

Federal Election - Science & Tech Candidates' Debate

7-9 pm, Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Bob Wright Centre, University of Victoria [\[map\]](#)

Website: <http://tiny.ca/SciTechDebate> Live-stream: <http://tiny.cc/SciTechLiveStream>

DEBATE FORMAT

Timing may vary slightly. See live-stream webpage for approximate time of each statement and question.

6:00 pm – Set-Up: Volunteers and candidates start to arrive, campaigns tabling in foyer

7:00 pm – Welcome from Kenya Rogers, UVic Students Society External Relations

7:05 pm – Welcome from Aerin Jacob, Postdoctoral Fellow and Lead Organizer

7:10 pm – Intro from guest moderator Bob McDonald, host of CBC's Quirks & Quarks

7:15 pm – Opening candidates' statements (2 minutes each)

7:20 pm – Start questions posed by moderator (see below)

Each candidate will have 60 seconds to answer the question, followed by 2-3 min discussion.

8:15 pm – Brief break, stretch, start audience questions

8:45 pm – Closing candidates' statements (2 minutes each)

8:50 pm – Conclusion from Bob McDonald

9:00 pm – End

DEBATE THEMES & QUESTIONS

Questions may not necessarily be asked in this order. Wording may slightly differ, but content will remain the same. Depending on time, moderator may choose not to ask all questions.

Science communication

1. What steps would you take to support open science communication between government scientists, journalists, the public, and policy-makers?

Science literacy

2. What efforts would you make to improve science literacy among both Canadian students and the public to help us make informed decisions about the future?

Technologies of tomorrow

3. Scientists agree that the majority of known fossil fuel resources must stay in the ground to avoid more than a 2°C increase in global temperatures¹. Given the limits to a ‘techno-fix’², what technological and social approaches would your government focus on to mitigate and adapt to climate change?

Diversity in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)

4. In 2012, the *Canadian Council of Academies*³ reported that Canadian women are under-represented in senior positions in all facets of our society, including science, politics, law, medicine, the arts, business, and academia. Is this an issue? If so, what strategies would you use to increase the representation of women and minorities in these fields, particularly science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)?

Science advice to policy-makers

5. What steps would you take to ensure that the policy advice provided to Ministers by Canada’s public service is based on the highest quality research and analysis? And, as an MP, to whom or where would you go to obtain that science advice about policy decisions?

Research priorities

6. Federal research agencies are mandated to conduct research on issues affecting Canadians and to contribute to innovation in the private sector. What should be the balance between fundamental/‘curiosity-driven’ research versus applied/‘industry-relevant’ research funding from the federal government?

Science and the economy

7. Innovation and transfer of knowledge are important economic development vectors. What initiatives would you pursue to foster entrepreneurship in science and technology?

Use of science in developing policy

8. How should the federal government balance using scientific information, social needs, traditional knowledge, the economy, and the environment in developing policy?

Statistics Canada and collecting data

9. All opposition parties have stated they would re-instate the mandatory long-form census. What additional or alternative steps would you take to ensure the ability of Statistics Canada to collect and publish high quality social, health, economic and environmental data?

¹ <http://earthstatement.org/>

² <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/aug/03/stop-burning-fossil-fuels-now-no-co2-technofix-climate-change-oceans>

³ <http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/completed/women-researchers.aspx>