

August 29, 2021

Leaders Debate Commission
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Attention: David Johnston, head of Leaders Debate Commission

Dear Mr Johnston,

2021 Federal Election - Special Climate Emergency Leadership Debate

Canadians deserve a chance to assess whether those who seek national leadership understand the severity of the climate crisis, and how they plan to combat it. The climate crisis is an urgent existential threat. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made clear recently that the world is running out of time. The dangers that scientists predicted are now happening and will get worse. If we fail to act quickly on the climate crisis, then over the course of the coming decades, things get horrific — a world that is unlivable and catastrophic for many, deeply uncomfortable and disruptive for all others, and quite possibly ungovernable. The financial costs, already high, will become unimaginable. Unless immediate, rapid and large scale reductions of greenhouse gas emissions are undertaken, humankind won't be able to limit global warming to 2 C, a disastrous outcome.

If this were an election during the Second World War, no one would question the need for a special leaders' debate on that subject. Today, the need for a designated leaders' debate on the climate emergency is no different. It is not a luxury or a diversion: it is a necessity.

We respectfully ask you, as head of the Leaders Debate Commission, to hold a special Climate Emergency Leadership Debate as part of the 2021 federal election.

Sincerely,