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1918 Influenza in Canadian Newspapers

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How do diseases get their name? How do these names influence the way they are reported? The deadliest pandemic in recent history, the so-called “Spanish Flu,” was given its name due to Spain’s transparent reporting of the pandemic during a time of war-era censorship. For the past 100 years, the devastation caused by this event has been associated with the nation and its people due to its misnomer worldwide. This dissertation employs archival research of Canadian newspapers from 1918-1920 to find and analyze visual depictions of the pandemic concerning its Spanish connection (i.e., use of Spanish words or Spanish iconography, such as matadors). Upon its completion, this work will contribute to the scholarship on the negative implications of naming a disease after a geographical region or group of people.