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Funding Project Descriptions

Projects funded from 2018-2019 call for proposals

Projects with funding amounts over \$25,000 are available under Proactive Disclosure. Outcomes from these projects will be available in the [Research Catalogue \(/cnt/ntnl-scr/cntr-trrrsm/r-nd-flight-182/knshk/ctlg/index-en.aspx\)](#).

Block Hate: Building Resilience against Online Hate Speech

YWCA Canada

This project will work with various stakeholders to co-create concrete solutions to address online hate speech, hate crime and radicalization to violence in communities across Canada. The overall objectives of this project are to identify trends in online hate speech, build capacity to respond among youth and other key groups, and support the development of technological solutions to prevent, address and report online hate speech informed by community-based research.

This project will strengthen civil society responses at the national and local levels through engagement with experts in technology, civil society, law enforcement, and academia, as well as local communities, in creating and sharing online tools, training, and resources to identify and counter hate against anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, Islamophobia and xenophobic or racist discourses.

Improving Knowledge and Research Capacity on the Global Incel Community & its Canadian Impact

Moonshot CVE

This project will deliver a systematic, multi-platform study of incel communities using comprehensive online data collection and analysis, and stakeholder consultation. The research will draw on partnerships with experts in related areas, including radicalization to violence, digital anthropology, gender-based violence, and social isolation.

This project will increase awareness and understanding of online incel communities and improve the capacity of Canadian frontline practitioners to provide enhanced interventions for individuals who are in the process of radicalizing to violence.

Project activities will include a literature review of existing studies and qualitative data collection, the development of a guide of incel symbols and terminology, the mapping of the online incel community, sharing global promising practices for countering radicalization to violence, and capacity building through interactive workshops with frontline service workers and practitioners.

Understanding Non-Involvement in Terrorism: Why Most Radicals Never Become Terrorists

Leiden University

This research project will seek to understand why some people who radicalize don't violently act out and determine what distinguishes this group from those who do cross this threshold. By exploring these differences, this project will increase knowledge on barriers and protective factors, and how they interact with risk factors to shape when, why, and how radicalization does or does not lead to terrorist violence.

The project results will be shared through professional learning courses, publications, and academic conferences to help policymakers and practitioners more effectively prevent and respond to terrorism.

Tech Against Terrorism

Funding will go towards the development of Tech Against Terrorism's [new repository of terrorist content](https://www.terrorismanalytics.org/) (<https://www.terrorismanalytics.org/>). The repository will provide smaller-sized technology companies a consolidated library of existing terrorist content online, enabling them to be better able to identify and remove the content by cross-referencing new content on their platforms with existing content stored in the repository. In addition, companies will be able to add new terrorist content to the repository.

The repository will also be available to researchers, enabling them to identify the prevalence and trends related to terrorist content online, and better evaluate initiatives aimed at countering violent extremism online.

Tech Against Terrorism is a UN-affiliated initiative that supports small technology companies in their efforts to remove terrorist content online. The initiative protects against terrorist use of the internet by providing companies with the capacity, knowledge, and/or financial resources required to strengthen their resiliency against terrorist activity.

Projects funded from 2017-2018 call for proposals

Testing the Reliability, Validity and Equity of Terrorism Risk Assessment Tools

University College London

The University College London, University of Waterloo and University of New Brunswick will collaborate on this two-year research project to evaluate the effectiveness of various risk assessments tools used in the context of countering violent extremism.

Research will be conducted on the content, reliability, and validity of these risk assessment tools. The project will also compare assessments tools to determine if certain tools are more applicable to assess individuals who are at different stages in the process of radicalization to violence. The findings will provide evidence to inform multiple facets of risk assessment and threat management activities across terrorist offender types.

Families and Radicalization to Violence

Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence

This project will explore how families can protect from, or contribute to, radicalization to violence. Research will include literature reviews, interviews, and knowledge-sharing activities, such as the development of toolkits and resources.

This project will contribute to a more informed understanding of the risk and protective factors related to family dynamics that contribute to the process of radicalization to violence. It can also help to improve the current support systems and strategies that are available to families whose lives have been touched by violent radicalization.

Action-oriented Research to Understand Community Resilience and Radicalization to Violence across Canada

Boston Children's Hospital

The Boston Children's Hospital will collaborate with McGill University to study how social connections can play a role in building resilience towards violent extremism.

Existing data on different Canadian subgroups will be pooled together and analyzed to identify common factors that are associated with community resilience, and how community resilience, in turn, protects communities from radicalization to violence. Key findings from these activities can help inform practitioners about best practices to foster resilience, encourage stronger civic engagement, and create safe spaces for individuals to express radical ideas that challenge injustices without the need to resort to violence.

The Far-Right in Quebec: Actors, Ideologies, and Prevention

Cégep Édouard-Montpetit

This project aims to bridge knowledge gaps in the current understanding of the far-right extremism movement in Quebec over the course of three years. Project activities will be divided into two complementary phases:

1. An in-depth exploration of far-right extremism in Quebec through media analysis and interviews with experts and activists
2. The development of workshops that will be delivered at schools and youth programs in the Montégérie region of Québec.

Results from the project will also go towards supporting local police services and community organizations in improving their interventions.

Updating the Environmental Scan of Right-Wing Extremism in Canada

University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT)

This three-year project will establish an updated, comprehensive view of the beliefs, motivations, activities, and connections that characterize the right-wing extremism movement in Canada.

Project activities will include examining interviews with law enforcement, community anti-hate activists, and former and current extremists. The University of Ontario Institute of Technology will also partner with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue to conduct innovative analysis of online content and media coverage, which will inform local responses to hate speech and hate crime.

Project ReSet

John Howard Society of Ottawa (JHSO)

Project ReSet is a five-year initiative dedicated to disengaging individuals in the Eastern-Ontario region from extremist-based violence.

The pilot project will work with individuals at higher risk of committing, or who have already committed, acts of extremist violence, as determined by a comprehensive referral system made up of justice partners including court officials and police services. Clinicians, social workers, and other specialists will then work directly with the individuals to develop tailored intervention plans based on their particular needs, existing strengths and resources, and risk factors associated with extremist violence.

Canada Practitioners Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence (CPN-PREV): Mapping assets, assessing scientific knowledge, and developing shared national resources for the prevention of violent radicalization

Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

This project aims to increase Canada's capacity to assess, prevent and intervene with individuals at risk of radicalizing to violence. The project has three objectives: (1) examining the level of collaboration among existing programs across Canada for countering radicalization to violence; (2) strengthening partnerships across sectors and regions and developing networks to support interventions; and (3) improve access to resources, training, and tools for prevention, assessment, and intervention against radicalization to violence.

Training materials produced from this project will support practitioners in the health and social services, as well as non-governmental organizations in Canada involved in the assessment, prevention and intervention with individuals at risk of radicalizing to violence.

Shift

British Columbia Government Office of Crime Reduction

Shift is a civilian-led program delivered in partnership with municipal governments, community stakeholders, and law enforcement to prevent radicalization to violence in the province, by engaging vulnerable individuals and developing intervention strategies tailored to the person. The project aims to help establish and support multi-agency hubs in British Columbia that connect at-risk individuals with local counselling, social services, or other tools in keeping with key disengagement strategies for those who may be at risk of adopting violent ideologies.

This initiative will adopt and apply best practices from existing intervention programs across the country, and evaluate their effectiveness in reducing violent extremism.

Pushing Back Against Hate in Online Communities

MediaSmarts

This project will examine the attitudes and experiences of young Canadians toward online hate speech and violent radicalization. It will also determine the factors that influence whether or not to speak out against what they see online. The study will be conducted in the form of a national survey of up to 1000 youth in grades 9 and 10.

Findings will be used to establish data on young Canadians' understandings and experiences with online hate speech in their everyday lives. This data will help to inform policy and develop programs by governments and Internet service providers that will promote a norm of speaking out against hate speech which can protect against violent extremism.

Pushing Back Against Hate in Online Communities supports MediaSmarts' (<http://mediasmarts.ca/>) efforts to increase critical thinking skills among youth by preparing them to recognize, resist and respond to hate material online.

Canada Redirect

Moonshot CVE

The project will provide alternative, positive content to vulnerable individuals searching for violent extremist material online. The technique, known as the "Redirect Method," uses online advertising tools and Internet video channels to direct individuals to content created by credible third parties that challenge ideologies that can motivate destructive attitudes and behaviour.

Findings from this project will help inform local communities and practitioners about countering radicalization to violence in the online space, and help expand the reach and impact of organizations across Canada that are creating positive alternative content.

Schools & PVE: Scoping Review, Expert Consultation, Policy/Program Directions, Research Questions

Simon Fraser University

This project will seek to identify and examine school-based and school-linked interventions that have been proven to promote social inclusion and positive connections to school for students. The aim is to learn how these policies and programs can be adapted to help prevent violent extremism (PVE).

Activities will include a review and synthesis of research findings, the formation of an expert Project Advisory Committee, and international consultations with education officials and practitioners, all to develop recommendations for a multi-intervention approach to PVE. This project will contribute to the evidence base about relevant programs and resources for PVE in the school context, and identify opportunities for PVE resources to be more widely accessible, such as through websites of existing international education, social development and health networks.

Community Reporting Thresholds: Sharing Information with Authorities on Violent Extremism

Ryerson University

Ryerson University will collaborate with Australia's Deakin University and the UK's University of Huddersfield, to replicate and build on research in those two countries about what either drives or prevents people from informing authorities about potential radicalization to violence. The approach is designed to better understand the experiences of those who have considered sharing concerns about "intimate others," (i.e., partners, family members, and friends), on suspected involvement in violent extremist activity across the ideological, political and social spectrum.

Community-based consultations will be conducted in Canada to learn about local context, which will provide insight into what challenges exist for people wishing to report, as well as to identify more urgent threats that pose a risk to community safety and well-being. The aim is to inform government and community agencies' efforts to develop community-facing policies, programs and campaigns, in order to build confidence and trust in the resources and organizations available for sharing concerns about violent extremism.

PREV-IMPACT Canada: Evaluation model for prevention of radicalization to violence programs in Canada

University of Sherbrooke

The PREV-IMPACT Canada project will equip frontline practitioners with the capabilities to be able to better evaluate efforts currently being used to prevent radicalization leading to violence in Canada, particularly at the level of local organizations and communities. The initiative will survey international best practices and lessons learned on evaluation methods, as well as conduct frontline research with prevention practitioners in several locations across Canada and internationally.

Drawing on this research, the team will develop tools and training adapted for the Canadian context, and test them in three locations. These resources will then be refined based on the tests, and then will be applied in a larger context to include more Canadian practitioners and stakeholders involved in preventing radicalization leading to violence, including researchers and students.

This project aims to inform program evaluation for all the main categories of countering radicalization to violence: early prevention aimed at the general population, at-risk prevention efforts directed at individuals or groups in early stages of radicalization to violence, and disengagement and reintegration efforts designed for individuals directly involved in ideologically motivated violence.

Extreme Dialogue

Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD)

This project builds on a long-standing international program, first launched in 2015 through support from Public Safety Canada, designed to give young people the resources to challenge violent extremism in all its forms. Extreme Dialogue is a free resource designed to be delivered by teachers, youth practitioners, external facilitators (including social services and police), or young people themselves, by using films and supporting curriculum materials to learn about the true stories of those affected by violent extremism.

This new investment will support bringing the program to approximately 2,000 students between the ages of 14-20 in eight different francophone high schools and CEGEP/colleges in Quebec, and will deliver new and adapted education material and workshops for students, delivered by teachers and practitioners. Teachers and practitioners will be equipped through training delivered by the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV).

Ultimately, this project aims to build resilience to radicalization leading to violence in youth by providing them with the knowledge, skills and values needed not only to openly discuss, but to also challenge extremism in schools and other settings within their community.

Set up of the CPRLV mentorship program for people at risk or in radicalization to violence situations

Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV)

This pilot project will support the training and development of mentors who can step in to work with individuals who are at risk of involvement, or already involved, in processes of radicalization leading to violence. Montreal's CPRLV will be working with one of the leading international models, the Aarhus Mentorship Program from Denmark, to adapt their training and tools to local needs in Canada, and specifically for Quebec.

The overall approach aims to build the skills and knowledge of mentors to help individuals at risk find alternative, positive sources of belonging and strengthen their social skills and resilience in the face of violent extremist influences.

A diverse group of mentors from the CPRLV, as well as from sectors such as education and community services across Quebec, will be selected to participate in training, and then supported to use their training in working with individuals at risk. The project will inform potential application of the approach in other parts of the country and contribute to the international evidence base about the advantages and challenges of mentorship as a form of intervention.

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CVE Toronto

Toronto Police Service

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Toronto is an initiative led by Toronto Police Service to counter radicalization to violence in the city. CVE Toronto will expand to layer countering violent extremism-related training into an existing program, called FOCUS Toronto. FOCUS Toronto is led by the Toronto Police Service, the City of Toronto, the United Way, and partnered with local community organizations, and is a collaborative prevention and intervention program that aims to reduce crime and improve community resiliency in the city.

Funding to CVE Toronto will help FOCUS Toronto multi-agency situation tables to expand their reach and capabilities, including for addressing cases of radicalization leading to violence. Funding will also support FOCUS Toronto in receiving, assessing, and processing information on persons at risk of being radicalized to violent extremism and will contribute to better training for those who work directly with such individuals.

Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism: Assessing Canada's Domestic & International Strategies

Centre for International and Defence Policy, Queen's University

The Centre for International and Defence Policy (CIDP) at Queen's University undertook [a study of national and international strategies for countering radicalization to violence and counter-terrorism](http://www.queensu.ca/cidp/research/radicalization-and-extremism) (<http://www.queensu.ca/cidp/research/radicalization-and-extremism>).

As part of their study, CIDP held a workshop in early 2017 for experts from academia, government, the private sector, and non-government organizations to develop recommendations for government policy and program design. The recommendations from this workshop emphasized the importance of (1) addressing a wide range of violent extremist activities from hate crimes to terrorist attacks; (2) developing communications that counter myths about radicalization and terrorism; (3) disseminating best practices for communicating after terrorist events; and (4) measuring progress as well as evaluating the success of programs aimed at countering violent extremism. These recommendations will help the Canada Centre design a National Strategy for countering radicalization to violence.

Foreign Fighter Radicalization: Advanced Primary Data Acquisition, Analysis and Modeling

University of Waterloo

For this study, researchers are collecting information about the background, experiences and perspectives of Western foreign fighters, their families, friends and online supporters along with the role of social media in their recruitment. In particular, this project seeks to increase our understanding of why Canadians and other Westerners became involved in the conflict in Syria and Iraq. The goal is to build a model showing the various pathways along which an individual may radicalize to violence. Findings from this project will help guide the development of Canadian programs to prevent violent extremism as well as the creation of training materials for law enforcement and government officials.

Public Perceptions on Radicalization and Resilience to Violence in Canada

Association for Canadian Studies

The Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) conducted a public opinion survey with Canadians on topics such as identity, immigration, religion, integration, and the experience of hate incidents. Respondents were also asked about their views on terrorism, radicalization to violence, and the government initiatives to counter-terrorism and counter radicalization to violence. This survey provides updated data about Canadians' points of view that can be compared to other surveys conducted by the ACS on similar topics since 2012.

Findings from this survey, including comparisons with data from previous years (<http://www.ciim.ca/en/survey.php>), can help inform government programming on these issues as well as public messaging and outreach campaigns. Results can also help community leaders, frontline workers and practitioners in this area to better understand and respond to the incidents of radicalization to violence. These survey findings are public, and include results such as: 1) Canadians generally think that Canada's efforts to fight terrorism are more effective than international efforts; and 2) Canadians worry more about terrorist activities abroad than at home.

Needs Assessment: Digital Shepherds Canada – Building the capacity of civil society & CRV practitioners to assess and engage with vulnerability online

Moonshot CVE

Moonshot CVE (<http://moonshotcve.com/>) carried out an assessment from January to March 2017 to understand the gaps and opportunities in using the Internet and social media to counter radicalization to violence in Canada. The project included a literature review to better understand the nature of the online challenge as it relates to individuals' vulnerability to recruitment; a questionnaire to consider the digital literacy of practitioners; interviews with over 75 experts and practitioners on current online capabilities and online efforts for countering radicalization; and workshops with practitioners to examine local needs and opportunities.

A condensed version of the project report (PDF) (<https://moonshotcve.com/canadacvneedsassessment/>) outlines the scope of the online challenge, the local offline and online CVE processes in major cities, and opportunities and recommendations for better using the Internet to counter radicalization to violence in Canada. Some of the recommendations include: (a) using online advertising to nudge at-risk individuals towards resources that offer help; and (b) conducting personalized interventions through the Internet.

Canada Evidence-based Practitioners Network (CEPN): Mapping assets, assessing scientific knowledge, and developing shared national resources for the prevention of violent radicalization

Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

This project aims to increase Canada's capacity to assess, prevent and intervene with individuals at risk of radicalizing to violence. The project has three objectives: (1) examining the level of collaboration among existing programs across Canada for countering radicalization to violence; (2) strengthening partnerships across sectors and regions and developing networks to support interventions; and (3) producing and distributing information, resources, training, and tools for prevention, assessment, and intervention against radicalization to violence.

Training materials produced from this project will support the growing community of professional practitioners in the health and social services, as well as non-governmental organizations in Canada involved in the assessment, prevention and intervention with individuals at risk of radicalizing to violence.

Design and Performance: Developing Canadian Partnerships for Countering Violent Extremism

Ryerson University

Ryerson University will examine and evaluate the performance of multi-agency approaches to counter radicalization to violence in Canada. Multi-agency approaches involve collaboration among a range of sectors, such as social and health services, law enforcement, education, and community-based organizations. Representatives of these sectors analyze complex cases of individuals potentially at a high risk of criminality or harm, and design interventions tailored to the individuals and their local contexts.

This project will draw on national and international best practices to develop an evaluation approach for measuring the progress of multi-agency efforts in Canada. Ryerson will in turn use this tool to engage with networks of stakeholders involved in these programs, assess how they are working together, and evaluate the operation and performance of multi-agency programs currently operating in Canada. These findings will help inform and improve current practice in Canada, and will also guide the Canada Centre's national strategy to counter radicalization to violence.

Implementing Social Pedagogical Practices via the SOMEONE (Social Media Education Every Day) Multimedia Portal

Concordia University

Project SOMEONE (<http://projectsomeone.ca/>) aims to improve the way educators, media, government and the general public address hate speech and radicalization to violence through a focus on the roles of public communication and the Internet. The Project SOMEONE team has analyzed patterns of online hate speech and developed a total of 11 projects and associated educational materials that can be used in elementary, secondary and post-secondary classroom

settings. Their objective is to build resilience against hate speech and radicalization leading to violence among students. These materials are hosted on the Project SOMEONE website and are available for use by educators.

Project SOMEONE's current work aims to widen the availability of these resources to national and international audiences, and to evaluate their impact for future improvement. This work also engages with partners in the media to provide the public an opportunity to contribute towards creating alternative narratives to the messages of hate and radicalization.

CVE e-Learning Project and Situation Tables – E-Learn and Manual Translation (Two Projects)

Ontario Provincial Police

Wilfrid Laurier University partnered with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to support the creation and application of training programs (<https://www.wlu.ca/academics/faculties/faculty-of-human-and-social-sciences/centre-for-public-safety-and-well-being/situation-table.html>) for law enforcement officers and community partners in countering radicalization to violence across the province.

The first project is a bilingual online digital tool that will help increase awareness about radicalization to violence. The tool gathers and presents current knowledge on processes of radicalization to violence, describes approaches to countering radicalization to violence that have proven effective, and incorporates case-studies relevant to the Canadian context.

The second project is the French translation of an online training manual on developing multi-agency approaches to counter radicalization to violence. The translated manual discusses how to create guidelines, training programs and structures for multi-agency initiatives capable of addressing high risk cases and incorporates perspectives from the Franco-Ontario community.

Bridging the Gap: An Evidence-based Approach and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in the Application of the Public Health Model for Monitoring Online Risk Factors in Support of Community Based Preventing Violent Extremism in Canada

SecDev Foundation

The SecDev Foundation examined the current state of online violent extremist content and activity, and discussed its results at an event held March 6-7, 2017. Entitled “Women, Technology, Partnerships: Countering Terrorist Use of the Internet (<https://preventviolentextremism.info/events/women-technology-partnerships-countering-terrorist-use-internet>),” the event brought together international and non-governmental organization

representatives, officials, academic experts, and social media companies to discuss international efforts and public-private partnership approaches for preventing radicalization to violence, with a special focus on the role of women.

Conversations at the workshop focused on the importance of linking offline and online prevention efforts; learning from other fields of prevention; and incorporating a gender-specific focus.

Information collected from these activities will inform the Canada Centre's policy, research, and practice on extremist and terrorist use of the Internet.

Calgary ReDirect

Calgary Police Service

ReDirect (<http://www.redirectprogram.ca/>) aims to increase and improve collaboration among local partners including the City of Calgary, Calgary Community & Neighborhood Services, Calgary Police Service and community actors and organizations in early prevention and intervention for youth who are vulnerable to radicalization to violence. The program also supports the sharing of best practices with other prevention and intervention efforts across Canada.

Funding for ReDirect will help expand the program's capability to identify youth who are at a high-risk of becoming radicalized to violence, and provide individually-tailored support plans to redirect them away from potentially dangerous activity. This funding will also support partners and communities to address broader issues that lead to radicalization to violence.

The Resiliency Project

Edmonton Police Service

For this project, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) has partnered with the City of Edmonton and the Organization for the Prevention of Violence (supported through a separate Community Resilience Fund award) to create a number of programs to bolster community resilience to radicalization to violence both offline and online.

The overall goal is to proactively build trust and mutual understanding with communities and micro-communities (e.g., youth, women, youth-at-risk). This project will focus on education and awareness raising, creating counter-narratives and training modules that will increase the capacity of EPS and community stakeholders to support individuals at high-risk of radicalizing to violence.

Organization for the Prevention of Violence

CVE in Alberta – Assessing and Addressing the Problem of Radicalization to Violence

The Organization for the Prevention of Violence (OPV) will bring together subject matter experts, frontline practitioners, and community activists to assess potential sources of violent extremism in Alberta.

This project will assess the local context and current trends in the following domains: 1) identification of the level of radicalization to violence for different forms of extremism; 2) identification of risk and protective factors for violent extremism; and 3) identification of important capabilities of government and non-government organizations to counter violent extremism in Alberta.

The project activities will include conducting workshops, focus groups, and designing educational materials and intervention procedures. Findings from the OPV's work will be provided to practitioners, community members and other stakeholders to guide their work in countering radicalization to violence.

Ottawa MERIT (Multiagency Early Risk Intervention Tables)

Ottawa Police Service

Ottawa Police Service will expand Ottawa MERIT (<https://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/news-and-community/MERIT.asp>), a collaborative intervention program involving multiple local agencies. This program focuses on community development, education, prevention, and risk mitigation through early intervention. The goal is to better help individuals in need by creating an efficient system that can increase the delivery of social services. The expansion will broaden the prevention work in Ottawa, including by building in resources to address cases of radicalization to violence. Funding will be used to assess local needs, train frontline officers and practitioners, measure program performance, and build awareness by engaging with the public through public relations campaigns.

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