



PALADIN RISK

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for
stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 20-002
27 November 2020

Contents

1. CURRENT SITUATION	2
2. GLOBAL	4
2.1 COVID UPDATE	4
2.2 COVID-19 World News.....	5
2.3 Global Awareness	6
2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism.....	7
3. CANADA	8
3.1 COVID UPDATE	8
3.2 COVID-19 Canada News	9
3.3 Canada Awareness.....	10
3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism.....	12
4. USA.....	14
4.1 COVID UPDATE	14
4.2 COVID-19 USA News	16
4.3 USA Awareness.....	16
4.4 USA – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Provided by Welund)	17
5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES.....	21

NOTE: Paladin Risk Solutions is utilizing a secure cloud application to provide multiple layers of protection on the web and prevent exposure of open source intelligence gathering and dark web investigations. This software enables research teams to maximize security, accelerate intelligence gathering and analysis, streamline network operations, and ensure full control and auditability of all research activity.

DISCLAIMER: *This report is confidential and is intended to be used solely by the client for whom this report was prepared and to whom it is addressed for information purposes only and for no other purpose, except as may be expressly stated herein. This report may not be copied, reproduced, disseminated, distributed or otherwise made available to any third party, in whole or in part, without the express written consent of Paladin Risk Solutions Inc. which consent may be withheld for any reason. In preparing this report, Paladin Risk Solutions Inc. has used its professional care and diligence and has endeavored to include in this report and to base its analysis upon information that it believes to be relevant to the purposes of this report; however, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made by Paladin Risk Solutions Inc. as to the accuracy or completeness of the information included in this report.*

1. CURRENT SITUATION

Crime in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Recently, news articles have reported that many individuals and groups are reporting of a high rate of crime in the downtown core, including in areas close to the homeless encampments. As homeless encampments were moved from area to area, starting in Oppenheimer park, continuing onto the Port Authority's park, and ending at Strathcona park, crime seemed to follow those encampments. According to the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), break and enters have increased by 15% since last year, with commercial break and enters increasing by 18%. Violent crimes have also increased, with an increase of 23% in seized firearms, 14% increase in serious assault, and a 9% increase in offensive weapons. These encampments are not only causing increased crime nearby but are also costly to clean up after; the bill to bring back Oppenheimer park to usable condition by the public has reached over \$870,000.

The situation has reportedly gotten so bad, that the Strathcona Homeowner's Association have threatened to withhold property tax payments until the neighbourhood becomes safer for both homeowners, residents and camp residents. Recently, Strathcona homeless camp has made the news for various security incidents; crimes which have occurred in the camp include a male who was attacked and left for 12 hours at Strathcona camp before first responders were called, who subsequently lost his leg from infection due to a lack of timely medical care. Residents in surrounding areas report being assaulted for not giving money when approached and requested, a loaded semi-automatic rifle was found in the camp, and a chainsaw incident has been referenced.

Recently, VPD formed a new Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT) after a survey showed that 78% of Vancouver residents have concerns regarding crime in the city. For downtown Vancouver residents, the number is at 84%. Most importantly, 94% of respondents advised that they were victim of a crime in the past year, and 74% of downtown residents advised that they believe crime has gotten worse in the previous year. The NRT would provide quick response to matters such as street disorder, disturbances, suspicious circumstances and mischief. Formed on November 2, 2020, in just 11 days the team responded to 300 calls, of which only 11 resulted in charges. However, the team also seized 34 various weapons, and assisted in stopping some crimes in action, such as a purse snatching. Some smaller calls escalated to higher-level crimes. For example, an individual who trespassed in a store was found to have an outstanding warrant and a number of weapons.

In response to the NRT, poverty advocates including the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU), have criticized the team and advised that their actions criminalize poverty and filed a complaint to the police board. However, from the numbers released by VPD, despite numerous calls, the team did not charge most individuals and instead tried to keep the peace or disperse individuals causing problem. With calls for defunding the police and instead putting more money into social workers and other community-based programs to reduce crime, there still needs to be an enforcement aspect for those participating in actions which are criminal or causing a violent disturbance to daily life. Furthermore, as many social workers have been killed or face violence in their job, it is likely that such police-free programs will likely result in higher risk to those offering assistance and aid, than if they were accompanied by police officers. Although many criminal issues may stem from social problems, the role of community policing will always be necessary and required for a safe and functioning society.

Geopolitics and Socioeconomics. The transition of authority occurring in the U.S. is impacting the balance of power and sentiment of those involved in the areas of defence, security, intelligence, international trade and foreign relations. Concerns regarding the policies governing how the U.S. interacts

with China, Iran, Russia and North Korea are being reviewed by those entrusted to protect the interests of North America. There is uncertainty that the firm positions taken against Iran and China will continue through a change in government. As such, the efforts to mitigate threats is certain to be a topic of discussion between security, Intelligence and defence agencies in the five eyes community and its allies. Moreover, any changes to sanctions and tariffs has the potential to significantly impact businesses and corporations at all levels. Implications for disruption to the supply chain, in places such as the South China Sea, could disrupt the transit of cargo vessels which maintain the flow of goods to the West. Yet, it is unlikely that the U.S. will forfeit its maritime influence in the short term and will continue to enforce international laws of the sea to ensure that maritime supply chains operate without obstruction. However, there are issues that may complicate these efforts. Attempts to stop or even constrain the 800,000 boats China sends out globally to over fish other nation's waters because their own waters were depleted years ago. This is the largest illicit activity in the world and has been recognized as a serious threat to global food supplies¹.

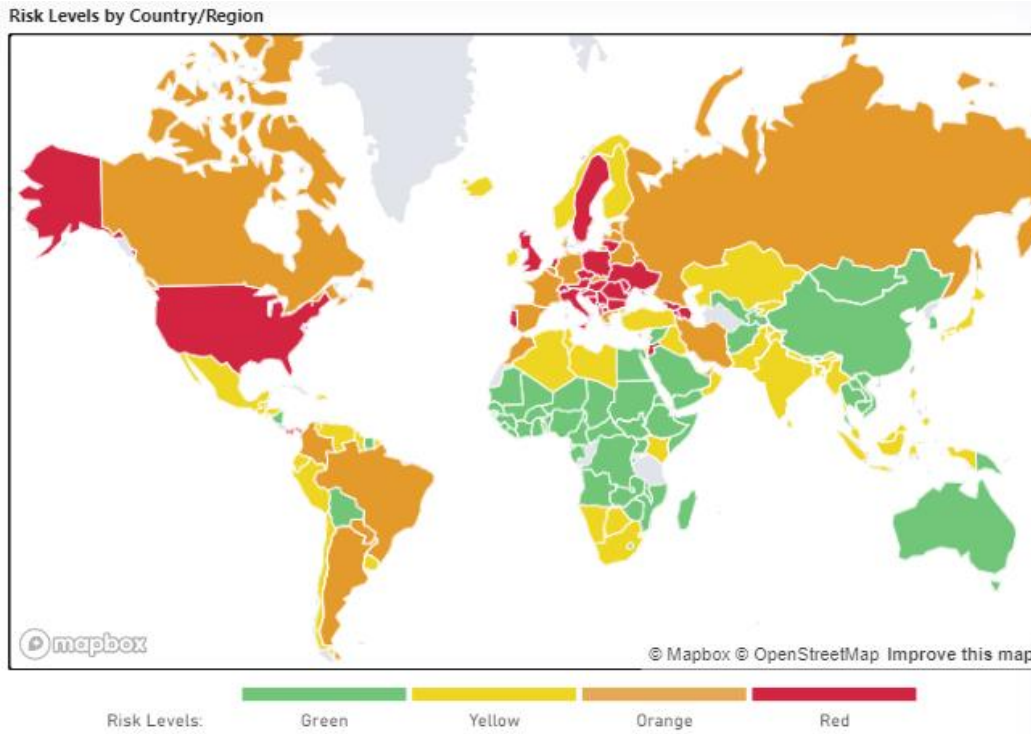
Recently, increased open source media reports are correlating activity conducted as state sponsored political (hard power) and corporate (soft power) influence to Transnational Organized Crime (TNOC) and asymmetric operations. The use of international trade and the markets utilizing the global supply chain have been identified as highly vulnerable to corruption, extortion, exploitation and other nefarious activity. The use of TNOC by nation states to conduct non-conventional warfare is becoming more main stream and the ability to detect, deter, disrupt and interdict these threats is limited by outdated legal frameworks that favour the illicit networks that operate in the various markets. The white, grey and black markets are all active and include criminal elements that utilize the finance, transportation, manufacturing and operations management aspects needed to conduct the business of moving and selling goods as well as providing services. In 2017, the United Nations stated that, "A conservative estimate of total transnational organized crime is \$870 billion a year. This is more than six times the amount of official development assistance and close to 7% of the world's exports of merchandise." It is assessed that in the short term there will be an increase in the exposure of foreign agents, influencers, facilitators, high level criminals and operatives in the media. It is further assessed that the Cullen Commission's public inquiry into money laundering activity in British Columbia will expose national and international criminal activity that threatens the national security of the five eyes nations, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United States.

¹ <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/11/20/china-illegal-catch-fishing-biden-trump/>



2. GLOBAL

2.1 COVID UPDATE



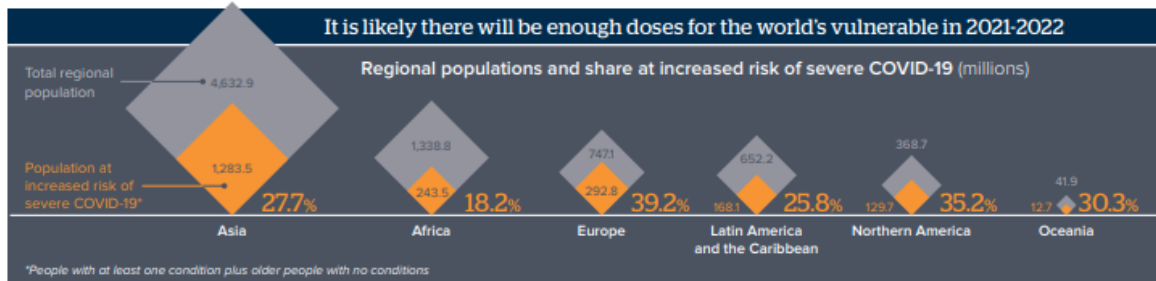
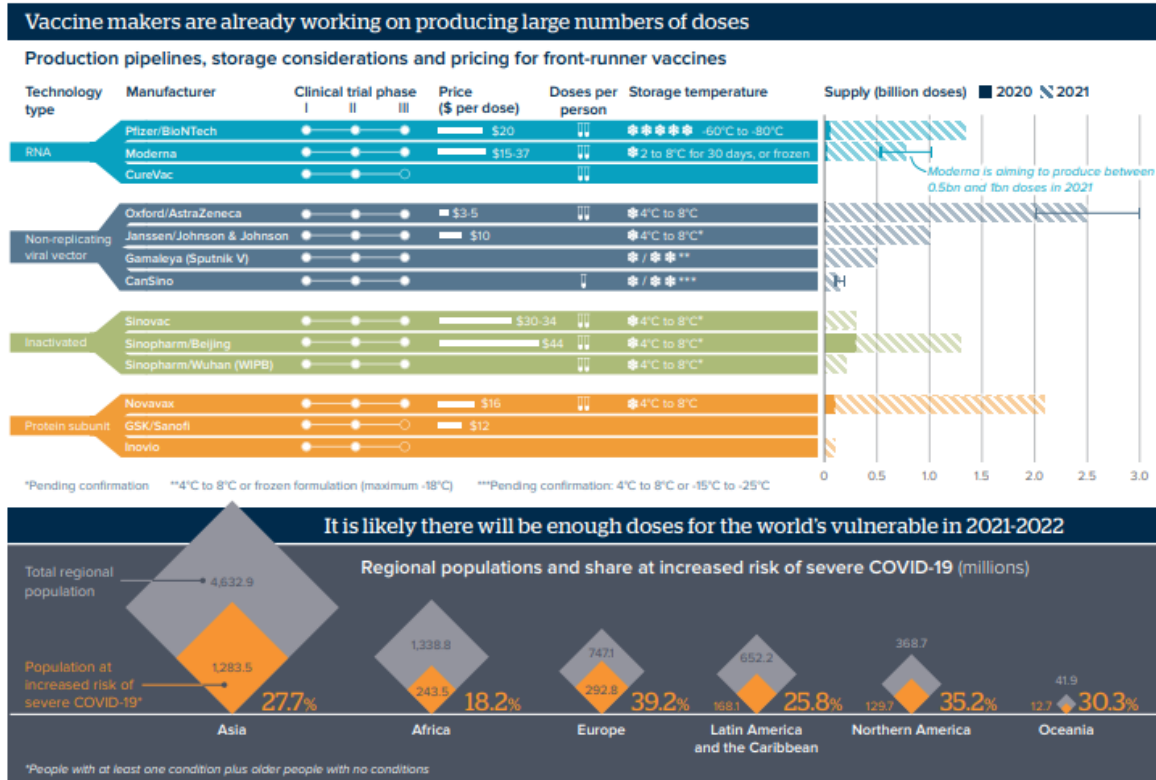
#	Country, Other	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Population
	World	61,540,841	1,441,675	42,568,916	17,530,250	105,082	7,895	185.0	
1	USA	13,266,819	269,692	7,852,415	5,144,712	24,408	39,985	813	331,790,984
2	France	2,183,660	50,957	158,236	1,974,467	4,018	33,424	780	65,332,377
3	Italy	1,509,875	52,850	661,180	795,845	3,846	24,987	875	60,425,469
4	Belgium	567,532	16,219	36,912	514,401	1,034	48,882	1,397	11,610,138
5	Brazil	6,204,570	171,497	5,528,599	504,474	8,318	29,106	804	213,172,356
6	Russia	2,215,533	38,558	1,712,174	464,801	2,300	15,179	264	145,960,007
7	India	9,325,786	135,906	8,733,073	456,807	8,944	6,731	98	1,385,493,511
8	Poland	958,416	16,147	516,636	425,633	2,106	25,335	427	37,829,666
9	Ukraine	693,407	11,909	326,238	355,260	177	15,894	273	43,625,879
10	Germany	1,013,582	15,911	696,100	301,571	3,826	12,082	190	83,893,027
11	Iran	922,397	47,095	640,065	235,237	5,860	10,925	558	84,426,596
12	Mexico	1,078,594	104,242	803,581	170,771	3,335	8,330	805	129,480,429
13	Hungary	198,440	4,364	52,126	141,950	647	20,563	452	9,650,310
14	Argentina	1,399,431	37,941	1,226,662	134,828	3,960	30,849	836	45,363,671
15	Serbia	155,994	1,423	31,536	123,035	245	17,883	163	8,722,946

2.2 COVID-19 World News

- [Europe was largest contributor to new COVID-19 cases and deaths in the past week, WHO says](#)
In the previous week, WHO reported that Europe accounted for the majority of global new cases (44%), including 49% of deaths attributed to the continent. Europe is seeing daily cases declining but does not appear to have hit the peak of deaths quite yet. Slowly, some jurisdictions are going ahead with reopening some aspects of the economy due to the reducing transmission numbers. Reopening too soon can undo the successful reduction of the spread of COVID-19, as the transmission rate is still relatively high and the number of infected in the community likely remains high.
- [How Australia succeeded in lowering COVID-19 cases to near-zero](#)
The global pandemic has numerous comparisons of various measures made as each country and jurisdiction proceed with a different strategy. Australia saw a surge of COVID-19 cases in July, and enacted measures which some would see as draconian, including restricted dog walking. Police roadblocks ensured people stayed at home, not venturing further than five kilometers away from one's home, with fines given out to offenders. Those who returned to Australia from overseas had to apply to return, which established daily limits on how many people can return to the country as every single one had to quarantine in a government facility and not at home. Since the peak of 739 cases on August 5, the country is reporting low case numbers, with some cities reporting no new cases for weeks. However, Australia is an Island that can easily control entry and Canada is reliant on individuals, such as commercial truckers, who are not required to quarantine as they are an essential service. Comparisons between jurisdictions are not always possible, as each area has its own set of special factors, like demographics, geography, legal frameworks, and citizen expectations.
- [Some coronavirus vaccines claim to be over 90% effective. What does that mean?](#)
- [WHO experts would like to go to Wuhan, China, to probe COVID-19 origin](#)
- [How a COVID-19 vaccine could change travel for good](#)
- [Evidence Builds That an Early Mutation Made the Pandemic Harder to Stop](#)
- [Russia's Sputnik V developers call on AstraZeneca to try combining vaccines](#)
- [AstraZeneca manufacturing error raises questions about vaccine study results](#)
- [Current Vaccine Development, dosage production, and distribution](#)
A third vaccine developer, AstraZeneca-Oxford, has now reported successful early results suggesting it is about 70% effective. This vaccine, unlike the first two reporting early results, does not require it to be stored in very low temperatures, and instead can be stored in a refrigerator. Due to this fact, and despite its lower efficacy compared to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, it will likely be one of the front runners for use by those living in developing countries, where logistics and storage are more difficult to implement than in developed countries. However, information released suggests that some of the vaccine's study vials did not have the correct concentration of the virus, with some participants receiving half a dose. As such, the results, suggesting the vaccine is about 70% effective, are an average of two different dosages, and do not represent the efficacy of either dose. These have been questioned by some experts, which may impact the vaccine's safety and effectiveness. Additionally, although only lasting about a day, the side effects include high fever, body aches, headaches and exhaustion. It is now feared that if side effects of the vaccines are not clearly expressed to patients, some may not come back for the follow-up second dose.

World should turn corner in COVID-19 fight in 2021

Early results from vaccines are promising and production looks set to follow, though logistics could be problematic



2.3 Global Awareness

- [Iranian Nuclear Scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh Killed](#)
 An Iranian scientist, who Israel allege, led the Islamic Republic's military nuclear program was killed in a targeted attack that saw gunmen use explosives and machine gun fire.
- [Hong Kong leader says restoring 'political system from chaos' is priority](#)
 Hong Kong's Chief Executive gave her annual policy address advising that "restoring the constitutional order and political system from chaos" will take precedence for her government. She further stated that foreign governments are interfering with the matters of Hong Kong and China, which are reported as national security concerns. Socially, Hong Kong will launch various youth programs teaching about China and national identity, focusing on "moral development" of youth to strengthen national security.
- [Mexican cartel boss arrested over Mormon massacre in which nine died](#)
 The massacre prompted an angry response from Donald Trump, who threatened to designate Mexican drug cartels as terror organizations.
- [China slaps 200% tax on Australia wine amid tensions](#)
- [Zimbabwe: All That Glitters Is Not Gold - Turmoil in Zimbabwe's Mining Sector](#)

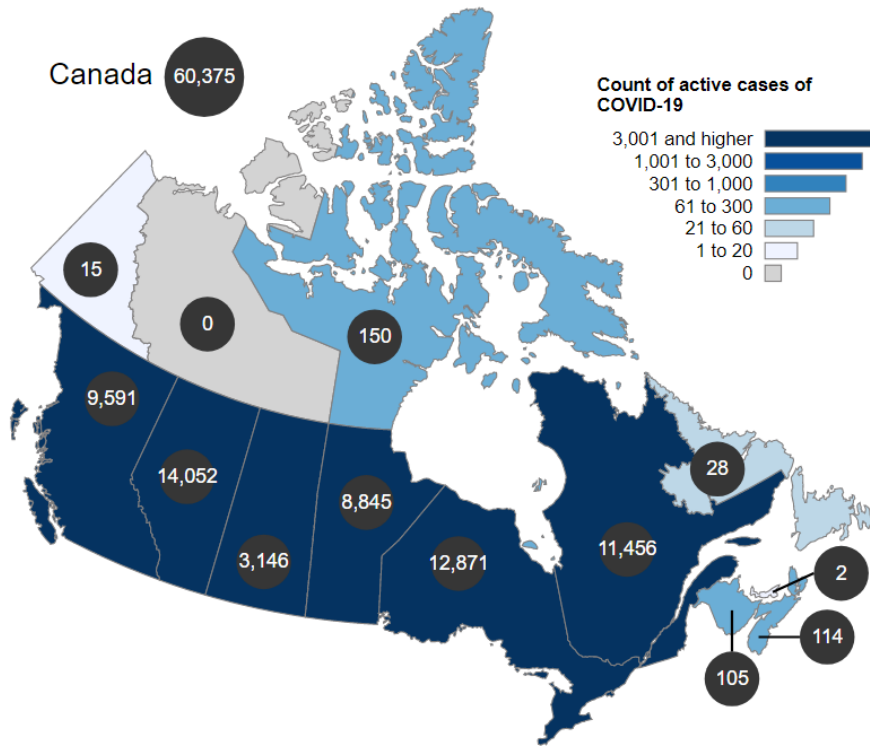
2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

- [Several protesters detained as Poland demonstrations over abortion rights continue](#)
Polish demonstrators continued to protest tightening the country's abortion laws, which were already highly restricted. Some protestors were detained, while others strapped themselves to the gate of the Education Ministry.
- [Crowds of retirees march in Belarus demanding Lukashenko's resignation](#)
Belarussian retirees and other protestors continue to protest the country's authoritarian leader, Lukashenko, who has now won his sixth term as the President in a highly disputed election. Hundreds of thousands have protested Europe's last dictatorship, many of whom have been beaten and detained.
- ['The fight continues': Colombia protests persist despite pandemic](#)
The Colombian anti-government movement, which saw its peak in late 2019, has started to again gain momentum. Protestors gathered to commemorate the anniversary of the death of a protester in 2019, and continue to disagree with economic reforms, inequality and lack of attention paid to rural areas as well as the assassination of social leaders.
- [Thousands in Bangkok protest the monarchy and government despite a crackdown](#)
Thai pro-democracy activists protested the proposed law of defaming the monarchy of Thailand. They are requesting the government be more accountable and amend the constitution to become more democratic. The country's constitution is implemented by the military, and both the military and government are believed to hold too much power for what is considered a constitutional monarchy.



3. CANADA

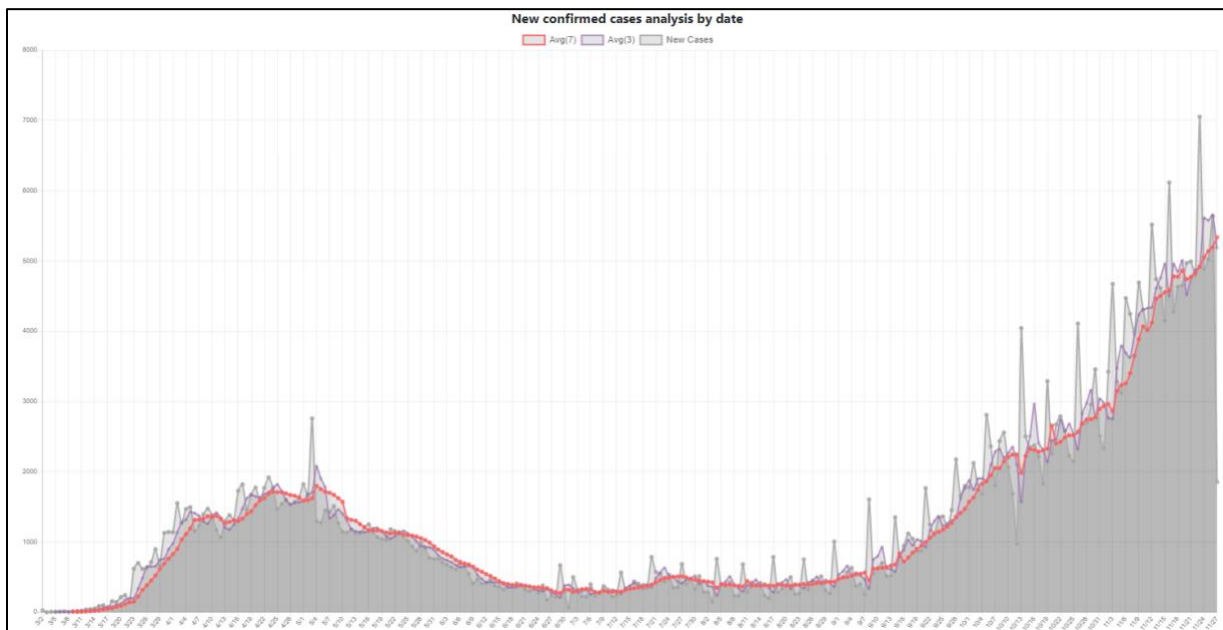
3.1 COVID UPDATE



Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
Total	354,955 (↑1,855)	11,819 (↑20)	282,380 (↑1,451)	60,756 (↑384)
BC	29,973	384	19,998	9,591
ON	111,216 (↑1,855)	3,595 (↑20)	94,366 (↑1,451)	13,255 (↑384)
QC	136,894	6,947	118,491	11,456
AB	51,878	510	37,316	14,052
MB	15,288	266	6,177	8,845
NB	465	7	353	105
SK	7,362	40	4,176	3,146
PEI	70	0	68	2
NL	327	4	295	28
NS	1,257	65	1,078	114
YT	42	1	29	12
NT	15	0	15	0
NU	155	0	5	150
	13	0	13	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.5%	↑ 0.2%	↑ 0.5%	↑ 0.6%



Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
Total	14,244,553 (+58,037)	-	-	-
BC	1,102,307	-	294	64
ON	6,126,465 (+58,037)	54,241 (+1,389)	541 (-15)	151
QC	3,783,890	-	675	90
AB	2,173,038	-	383	84
MB	341,973	-	307	46
NB	120,145	-	1	0
SK	330,364	-	108	18
PEI	53,841	-	-	-
NL	60,578	-	0	0
NS	134,609	-	0	0
YT	5,113	331	-	-
NT	7,518	29	0	0
NU	4,712	813	0	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.4%	-	-	-



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

3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [Canada still on track for January 2021 vaccine rollout, despite domestic dose disadvantage: feds](#)

Trudeau advised this week that since Canada no longer has any domestic production capacity for vaccines, it is likely that Canadians will not have the vaccine available as soon as other countries. A reasonable date would be the end of the first quarter in 2021. However, days later the government advised that as long as Health Canada approvals are received, vaccine rollout will likely begin in January 2021, with six million doses to be given to 3 million of the most vulnerable Canadians. This will likely make an impact on the country's economic recovery, pushing it backwards, in comparison to other countries. Canada is already financially worse for wear than most other G8 countries. Any further debt will make a lasting impact on government, businesses, and individuals. Furthermore, Canada improve their vaccine manufacturing facilities, currently scheduled to open in 2021 or later, to secure an ability to mitigate or manage any future pandemic-like threats.

- [Alberta bans indoor gatherings; introduces new restrictions for schools and businesses](#)
Alberta has enacted its state of emergency this week. The province originally entered the state of emergency in March, which ended in June once the transmission rate slowed. The state of emergency provides the province with extensive powers to overrule current legal laws due, and has now banned indoor social gatherings, limited outdoor gatherings to 10 people, and directed all grade 7 to 12 students to finish the 2020 schooling virtually. Other restrictions were also put in place, with a tentative deadline of December 15 for the restrictions to end. However, if these measures do not assist with reducing the case numbers, further restrictions may be implemented. Alberta's emergency alert system will send a notification to all smartphones regarding the new rule. This type of public health information sharing may provide a more standardized and consistent message to all individuals who will receive it, unlike other provinces which have been criticized with having confusing public health orders that have been misunderstood by residents of those provinces. For a more cohesive response, it is likely beneficial for provinces who do not utilize their emergency alert systems for COVID-19, to do so.
- [What Canada's hardest-hit provinces can learn from those that handled COVID-19 best](#)
- [Some Canadians employed, but putting in 0 hours due to coronavirus pandemic: analysis](#)
- [Why the federal government lets Canadians travel abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Canada secures 26K doses of coronavirus antibody treatment – here is how it works](#)
- [B.C. to require masks in indoor, public places and extend ban on social gatherings province-wide](#)
- [Burnout warning from frontline health-care workers worried you are not helping](#)
- [3 million Canadians could be vaccinated in early 2021, but feds warn of 'logistical challenges'](#)
- [Auditor general highlights Ontario's 'confusing,' indirect communications on COVID-19 in new report](#)

3.3 Canada Awareness

- [CSIS alleges Iran used Toronto company to wire millions to Canada despite sanctions](#)
A recent Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) report suggests that Alireza Onghaei, the owner of a currency exchange in Ontario, transferred money from Iran despite economic sanctions. The currency exchange would reportedly receive money transfers from Bank Saderat, controlled by the Iranian government. These transfers were attempts to circumvent the economic sanctions placed on Iran for its weapons program, and the money was reportedly used for foreign interference in Canada's politics and domestic affairs by foreign states. Onghaei has made attempts to apply to become a Canadian citizen, but due to him being wanted in the UAE for writing bad cheques and

having an Interpol alert against him, he was denied. His current application is being reviewed, and he admitted to the Canadian Government that he assisted the Government of Iran in clandestine wiring of monies into Canada. He continues to be allowed to live in Canada and has been recently fined \$644,000 by the CRA. Such actions do not only produce major geopolitical and security threats to Canada, it also showcases the haven the country can be for known global criminals, who are allowed to stay on Canadian soil despite various evidence that they are participating in illegal global activity.

- [China, Russia, Iran and North Korea are Canada's 'greatest strategic threat': CSE report](#)
Canada continues to be the target of state actors, namely Russian, China, Iran and North Korea, which according to the Canadian Communication Security Establishment (CSE) are currently Canada's largest strategic threats. Although these types of threats are not new, the level of sophistication and intensity of the threats has recently increased. These foreign attempts to influence national matters are becoming the "new normal". Specifically, threats against infrastructure, such as electrical systems, have also surged. Businesses and organizations must ensure they are implementing security measures to safeguard their data, systems, clients and employees. Simple measures such as two-factor authentication, education of employees on social engineering and known fraud strategic, and proper backup and encryption of important data.

3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism



During the week of November 18 to 25, 2020, most of the activist activity noted by Welund North America in Canada occurred in the government sector (66%), followed by oil and gas (12%). The primary focus of this activity was protests (35%), followed by webinars (19%), and critical commentary (17%). Provincial governments as well as the federal government were the primary targets this week, with activists challenging decisions surrounding public health restrictions.

Analysts observed an increase in anti-lockdown and anti-mask protests, largely in response to the implementation of new lockdown measures across the country amid rising covid-19 cases and hospitalizations. This included an increase in the frequency, number of protest events, as well as overall attendance numbers. This trend primarily occurred in Ontario and Alberta, although protests have also increased in BC and Manitoba.

An increase in direct actions and tenant union organizing was also observed in response to pandemic-related evictions. A significant amount of activity occurred in Toronto and the GTA, including a [protest](#) at the condo of Mayor John Tory and a direct action at Toronto city hall. Of note, the Indigenous led [#WeAreOne campaign](#) week of action launched on 23 November. Wet'suwet'en Checkpoint (opposed to TC Energy's Coastal GasLink pipeline in BC) issued a 'call to action' to mobilize activists to engage in solidarity protests and direct actions across Canada on 23-29 November. Solidarity protests have already occurred in [Vancouver](#) and [Toronto](#).

Welund North America expects to see further solidarity protests and direct actions organized by Indigenous organizers and activist supporters as part of the #WeAreOne week of action. Many groups have noted that they intend to act but are withholding location and timing information until the event itself. Any disruptive protests and blockades are highly likely to target infrastructure and transportation, with the goal of maximizing impact.

Increased Covid-19 cases and restrictions/lockdowns may limit the number of protesters willing to gather in person. However, anti-lockdown groups will continue protests Covid-19 restrictions. A group to watch is [No More Lockdowns](#). While not new, this group has gained noticeable traction among anti-lockdown and anti-mask activists, particularly in Ontario. It appears to be organizing events separately from 'The Line Canada' – a website launched by Free North Patriots early in the pandemic to coordinate protests, fundraising, and legal actions against the federal Liberal government in response to Covid-19 policies. No More Lockdowns is organizing events on different days from The Line, likely to separate between the campaigns and to increase exposure/frequency of anti-lockdown protesting.

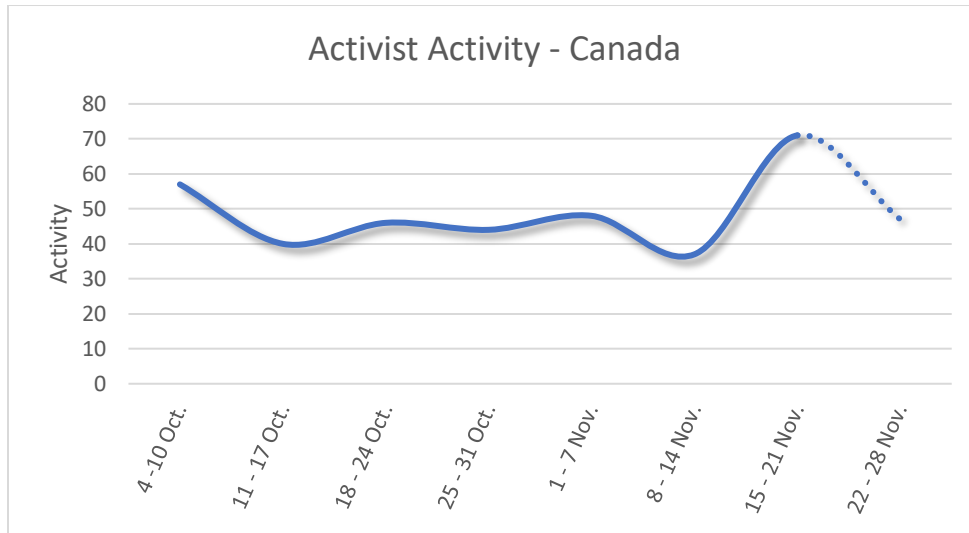


Figure 1 - Total activist activity in Canada as noted by Welund North America. Activity for the week of 22-28 November will increase as analysts identify additional incidents.

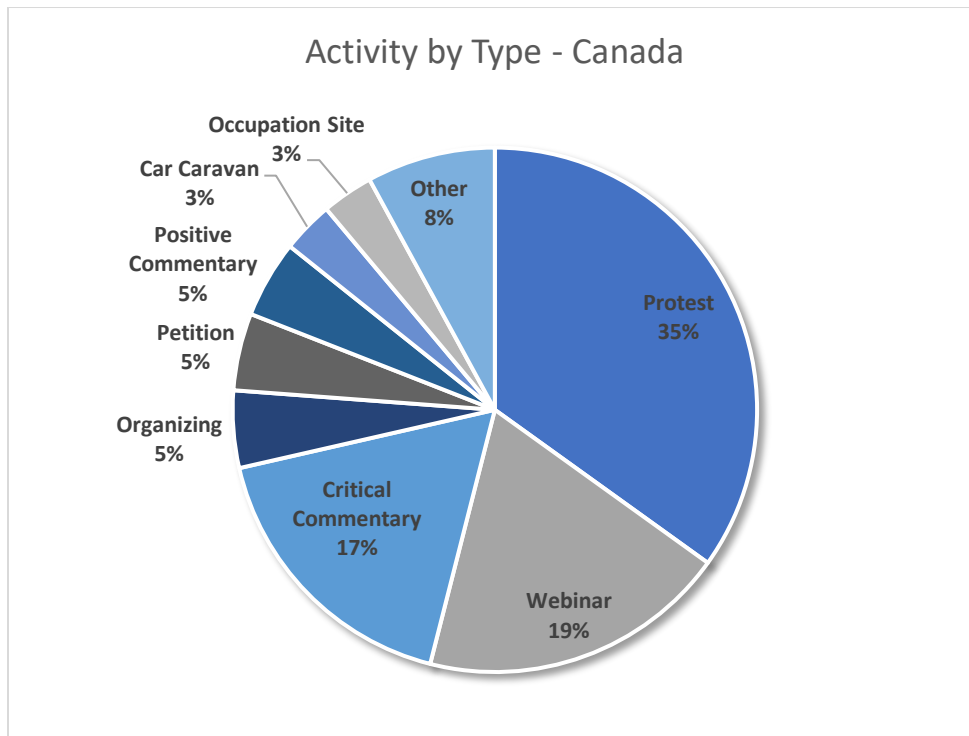


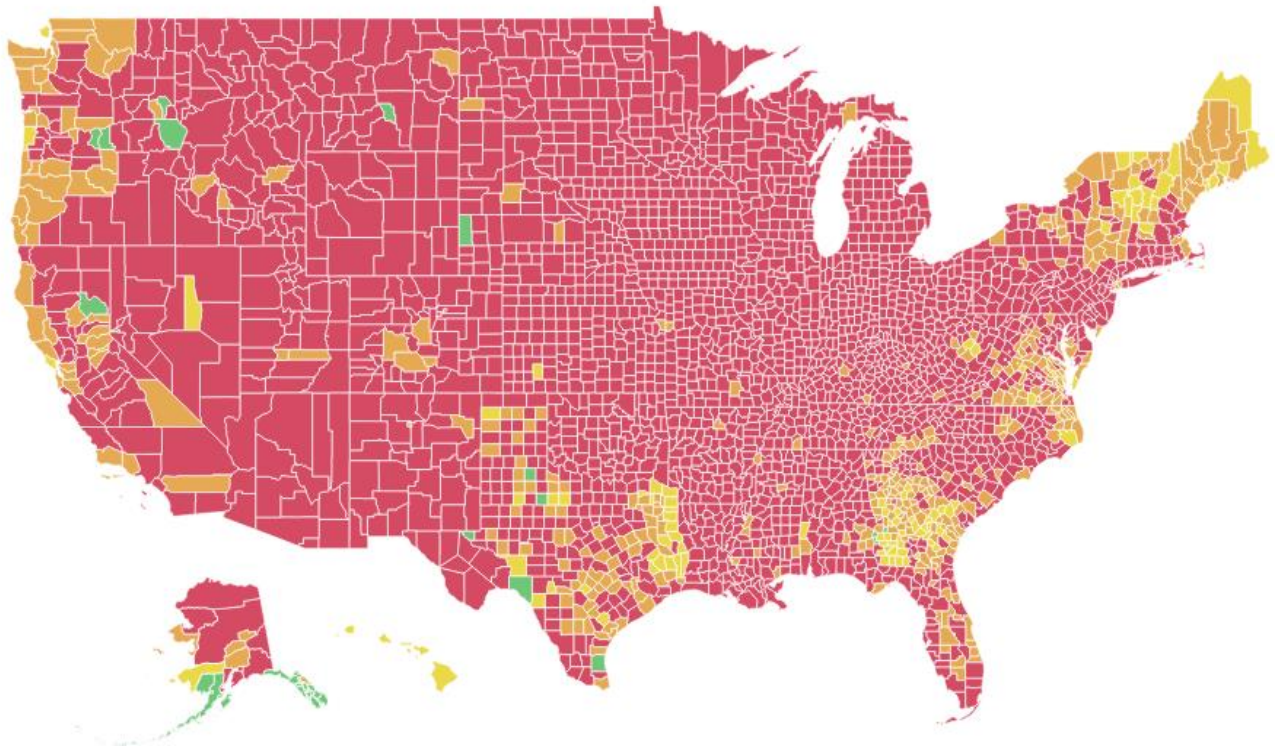
Figure 2 - Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund North America.

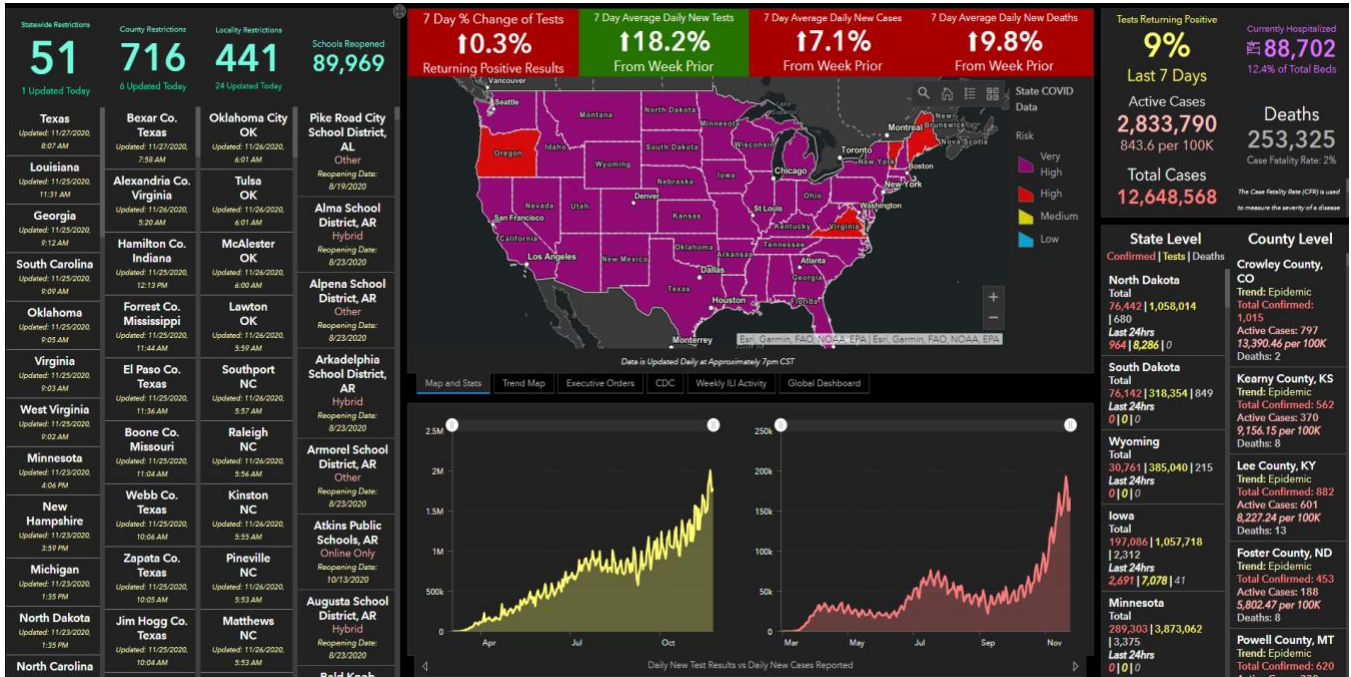


4. USA

4.1 COVID UPDATE

Risk Levels by County





#	USA State	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	USA Total	13,266,819	269,692	7,852,415	5,144,712	40,081	815	187,262,875	565,744	
1	California	1,174,707	19,034	554,779	600,894	29,730	482	23,096,745	584,547	39,512,223
2	Illinois	697,489	12,596	358,349	326,544	55,043	994	10,212,093	805,890	12,671,821
3	Florida	961,676	18,255	643,824	299,597	44,775	850	11,949,292	556,357	21,477,737
4	Arizona	314,326	6,568	50,352	257,406	43,184	902	2,539,969	348,958	7,278,717
5	Texas	1,231,253	21,785	972,380	237,088	42,463	751	11,533,142	397,751	28,995,881
6	Missouri	303,186	4,033	80,333	218,820	49,400	657	3,183,066	518,632	6,137,428
7	Virginia	230,444	4,044	23,858	202,542	26,998	474	3,738,545	437,999	8,535,519
8	Michigan	352,433	9,170	152,267	190,996	35,290	918	6,821,979	683,096	9,986,857
9	New York	658,637	34,389	439,560	184,688	33,857	1,768	18,743,407	963,495	19,453,561
10	Maryland	192,858	4,569	8,569	179,720	31,900	756	4,335,442	717,114	6,045,680
11	Georgia	461,517	9,336	289,837	162,344	43,468	879	4,586,509	431,979	10,617,423
12	Colorado	216,683	2,957	54,785	158,941	37,627	513	1,689,657	293,408	5,758,736
13	Kentucky	166,139	1,835	27,349	136,955	37,187	411	2,682,493	600,423	4,467,673
14	Ohio	382,743	6,274	242,146	134,323	32,744	537	5,835,768	499,249	11,689,100
15	Pennsylvania	347,738	10,314	203,253	134,171	27,163	806	3,476,956	271,595	12,801,989

4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [As Americans prepare to gather for Thanksgiving, the world watches with dread and disbelief](#)
- [Coronavirus cases are skyrocketing again in cities](#)
- [Near Crisis, Some Hospitals Face Tough Decisions Caring for Patients](#)
- [California, Texas set nationwide records for new coronavirus infections in a single day](#)
- [U.S. Deaths Climb Toward Daily Record, but More People Are Surviving Infection](#)
- [Study Shows Which Restrictions Prevent COVID-19 Fatalities—and Which Appear to Make Things Worse](#)

A Yale study has revealed some interesting findings about the efficacy COVID-19 measures. Mask mandates appear to decrease the fatality rate by about 12%. Similarly, effective measures include stay at home orders, limiting gatherings to less than 10 people, and closing restaurants, gyms, and parks/beaches. It is also believed that closing parks stops tourists from attending, not just locals. Interestingly, they found some counter productive policies including closing low risk businesses such as retail stores and bookstores, as it pushes people to look for other activities such as spending time indoors with others. Shutting down one activity may correlate to increases in other, higher risk activity.

4.3 USA Awareness

- [Dow rallies 500 points to surpass 30,000 for the first time](#)
For the first time ever, the Dow Jones Industrial Average broke above 30,000 points, likely due to the positive vaccine news, triggering optimism of a strong economic recovery. Dow Jones has increased by more than 13% for the last month, its biggest gains since 1987. It is believed that the stock market will continue to thrive if there is hope that the economy will bounce back up to pre-pandemic levels.
- [5-4 ruling, Supreme Court sides with religious groups in a dispute over Covid-19 restrictions in New York](#)
New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has placed a COVID-19 measure which limits the number of people that can attend religious services. It was disputed in court and the US Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 ruling that these measures have been far more restrictive regulations in comparison to other jurisdictions, and violated the First Amendment as the regulations treated houses of worship differently than secular facilities. This case shows the impact Trump's newly appointed conservative judge, Amy Coney Barrett, has on the court, where she clearly sided with her conservative colleagues, while those ruling that the measure was appropriate were all liberal judges. The same court was split 5-4 on similar measures earlier in the year, except that the majority was for the liberals. At that time, Judge Ginsburg was appointed, and was replaced with Barret, a conservative unlike Ginsburg. It is believed that any additional cases which will be brought to the US Supreme Court will now be voted in favor of Republicans, due to the higher number of conservative judges on the board.
- [Biden's Cabinet picks signal return to U.S. role on global stage](#)
- [Trump pardons Michael Flynn, who twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI](#)

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



welund

During the week of 18-25 November 2020, most of the activist activity noted by Welund North America in the US took place in the government sector (74%), followed by oil and gas (12%). Protests and marches made up most of the activity (58%), followed by webinars (9%), and critical commentary (5%). In contrast, online events and commentary made up a greater proportion of activity in Canada. Overall activity has continued to decline since a peak around the election. Thanksgiving has likely contributed to this decline, a trend that is typical of many holidays.

Many left-wing activists have sought to shape the incoming Biden administration by advocating for or criticizing specific [candidates](#) and [nominees](#) for cabinet and other positions. Notably, climate activists and progressive Democratic politicians, including Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, held a [protest](#) outside the DNC headquarters in Washington, DC to demand stronger climate policies from the Biden administration.

Campaigns against major pipeline projects have also seen increased activity. The Line 3 Replacement Project in Minnesota, Keystone XL in the Midwest, and the Mountain Valley Pipeline in Virginia have seen increased opposition in recent weeks.

Despite the pandemic, activists continue to organize in-person protests to broadcast their campaigns and demands. Organizers have incorporated physical distancing and mask-wearing adaptations to limit the risk of gathering for protests. New York (34), Washington (17), California (13), Georgia (13), and Minnesota (12) saw the most protests.

A notable network from the past week is the Youth Liberation Front (YLF). Accounts from across the US [circulated](#) a [‘call to action’](#) to hold ‘direct actions’ in opposition to Thanksgiving on 25 November. YLF affiliates, especially in Portland and the Pacific Northwest, promoted many protests in the summer that resulted in vandalism and confrontations with the police.

Although activism against the Trump administration has declined since the election, the President’s actions may spark increased protest activity on the left and right between now and 20 January 2021. Fears that Thanksgiving holiday travel will result in an increase in covid-19 cases may see some states reimpose restrictions not seen since the spring. Should this happen, the right-wing, anti-lockdown movement may organize protests and demonstrations similar to those that attracted nationwide media attention in [April and May](#).

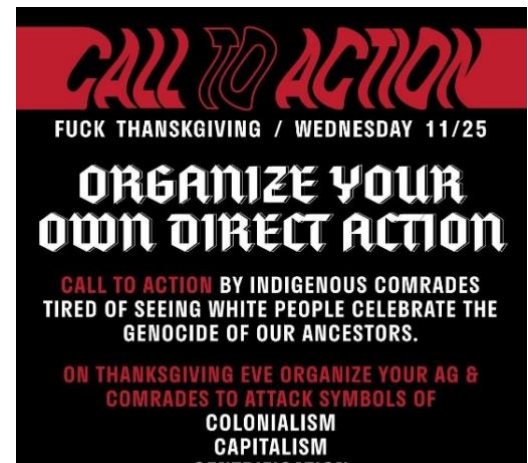


Image: Call to action circulated by YLF accounts.



Figure 3 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund North America. Activity for the week of 22-28 November will increase as analysts identify additional incidents.

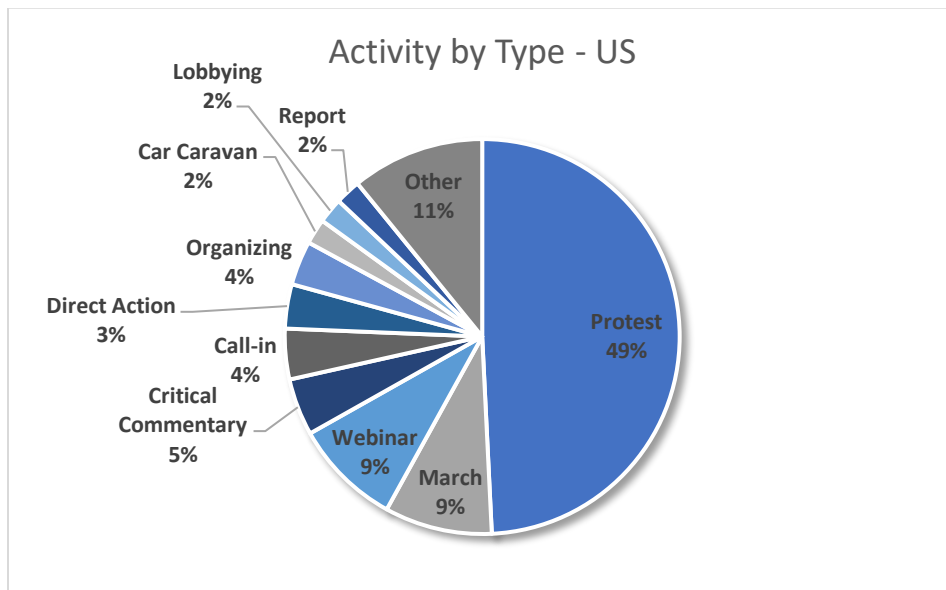


Figure 4 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund North America.

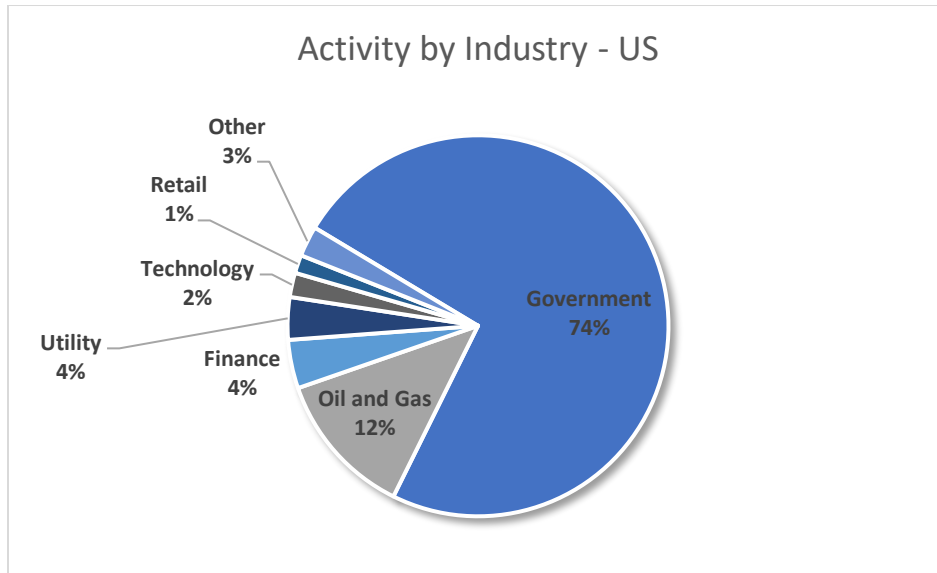


Figure 5 Activist activity in the US by sector as noted by Welund North America.



End Report

Please submit feedback to:

Scott McGregor, CD, BCom

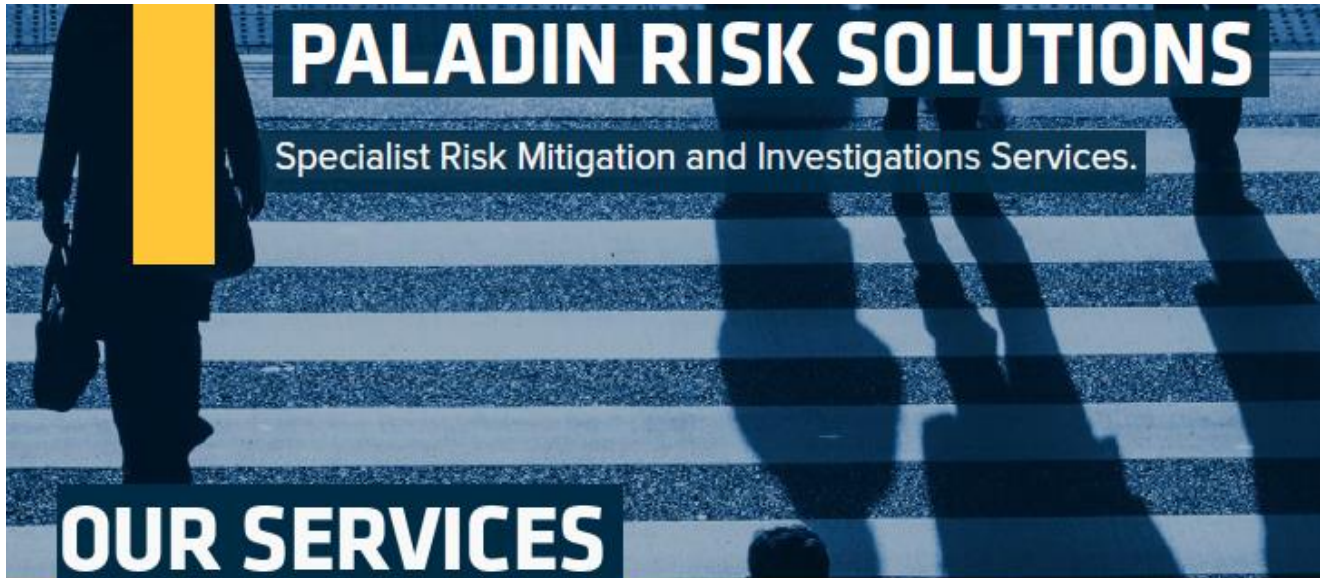
Head of Intelligence

Paladin Risk Solutions Inc.

Mobile: 604-910-7781

smcgregor@paladinrisksolutions.com

5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES



Paladin Risk Solutions is one of the largest, full-service risk mitigation and investigation providers in Canada. We are an industry leader in identifying and mitigating client risk by delivering consulting, intelligence, investigations, due diligence, cybercrime, OSINT and training solutions.

- Complete intelligence and advisory, from a local, national and international lens
- 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



**Paladin
Risk Solutions**

www.paladinrisksolutions.com

Watson
CANADA'S
MOST
ADMIRED
CORPORATE
CULTURES



**CANADA'S
BEST
MANAGED
COMPANIES**

Platinum member