



**Debating 101 with Derek & Rick Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, May 7th, 2022**

**9:00pm - 9:10pm: Debating Tips & Tricks - Rick**

- Know your platform, and have cheat notes, index it so you can flip to relevant sections quickly.
- Know what the format of the debate is, and the order of speaking (they will likely reverse the order on the next question).
- Find out if there is going to be a rebuttal. Eg, ask a question to one candidate, and if you are the next person, they will ask for your thoughts and/or go after you.
- Stay positive!
- If you can't respond to a question when you get your next question - "I'm happy to answer, but before I do, I want to go back and reference what candidate X said on topic X, and clear the air."
- **Opening and closing statements:** find out how long you have to raise your profile, don't bore them with your educational background, but tell them things you are doing, and maybe even "this is why I got involved in politics". **Make it tight**, you will likely have 2 min. With your closing, you want to go out with a bang! Don't get flowery and thank everyone, **go after Ford**, because this is why we are doing what we are doing. If you want, have them written out. There is nothing wrong with having your notes and reading them. **If you have done your homework and your words are succinct, you will have an opportunity to wow the audience.**
- In some debates, there are spectators. **Make sure you get supporters at your debates.** They will lay out the rules for supporters, but this is up to moderators.
- You may find that as you are explaining or responding to a question, you see someone shaking their head: ignore that person. You will get tongue-tied and you will try to save that person. People that come to debates already have made up their minds. Get your supporters and look at them!
- When the debate is done online it's easier because you can have all your notes, and know where you are at.
- **Key debates:** chamber of commerce (televised), radio (a huge listening audience)
- **Debates to avoid:** educational debates aren't friendly to us; teachers are canvassing for NDP. Take this night and canvass while everyone else is debating. Health care may be another bad debate. Labour is difficult.
  - You could also decide which ones you want to go to and issue a statement: "my team is only allowing me to attend these debates..." due to time constraints.
- Finances: The Ford team has punished a lot of future generations. It was a pep rally and Christmas wish list. This is spending like a liberal! The budget was never debated and never approved. They don't care about that. Take advantage of this!
- In debate, remember what Ford campaigned on when he started: the sex-ed curriculum. Promise made, promise broken. He never delivered on this either.



- You need to be able to go after Ford who wants us all to forget about the past 2 years. Just remember they killed thousands of small businesses and hurt us tremendously with lots of lost jobs.

### **Restricted Debating:**

As a party, we are aware that many candidates are not being allowed to participate in debates because the OP doesn't have an elected member at Queens Park. We are looking into this to see if there is anything we can do. **Get supporters from your riding to contact the people running debates, have them advocate for you** and see if this would help. Keep an eye out if New Blue candidates are being allowed at debates and we are not. This is not everybody, and this is not all debates. If you aren't invited, use this to your advantage. **Make a fuss about not being invited and how they are deliberately trying to cancel you.** This will attract some people. If you are not invited, hold your own event (i.e. Facebook live event), answer questions as if you were in the debate, and stream it live, answering questions you want to answer. Get all your friends to share it, and make a big deal about it: I wasn't allowed, they are trying to silence us because they don't like our message.

### **9:10 pm - 9:15 pm: Knowing the Difference Between Federal, Provincial, & Municipal Topics – Derek**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/intergovernmental-affairs/services/federation/distribution-legislative-powers.html>

- Section 91-93 of the constitution act of 1867. You don't need to know this, but you should know if the subject is federal or provincial.
- If someone is complaining about something outside of our wheelhouse, it's okay to say "thanks for bringing that."
- Don't memorize, but get into a place where you recognize what jurisdiction issues relate to. Some of the major issues to be aware of:
  - Municipal: the province creates statutes, municipalities don't have authority outside of what the province gives them. They have their own taxation (property tax) and control things like roads, fire, roads, sewers, and other local services.
  - Provincial: health care, education, direct tax in province, sale of lands in public lands, prisons (different than penitentiaries), hospitals, formalization of marriage, property and civil rights, incorporation of companies, natural resources etc.
  - Federal: criminal law, foreign affairs, public debt and property, regulation of trade and commerce, EI, direct and indirect tax, Canada Post, census and stats, defence, navigation and quarantine, international affairs, banking, weights and measures, bankruptcy, Indians and Indian reserves, fishing, citizenship, marriage and divorce, criminal law, penitentiary, works that connect provinces, airlines.  
Shared: old-age pension, immigration, and agriculture



**9:15 pm - 9:30 pm: How do Candidates Answer Questions the Ontario Party Does not Have a Formal Policy on? - Derek & Ashley**

\*You can speak generally if the Ontario Party doesn't have a policy on it. Feel free to throw in your own knowledge about this.

\*There are always going to be things we won't have a policy for. If they raise a question and you have an idea for what you would like to support doing, you can always switch to, **'I will advocate for...'** and then say it. This helps you speak for yourself as a local representative. You don't have to regurgitate everything that comes from HQ.

\*There's always going to be something in these debates that you don't know. Don't admit you don't know. Speak in general terms, and try to get the gist of what they're saying. At the end of the day, it's your time, "I think those programs are important, but I also think this is important...."

- **Homelessness:** *Its clear housing is out of reach for many, and homelessness is increasing. We believe we need to help the most vulnerable, and affordable housing for people to utilize. We have a great policy to make sure housing prices are in line. We also want to make sure we take care of the most vulnerable amongst us and ensure that they have a place to sleep. Obviously, homelessness is often interlinked with mental illness, and we need to make sure we take care of that as well.*
- **ODSP (other forms of social support):** *As a principle, the Ontario Party wants to ensure we are helping those that need it, but providing a system where we are moving people towards a system where they are able to stand on their own feet and have employment where that is a possibility. We need to provide support, but the system in place is penalizing people for actually getting work. We need to make sure our programs have incentives to work, and incentives to get off those programs.*
- **Climate Change/Environment:** *This is something that is on the minds of so many Ontarians. We believe with environmental issues, we need to focus on things that actually work, and make for cleaner air, cleaner water and cleaner soil. Most of the plans are about taxation without results. One example is stopping raw sewage dumping into our lakes and rivers. We dump billions of litres; we need to stop this by providing funds to help municipalities deal with storm surges and flows.*
- **Cost of Living:** *It's a fact, and I'm glad you raised that because we are facing an epidemic of inflation. Families and people can't afford to live the life that their parents could. It's a problem. Our party stands against big gov spending that has caused this problem. The second way that they've caused this is by intentionally disrupting the supply chain around the world, and also destroying the standard of living through their massive gov deficit spending. We will reverse, and*



target sources of inflation. We don't believe foreign investors should be owning homes and inflating rent prices for those who live here.

- **COVID Recovery:** Ontario Party stands for opening Ontario to business. We shut down for 2 years on scant evidence that many studies are showing was harmful and destructive. We want to make sure we are getting people back to business and costs are low to bring business back, red tape to a minimum, and ensure people can afford to work and live in the places they want to live. This means bringing down the cost of living.
  - **Addiction/Mental Health Crisis:** It's true they have been with us since the dawn of time, but what we are seeing now has to do with the fact that the good life is hard to reach. They are unable to find good work, and unable to afford homes to live in. During the lockdown, people were shut in and isolated and this is a recipe for mental illness. We saw eating disorders and addiction sky rocking. We will never do this again, we will make this place a place of hope, where people can afford to live and work again, to make sure people have hope again.
  - **Pro-Life v Pro-Choice:** If you have an answer, use it, but otherwise point to our policy.
  - **LGBT/Indigenous:** Flip it and make it an argument about identity politics: our policies are freedom-based and don't need to be targeted. Freedom stands on its own. We're for everyone and our policies speak for themselves.
  - **Child Care:** Focus on personal choice for parents. We are in favour of a program that gives them access to funding whether they are taking care at home with a relative or any other situation they choose. We don't agree in principle that everyone should be shipped off to daycare.
  - **Indigenous People:** Believe all Ontarians should have the ability and right to operate their lives, earn a living, afford a place to live in Ontario, and Indigenous have been suffering along with others in Ontario. Land agreements are negative, that is federal. We are happy to listen but this is a federal issue.
  - **Guns:** We are in favour of legal gun ownership and supportive of this. Many candidates are legal owners and are in favour. Never going to see a handgun ban come from us. Fact is, all we can do is make it worse, we can't undo what feds have done, and push back on whatever we can.
  - **Energy Corridor Provincial vs. Federal:** It's a fact that feds would have a say in this project, but if you got the other provinces on board, it could happen. Feds have to sign off, but it doesn't mean we can't push for it.
  - **Raising the Minimum Wage:** Job creation and economic recovery - We want to make sure we never go into lockdowns again and create more opportunities in ON, so supply chain issues are less of a problem. Energy jobs: energy corridor would be created, but again, a lot has to do with bringing manufacturing to ON, getting rid of red tape, etc.
- Our party won't have a position, share your opinion. We need to deal with the inflation issue.
- **"The Ontario Party is Racist":** Share with them photos of candidates. We represent all backgrounds and skin colours. Calling someone racist is one of the worst things, take them to task for it. This is a strong allegation, and to make it recklessly is outrageous. Show them Derek and his family!