



Politics

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Canada Tactical: Federal elections to be held nationwide from 08:30-20:30 (local time) on September 20; maintain vigilance

Please be advised

- The Canadian federal election will take place on September 20, 2021, to elect members of the House of Commons to the 44th Canadian Parliament.
- Polling sites will be open for 12 hours, from 08:30-20:30 in most provinces. The exact timings can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- Out of the 23 political parties running for elections, the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC), Conservative Party of Canada (CPC), the Green Party, New Democratic Party, and Bloc Quebecois are the major political parties, with the LPC and CPC leading most polls.
- The announcement for the federal elections was made after PM Justin Trudeau dissolved the Parliament on August 15 and called for snap elections, two years earlier than initially scheduled. The call for early elections amid the ongoing pandemic has received criticism from several opposition parties.
- The elections are also being held following multiple anti-lockdown and anti-vaccine demonstrations nationwide.
- Additionally, political parties have increasingly focused their elections campaigns on healthcare, indigenous issues, post-pandemic economic recovery, taxes and housing, child care, and climate change.

Assessments

1. Although large-scale demonstrations and campaigns are unlikely to transpire, spontaneous small-to-medium scale gatherings and protests against COVID-19 measures and related mandates can be expected in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, and other major urban cities.
2. Potential gatherings are likely to transpire largely peacefully, without any major incidents of unrest or violence. However, given that the elections follow multiple anti-lockdown protests for over a year, the latent threat of scuffles between the police and potential radical protesters cannot be ruled out.
3. Regardless, a bolstered security presence is liable to be deployed outside all polling stations, key government buildings, and major public spaces, as a precautionary measure.
4. Disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular traffic can be anticipated throughout September 20, with pre-emptive road closures and security cordons largely expected in the vicinity of key government buildings and polling sites nationwide.

Recommendations

Those operating or residing in Canada on September 20 are advised to maintain vigilance and allot for travel disruptions due to the slated federal elections.