



PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for
stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 20-001

13 November 2020

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1. CURRENT SITUATION

COVID-19. The global pandemic has impacted society in ways that continue to cause anxiety, fear, and anger. Moreover, the disruption to business operations, supply chains and everyday interactions has forced innovation and alternative solutions to overcome the limiting factors caused by restrictions. What this translates to is an awareness that our economies are resilient and adaptable to adverse and challenging environments.

While there is a significant increase in COVID-19 cases and the second wave floods over many nations, there is hope that newly developed vaccines will stem the tide. It is obvious that the virus continues to be the top risk to all areas of the public and private sectors. Changes in medical procedures, subsequent to the lessons learned, are resulting in fewer deaths and less need for patients to be put on ventilators. Unfortunately, as the numbers of active cases continues to rise, the limited resources are not proportionate to the growing demand and it is likely that many more will die before a vaccine can be distributed to the general public.

The potential for civil unrest is increasing as the effects of the pandemic begin to severely impact the most vulnerable parts of the population. Lack of funds to maintain a standard of living that enables these vulnerable people and families could be the catalyst for increased criminal activity. Desperation drives normal citizens to do things they would not normally participate in. This activity is likely to resonate with those who have chosen not to adhere to the pandemic protocols put in place to contain the virus. When faced with starvation or becoming homeless, individuals will seek ways to sustain their quality of life. The situation in many areas is tenuous. Should opportunities to join in protests become more prevalent it is assessed that large numbers of people that have become desperate will participate. As observed in other large gatherings the propensity for rioting, looting and violence cannot be discounted. In fact, it is likely that this activity will occur should there be any interruptions in funding to low income households, or a significant decrease in the goods available to vulnerable populations.

Vaccine. The vaccine reportedly caused 162 infections in the placebo group, and only eight in those who received the COVID-19 vaccine. Only ten individuals had a severe case, of whom only one was in the vaccine group. The vaccine reportedly helped prevent both mild and severe cases, was well-tolerated by those who received it, and appeared to only cause mild side effects that quickly disappeared. The vaccine itself is given via two doses three weeks apart. Almost 4% of individuals experienced the most severe side effect, which is noted to be fatigue after the second dose. Fewer and milder side effects were reported by older individuals. The information released by Pfizer did not provide details on the data, and Pfizer has not provided the detailed information to any third-party experts to ensure its accuracy.

According to Pfizer, 50 million vaccines can be produced in 2020, increasing to 1.3 billion in 2021. However, as the vaccine requires refrigeration in -70c, or kept in dry ice, it is believed its storage may present difficulties to less developed countries. However, it is hopeful that some infrastructure is already contained in some jurisdictions for this type of storage, as the chickenpox vaccine also requires similar storage requirements. Canada's deal with Pfizer will provide 20 million doses by 2021. Pfizer advised that it should be applying for an emergency use of the vaccine by the USA FDA, which will be fast tracked. Hopeful dates being discussed include the end of this year. Despite the hope many have for a vaccine to bring back some sort of normal, extensive reviews into the vaccine clinical data must be conducted in an effort to ensure not

only its effectiveness, but more importantly, its safety. Additionally, a safe and effective vaccine must have proper manufacturing to ensure every vaccine is made safely and is consistent across the board. Most vaccines take years to complete, with the quickest vaccine taking five years. This is because various clinical trials test the vaccines to ensure its long-term safety. An unsafe vaccine would have highly detrimental effects, especially since it is first planned to be given to medical professionals and the vulnerable. Should something go wrong with the vaccine, it will be first seen in those who are our last line of defence against the virus.

Moderna, also in the process of making a vaccine, indicated that their phase three data shows the vaccine is 94.5% effective. It also requires two doses administered weeks apart and is also expecting to receive FDA approval possibly by the end of this year. The study looked at 30,000 USA participants, with 95 participants getting COVID-19, of which only 5 were in the vaccine group, while 90 of those in the placebo group caught the virus. Ontario is reported to be receiving 2.4 million doses of both vaccines sometime in early 2021, while Alberta is set to receive a combined 686,000 doses.

Other COVID-19 Treatments. Ideally, prevention of the virus is the best approach and many other possible treatments are being investigated for COVID-19. Remdesivir, made by Gilead Sciences, was first used, and failed as an experimental Ebola treatment. According to Gilead, the drug was able to reduce COVID-19 recovery time by about five days, with a reduction of the risk of death in some participants. However, a WHO report on the drug suggested that it does not appear to have much effect on a 28-day mortality rate, or the length of hospital stay.

Monoclonal antibodies which target the virus can be obtained from recovered patients. Natural antibodies produced by those who have fought off the infection can be produced and researched quickly. These attempt to disable the spike protein's ability to infect cells, however, may only provide moderate protection and may be best used in the beginning of the infection, possibly coupled with other monoclonal antibodies or other drugs. This is currently being researched by various companies including Eli Lilly, Celltrion, and AstraZeneca, with some of the trials approved in South Korea.

Additionally, REGN-COV2 is being developed by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, an antibody cocktail producing resistance against COVID-19, which is currently being researched before being approved. The drug company received a compassionate use request for temporary authorization of the drug to be given to Donald Trump when he had COVID-19. The USA has issued emergency authorization for trial pertaining to convalescent plasma, also received from recovered COVID-19 patients and transfused into those who are currently fighting the virus. As this method has been used for a lengthy amount of time for viruses, its is believed to be safe and have little side effects. Studies conducted in various countries have found the treatment to be effective when given in the early stages of the disease but have been too small to be able to ascertain their findings. Overall, it appears that despite soaring numbers of COVID-19 in almost every global jurisdiction, we will soon have even more methods to combat the virus.

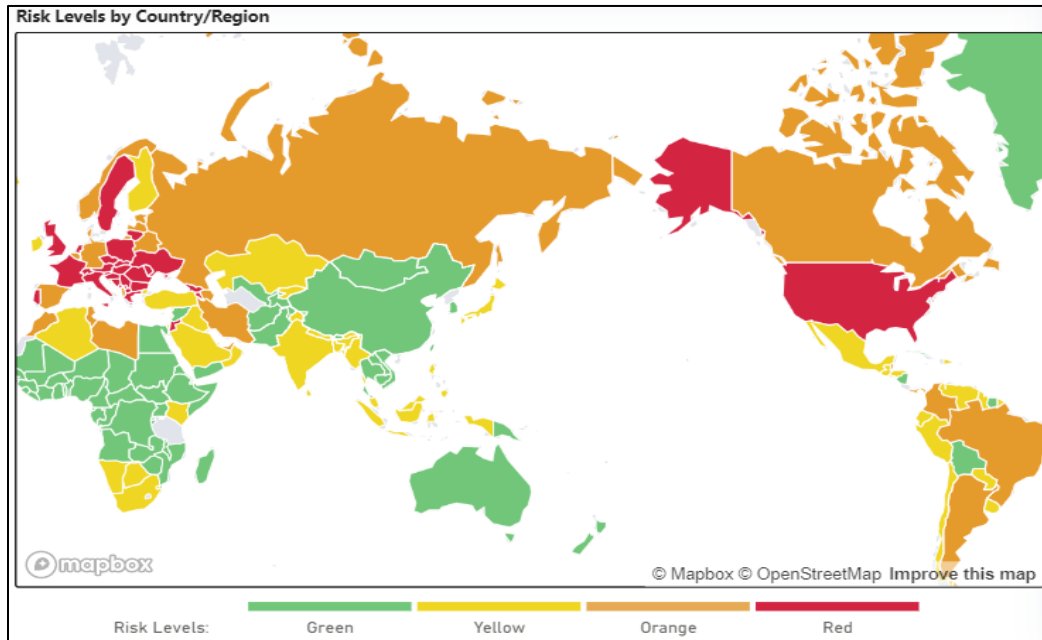
Threats. Transnational organized crime connected to state sponsored efforts to undermine safeguards and legal frameworks is increasing. Distracted law enforcement agencies, regulators and compliance agencies are opening opportunities for criminal networks to ply their craft. Leveraging and compromise of government officials at all levels in efforts to gain influence is prevalent in North America and conducted by nation states as well as transnational organized crime groups.

The Cullen Commission public inquiry into money laundering in Canada's western most province is beginning to paint a picture of the dirty money architecture that has been constructed over the last few decades. Testimony from a variety of sources has provoked controversy and concern around the accountability and trust placed on those in authority. Reporting wrong doing, but not acting to mitigate the use of proceeds of crime, has become a game of duck-duck-goose – where whoever is tagged last must race to take the empty seat. This race subsequently leaves the slower opponent as the one left standing while the others are seated. The narrow scope of the inquiry is certain to be exposed to the much larger threats of foreign interference, espionage, subversion, corruption, and transnational organized crime. While these threats have been identified and a national public inquiry requested, there is no indication that Ottawa will agree to conducting an in-depth look into the national security and crime convergences. The world is watching and waiting to see what one of the softest regions for high level crime is going to do about its issues of weak laws, limited enforcement capabilities, lack of sufficient resources and constrained information sharing protocols. The inquiry is likely to continue into the Spring of 2021 as it begins to work towards the other aspects of money laundering as defined in the Attorney General sanctioned reports, Dirty Money and Dirty Money 2.



2. GLOBAL

2.1 COVID UPDATE



#	Country, Other	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Population
	World	+397,141	1,372,120	+7,179	16,288,739	102,045	7,393	176.0	
1	USA	+53,783	258,906	+573	4,609,738	22,493	36,547	780	331,753,930
2	France		47,127		1,891,592	4,653	31,935	721	65,329,622
3	Italy	+37,242	48,569	+699	777,176	3,748	22,271	804	60,427,162
4	Belgium	+4,477	15,196	+171	500,276	1,284	47,399	1,309	11,609,176
5	Russia	+24,318	35,311	+461	453,201	2,300	13,976	242	145,958,815
6	India	+39,940	132,541	+339	441,769	8,944	6,529	96	1,385,234,229
7	Poland	+22,464	12,714	+626	424,748	2,135	21,656	336	37,830,455
8	Brazil	+4,130	168,218	+77	411,503	8,318	28,090	789	213,143,502
9	Ukraine	+14,575	10,598	+229	313,163	177	13,708	243	43,630,878
10	Germany	+17,095	13,990	+202	302,214	3,561	10,673	167	83,887,916
11	Iran	+13,260	43,896	+479	195,456	5,756	9,814	520	84,406,036
12	Mexico	+4,472	100,104	+576	153,078	2,852	7,876	773	129,454,537
13	Argentina		36,532		145,388	4,292	29,752	805	45,355,747
14	Hungary	+4,440	3,568	+96	124,259	604	17,190	370	9,650,777
15	Romania	+9,272	9,756	+160	114,691	1,139	21,010	508	19,187,408

2.2 COVID-19 World News

- [EU economics chief 'worried' about delays to Covid stimulus after Hungary and Poland veto](#)
- [G-20 nations have now deployed \\$11 trillion to support a post-Covid economic recovery](#)
- [Covid-19 'spreading county lines violence to smaller towns', UK charity warns](#)
- [Law enforcement officials in 9 WNY counties won't enforce NY's 10 person limit on private gatherings](#)
- [Europe faces 'six tough months' of pandemic, WHO says](#)
- [What Canada can learn from Australia's success with COVID-19](#)
- [India's Covid count hits 9 million, rise slowest since 1st](#)
- [Nearly 1 Million Chinese People Have Received Drug Maker's Covid-19 Vaccines](#)
- [EU warns Hungary against use of Russia's COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Canada names China, Russia as main cyber-crime threats; sees risk to power supply](#)
- [Malicious cyber attacks are sabotaging Covid vaccine development](#)
- [86% of consumers experience cyber crime amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

2.3 Global Awareness

- [Five Eyes allies express concerns over expulsion of Hong Kong lawmakers](#)
Canada, the U.K., the U.S., New Zealand and Australia are expressing their “serious concern” after China imposed new rules to disqualify elected legislators in Hong Kong, saying the move is part of a “concerted campaign to silence all critical voices.”
Controlling the narrative allows China the time it needs to consolidate power in HK and limit any foreign influence that may seek to undermine its efforts.
- [ASEAN, China, other partners form world's biggest trade bloc](#)
The China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) deal excludes the US and will account for 30 percent of the world's economy and population. Critics claim the deal will be dominated by China; however, that is only part of the story.
- [Turkish presidency reportedly submits motion on sending troops to Azerbaijan](#)
The report comes after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Moscow and Ankara had signed a memorandum on setting up a centre for control over the ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- [Endeavour Mining inks deal to buy Teranga Gold](#)
London-based Endeavour Mining Corp. is buying a second Canadian-based rival to further grow its gold-producing footprint in West Africa.

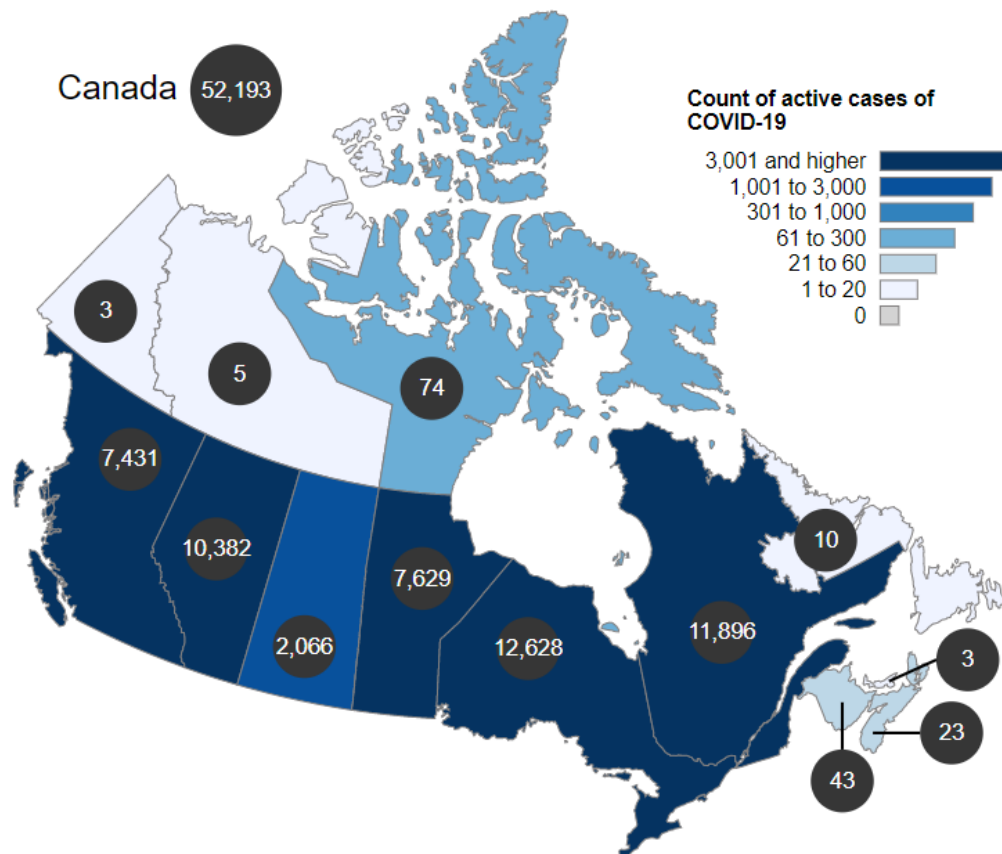
2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

- [Deadly protests after pop star politician arrested](#)
Sixteen people have been killed in two days of protests in Uganda triggered by the arrest of musician-turned-presidential candidate Bobi Wine. The deaths occurred during security operations, police said in a statement, adding that a further 65 people had been injured and about 350 arrested.
- [Georgia protests: Tbilisi police fire water cannon at demonstrators](#)
Thousands of people gathered outside the Central Election Commission to demand a new vote, after accusing the governing party of rigging the poll.
- [Police fire water cannon to disperse Berlin anti-shutdown protest](#)
Around 5,000 radical activists massed at the Brandenburg Gate, after the German government banned rallies outside parliament over police warnings the demonstration could turn violent.
- [Peru's youth has taken down a president. Now they want more.](#)


Peru's millennials and Generation Z youth - have their eyes on bigger prizes: changes to the constitution and reforming a widely reviled Congress. Peru's younger generation - dubbed the 'bicentennials' in reference to the 200-year anniversary of Peruvian independence next year - were at the heart of recent protests that led to the resignation of the country's interim president on Sunday.

3. CANADA

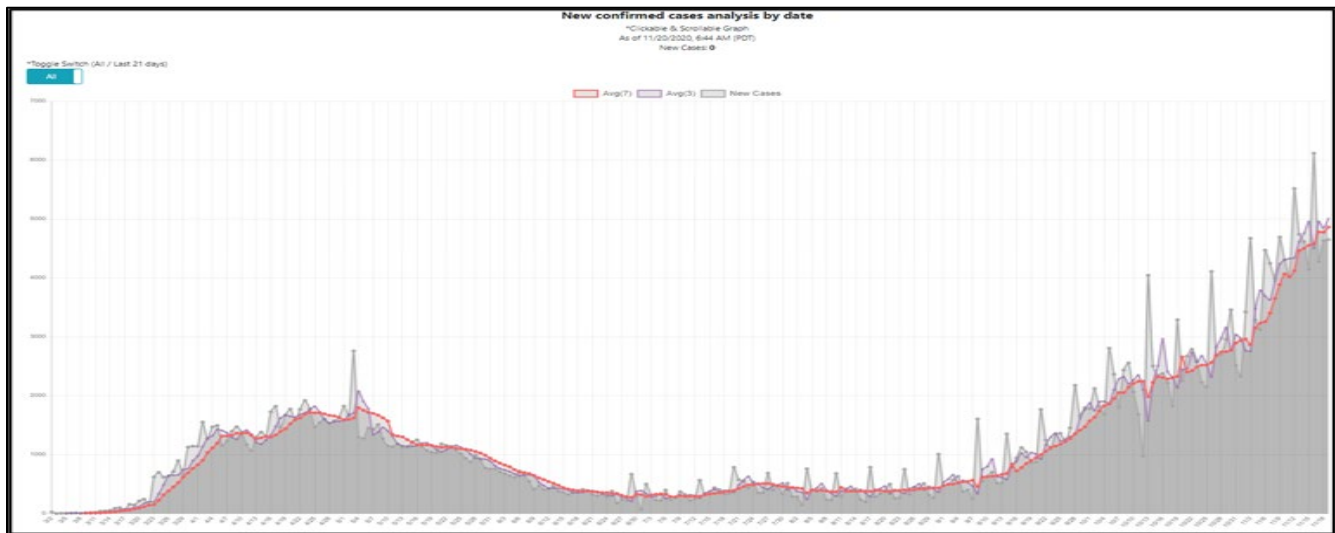
3.1 COVID UPDATE





Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
Total	315,751	11,265	252,293	52,193
BC	24,958	321	17,206	7,431
ON	99,372	3,443	83,301	12,628
QC	128,440	6,744	109,800	11,896
AB	42,797	451	31,964	10,382
MB	12,482	198	4,655	7,629
NB	392	6	343	43
SK	5,651	32	3,553	2,066
PEI	68	0	65	3
NL	308	4	294	10
NS	1,155	65	1,067	23
YT	26	1	22	3
NT	15	0	10	5
NU	74	0	0	74
	13	0	13	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.0%	↑ 0.0%	↑ 0.0%	0.0%

Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
Total	13,247,668	-	-	-
BC	1,019,551	-	217	59
ON	5,779,019	44,493	526	146
QC	3,586,364	-	651	101
AB	1,869,192	-	284	61
MB	321,853	-	263	43
NB	113,014	-	0	0
SK	307,264	-	83	21
PEI	51,090	-	-	-
NL	57,944	-	2	0
NS	126,589	-	1	0
YT	4,446	75	-	-
NT	7,201	19	0	0
NU	4,141	785	0	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.0%	-	-	-



Source: <https://www.covid-19canada.com>

3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

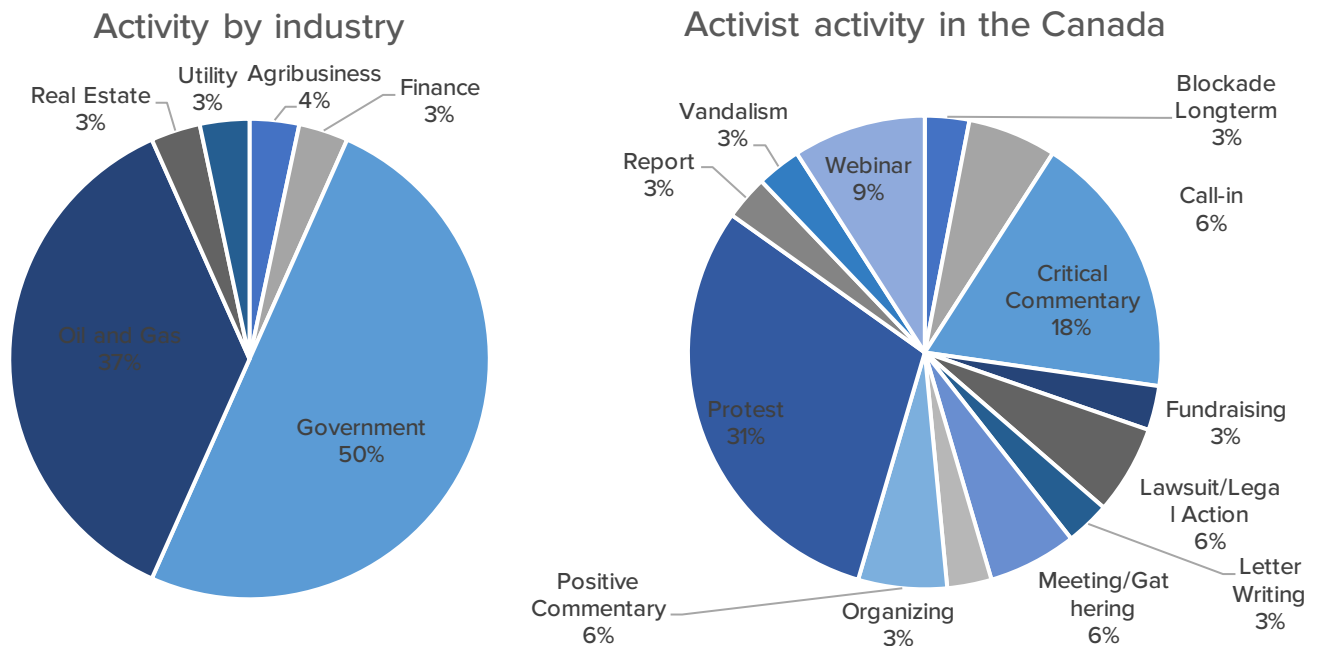
- [B.C. to require masks in indoor, public places and extend ban on social gatherings province-wide](#)
- [Ford says 'tough' new measures coming to COVID-19 hot spots as Ontario reports 1,210 new cases](#)
- [Canada on track for 20K new COVID-19 cases a day without behavior change: modelling](#)
- [Trudeau cautions against 'preliminary' coronavirus vaccine talk](#)
- [With 1,105 new COVID-19 cases, Alberta sets another single-day record](#)
- [Quebec government outlines holiday plans - schools close early to allow for 4 days of gatherings](#)
- [Manitoba, Nunavut go into lockdown to battle coronavirus — why haven't other provinces?](#)

3.3 Canada Awareness

- [Feds setting up new streams for Hong Kong residents to come to Canada](#)
China's crackdown on democracy results in the federal government offering new immigration programs aimed at attracting young people from Hong Kong to Canada and is promising to expedite paperwork for Canadians living there to come home. The federal government has prepared to evacuate some 300,000 Canadian citizens out of Hong Kong should the situation worsen.
- [Police arrest 88 after dismantling gang tied to killing of teenage bystander](#)
A joint-forces operation dubbed "Project Siphon" has linked the gang to drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering and a series of shootings.
- [Canada formalizes 'net zero' emissions plans after decades of failure to meet climate targets](#)
The legislation will require the environment minister to set five-year targets, beginning in 2030, to curb emissions, and report progress back to Parliament on a regular basis. It also requires the finance minister to provide annual reports on what she is doing to guard against financial risks posed by climate change.
- [China, Russia, Iran and North Korea are Canada's 'greatest strategic threat': CSE report](#)
Foreign threat actors trying to influence all facets of Canadian life online are now the "new normal" as state-sponsored hackers from China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are the biggest cyber threats to Canadians, warns the country's cyber security agency.

3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Welund)

Overview. During the week of 11-18 November 2020, the majority of activist activity, as reported by Welund North America, in Canada occurred in the government sector (50%), followed by oil and gas (37%). The primary focus of activist activity was the Trudeau government. Most activist activity during the week consisted of protests (31%), followed by critical commentary (18%), and webinars (9%). Analysts observed an increase in activism related to '[Land Back](#)' Indigenous rights campaigns, affecting several industry categories including Government, Real Estate, and Oil and Gas.



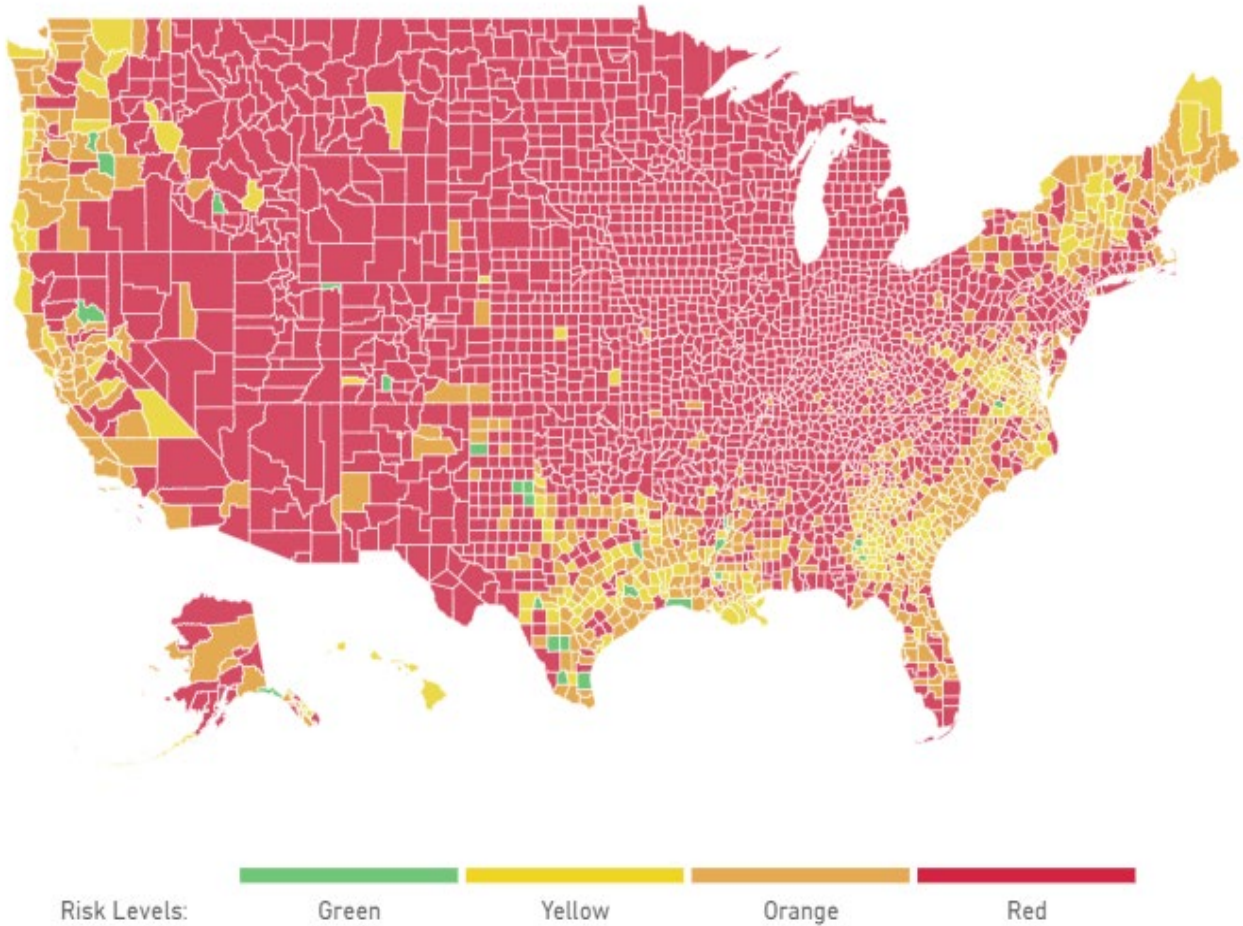
Protests. The majority of protests observed by Welund North America focused on oil and gas infrastructure projects including the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX) and Coastal GasLink pipeline (CGL), as well as anti-lockdown protests related to covid-19. The provinces that saw the most protest activity were Ontario and British Columbia. A protest of note this week was the '[Sound the Alarm](#)' national day-of-action held on 17-18 November during the TMX Annual General Meeting. The protests were organized by 350 Canada and its various chapters across the country.

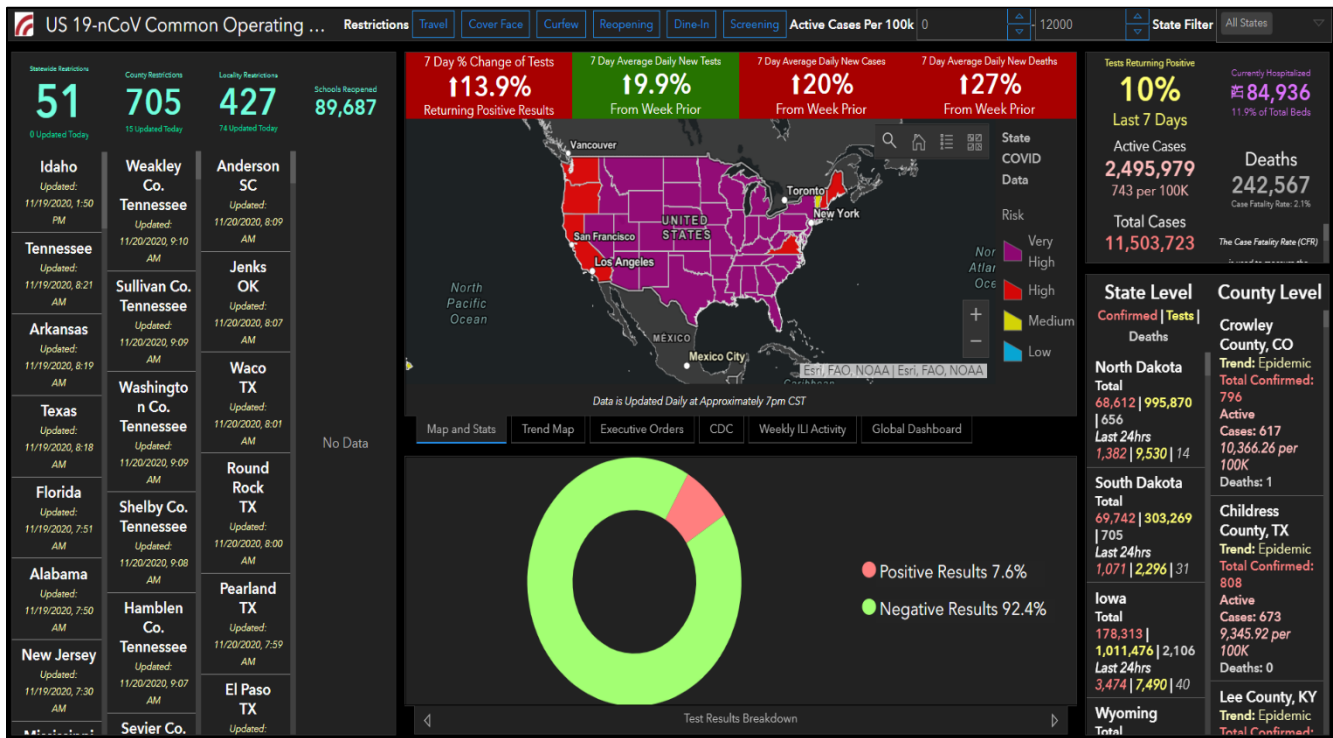
Outlook. Welund North America expects Indigenous organizers, and activist supporters, continue their 'Land Back' solidarity campaigns against government policies and fossil fuel infrastructure projects. A week of solidarity actions across the country has been proposed for [23-29 November](#). Increased covid-19 cases may limit the number of protesters willing to gather in person. However, anti-lockdown groups will continue protests against covid-19 restrictions, especially in large cities and in jurisdictions where public health measures are expanding once again.

4. USA

4.1 COVID UPDATE

Risk Levels by County





#	USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	USA Total	12,120,399	+49,687	258,876	+543	7,255,035	4,606,488	36,617	782	175,430,723	529,998	
1	California	1,080,261		18,565		528,139	533,557	27,340	470	21,552,528	545,465	39,512,223
2	Illinois	621,383		11,648		329,767	279,968	49,037	919	9,472,674	747,538	12,671,821
3	Florida	914,333		17,813		629,844	266,676	42,671	829	11,348,596	528,389	21,477,737
4	Arizona	291,696	+4,471	6,427	+43	46,951	238,318	40,075	883	2,418,990	332,337	7,278,717
5	Texas	1,147,276		20,766		921,474	205,036	39,567	716	10,714,040	369,502	28,995,881
6	Missouri	271,669		3,679		72,178	195,812	44,264	599	3,048,556	496,716	6,137,428
7	Virginia	213,331	+2,544	3,912	+16	22,946	186,473	24,993	458	3,439,600	402,975	8,535,519
8	Maryland	177,086	+2,353	4,398	+26	8,474	164,214	29,291	727	4,039,322	668,134	6,045,680
9	Michigan	311,041		8,717		138,862	163,462	31,145	873	6,403,781	641,221	9,986,857
10	Georgia	437,156		9,102		275,046	153,008	41,173	857	4,360,746	410,716	10,617,423
11	New York	617,741		34,136		433,162	150,443	31,755	1,755	17,386,368	893,737	19,453,561
12	Alabama	228,373	+2,463	3,451	+32	90,702	134,220	46,576	704	1,577,461	321,722	4,903,185
13	Colorado	182,801		2,730		52,615	127,456	31,743	474	1,537,359	266,961	5,758,736
14	Kentucky	148,390		1,742		25,437	121,211	33,214	390	2,519,768	564,000	4,467,673
15	Indiana	282,311	+6,808	5,206	+63	159,413	117,692	41,934	773	3,785,422	562,284	6,732,219

4.1 COVID-19 USA News

- [U.S. COVID-19 hospitalizations spike, shutdowns take effect with holidays on the horizon](#)
- [U.S. surpasses 250,000 deaths, new home testing kits approved](#)
- [Diversion and transfer delays plague hospitals overwhelmed by Covid-19 cases](#)
- [Why Trump's Operation Warp Speed is credited with helping race for COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Texas county asks residents to cancel holiday gatherings in emergency text message](#)
- [Parents outraged after NYC schools close due to rise in coronavirus infections](#)
- [Air Force nurses deployed to North Dakota to address hospital staffing crunch](#)

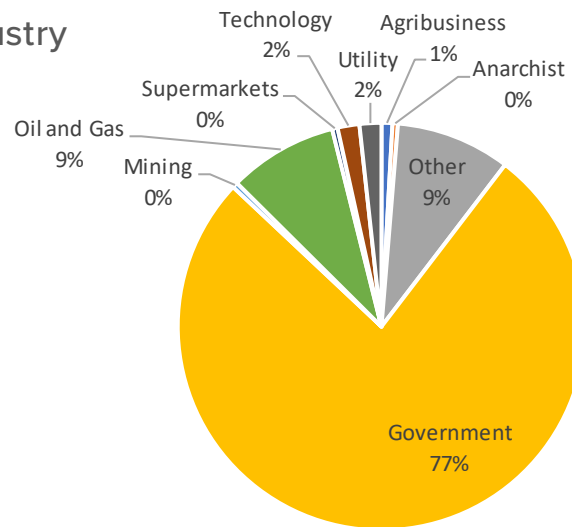
4.2 USA Awareness

- [US hate crime highest in more than a decade - FBI](#)
The FBI's annual Hate Crime Statistics Act (HCSA) report says there were 7,314 hate crimes last year, up from 7,120 the year before - and the highest number since 7,783 were recorded in 2008.
The recent increase in activism and overt political division continue to impact hate crime in the US.
- [Corrupt New York Cop Crucial Link in Dominican Drug Trafficking Ring](#)
A New York City police officer is accused of assisting a Dominican drug gang that moved hundreds of kilograms of cocaine, in a case that reveals how Dominican transnational organized crime groups have infiltrated law enforcement in one of the United States' major drug markets.
Compromising agencies that can assist in progressing transnational organized crime is a routine tactic employed by all high level Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs). The scope and depth of overall compromise across all agencies is still undetermined. Public confidence limits the information that can be shared in open source media.
- [Surprise at US move to drop drug charges against ex-Mexican minister](#)
Gen Salvador Cienfuegos was arrested at Los Angeles airport last month and accused of being at the heart of a multimillion-dollar conspiracy to smuggle huge shipments of drugs into the US. Prosecutors alleged that during his six-year stint at the head of Mexico's military, the 72-year-old had taken bribes to help a shadowy cartel shift "thousands of kilograms of cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamine" north over the border.
This act is sure to embolden corrupt political entities that are linked to cartels. A major blow to those that are fighting the war on drugs and its impact on the world.
- [U.S. imposes sweeping sanctions on Iran, targets Khamenei-linked foundation](#)
The United States imposed broad sanctions targeting Iran, blacklisting a foundation controlled by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and taking aim at what Washington called Iran's human rights abuses a year after a deadly crackdown on anti-government demonstrators. The sanctions announced by the U.S. Treasury Department, which also targeted Iran's intelligence minister, are the latest action to reinforce the "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran pursued by President Donald Trump's administration. The department-imposed sanctions on what it described as a key patronage network for Khamenei. It said it blacklisted the Bonyad Mostazafan, or the Foundation of the Oppressed, which is controlled by Khamenei, in a move also targeting 10 individuals and 50 subsidiaries of the foundation in sectors including energy, mining and financial services.
The sanctions, while a strong measure, are sure to drive the black market and underground banking system deeper into the shadows. Already a world leader in illicit markets, Iran will continue to expand its global operations.

4.3 USA – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Provided by Welund)

Overview. During the week of 11-18 November 2020, the majority of Welund North America-reported activist activity in the US occurred in the government sector (77%), followed by oil and gas (9%). The primary focus of activist activity was the Trump administration. Overall activity has declined since the US election. Most activist activity during the week consisted of protests (57%), followed by critical commentary (7%) and organizing (6%). Analysts observed an increase in activism related to the Keystone XL pipeline (KXL), with [renewed calls](#) for its shutdown in the wake of Biden electoral victory.

Activity by industry



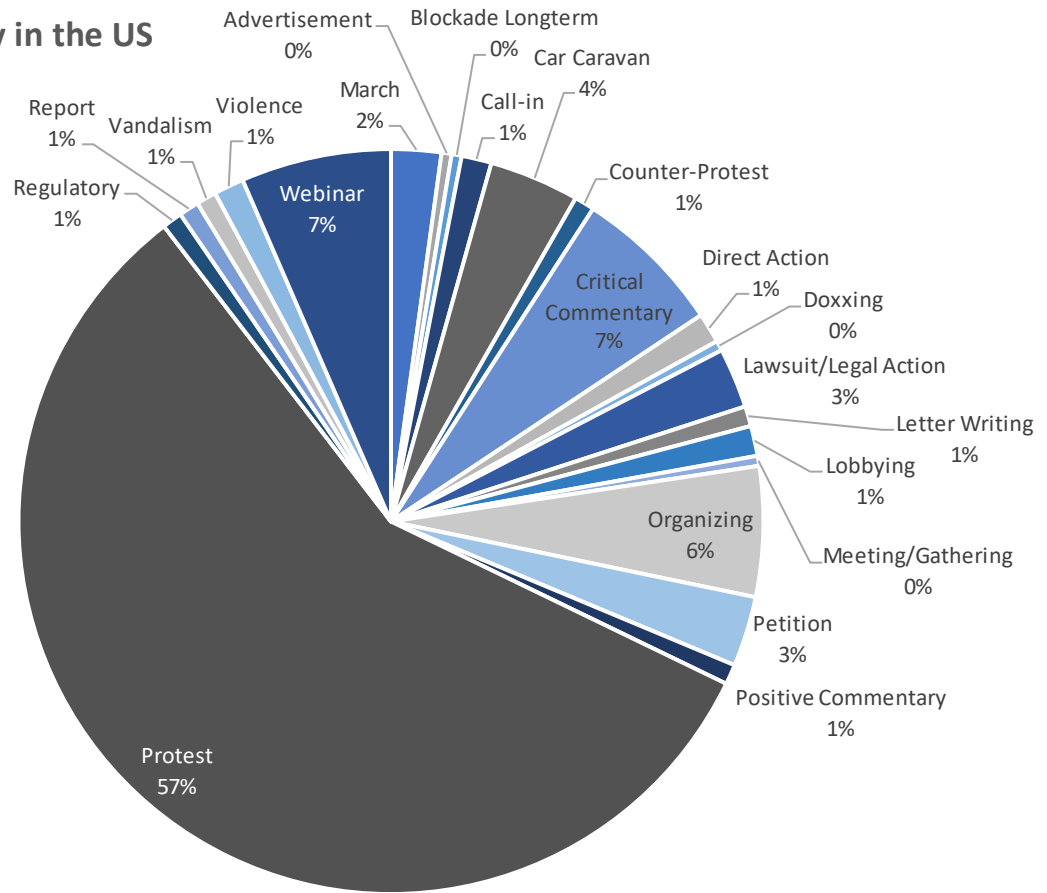
Protests. The majority of the protests observed by Welund North America were focused on political unrest, as US elections continued to be the focus of activist campaigns. The states that saw the most protests were Texas, California, and Michigan.

A protest of note this week was the [Million MAGA March](#), held on 14 November in Washington, DC. The protest saw attendance from prominent far-right groups, including the Proud Boys. There was a counter-protest from anti-fascists, resulting in a clash between the groups.

Outlook. Welund expects to see far-right organizers continue to oppose election results under the ‘Stop the Steal’ campaign. There may also be opposition to lockdowns should expanded covid-19 restrictions be put in place. Left-wing activists are expected to continue pressuring the incoming Biden administration to adopt progressive policies.



Activist activity in the US



End Report

Please submit feedback to:

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5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES



PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS

Specialist Risk Mitigation and Investigations Services.

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- Risk assessments for extractive industries, airports, seaports, pipelines, water, buildings and assets
- Complete Security consulting and audits, technology audits, project oversight and commissioning
- Emergency management and business continuity programs, consulting and training
- Cybercrime and Digital Investigation, Data Privacy and Protection, Cyber Security Issues
- Executive Protection, threat management, and violence in the workplace
- Due diligence, AML, and Asset Tracing, on an international scale
- Background investigations and open source intelligence (OSINT)
- Surveillance and undercover operations
- Various training options as well as general investigative services

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