Countering Domestic Radicalization and Homegrown Extremism in Canada

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Current Local Threats: Domestic Radicalization & Right Wing Extremists

- What factors may lead to a CBRNe event in Canada? Where may this threat emanate from?
- What strategies can security and intelligence organizations employ to detect or reduce domestic radicalization and prevent terrorist threats? Implications for cross-border security?
- How may these threats impact local communities and front-line law enforcement; what steps should be taken?
“TSAS” Research Project

- Canadian network for research on Terrorism, Security and Society (TSAS)
  - Fostering collaboration between academic researchers and policy officials. Public Safety Canada, RCMP, CSIS, Universities of British Columbia & Waterloo and Simon Fraser University.

- Dr. Rick Parent & James O Ellis III
- Simon Fraser University, School of Criminology: Police Studies

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The nations experience over the past 50 years suggests that Canada is unlikely to be spared the effects of terrorism’s ongoing and emerging influence.

- FLQ October Crisis, Quebec (1970)
- Air India bombing (1985)
- “Toronto 18” (2006)
Ten Signs of Potential Radicalization

1) Catalyzing life event (death, divorce, bullying, loss of employment, etc.)
2) Alienation and/or isolation from family, friends, or community
3) Loss of interest in school, work, or hobbies
4) Obsession with a social, political, religious, or economic issue
5) Association with other like-minded individuals
6) Change in outward appearance and demeanor
7) Use of special words, gestures, or symbols
8) Embracing conspiratorial beliefs and speaking out for one’s cause
9) Redirection of time and money to support radical activism
10) Intolerance towards opposing views, beliefs, or groups

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The Emergence of Right Wing Extremists

- Resurgence in right-wing extremism in the United States and Western Europe.
- Murder & attempted murder of police in the USA.

Las Vegas couple plotted to kidnap and kill police officers, a growing movement in the USA.

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“Right-Wing Extremism in Canada”

- **Canada** has been home to a small collection of right-wing extremists.
- Associated with white supremacy
- Canadian RW radicals have connections to many groups
Examples of Right-Wing Extremist Elements that have operated in Canada over the last 50 years:

- Aryan Nations
- Canadian Association for Free Expression (CAFE)
- Church of the Creator (COTC)
- Citizens for Foreign Aid Reform (C-FAR)
- Hammerskins
- Heritage Front
- Ku Klux Klan
- Nationalist Party of Canada
- Sovereign Citizens/Freemen on the Land
- Western Guard Party
- White Aryan Resistance (WAR)
- White Nationalist Revolutionary Army

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April 8, 1993  Beaver Creek, Yukon Territory
Thomas Lewis Lavy was caught trying enter Canada with 130 grams of ricin, $89,000, along with a shotgun, rifles, and thousands of rounds of ammunition. He committed suicide while in custody for terrorism charges in 1995.

September 2, 2006  Montreal, Quebec. A firebomb was hurled at the front door of an Orthodox Jewish school.

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Suspected Incidents of Right-Wing Extremism in Canada

- April 4, 2007  Montreal, Quebec
  An improvised explosive device was detonated outside a Jewish Community Center on the second night of Passover.

  The Beth Tikvah group home received an envelope containing a suspicious white powder.

- August 10, 2010  Edmonton, Alberta. Police discovered multiple improvised explosive devices on two individuals after stopping a stolen vehicle.

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Freemen-on-the-Land Movement

- October 2012 – C.A.C.P. a 'threat to officer and public safety'
- Sovereign citizens, members of the Freeman-on-the-Land movement and other like-minded people who resist police and government authority.
- Calgary, Alberta, 2013 – Murder
- Nova Scotia, 2012 – Uttering Threats

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Extremists and a CBRNe Event in Canada?

- The need for intelligence & strategic community-based policing. Community involvement & detection
- US/Canadian Border has minimal effect
- Use of the internet in a broad campaign with Europe & the USA to promote, organize and encourage

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Current & Future Strategies

- Domestic radicalization of youth and “senior” right wing extremists are likely suspects regarding a CBRNe threat within Canada.

- Need for closer ties with diaspora communities; the establishment of “sources” and a localized radicalization prevention strategy.

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Law Enforcement and Citizens Stop Terrorism

Source of Initial Clues in 68 Foiled American Plots, 1999-2009

- Intelligence Agencies: 19%
- Federal Law Enforcement: 30%
- State and Local Law Enforcement: 22%
- General Public: 29%

Local and Federal Law Enforcement Partnership with the Community

- Early intervention & self policing

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