Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Substack essay's claim that Sikh officials share a "conflict of interest" is misleading

A 3 September 2026 essay on royalendeavour.substack.com asserts that Sikhs in Canadian public life "display the most blatant conflict of interest," citing three unrelated figures. The Lab's review finds the claim misleading and unsupported: the only link between the cases is the religion of the people involved.

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3 September 2026

NARRATIVES
Claims That Sikhs Are Taking Over Public Institutions

OUR ASSESSMENT

A Substack essay published 3 September 2026 argues Canada's decline stems from progressive policy and immigration. In a section on conflicts of interest it states that Sikhs "display the most blatant conflict of interest," citing three Sikh public figures. The three cases are unconnected. A party leader's position on a foreign political movement, a defence minister's evacuation decisions in Kabul, and three MPs travelling to Punjab involve different people, different portfolios and different years. What links them in the essay is the religion of the people involved — the phrase "another Sikh" makes that explicit. Sikhs have served in Canadian public life since the 1990s across every major party. No Canadian body including not the Ethics Commissioner, not the Foreign Interference Commission has found that Sikh Canadians hold office to serve an ethnic agenda. The Commission's actual finding regarding this community is the reverse: that agents of the Government of India target Sikhs in Canada. The essay is entitled to argue about immigration policy. Asserting that an identifiable religious minority holds public office for ulterior ethnic reasons is a claim about people, not policy, and no evidence is offered for it.

THE CLAIM

Canada: A Liberal Potemkin Village

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 3 September 2026, the Substack publication *royalendeavour.substack.com* published an essay titled "Canada: A Liberal Potemkin Village," described by its author as an account of "how Canada maintains its reputation as the 'ideal liberal democracy' in contradiction to economic and social decline." The publication's stated origin is the United States.

The essay's broad argument is that Canadian decline stems from progressive policy and immigration. That is a political argument, and the essay is entitled to make it.

What it claims

In a section dealing with conflicts of interest, the essay asserts that Sikhs "display the most blatant conflict of interest" in Canadian public life. It supports the assertion by citing three Sikh public figures, among them former NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, whom the post describes as having been "associated with Sikh radical separatism in India."

The three examples are introduced in sequence, with the phrase "another Sikh" used to move from one to the next.

What the review found

The Lab's analyst assessed the item as disinformation, with the nuance *misleading*, a severity of 3 out of 5, and a finding of factual inaccuracy.

The central problem is the framing. The three cases cited are unconnected. A party leader's stated position on a foreign political movement, a defence minister's evacuation decisions in Kabul, and three MPs travelling to Punjab involve different individuals, different portfolios and different years. No common decision, file or institution links them. What the essay offers as the connecting thread is the religion of the people involved, and the phrase "another Sikh" makes that explicit.

A pattern requires more than shared identity. Grouping unrelated events because the people involved belong to the same faith community is not evidence of a conflict of interest; it is a restatement of the community's presence in public life.

The record

Sikhs have served in Canadian public life since the 1990s, across every major political party. No Canadian body has found that Sikh Canadians hold office in order to serve an ethnic agenda. The Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner has made no such finding. Neither has the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference.

The Foreign Interference Commission's actual finding with respect to this community runs in the opposite direction: that agents of the Government of India target Sikhs in Canada. The essay's framing inverts that record, casting members of a targeted community as the source of divided loyalty rather than as its object.

Why it matters

The distinction here is between argument and allegation. Criticism of immigration levels, of a particular minister's handling of a particular evacuation, or of an MP's foreign travel are all claims about policy and conduct, and all are open to debate on the evidence.

Asserting that an identifiable religious minority holds public office for ulterior ethnic reasons is a claim about people rather than policy. It attributes motive to a group on the basis of faith. The essay offers no evidence for that claim, and none exists in the findings of the Canadian bodies empowered to make it.

The Lab has logged the item under the Claims That Sikhs Are Taking Over Public Institutions narrative, which tracks material advancing the proposition that Sikh Canadians in public life act on behalf of a foreign or ethnic agenda rather than their constituents.

Verdict

Misleading. The essay's underlying political argument about immigration policy is within the bounds of ordinary debate. Its specific assertion that Sikhs in Canadian public life "display the most blatant conflict of interest" is not supported by the examples given, which share no connection other than the religion of the individuals named, and is contradicted by the absence of any such finding from Canadian ethics or foreign-interference authorities.

> Calling the assertion that “diversity is our strength” into further question are the numerous scandals involving individuals in positions of influence exercising blatant conflicts of interest motivated by their ethnic backgrounds. There was the former leader of the NDP Jagmeet Singh, who was associated with Sikh radical separatism in India. There was also the former Liberal Party defence minister Harjit Sajjan, another Sikh, who during the evacuation of Kabul in 2021, redirected resources designated to evacuating Canadian citizens to evacuating Afghan Sikhs instead. Then there was the case of three Sikh MPs from the Conservative Party travelling to Punjab to meet with Sikh leaders who expressed an opposition to calls for stricter rules regarding student visas in Canada.

The passage that opens the essay's section on institutional corruption. Sikhs are named first and called "the most blatant," then used as the benchmark for every other group that follows. — Source: screenshot from the article

SOURCES

01 https://royalendeavour.substack.com/p/canada-a-liberal-potemkin-village

02 The Lab's analyst review, flagged item "Canada: A Liberal Potemkin Village" (the Claims That Sikhs Are Taking Over Public Institutions narrative)

03 Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions — findings regarding targeting of Sikhs in Canada by agents of the Government of India

04 Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner (Canada) — no finding cited in the item

Sikh Disinformation Lab

About Sikh Disinformation Lab

Sikh Disinformation Lab is an independent, evidence-based programme founded and hosted by the World Sikh Organization of Canada. It monitors, analyses and publicly documents disinformation affecting Sikhs.

The Lab examines claims against evidence, publishes assessments with that evidence attached, and tracks coordinated campaigns over time. Every published assessment names what was claimed, where it appeared, what the review found, and what that assessment rests on. Where an item makes several distinct claims, each is assessed separately.

Assessments are made against the methodology framework in force at the time of publication. That framework is public, versioned, and reviewed at each phase gate; a material change produces a new version rather than a silent edit. The full method is published at sikhdisinfolab.ca/method.

Corrections are dated entries, never silent edits. Where a published assessment is found to be wrong or incomplete, the correction is recorded against it and listed at sikhdisinfolab.ca/corrections. If you believe something published here is inaccurate, write to the programme and it will be reviewed.

Assessments are the responsibility of Sikh Disinformation Lab.

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