

Sandy [00:00:24] Hey, Nora.

Nora [00:00:24] Hey, Sandy,

Sandy [00:00:26] Is that tenor of hey, Sandy, the excitement, the level of excitement, does it reflect the level of excitement that you have now that the debates have happened and. You've been able to get the requisite level of excitement that the parties want you to be for this election.

Nora [00:00:46] Well, sorry, what election are you talking about?

Sandy [00:00:49] What election am I talking about? There seems to be like a pretty serious one happening right now at the federal level.

Nora [00:00:57] No, has not has not made me excited. I have to say that I'm more excited about how much laundry I did this past weekend.

Sandy [00:01:08] Oh, must have been. A regular amount?

Nora [00:01:14] No, it was it was a lot. That's a good point. No, I'm not excited. You excited? I mean, you voted already, so none of this even matters to you.

Sandy [00:01:24] Do you know that I voted already?

Nora [00:01:25] Well, you announced last week that you got the ballot in the mail.

Sandy [00:01:28] That doesn't mean I voted.

Nora [00:01:29] Don't you have a deadline before, like, has to get to Canada before, like September 20th?

Sandy [00:01:33] I think I have a couple of days to do that.

Nora [00:01:36] Yeah, I'm just assuming over here you don't

Sandy [00:01:41] know me, and I sent it in.

Nora [00:01:47] OK. Yes, I did. Right.

Sandy [00:01:51] No, I'm not fucking excited. What do you mean it's this is ridiculous. I still I, I am I have never been more stunned at our capacity for non excitement in Canada.

Nora [00:02:06] Right. That's a good way to put it.

Sandy [00:02:07] I'm like, wow, we have deep wells. Of capacity for the mundane. And the unimpressive

Nora [00:02:19] yes, although this past weekend was the anniversary of 9/11, the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and Sandy, I watched Fahrenheit 9/11 to bring me back to what happened. Mm hmm.

Sandy [00:02:35] How is that?

Nora [00:02:35] It is such a good documentary. And I completely forgot how close the bushes are to the bin Ladens and how many connexions there were and how much money was made off of this war and how much of a piece of shit George W. Bush's because, of course, he's trying to rehabilitate his image and

Sandy [00:02:52] or I think he's successfully done so, actually. Yes. Outrageous. Yes.

Nora [00:02:57] And the way that Canada retold what happened that day and how Canada looked back, I don't know if you saw anything, but I mostly saw stuff related to Gander, Newfoundland, and not related to the war, the corruption, what it did to the United States. And, oh, the biggest issue, Islamophobia and how Islamophobia and the attack of civil liberties, basically the entire era that we've been living in the last 20 years were all forged in that event. And there didn't seem to be any introspection amongst the Canadian media. Certainly politicians weren't talking about it. And not that I was surprised, but like, it was really disappointing.

Sandy [00:03:36] That's fascinating. I took I watched I did not watch Fahrenheit 9/11, though. I should maybe watch it again. But I watched pretty much every documentary that I could watch this week that was being produced in the U.S. because I became kind of interested in. What kind of propaganda would be created in year 20 and so I watched the Netflix ones, there's Hulu and there's ABC ones like I watch them all and I like to compare them to one another because I just think that it's, you know, normally if I mean, if I was in Canada, I wouldn't unless I had a VPN, have had access to seeing all of these things as they come out immediately. And I will say that there's a Netflix documentary called The Turning Point, which I assumed was going to be. Full on propaganda, it's not it starts the story in the 70s with the Soviet Union and it completes the story with and we're still in Afghanistan, essentially. I think it's a good watch. I remember the way that I felt after watching Fahrenheit 9/11, and I felt similarly after watching a turning point. But it is. It is I watched another one that I would not recommend because it's propaganda. But it did. It did. It was a PBS one. And it did mention or make the proposition, which I found really interesting. And what led me down, this spiral of comparing them all that the where we are today in twenty twenty one with respect to conspiracy theories began with September 11. Yes. And I, I think that that is right. Like I think that that is a very you know, the the idea that the government will lie to you became so concretised after the weapons of mass destruction were found to be such a lie. It was like said everywhere. It was like the biggest, most obvious breach of trust of of a government. And still, governments all over the world said, we're with you, America. Right. And, you know, of course, that makes you think, well, what the fuck is

real? And with the, you know, the original Internet era conspiracy theory being 9/11 truthers and what it means, what how long or how deep that has impacted the culture up until today. It's I think it was a really compelling wow statement.

Nora [00:06:36] It's while you're talking I just remembered that I used to regularly get mailed to me handwritten letters that were like 50 pages long about how 9/11 was an inside job. And they thought that the random president of the local student union was the person that would want all of this information. I totally forgot what those letters. Yeah, yeah.

Sandy [00:06:59] I mean, obviously.

Nora [00:07:00] Yeah. And then the inside job is always met at like Futures Café in Toronto. And they always had like quite a good turnout and they would talk. And if you're lucky, you got to hear they're talking about, you know, steel beams and Tower seven. And and it is so interesting when you put it into that perspective and then thinking further in Canada, like, I think the conspiracy connexions are very obvious. And of course, there's an entire industry that grew out of promoting these kinds of extreme distrust with of power and of of politicians. But in Canada, like the era of violence against Muslims that started on September 11, 2001, and look at where we are, like hate crimes are through the roof, how many people have died as a result of far right terror and Islamophobic terror, like more than twenty two or something like the fact that no one in this country with any media power thought that this was the anniversary to investigate this, to investigate the connexion between the family murdered in London, the connexion to the shooting at the mosque, the connexion to all of these attacks on black Muslim women in Edmonton. Like it's pretty clear that our mainstream media doesn't get it. And worse than that, it rehabilitates people like David Frum and I. I forget how much I hate David Frum. I have to be honest, because I just can't hate these people all the time. But you watch, like watching Fahrenheit 9/11. It was like, oh, my God. Right. Oh, I knew that. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. And it's like these piece of shit that all aided that that all abetted that have all rehabilitated their existences. None of them lost any money, none of them lost their heads. And we just exist in this world was like it's like there's no history, there's nothing behind us. And so the only people who go and look for the history who are really, really obsessed with it, well, it's pretty easy to fall down that conspiracy trap because there's the reality of the history is hard to believe. And so then, of course, it's easier to believe what isn't true.

Sandy [00:09:02] Yeah. And I think one of the reasons why he likes Turning Point the documentary on Netflix is because the hero of the story is positioned as Barbara Lee, the one congresswoman who voted against going to war and was like, what? You all are bloodlust right now. Like, can you just, like, think for a moment about what we're actually doing, what you're actually seeing, what you're about to do to this country. And yeah, but as you say, it would have been a really good time for Canada to take a look back. And I was taking a look, a closer look at the platforms last week. And I you know, I was looking at whether or not these platforms were interested in taking a look at white supremacy and hatred and guess what the plan is from the ruling party. From the incumbent's. From the liberals,

Nora [00:09:57] they're trying to have like a commission or something

Sandy [00:10:02] that may be part of it, I can't remember that,

Nora [00:10:04] but they I don't know, I just made that up.

Sandy [00:10:06] OK, there is a they say that they will release a plan by 2022.

Nora [00:10:14] Right.

Sandy [00:10:15] Right. Of course, that's the promise to release a plan by 2022. And it's like, man, you know, what a what a way to to be unequivocal about the fact that you don't give a shit. Yeah. Clearly, like you, you have been to the memorials in Quebec City every year. You have just a few months ago spoken about the family that was murdered in London, Ontario. And all of these incidents in between of hate crimes that you know full well about both Islamophobic and otherwise and your promise on this very serious issue, and you're you're seeing the impacts. You're getting shit thrown at you from people on the campaign trail who are connected to white supremacist organising and your promises. At some point soon we will make a promise to you.

Nora [00:11:10] Cool. Sounds like one of those engagements from a guy that's like definitely not going to marry you.

Sandy [00:11:15] Wow. I promise

Nora [00:11:18] a promise to give you a promise ring,

Sandy [00:11:20] but you're a promise ring, but you're not in high school. You're like you've been dating for like 15 years and it's just not.

Nora [00:11:26] Yeah. And you also the power to raise like 50 billion dollars in a year. I mean, I've been watching this past week in the discussion around the People's Party of Canada especially, and it and it's been kind of slowly dawning on me that that seems like one pollster said that it looks like the gains that the CPC is making, there seems to be a commensurate loss in some of the support of the Green Party, which is so fascinating to me, because I think, you know, we could look at and say, well, it's probably white supremacy in the Green Party, eco fascists. And I think that that's probably true for some people. But I also think that these are also just anti-establishment sentiments, period. And you can be anti-establishment from the left and you can anti-establishment from the right. I just did a talk with someone who was saying that their family members who are not white, who are not middle class or wealthy, are talking about voting for the BBC because it's just an outlet. And while it's like it is amazing to think about how the mainstream media has has created this crisis in the way that they refuse to allow credible and reasonable leftwing discourse past their gates, they have no problem with the right wing discourse. But until like unless it is impossible, it is impossible to give the microphone to someone that could actually explain big pharma and can actually explain the pandemic or can

actually explain 9/11 and all of the conspiracies and all of like the conspiracy of global finance. Like, no, no fucking way is anyone who's got a coherent explanation for all of that from a left wing perspective, getting any significant time within mainstream media and through years and years and years of compressing those voices out of of pretty much everywhere. Of course, average people, some average people are going to say, well, you know, the liberals are fucking liars. The conservatives are liars. I'm not a left wing person. And if he's not speaking to me, they're not inspiring me. They're not promising me to change anything significant. Of course, they're going to go towards an anti-establishment sentiment because they don't have anyone that's able to actually explain this in a left wing way. And then when they might understand it, they don't have a left wing option. That's of much, I don't know, use it. But it's fascinating when you start to think about it that way and how intentional this all is and how intentionally narrowed everything has been towards the centre in this country.

Sandy [00:13:48] Absolutely. I fully agree. But, you know, it's not narrow, this podcast or the people who contribute to it. So why don't we thank them?

Nora [00:14:00] Yes. Thank you so much for everybody who's donated for the first time or change their donation this week, we have to say special thanks to Aaron, Derek, Michael, L.J. and Chelsea. Thank you so, so much.

Sandy [00:14:15] Thank you all. So we had like a little bit of a discussion before we started and we were like, do we really want to bore our listeners with a discussion about the debates? And after about two minutes of discussion, we decided, yes, we do, except we will never be boring as so we're going to talk about the debates, the debates, the debates. OK, I did not watch the French language debates, so I can't really respond to those. But Nora, there were more French language debates than there were English debates.

Nora [00:14:51] Yeah, yes. Yeah. I think let's let's step back. Why are we even mentioning these things? Because they were they were useless and no one was actually changing their vote based on what was said on the on the stage.

Sandy [00:15:03] I mean, I don't know if that. No, that's definitely true. Well, we the thing that we find the most interesting about the debates. Goes to who controls the debates, so who controls the debates? It's something called the Debates Commission, the Leaders Debates Commission. This is where the official debates of the elections are controlled. I mean, there could be other debates that are organised by, you know, media outlets or organisations. But this these are the debates that are official. And with the snap election like this one, I don't know how many more debates they're actually going to to to be. So this becomes more important, these official debates. And, you know, we're taking a look like who's who's running the debates this year? Who is on the debates commission? And we notice a name. A name that is very familiar to Nora Loreto. And I won't make a joke about you being buddies like I did on Twitter, but. It's very interesting to us that this person. Is on the board.

Nora [00:16:17] Yeah, yeah, and it's not so much that this individual and we're not going to name him, you can look it up, you'll figure it out pretty quickly who this person is. But the idea that the debates now have to be organised by a federal body that has a chair, who's a who's one of the richest fucking men that's come out of the university sector, Daniel Johnson, who is the former governor general, and that.

Sandy [00:16:40] David.

Nora [00:16:41] David Johnson, I mean, I don't even respect the guys, doesn't fucking matter. And, you know, they must have staff rates. This is a new bureaucratic structure that they've created. And their only job is to to to stick handle this debate thing that we have to have. And I don't know what was the justification in twenty eighteen for having this, but it has certainly tried to take the politics out of the CTV versus global versus the Toronto Star versus Maclean's trying to always get these different guys in different ways and and kind of force broadcasters to work together through a consortium that is managed by this commission. So the commission was in the news last summer. Sandy, I don't know if you remember if it was that why was in the news. But I want to test you on this because it's pretty funny if you don't or if you do. So, the commission made some news headlines last August. We were on a federal election. So do you remember why it made headlines?

Sandy [00:17:36] No, I have no, I don't fucking remember. What was it?

Nora [00:17:39] The we charity scandal was going on and Craig Kielburger was on the Federal Debates Commission.

Sandy [00:17:46] That's right. Right. Oh, it's all flooding back. Yeah.

Nora [00:17:50] Yeah. And so and so people at that time, you know, without the pressure of a debate kind of looming, we're saying like, what is the point of this, what these people actually do and do we actually need this? So anyway, fast forward a year. Kielburger is off. He's been replaced with this person that I know. And so you have an advisory board that's helping the secretariat of two men, two white men. The only the only person connected to media on this is is one counsellor or one member from APTN who used to be the CEO of APTN. Then you have a former two former politicians. You've got Deb Grey, who is of the Reform Party, and Megan Leslie, who is with the NDP. You also, of course, have John Manley, who represents the National Business Council. So the literal business lobby is there. And then you have this guy that I know who has absolutely no business at all being there. From what I can tell, this is an individual who is given a plum bureaucratic position thanks to, oh, trying to take down the student union, which is why I know this individual moves into bureaucracy within a university, let's say, and has I'm going to guess, a relationship with someone whose job was to come up with all the appointments across Canada. That individual also worked at the same university and probably made this long list of people that they can flood boards with liberal sympathisers. That person ends up going on to being an MP. And so now she's elected and she's responsible for like small businesses in Canada. And then you're left with this secretariat that is running the

only English language debate that we have. And there is tons of concerns with everything about this debate. And that's what we're going to get into and what it means for democracy generally. But what I'm most concerned about is like we've outsourced what is actually like the media's job, like journalists job to one corporation and the Angus Reid Institute, because their host, the host of the debate, is like the CEO of the Angus Reid Institute. What?

Sandy [00:19:44] Sorry the moderator of the debate

Nora [00:19:53] so good, Sandy, she was so good, she was so

Sandy [00:19:56] good God, she was awful, awful, absolutely awful. And I just, you know, I, I have a lot of critiques about journalists, too, don't get me wrong. But, you know, at least some of them know how to ask questions and wait for an answer.

Nora [00:20:13] Oh, my God, that was insufferable.

Sandy [00:20:16] That's maybe not Rosie Barton, but except for some of them do.

Nora [00:20:21] Yeah, well, this is that was so bizarre. See how this whole structure this is the only time that we're going to see all five candidates in the same room speaking to each other in English. We can talk about the French debates and a bit. And it was it was I mean, was boring. The format didn't work. And then the questions were so I mean, they were like factual errors. And some of the questions there was like political errors. There was questions that were very clear that were like coming from western Canada. And they were obviously going to land very poorly in Quebec. And in the end of the day, it's like, what did it do? It just is more breeds, more cynicism because you don't get the answer you're looking for, really. And like, do they even read the platforms before they enter these debates and say rather than saying, what will you do about housing? Like you have their platforms, just fucking talk about what they've promised exactly.

Sandy [00:21:12] And ask specific questions, which is what Melissa Rigden from APTN did. I thought that totally, you know, like please have her do all the debates in future. But I mean, just to put a finer point on it, what does it do to say that the CEO of Angus Reid is going to be the person presiding over our federal election debates? It gives us a sense of officialdom to these polls, which many of us I mean, if you don't know, you should know that polls are mostly bullshit, especially because they don't measure they don't all measure what's real, which is the fact that, you know, we don't we don't vote for leaders. We don't vote for parties in the same way that, you know, is that we understand happens in the United States. We vote for representatives in our ridings and the polls miss that. And and I mean, they do polls by by writing to for sure. But the majority of the polls that are being presented in Canadian media and discussed are like leaders, polls talking about like who is the most trustworthy or how many people in Canada support this party versus this party, which isn't really telling the whole story or much about how our elections work. But those polls do have a significant impact on how people decide to mobilise their vote in a system that is first past the post. And so I you know, if we recognise that this whole system,

the whole way that we do this thing is problematic, which we all should, it's quite obvious then what the fuck is this person doing here presiding over the debates just and shouldn't the fucking the official debate commission know that?

Nora [00:23:13] Well, I mean, maybe they don't.

Sandy [00:23:15] I mean, there is the the CEO of the Business Council of Canada and the former president of the Administrative Tribunal of the OECD. I mean, these are the people who are on the debates commission. So maybe it doesn't really matter.

Nora [00:23:27] No, no. And it is so funny if you think about it, it's like, OK, so so so pollsters like that's an industry. They make money off of what they're doing. Politicians are chasing the polls and they're trying to use polls to say, oh, my God, I'm ahead, I'm behind. You should vote strategically and all this kind of stuff that tends to benefit the liberals. But the conservatives mobilise as well based on polls. And so there's like there's interest that is actually not democratic at all between these two groups of people. Right. And so to have a pollster in this position was like very, very shocking. And what was hilarious to me was how many journalists were completely defending it, being like, oh, she stared down. Can you imagine being in the room with those men and keeping them in line? She stared them down and she kept them on track. And it's like, I'm sorry, you're a fucking journalist and you are like imagining that you're afraid to be in a room telling Erin O'Toole to fucking answer the question, like, give me the fucking chance to do that. I would have absolutely no problem to do that. Like, there's a lot of people in this country that would not have a problem doing that. And you don't need to go to Shachi Kearnl to be the fucking pollster in chief. I mean, Ipsus in Abacus has been so pissed to see her fucking moderating this.

Sandy [00:24:41] Yeah, honestly.

Nora [00:24:44] But enough about her enough opinion that her and that whole situation.

Sandy [00:24:50] This is how. The debates are controlled. What about. The debate itself, I mean, surely that didn't have any impact on the quality of the responses. That we heard from the leaders,

Nora [00:25:07] there is this ridiculous idea to bring in journalists like to add to ask sections, and then they also had like average Canadians asking questions and really just doing too much. Right. So that's it was very hard to kind of keep track of because you are going to this guy over here and now you're going to this journalist that you might know, that you might not know, but whatever. And then Kurl's job is to like be like, no, you got no time, no time, no time. Right. Like us anyway, whatever the questions were, as you expect them to be very, very general or not really biting enough or like to biting. So they'd get like really in the weeds with some issues. And because like it was so disjointed, it's like and now we're bringing out Evan Solomon. It was like Evan fucking Solomon, like, what the fuck? What's this guy been up to the last fuckin couple of years? He's been dealing art and being on Sirius Satellite Radio. So then you're like, OK, what's

Evan's angle? Always going to talk about fucking the economy. Of course he is right. But there are there are two questions that really stood out for me that I think are worth mentioning. The first question has got a lot of attention and Quebec, which was how Kerl asked Blanchette about his party's support for two pieces of legislation that both have the notwithstanding clause built into them. So one is a is a language bill that I have to be honest with you. I it's not actually that discriminatory. It seems like the biggest group of people they'll be fucked by this language, Bill, are francophones that want to go to English colleges, which is kind of like not my problem. Like, you know, you guys can fight for that, right. If you want it. But the second the second one is Bill 21, which is the religious symbols ban. But the way that the question was asked was just like political fucking fairy dust to the to the to the block. And Blanchette was able to make that into such an issue that it has dominated the headlines since that debate. The premier has weighed in and he's now basically telling everyone in the province to vote for the bloc. And the biggest winner is Blanchette, when I'm not sure if Kurl was trying to get a gotcha moment out of it, but she basically said that the Anglo rights bill is racist, which it's not. And it's like, oh, why did you see that?

Sandy [00:27:13] Oh, I see. I missed the very first five minutes. So I understand that that was the first question because I came in. Yeah. Like, what kind of question is that? Blanchette just finishing up a really passionate dare you sort of situation. Right. But wow. Yeah. That seems like the wrong way to ask a question.

Nora [00:27:37] Yeah, it was super, super loaded and it was just incorrect. I mean, it's just like if you know what's going on Quebec politics be like, why did you ask that question like that? And a lot of people obviously ask that question like, what the fuck? The second question that I thought was just so in need of of identifying is Rosie Barton's question, which I'm sure you probably also noticed.

Sandy [00:28:00] Yeah, I was really excited to see her on that.

Nora [00:28:02] She seemed excited to be up on that stage.

Sandy [00:28:04] Oh, yeah. The Rosie Barton section,

Nora [00:28:06] she was like, what am I doing here?

Sandy [00:28:09] I mean, she just she just so obviously works for the Liberal Party. Yes. I just don't even really understand, like, why anybody pretends anything different.

Nora [00:28:18] Yeah. So she asked this question to Jagmeet Singh and she asked kind of similar questions to all the leaders and they were all really, really bad. But the question specifically to Singh was was really bad. And the premise of the question was, so you want to get more people who are young to own houses and you want to cool the housing market. How do you justify this to someone whose life savings are wrapped up in their house and that your

plan is going to eliminate the equity that they've worked so long and so hard to build into their house?

Sandy [00:28:48] And I did. She set it up as a so which is more important to you? Yeah.

Nora [00:28:52] Yeah.

Sandy [00:28:54] Well, buying a home or or like destroying and destroying all of the equity of of these folks, or do you care about the older folks to the detriment of Mr Singh.

Nora [00:29:09] Yeah, that was, it was just it was marvellous to just be like, are you kidding me. You did you write that question. Rozier did someone else because you should probably identify who. Because my fucking respect level I mean, I mean why am I talking about. So of course things response was not great. He tried to say that you can do both right. Rather than saying I'm sorry is a fucking house a retirement plan like how does somebody access their equity when they're living in that house? Like, are you asking me, do I support reverse mortgages or any of those kinds of fucking terrible schemes? It's so funny. As I'm talking about this, I could just I could just feel the conspiracy theories being like, yes. And therefore, this is why I like right wing conspiracy, right wing conspiracy, right wing conspiracy rather than. No, no, no. This is why fucking everything is shit. Actually, this is why everything is shit. We're pulling back the curtain to show you why everything is shit.

Sandy [00:29:54] I wish the question was better. I also wish the answer was better. I wish the answer had been something like, well, can we have a discussion? And I mean, you know, it would be great if this wasn't in platform to can we have a discussion about, you know, retirement altogether and how people shouldn't have to do any sort of skiing to to like have a comfortable retirement and that people who can't do that still have to retire at some point. And we need a fucking plan for that. That isn't a dwindling pension system. But one of my favourite questions was about the opioid crisis. And do you remember this question? It was the opioid crisis is serious, but does the political will exist to deal with it? Oh, yeah. And it was so bizarre. Paul, sorry. What does the like that as a listener, someone who's really trying to figure out how to vote? That's what I want to hear. Parties. Do you think the political will exists to deal with the obesity crisis? Let me know where you think the country is at. Why would that be a question? Oh, my gosh, it's outrageous. Like, I just I had that, you know, thinking I'll I'll tweet during this and tweet my thoughts. And I did not think that most of my thoughts were going to be what the question is this. But that was most of my thought. But for this particular question, I just thought, wow, how fucking disrespectful. Like how to show that you really don't care about a population that is going through some of the most dire public health issues that, you know, we've dealt with in this country is to just skirt over the actual thing that we need to hear about, which is like the plan, what the issue is, how you're going to tackle it from what place, from what set of principles, from what approach. And just say, do you think the political will exists to care about this population over here? Like, fuck you,

Nora [00:32:08] yeah, yeah, and then how is Paul supposed to answer that any other way? Because I think her answer was something like, well, we have the political will, you know, but it's like, sorry, are you asking her to be like, well, I don't think that the conservatives have the political will or I don't think Canadians are just there yet. Right. Like, it's impossible.

Sandy [00:32:24] That is actually how they can judge me to answer the question like and she says, yeah, we have the political will where we are going to do this. And then Jagmeet Singh and the liberals have not done a thing. And it's just like par for the course for this entire debate where all the leaders just attacked Trudeau except Annamie Paul, who I mean, she did get a dig in her once, but she actually responded with policy and responses and she was really the only one who did.

Nora [00:32:53] Yeah, yeah. I mean, not mention two more questions and then let's talk about what this all means, the leaders themselves in the broader picture and why the fuck we're spending so much time talking about something that's completely inconsequential.

Sandy [00:33:04] Well, what did you think about the question on antiblack racism and policing?

Nora [00:33:08] Oh. I'm not even sure I can remember it, to be honest,

Sandy [00:33:12] yeah, because there was none with none. Oh, OK. Not a single question about policing, not a question about mental health, not a question about black people in Canada. Those questions did not figure into the debate at all

Nora [00:33:30] at the fuck. So were the questions about covid. I think there

Sandy [00:33:34] were questions broadly about economic recovery, but I don't end. And long term care in which Justin Trudeau made a fucking joke about not putting his mother into long term care. Don't worry, I won't be doing. Oh, my God. Like, are you fucking sick? Yeah, but I don't think there was a direct question about covid at all. I don't remember one. I don't recall it. If there was, I don't either.

Nora [00:34:01] So it was there was also a question Bertin asking Blanchette about like how do we make it better for people to work until they die? This was one of my highlights of the night where Blanchette was just like, I'm are you fucked? His response was so good. It was like, why would that be the premise of what you've asked me? And and because the block is so marginal and, you know, in the rest of Canada, that's not going to be what people pick up on. But the way it was such a clash of like how things happen in Quebec versus how things happen in English, Canada, where Blanchette was like, did you just ask me that question? Like, No, people have the right to retire. Retirement is good and we're going to give people more money to retire, like, obviously. So that was great. And then and then the one the one question. So there's a whole section on reconciliation, which is just also a weird section heading, I thought, where it's like, so your time, a Crown Indigenous relations, you're talking to five people that want to be the representative, the crown, and you're talking of Crown Indigenous relations, not reconciliation.

But OK. I mean, that may be part of it, but the question about the Indian Act was so illustrative of how none of the parties have any fucking idea of what's up. I mean, maybe actually the liberals, I thought was the most honest where where Trudeau was like very like aggressively like, yes, I want to finish extinction policies that my father brought in. Like, I'm excited to destroy the Indian Indian Act. And it's like this is one of those pieces of legislation that is so massive, that has so many implications of how it would be like to dismantle. It requires incredible care, tons of consultation, tons of of of thinking about this, that the fact that I mean, I don't think that Singh answered the question. I think he spent his whole response saying, yes, it needs to go away. And then that was it. And then talking about Trudeau, the conservative certainly didn't say very much either. And then the Liberals said what what I just said. And then, of course, the block, the green, whatever. But that for me was like the big red flag that that these parties don't actually have any serious depth in what they're thinking about Crown Indigenous relations and how that looks post Indian Act.

Sandy [00:36:08] No. And in fact, you know, I wonder how many of them have read it, right?

Nora [00:36:14] Yeah. And.

Sandy [00:36:16] And and even dedicate resources within the party to educate. MP hopefuls on it, and to come up with good policy that is reviewed year to year on it, I bet that that's not happening. And it should. It should. Another question that I thought, well, it wasn't a question, but. The moment and I got I mean, this got picked up, so you've probably heard about it listeners, but the moment of Justin Trudeau saying we are not fighting Indigenous people in court, that was. Yeah, I heard it was like, hmmm, has Trudeau not been reading the news? Because the rest of the country has remember that at the very least. I mean, it disappeared from the headlines too soon, but it was a front page story and it was an international story, the discovery of these graves and the fact that the government was taking survivors to court and had been in court for years. The survivors trying to hide information from survivors that would help in their claims against the Canadian government. That was international news for not an insignificant period of time. And he responded by saying, this is just not real. I yeah, like he had enough and everybody else is like but it is he was just like it's not like what? How did you think this was going to go, sir? You didn't prep that question. Nobody prepped that question in the back. Jeez.

Nora [00:37:58] Yeah, yeah, yeah. So I mean, everybody, you know, the we're a week past this debate. Everybody's already said that it was boring and all the stuff. But the reason why I think it is really important for us to talk about it tonight still is what does it mean for where we are at politically as a country? The quality of our political discussion and the amount of time that Canadians get to actually hear people speaking in their own words. It was very, very, I don't know, like hard to listen to, like the journalists asking a genuine question that was really important. And then 60 seconds later, just being like, shut up shop. And it's like, well, fuck, OK, where's that coming from? So the whole format was shit. But, you know, so you mentioned this the beginning of the show. So Quebec had three debates of the leaders because other networks organise them. So there was a debate for Canada. There's a debate for today. And then there

was the official commission debate that was held the night before. And it's like, why didn't that happen in English Canada? Like, what is going on with our media? That they're just like, nah, not worth it. We're not even going to try. Like, is there just, I don't know, like Quebec media stronger. So, I mean, maybe they can fight it out more and maybe they've got more pull on the leaders to say. Yes, but it just seems so bizarre that that was all we got. And we get this organised by this fucking bullshit liberal, bureaucratic, bloated piece of shit commission that is obviously not responding to what people need. And then the other question is, what do you even what do you do when you have five parties that have different levels of of depth to what they're promising and that these kinds of events just tend to descend into fuckin sniping and annoying kind of situations like that. But recognising that they are actually really important. And I think that I think Trudeau like being angry for most of the English debate and finishing the French debate, angry because Blanchette accused him of not being Quebec her, though he didn't really. And Trudeau was like, this is my moment to shine. I think that really hurt him. I think that really hurt him. And I actually think it would be useful to see these people fuckin face to face on TV more.

Sandy [00:40:09] Oh yeah. I think it hurt him to I, I was actually pretty surprised because, you know, hit the moments of his like petulant snice. And is that, is that a word. Petulant is petulant is probably the word petulant.

Nora [00:40:24] I think it's petulance.

Sandy [00:40:26] The moments of his petulance and anger have come out mostly when he's been confronted with activists over the years of his being prime minister. He has scolded youth who have confronted him as he's done town halls before and lost his temper and made snide remarks to youth and been pretty awful generally in his responses. But that hasn't really risen to like the national stage like it did during the debate. It was like that hidden Trudeau that this guy who feels like he should have it all. I interpret him as someone who believes that he should like have the default love of the country at all times. That's how I feel like he approaches issues. Yeah, that's what his personality feels like. And you see it when he you know, in those moments that those youth had challenged him in the way that he snaps at them. I felt that he was being petulant, like the entire time he even even this obviously it was like, no, I did it. It's like speaking to a mother or something like that. A child who's been caught red handed, handed and doesn't know what to do and just denies and he could have, you know, taken the time to say, yeah, this is this is the record. And here here is what we've learnt from it. And here's what we're going to do better. But he didn't he just got angry. And if that's the way that he's responding on stage to a debate that he's prepared for, really prepared for, I'm sure I mean, what does it say about the way that he views the rest of us when we critique generally from the public things that he's done like? That petulance isn't just some magical thing that arises just out of a at a at a debate. It's there he has a sense of superiority and frustration to critique that is levelled at him from wherever, and that people should know that people should also know more than just were angry at Trudeau from the other parties, which a lot of the debate time was wasted on people saying, you know, just trashing the liberal record, which they absolutely should do. But we needed more. We needed to hear more about policy and we really did not do that. The party's like, as

someone who, you know, has knows how to do spin, like knows how to evade a question, like that's all that was happening for most of the night. It was evading questions. In favour of instead pointing the finger and finger wagging at Udoh, which. You know, he's already doing poorly in the polls, give us something to like you for, you know.

Nora [00:43:22] Yeah, well, also that it's it's it's kind of ridiculous to considering how implicated all of the parties have been. And Trudeau's record, like the NDP, has not broken with the Liberals on many fundamental things, on the things that have been the most important during this pandemic, especially the NDP has been there with them. Right. They challenged them on a couple of things. They got Serb increased by 100 dollars a week. So they had some victories and challenging them. But they also went along with the wage subsidy, which is just this completely corrupt piece of shit programme. And the conservatives, you know, they're kind of in the same boat. And because they're on an upswing, Erin O'Toole knows that he has to just present himself as this moderate. And, you know, this is where left wing people need to take a major lesson. When the fucking conservatives think that it's time to bring back the Red Toryism of the past, like you better believe that it's time for the left to start talking about shit like that's actually radical and that's actually necessary because otherwise you're going to be left in the dust. And that's why I was so frustrated with the NDP, because there was just nothing like I don't expect anything from O'Toole and and Trudeau's petulance is what I expect, because I've seen that from him. I've seen that from him in meetings that I've had with him. And and I think, you know, and that also, I think is something that the far right sees. And all of this, like anti Trudeau stuff, is because in some senses they see that, too. And it's it's very off-putting, but it's also well hidden, as you said. But, you know, giving Canadians the opportunity to hear about these people and their ideas without allowing them to just attack Trudeau as an answer is really, really important. And you can organise a debate, you can organise an interview very easily by like not allowing them to refer to a record on a question that doesn't have to do with the record. Right. Actually balancing these questions a little bit better and then allowing people to fucking talk more. Right. That's that's the other thing that

Sandy [00:45:19] allowed them to fucking talk all night.

Nora [00:45:22] Like they're not going to fuck up in a 60 second soundbite. They're not even going to fuck up in a three minute soundbite. But like Sandy, how often do you hear politicians have a conversation between one another in this country? Yeah.

Sandy [00:45:36] Yeah, never, never, not even in question.

Nora [00:45:38] You know, like I want to hear, like, do Erin O'Toole and Justin Trudeau when they sit down and they have a conversation about, let's say, the fucking monetary policy, do they just descend into screaming at each other? Because I'd like to see that. I mean, I want to see how these two men actually try to have a regular conversation with one another. And we are so far away. This whole thing is smoke and mirrors. And it does start to then get us into conspiracy theory territory where it's like none of this is real. All of this is fake. All these people are fucking corrupt and none of it matters. And it's like there is a direct line between that and people who

don't vote that and people who are attracted to the far right that and people who who are just not going to do anything because they just don't know what they can do because everything is so hopeless. And where the fuck is that conversation?

Sandy [00:46:28] Yeah, the place I felt the most this this sentiment the most was at the point in the debate where they started asking questions related to climate change. It was so.

Nora [00:46:40] Oh, my God, yeah.

Sandy [00:46:41] It was so boxed in. It was like the parameters of the climate change discussion. The questions were so specific. It's just like you weren't having a real conversation about what is happening today. We were having a conversation that should have been had in like 2008. It was it was really frustrating to know that the person asking the questions or whoever decided that what questions should be asked those people. They didn't have the chops to be able to understand what the questions were that the audience needs to hear you, needs to hear real answers on, and even if they were real questions, would we have even gotten the real answers, given the format of the debate? You know, it's so much more than offsets. We're we're beyond that in terms of having a conversation. And, yes, you know, like the the liberals bought a pipeline and that should be brought up in terms of their record. But we need so much more than that on climate, on the climate crisis. And as a country that is one of it's a major contributor to the way to the way that our world is going, which is, you know, humans becoming the next dodo bird. So. Well, not the not the next. There's a long line-up of species that are in danger. And I just what the fuck? Why can't we actually hear a real discussion on on the big issues?

Nora [00:48:14] I found it really hard to follow that, too, because I actually like I'm not an expert on what the conservatives plan is, and I don't really understand carbon offsets. Like I have a general idea of how they work, but it's like whose average people are supposed to hear this and fucking understand what the fuck is going on. Like, is there no role in the moderation to, like, educate people and explain like this is what your plan is going to do. This is blah, blah, blah, or allowing Trudeau to consistently say that they've hit all of their targets, that they haven't hit all their targets, just like, can you meet us half fucking way and help cut through this bullshit instead of amplifying it? But, you know, you mentioned that these people have the chops to organise the stuff. I think it's actually just making sure that it's as narrow as possible so that the only way that you can get a message outside of the parameters that have been predetermined either by the commission, the moderator or the journalists, is that you have to just ignore the question and just answer it however you fucking want. And then you get into the reality of, you know, the only climate fucking the boldest climate plan on that stage was like energy retrofits, electric transportation, you know, and oil subsidies. And it's like, obviously, fuck, give us something more. There's fucking nothing.

Sandy [00:49:26] Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, exactly. All of this is to say elections are a moment in time and they're a very heavily controlled moment in time, and they're controlled in such a way that it is very hard to sift through the bullshit to get through to some real answers of what the politicians are going to actually do. So for those of us who vote like we kind of have to do our

own research, look at the actual party platforms to get anything there, and then remember that this is a moment in time. It's a moment where we can elevate our we can use it as a strategy to elevate our issues. Or we can use it as a moment to plan for what we're going to do after the election, which I hope we're all doing, or what we're continuing to do even though the election is happening, you know that these are moments at the same time we got to hold these people accountable because they're responsible for so much stuff like. In so much harm and so it's not nothing. But it's not all there is, it's not all there is any winds, all of the winds that we have, the big winds that we have that we have ever had politically come from struggle and demanding and forcing the people in power to take note and to take action. So, you know, it's more about us than it is about them. And that's hopeful, quite frankly,

Nora [00:51:08] yeah, well, the other thing that's hopeful is that this is almost over.