



**September 14, 2015** – Toronto, Canada

**Statement on the release of the final rules and format for the Monday, September 28 Munk Debate on Canada’s Foreign Policy.**

“This morning we provided the participating parties with the final rules and format for the Munk Debate on Canada’s Foreign Policy. The parties have until noon tomorrow to indicate their acceptance of the debate’s rules and format. Parties who do not respond within the allotted time will forfeit their place in the debate.

Regarding the issue of the use of French and English in our debate: Our final proposal allows debate participants to speak in either official language when they want, and for as long as they want, throughout the debate. Simultaneous translation will be available for the entire debate proceedings whether the audience is present at Roy Thomson Hall, watching on television, watching on the web or following the Munk Debate’s social media feeds. In short, the debate’s approach to the use of French and English is identical to that of the House of Commons. We believe that an event organized along these lines more than satisfies the request that the debate be bilingual.

We are grateful for the improvements suggested by the parties in the preparation of the debate’s final format. We sincerely hope that each party – in the spirit of compromise and in appreciation of what is in the public’s interest – will agree to take part in the debate. If there ever was a time to have an election debate on Canada’s foreign policy, it is now.”

- Rudyard Griffiths, Chair, The Munk Debates.

The Munk Election Debate on Canada’s Foreign Policy, Canada’s first-ever federal election debate devoted to foreign policy issues, is scheduled to take place on **Monday, September 28 at 7:00 PM EDT** at Toronto’s **Roy Thomson Hall**.

The Munk Debate will be broadcast in French and English via CPAC and through an online distribution and broadcast partnership with Facebook Canada. Viewers can also watch the debate live via [www.munkdebates.com](http://www.munkdebates.com) in French or English. A broadcast-quality feed of the debate will be made available to other networks who wish to carry it.

For more information on the Munk Debates please visit [www.munkdebates.com](http://www.munkdebates.com).

Media inquiries and interview requests should be directed to:

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# **THE MUNK DEBATE ON CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY**

## **FORMAT**

### **TIMING**

Monday 28, 2015  
Roy Thomson Hall - Toronto  
7pm - 9pm ET

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Stephen Harper  
Thomas Mulcair  
Justin Trudeau

### **MODERATOR**

Rudyard Griffiths

### **SET**

The leaders will stand behind lecterns on stage before a live audience of approximately 3,000 consisting of members of the Munk Debates.

Some members of the audience will be seated on the wings of stage.

The leader's lectern positions will be decided by draw.

There will be a stool behind each lectern.

Each leader and up to four campaign staff will be afforded private time on the afternoon of the debate to see the set, check lighting, cameras, wardrobe, and visit the dressing room if time permits.

The times for the private visits will be set in advance by draw.

Private time is not a media event and times will not be made public.

If there are any concerns that arise during the visit, they should be brought to the attention of the executive producer.

He will endeavor to find a solution. His decisions are final.

## **DEBATE FORMAT**

There will be 6 major segments in the debate, divided by 3 smaller segments taking part at the mid-point of the debate.

Each major segment will begin with a question from the moderator to one of the leaders. That leader will have up to ninety seconds to answer. A countdown clock will be in visual range of the leader to help guide their use of the allotted time.

Once that leader has answered there will be a one-on-one debate with another leader. This will run approximately 7 minutes, but could run longer or shorter based on the moderator's and producer's assessment of how the debate is flowing.

Then the third leader will join the debate for another 5 minutes. Again, this is an approximate timing.

The moderator may ask supplementary questions at any time to keep the debate flowing and on topic.

Each leader will handle the lead-off question twice. Each leader will debate each other leader one-on-one, twice.

The three smaller segments will begin with a question to one of the leaders. That leader will have about 45 seconds to answer. This will not be timed precisely, but if the leader goes much beyond 45 seconds, the moderator will step in to bring in the other leaders.

Once the answer is given, there will be three-way debate for about 4 minutes.

## **LANGUAGE**

Leaders have the opportunity to speak in the language of their choice at any time during the debate.

The moderator will speak in the language of his choice at any time in the debate.

The audience seated in Roy Thompson Hall will be able to see video projection screens with closed caption translation for French to English.

The audience watching the television or web broadcast will have the choice of French only voice and closed caption translation of the debate or an English only voice and closed caption translation of the debate.

## **MODERATOR'S ROLE**

The moderator will be Rudyard Griffiths, Chair of the Munk Debates.

The moderator will have sole discretion over the flow of the debate.

The moderator will ensure that each leader has a reasonable and fair opportunity to be heard during each topical segment.

The leaders will respect each other's right to speak in order to make points uninterrupted.

## **PREPARATION**

Munk Debates will provide a general list of the topics to be covered during the debates.

This information will be provided to the leaders no later than 10 days prior to the debate.

## **OTHER DETAILS**

The leaders will be allowed to bring on stage pens and blank paper or cards for note taking. No other print or electronic resources will be permitted.

Each leader will be provided with a dressing room and a staff room

Makeup will be provided by each campaign.

Up to four staff may accompany the leader backstage, plus immediate family, security detail and makeup.

A dedicated media room will be provided and the campaigns will have access to this facility only after the debate is over.

Each campaign will have the opportunity to participate in a post-debate scrum. The order of the scrums will be drawn by lot. Only the party leader will be allowed to speak at the post-debate scrum.

Each scrum will last approximately 5 minutes.

## **COPYRIGHT**

Munk Debates has production and editorial control over the debate.

Munk Debates owns the copyright for the debate.