

Canadian Public Relations Society

Toronto Society



Fake News: Understanding the Facts

Canadian Public Relations Society, Toronto Chapter

October 28, 2020

TODAY'S SPONSOR

CISION®



FAKE NEWS AGENDA

Speaker presentations:

- ✓ Our information foundation –
 Jessica Samuels
- ✓ State of the union John Ferri
- ✓ Some solutions Melissa Retty
- Member Q&A
- Wrap up & your thoughts





OUR INFORMATION FOUNDATION

Slow Journalism

Fast Journalism





Toyota Corolla

Volkswagen Jetta



OUR INFORMATION FOUNDATION





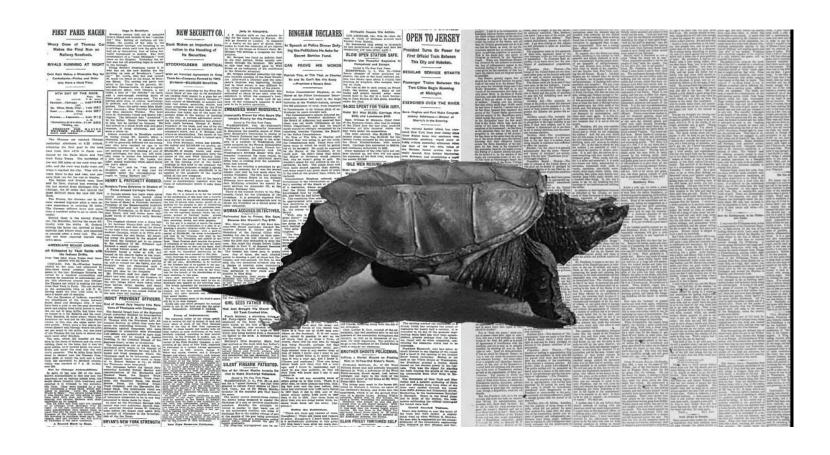
OUR INFORMATION FOUNDATION



In the crowded media landscape that exists 24/7 media outlets have to compete for our attention.



DEVELOPING THE IDEA



- ✓ Fact checking (and double checking)
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Pre-interviews
- ✓ Investigating
- ✓ Re-interviewing
- ✓ Sourcing informed and credible individuals to tell the story.
- ✓ Fine tuning
- ✓ REPEAT!



Q: STATE OF JOURNALISM? A: NOT GREAT.

- > Digital disruption = broken business model.
- > Thousands of jobs lost. Since 2008, more than 300 outlets in Canada closed.
- > Traditional media wasn't perfect but it fulfilled an essential role in the public conversation: gatekeeper of reliable information.
- ➤ What's being lost: A collective sense of reality based on an agreed upon set of empirical facts.



VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF FAKE NEWS

> It has Canadian roots ... in a good way.

▶Propaganda is nothing new. But ...

- ➤ ... in the age of social media it's been re-imagined in some frightening ways.
- ➤ Watch *The Social Dilemma*!



HOW/WHY IT WORKS

The **goal of fake journalism** is not necessarily to have you believe a story that isn't true but to undermine your faith in anything that is. It's to create so much confusion and uncertainty that people don't know what and who to trust anymore. It's to erode credibility in the fact-based institutions we used to rely on, science and media in particular.

- >Germ of truth vs. outright fabrication.
- The **susceptibility** of democratic societies.
- ➤ Relies on legitimate platforms: Only when it gets mainstream coverage is it fully weaponized.



GLIMMERS OF HOPE

- ➤ Silver lining: In a **crisis, Canadians turned to trusted sources**
- 51% relied on traditional news outlets
- 24% on provincial/federal health leaders and/or government health agencies
- 10% on social media
- > Fact-checking
- >The 'truth sandwich'
- → 'Polly' & the lesson of Brexit

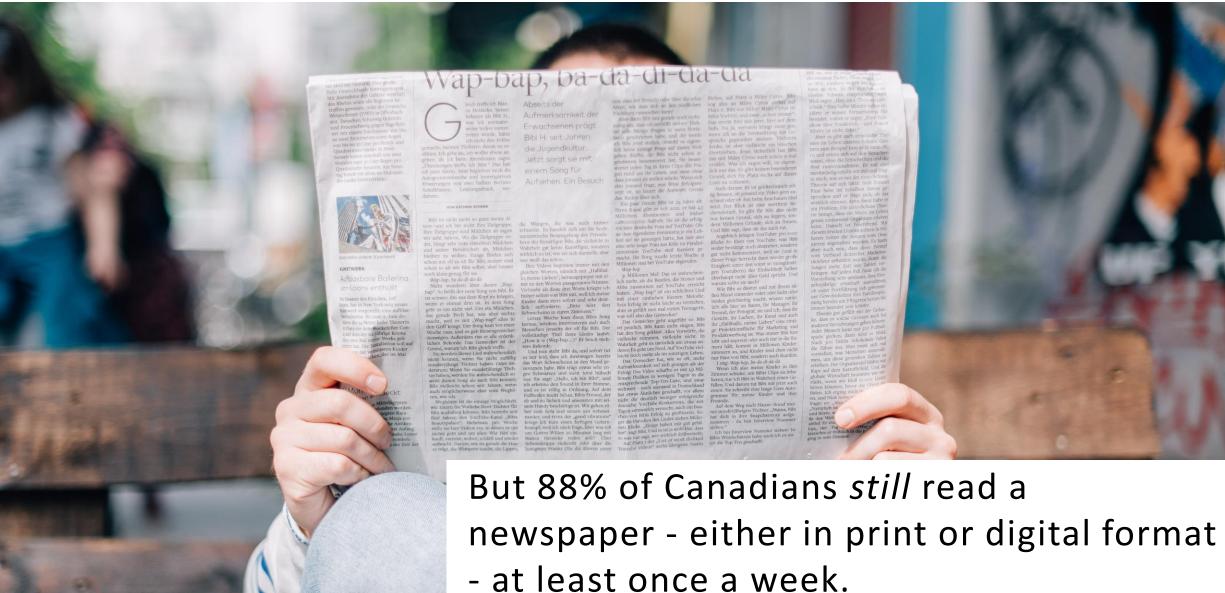








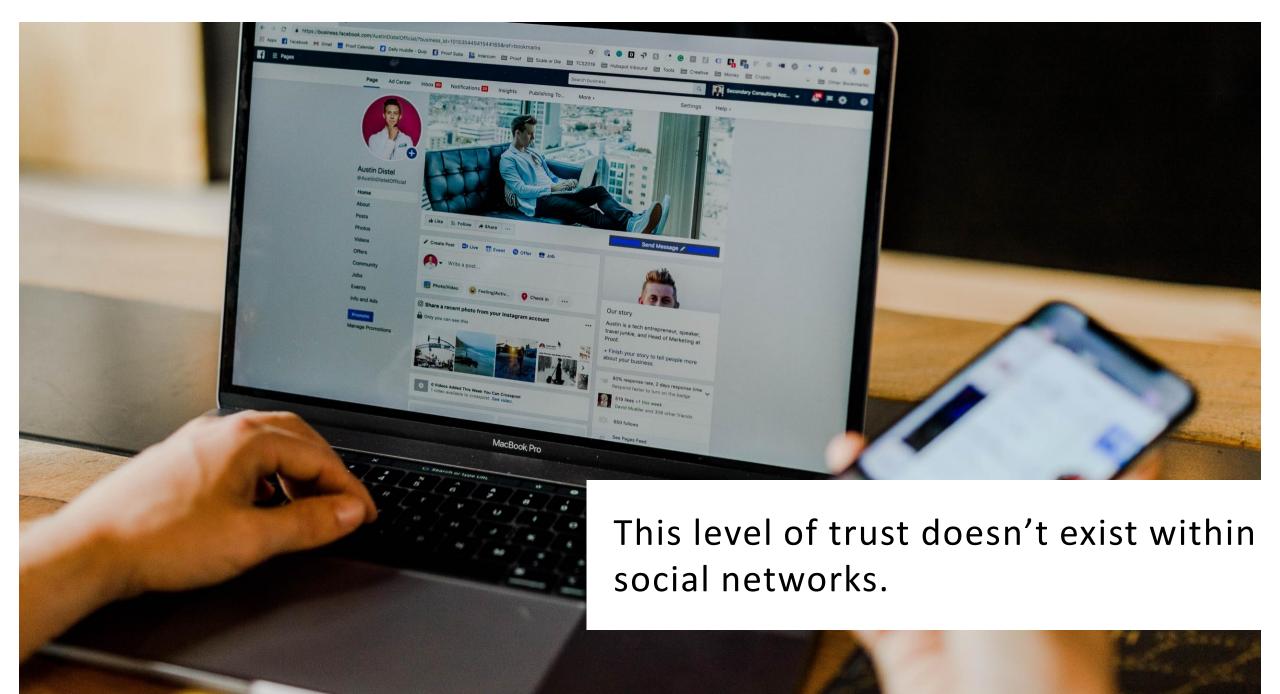




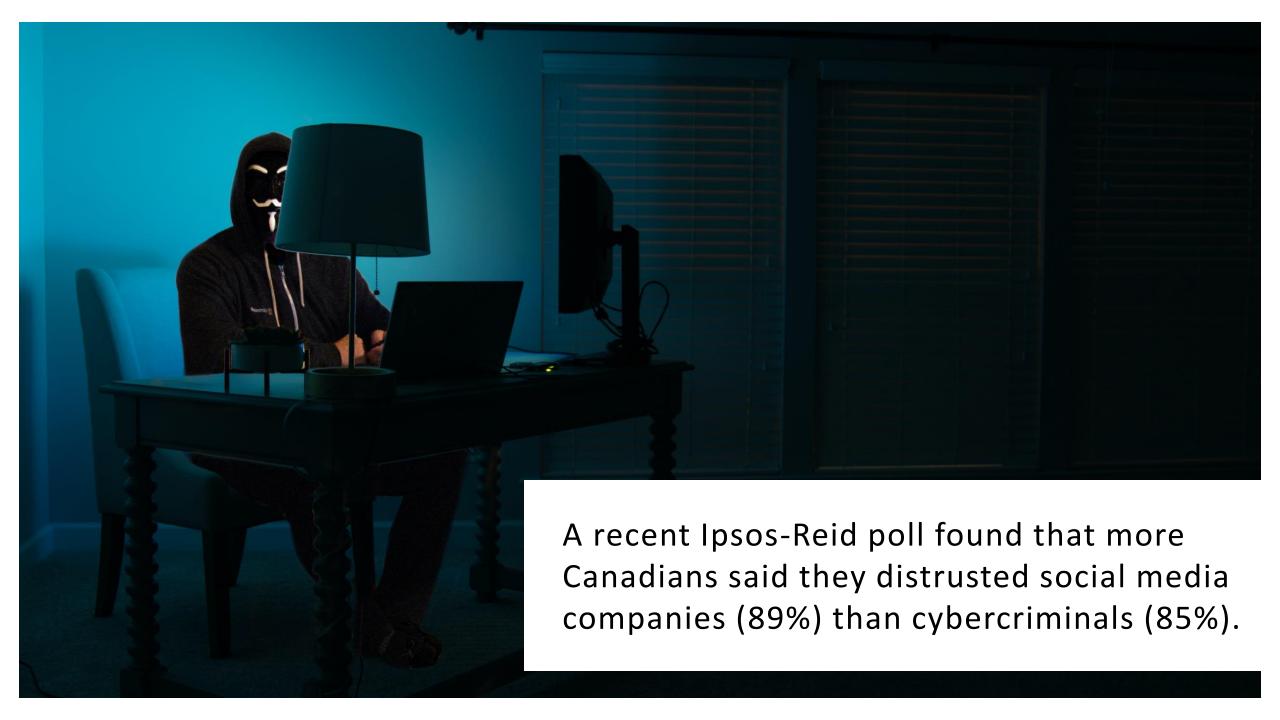
This is a 3% increase since 2012.





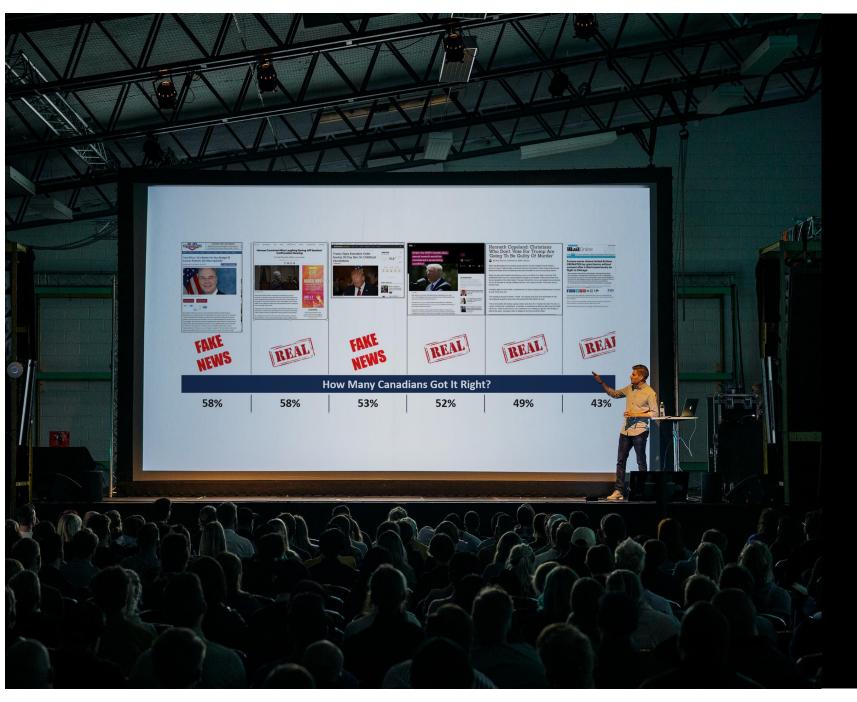












A CIRA research study found that 75% of Canadian internet users had come across fake news at least sometimes and 57% had been taken in by a fake news item.

BREAKING Kim Kardashian Is Pregnant With Triplets!

Move over, ${f Beyonc\'e}!$ ${f Kim\ Kardashian}$ just dropped some big news - well, three of them to be ex

The 36-year-old reality star announced on Instagram today that she and husband **Kanye West** are expecting TRIPLETS!



"Third times a charm!" she wrote on Instagram. "Or five times. Whatever!"

Khloé Kardashian also got in on the baby news, posting on Twitter that she was "ecstatic."

Not all fake news is created equal.



65% were worried that fake news was being used as a weapon.



CIRA research confirmed that 70% of Canadians were concerned that fake news could impact the 2019 federal election.

WHERE WE COME IN...





Develop a program to empower and educate Canadians on how to critically assess news and distinguish legitimate news from fake news - all while reinforcing the role that newspapers play in providing credible news.

IT HAD TO BE:



Simple, easy to understand and easy to remember



Rooted online



Newspaper centric

WE NEED LESS OF THIS...

How to Spot Fake News

Lists of Known Fake News Sites

The idea here is to help you spot fake news by knowing which sites are purveyors of fake news. in mind that fake news can appear on sites that don't appear on any list of known fake news sou produce reliable as well as unreliable news stories.

Two widely-circulated lists:

- "False, Misleading, Clickbait-y, and/or Satirical "News" Sources" by Professor Melis A long and widely-circulated list. Includes tips for analyzing news sources
- Snopes' Field Guide to Fake News Sites and Hoax Purveyors A shorter list with discussion and examples.

Evaluating News Stories and News Sources

Knowing what to look for and what questions to ask can help when trying to identify fake news criteria and questions to consider when assessing a news story:

- The CRAAP Test (Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, Purpose) A list of questions designed to help evaluate information. The U. of Toronto at Mississa link to the original CRAAP Test.
- The P.R.O.V.E.N. Test for Evaluating Sources (Purpose, Relevance, Objectivity, Ver Designed to help determine if information sources are credible. Access via the Santa I Fake News Guide.
- The Process of Establishing Integrity Checklist, by Dr. Susan Maret, Lecturer at tr University, and Project Censored contributor. Designed to provide a "self-empowering and didactic path to finding trustworthy article Global Critical Media Literacy Project; direct link to the Checklist.

What is Fake News?

The New York Times defined "fake news" on the Internet as false articles deliberately fabricated to deceive readers, generally with the goal of profiting through clickbait. Clickbait is content whose main purpose is to attract attention. and encourage visitors to click on a link to a particular web page.

PolitiFact described fake news as fabricated content designed to fool readers and subsequently made viral through the Internet to large groups of people who further disseminate it.

Fake News and Social Media

Social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter enable information sharing among their users, and many of these platforms present 'news' items, ads or 'sponsored content' in a manner that makes it difficult to distinguish real news sources from spoofed sites, or hoax sites. Most social media platform ad space is sold through brokers, meaning the platform often has no idea what is being advertised on their site. These characteristics make social media platforms an ideal place for fake news to flourish.

A good example of this can be seen in this article, where Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's post about fake news is lined up beside two fake news items.

How to Spot Fake News

Who

- Who wrote it? Check for the author's name. Is the name available or is it. missing? Most authors who put time into a well-researched article will likely have their name attached to it.
- What are their qualifications? If the author's name is listed, find out who the person is and what their credentials are. Do a search on the author's name, find their occupation and other articles written by them. Is the author an expert in the field? Does the author work at a reputable organization? Are the articles well-researched?
- Check the "About Us" section. On the top or bottom of the website there should be a section called "About Us." This section outlines the purpose of the website. Does the organization have an authoritative team of journalists or writers? Or do they invite members of the general public to contribute? Reading about the host of the website will help you determine whether it is a trustworthy source.

When

- When was this article published? Older articles may not contain up-to-date facts and might have broken links. Individuals sharing an older article may discover that some information has been disproven or debunked.
- Was the article repurposed or updated? Repurposed or updated content. tends to have a disclaimer at the beginning or end of the article. News organizations may repurpose an article if a current event is related.
- How important is the date? The date gives you an indication of when the article was published. Websites may show time/date stamps in the article, but it is possible that these could be modified.

Tips: Run a search to see if there are similar articles written by other news

Where

 Does this web address (URL) look correct? Typing in the wrong web address. will direct you to a webpage that you were not intending to visit. It may lead you to a page with computer viruses. Be cautious of website URLs that are made to look official or real. A splashy looking website can contain fake news. Similar to a phone number, a minor mistake can take you to a completely different website.

With few exceptions URLs including their domains (.ca, .com, etc.), can be purchased by anyone. Many domains do not have any requirements to register. Some individuals trick users by using domain names to imitate an organization's official site.

Tips: If you do not know the URL, use a search engine and review the results for the result you are looking for.

Did I find this on Social Media? Social Media platforms are not news. organizations. These are platforms for people to create and/or share content.

AND MORE OF THIS...





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SPOT FAKE NEWS ONLINE

Don't believe everything you see.

Fake news and disinformation online are serious cocerns for Canadians. Learn how to SPOT fake news and stop it in its tracks.

www.SPOTfakenews.ca



IS THE STORY TIMELY?







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BLACK DIAMOND

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Pam Sayne

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Leader News

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IS THIS A CREDIBLE SOURCE?



www.SPOTfakenews.ca

ARE **OTHER SOURCES** REPORTING THE SAME STORY?



www.SPOTfakenews.ca

IS THE PERSPECTIVE BIASED?



IS THE STORY TIMELY?





GAME 1

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:00 pm - Ituna Arena

GAME 2

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7:00 pm - Loreburn (Frecessa

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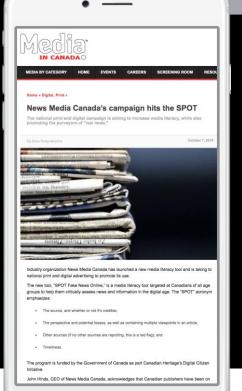




IS THE TIMELY?

www.SPOTtoleries.co









Do you know how to spot fake news online? New tool can help

Poll found more than half of Canadians have been fooled by content

NEWS Oct 06, 2019 by Ali Raza

Mississauga News



















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