

FEELINGS DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR FACTS: Hurricanes and Fires in the Age of Conspiracy

Tuesday 19 NOV 2024 @ 4:00 PM PT | Webinar

An eye-opening discussion on how fantastical conspiracy theories are shaping climate discourse, fueling far-right agendas, undermining climate action, and threatening Indigenous rights.



Naomi Klein
Centre for Climate Justice



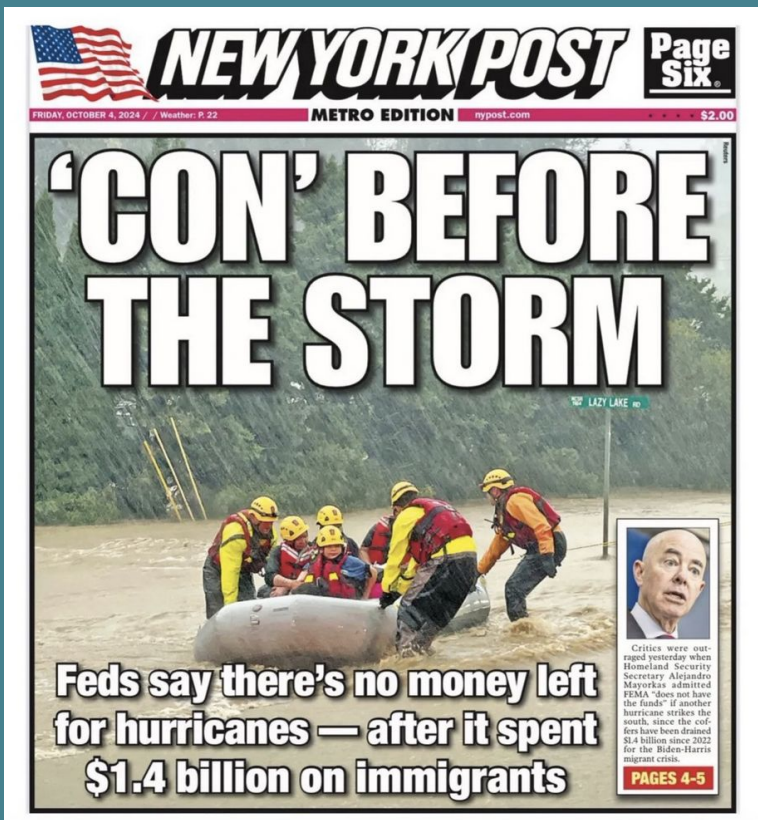
Kendra Jewell
Centre for Climate Justice



Chris Russill
Re.Climate



Erin Blondeau
Climate Emergency Unit



 **Elon Musk**  
@elonmusk

Subscribe 

Yes, they are literally using YOUR tax dollars to import voters and disenfranchise you!

It is happening right in front of your eyes.

And FEMA used up its budget ferrying illegals into the country instead of saving American lives. Treason.

 **Jason DeBolt**   @jasondebolt · Oct 4

The democrats are literally charging Americans billions of dollars to COMPLETELY disenfranchise us and create single party authoritarian rule like in California.


This is OUTRAGEOUS! ...

[Show more](#)

1:34 AM · Oct 4, 2024 · 16.3M Views

 11K

 76K

 223K

 5.7K





Donald J. Trump ✓

@realDonaldTrump

We are now heading to Valdosta, Georgia, in order to pay my respects and bring lots of relief material, including fuel, equipment, water, and other things, to the State. Many politicians and Law Enforcement will be there. We'll be saying hello to Franklin Graham, Burt Jones, Tyler Harper, Mike Collins, Austin Scott, Russ Goodman, Sam Watson, and the Mayor of Valdosta Scott James. They are working very hard. I was also going to stop into North Carolina, which has really been hit hard. I have a lot of supplies ready for them, but access and communication is now restricted, and we want to make sure that Local Emergency Management is able to focus on helping the people most affected, and not being concerned with me. I'll be there shortly, but don't like the reports that I'm getting about the Federal Government, and the Democrat Governor of the State, going out of their way to not help people in Republican areas. MAGA!

5.32k ReTruths 17.1k Likes

Sep 30, 2024, 8:42 AM

“Kamala spent all her FEMA money, billions of dollars, on housing for illegal migrants”

– Donald Trump, Saginaw Michigan rally, 3 Oct 2024



Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene 🇺🇸

@RepMTG

Climate change is the new Covid.

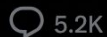
Ask your government if the weather is manipulated or controlled.

Did you ever give permission to them to do it?

Are you paying for it?

Of course you are..

4:26 PM · Oct 7, 2024 · **1.5M** Views



5.2K



3.9K



10K



529



Alex Jones ✓

@RealAlexJones

How to Steer Hurricanes, Flood Homes, and Steal Lithium

Is there more than meets the eye regarding the latest US natural disaster?



How to Steer Hurricanes, Flood Homes, and Steal Lithium

We have had the technology to create, control, and steer hurricanes for decades. Now, many people are wondering if the tech has been used to weaponize storms against American citizens.

6:11 AM · Oct 2, 2024 · **1M** Views

9,078 Reposts **426** Quotes **20.6K** Likes **7,030** Bookmarks

According to the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, antisemitic hate posts on X around Hurricane Helene had over **17 million views** in total, as of October 7



EVERY SINGLE ASPECT OF FEMA IS JEWISH



Alejandro Mayorkas
U.S Secretary of
Homeland Security

"We do not have the funds. FEMA does not have the funds to make it through the season and what is imminent." – Alejandro Mayorkas when asked about relief for Hurricane Helene victims.



Erin C. Hoffman
Deputy Assistant
Administration



Jeremy L. Greenburg
Director, Operations
division



Jaclyn Rothenberg
Director, public affairs
and planning



Josh Bornstein
Chief Security Officer



Michael A. Coen, Jr.
Chief of staff



Lauren M. Kaufer
Director, Office of
Professional
Responsibility



Jeffrey D. Stern
Superintendent,
Emergency
Management Institute

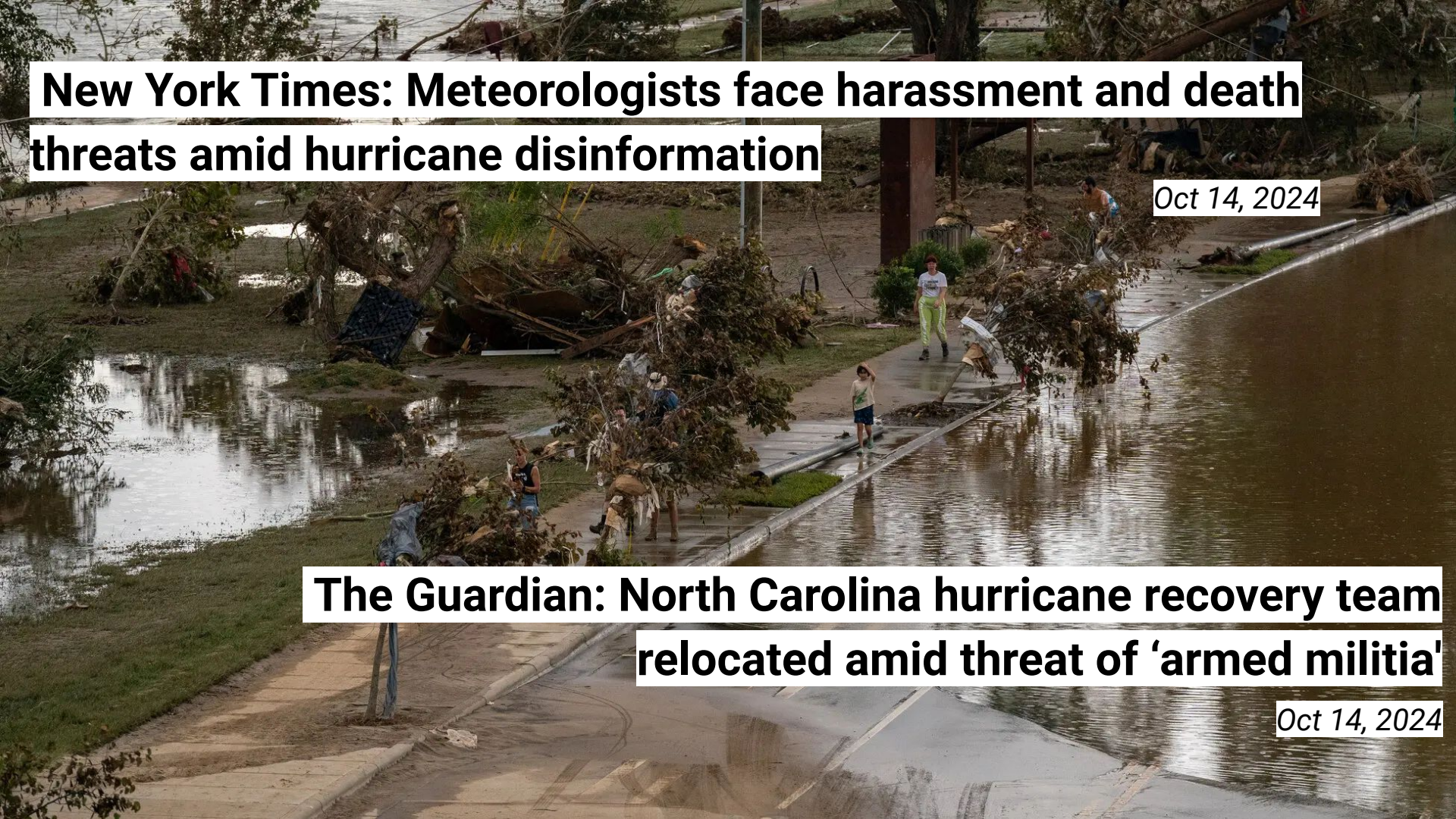


Christopher Kraft
Assistant
Administrator,
Financial Systems

FEMA ALLOCATED OVER 1 BILLION TO ILLEGAL MIGRANTS



Image Source: Gab

A photograph showing the aftermath of a hurricane. A flooded area with debris, including fallen trees and damaged structures, is visible. Several people are walking on a sidewalk that is partially submerged in water. The scene is one of destruction and recovery.

New York Times: Meteorologists face harassment and death threats amid hurricane disinformation

Oct 14, 2024

The Guardian: North Carolina hurricane recovery team relocated amid threat of 'armed militia'

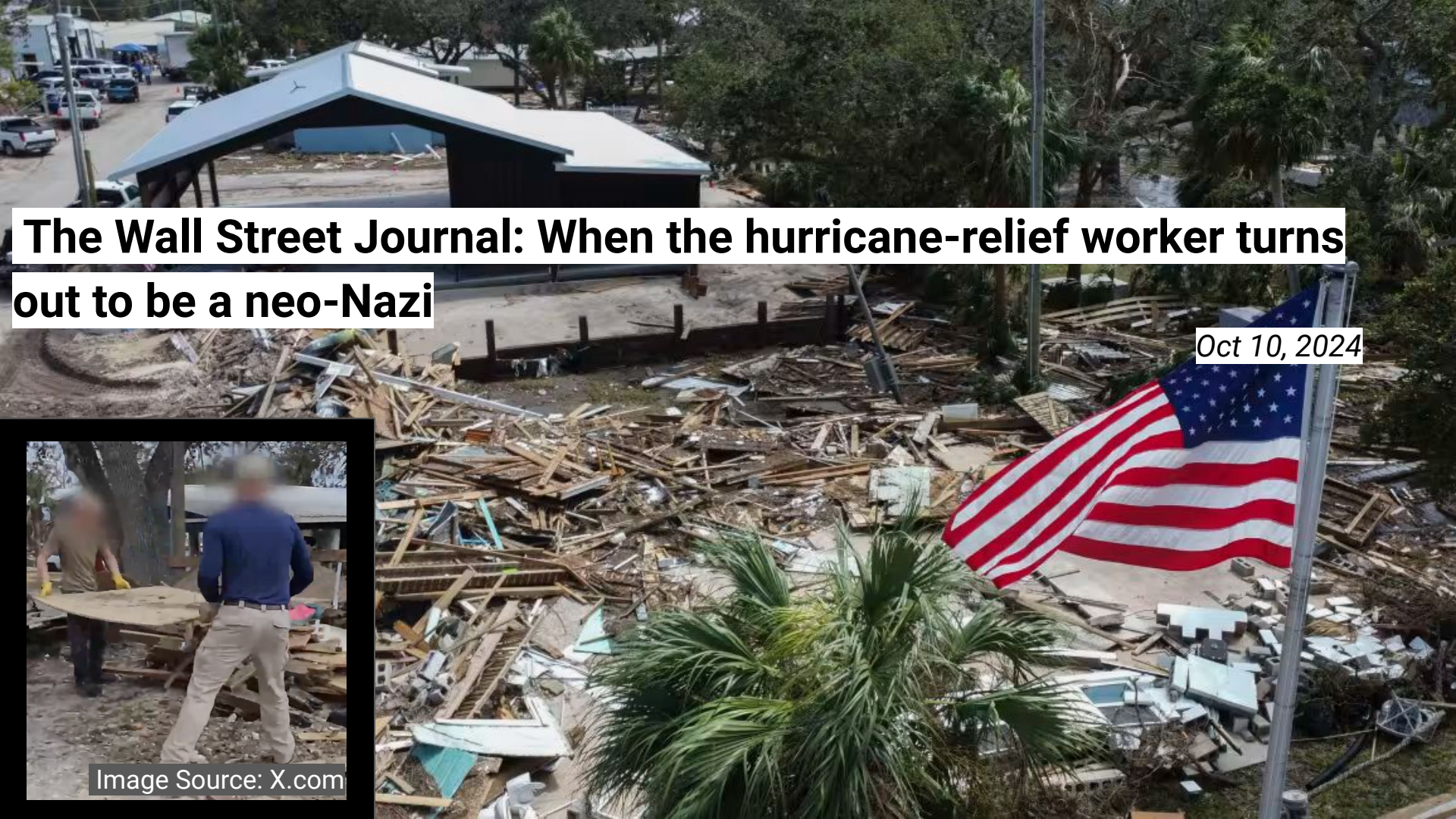
Oct 14, 2024

The Wall Street Journal: When the hurricane-relief worker turns out to be a neo-Nazi

Oct 10, 2024



Image Source: X.com





The Guardian: Exxon made 'breathtakingly' accurate climate predictions in 1970s and 80s

Jan 12, 2023

Washington Post: What Trump promised oil CEOs as he asked them to steer \$1 billion to his campaign

May 9, 2024



Flame Wars

**A speed run through Canada's wildfire and
climate conversation**



Re.Climate is Canada's centre for training, research and strategy on climate change communication and engagement at Carleton University.



The Centre for Media, Technology, and Democracy is an interdisciplinary research organization housed at the Max Bell School of Public Policy at McGill University. Its work is dedicated to understanding and responding to the social, political, and policy challenges posed by the evolving information ecosystem and digital technologies.



Climate Action
Against Disinformation

Climate Action Against Disinformation is a global coalition of over 50 leading climate and anti-disinformation organisations demanding robust, coordinated and proactive strategies to deal with the scale of the threat of climate misinformation and disinformation.

**what
we
did**

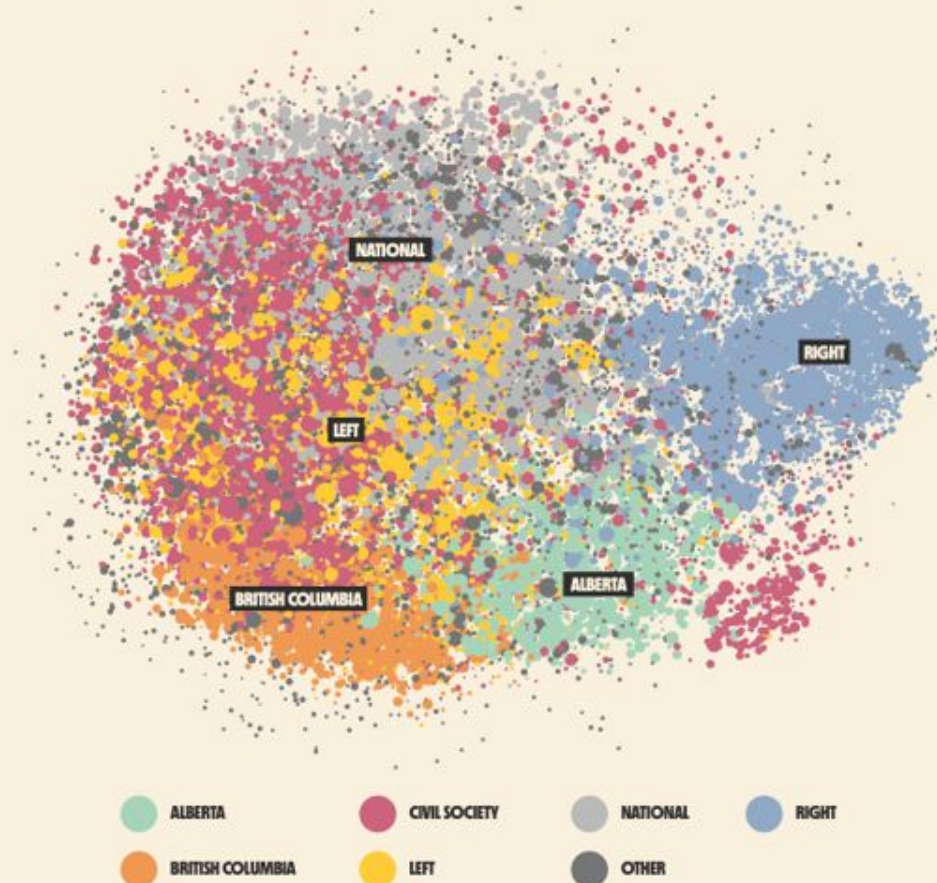
Network Map

Differentiated conversation

Geography, federalism,
ideology

How does information move
within clusters?

How do clusters expand,
retract, collide, or bridge?



*A network map showing the groups engaged in the climate conversation on Twitter/X. It is a mostly centralized map, indicating that accounts are engaging with much of the same content, shaped significantly by political elites, but with a **RIGHT/ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT** group pulling away.*



LOCKDOWNS

Radical Liberals Want Climate Lockdowns



0:38 / 11:14



**what
we
found**

May

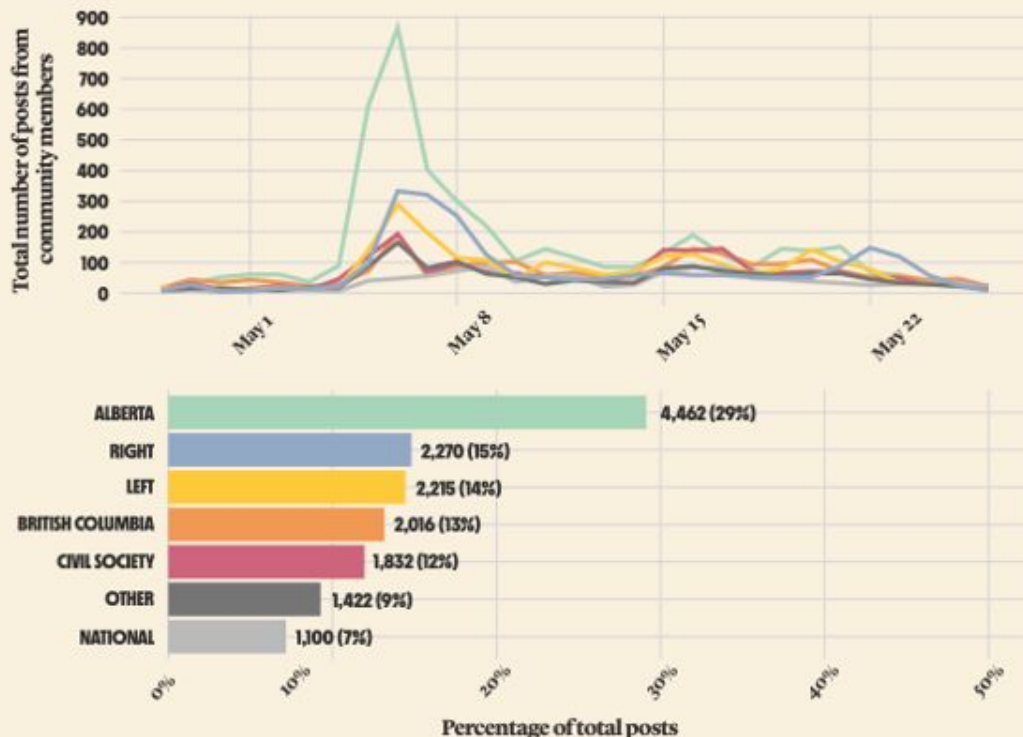
Surge in concern with wildfire peaking May 6 when a state of emergency is declared in AB

Much of content is discussing the AB government's preparedness and response to the fires

Accounts with small followings start pushing "arson" as an alternative explanation for the situation

Period 1: April 28–May 26, 2023

Wildfire tweets by group



June

The arson explanation surges as the impacts reach New York City and gain international attention

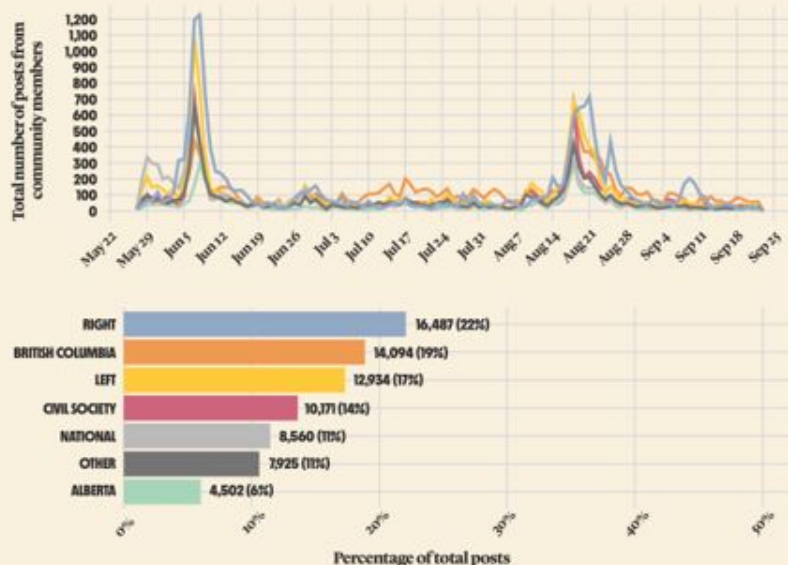
Right / Anti-Establishment accounts are lifting this story

It bifurcates or doubles to include a more conspiratorial form

Bridges to other conversations?

Period 2: May 27–Sept 23, 2023

Wildfire tweets by group



June

The arson explanation surges as the impacts reach New York City and gain international attention

Right / Anti-Establishment accounts are lifting this story

It bifurcates or doubles to include a more conspiratorial form

Bridges to other conversations?





Theo Fleury

@TheoFleury14

Arson is not climate change. The maritimes leaders rejected the carbon tax and then all of a sudden they have fires that are out of control. Coincidence nope it's on purpose. Too bad there is no more rule of law in Canada. A crippling carbon tax doesn't do shit to reduce carbon. Trudeau is the biggest carbon spewer in the world and he's doing nothing about his carbon footprint. Do as I say not as I do. I call bullshit.

True North @TrueNorthCentre · May 31, 2023

Conservative leader @PierrePollevre slams Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for his planned increases to the carbon tax, which will make groceries more expensive for Canadians.



10:34 PM · May 31, 2023 · 100.7K Views



Maxime Bernier

@MaximeBernier

I bet a good portion of the wildfires raging across the country were started by green terrorists who want to give their climate change campaign a little boost.

The far left are experts at inventing and creating crises that they can then exploit.



From lakelandtoday.ca

7:49 PM · Jun 5, 2023 · 416K Views



Unacceptable Canadian Girl

@AreOhEssEyeEe

Friendly reminders 🙋

Covid was a scam.

Masks don't work.

The vaccine has serious side effects.

Wildfires are being set deliberately to push the climate agenda.

Climate change is a hoax.

Trans women are men.

Did I miss anything?

Oh yeah...

F🇨🇦 CK Trudeau!

7:54 PM · Jun 8, 2023 · 26.5K Views

August

Evacuations in Yellowknife

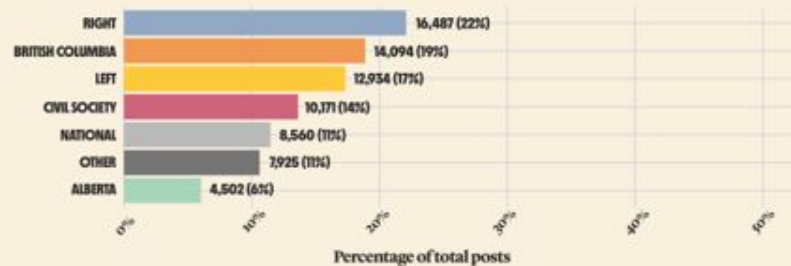
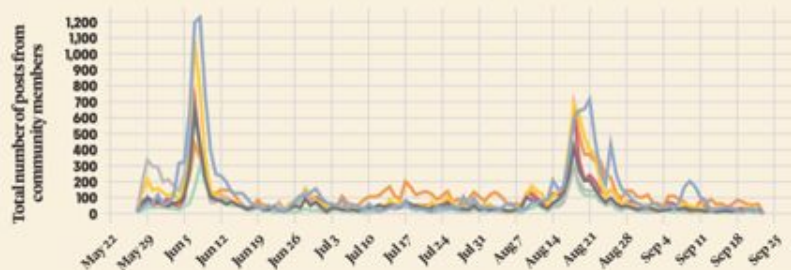
State of Emergency in BC

Trudeau sends military to assist

Truth and Freedom convoy
confront police securing an
evacuation route

Period 2: May 27–Sept 23, 2023

Wildfire tweets by group



August

Evacuations in Yellowknife

State of Emergency in BC

Trudeau sends military to assist

Truth and Freedom convoy
confront police securing an
evacuation route



August

Evacuations in Yellowknife

State of Emergency in BC

Trudeau sends military to assist

Truth and Freedom confront
police securing an evacuation
route



Mayor of Yellowknife Rebecca Alty meets with Canadian Armed Forces soldiers on August 23, 2023. Photo: Master Corporal Alana Morin/Joint Task Force North

Arson Narratives

Arson Narrative 1

Deflection

“I think you’re watching, as I am, the number of stories about arson.”

“I’m very concerned that there are arsonists.”

References to ongoing investigations

“But to have 175 fires we don’t know the cause of that’s unusual.”

De-contextualized reference to older news articles / false claims of captured arsonists

Top URLs

cbc.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111">cbc.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111	Could 175 arson fires being a good thing after string of wildfires, House RCMP spokesman tweets
toronto.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111">toronto.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111	Police say 175 arson fires, some where cause had been identified
macleod.ca/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111">macleod.ca/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111	Could 175 arson fires be a good thing? RCMP spokesman tweets
cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111">cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111	All 175 arson fires investigated if they are not human caused, CBS News
cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111">cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111	Could 175 arson fires be a good thing? RCMP spokesman tweets
cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111">cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111	New Scotia RCMP spokesman for multiple fires, CBS News
cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111">cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111	The Truth About 175 Arson Fires
cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111">cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111	Could 175 arson fires be a good thing? RCMP spokesman tweets
cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111">cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111	Wildfire: 175 arson fires? RCMP spokesman tweets
cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111">cbsnews.com/news/canada/175-arson-fires-1.4811111	RCMP says 175 arson fires, some where cause had been identified

Wildfire: 175 arson fires? RCMP spokesman tweets

References to climate change

References to climate change often made by those opposing or mocking its association with wildfire

Arson Narrative 2

Evokes climate change directly to contest it as an explanation for wildfire

Figures arsonists as eco-terrorists or state-sponsored actors creating crisis to generate public support for climate policy

Figures climate policy as a pretext for state overreach, elite control, and technological surveillance

Frames public health and climate emergency declarations as alarmist tactics to justify implementation of policies benefiting elites/globalists

**what
is
happening?**

What is happening?

- The arson narratives as an “alternative explanation” for wildfires reached millions of people (deflection / agitation)
- A variety of tactics and techniques are used to sustain it and drive engagement (it is participatory)
- Anti-public health influencers are adapting their narratives to incorporate climate issues



6 Markers of Climate Emergency

For more info:
www.climateemergencyunit.ca/framework





Is the government telling us the truth about the climate crisis?

- ✗ fossil fuels (including LNG)**
- ✗ capitalist expansion**
- ✗ endless wars**
- ✗ ecocide**



Is the government spending enough on public programs and climate solutions?

- ✗ neoliberal policies**
- ✗ cuts to public programs**
- ✗ austerity**



Neoliberal policies and politics leave marginalized groups behind.