by a coordinated network of WeChat news accounts, which shared and amplified a large volume of false or misleading narratives about Chong between May 4 and May 13, according to a governmentreportWednesday.

The Canadian government noted that while it is highly probable that China was involved in the alleged campaign, unequivocal proof of China s involvement is not possible.

Most of the campaign intended to spread false narratives about Chong s family, which included commentary and claims about his background, political stances and his family s heritage, though none of it posed any threat to Chong or his family.

About one-third of the accounts included state-run media outlets and others that are likely linked to the Chinese government, but whose linkages may be opaque.

The Canadian government which suggested the activity likely violated WeChat s code of conduct said it would notify Chinese diplomats about its concerns.

**Surprising Fact**

CanadaexpelledChinese diplomat Zhao Wei in May, after an intelligence report accused him of targeting Chong in a possible disinformation campaign. Chong whose father is from Hong Kong said he was profoundly disappointed by the report, which suggested China was working to make an example of him after he was critical of China s treatment of its Uyghur Muslim community. Chinese officialsdenouncedWei s expulsion as unreasonable and denied accusations against him.

**Key Background**

Relations between Canada and China have worsened in recent months, after reports suggested China worked to interfere in the 2021 election. Erin O Toole, the former leader of Canada s Conservative Party, said earlier this year that he was told China tried to prevent him from replacing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,accordingto the**Wall Street Journal**. O Toole told the**Journal**that he was targeted by a disinformation campaign on WeChat, which attempted to prevent people from voting in some electoral districts. A spokesperson for China s Embassy in Ottawa said the claims were unfounded, suggesting China would never interfere in Canada s internal affairs. In 2018, Chinese officials arrested a Canadian diplomat and entrepreneur days after Canada arrested Huawei Technologies chief financial officer. Both countriesexchangedprisoners three years later.

**Further Reading**

Canada Says China Likely Behind Disinformation Campaign Targeting Lawmaker(**Wall Street Journal**)

Chinese Malware Could Cut Power To U.S. Military Bases, Businesses And Homes, Report Claims(**Forbes**)

Chinese Hackers Breached The Email Of A U.S. Ambassador, Reports Say(**Forbes**)

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