

INVITATION TO ALL ERS UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

Are you interested in energy and/or environmental policies? Are you a bit of a political geek? Are you eager to try something new? If you answered 'yes' to any or all of these, why not join fellow ERS students and faculty members for a night of live-tweeting during the upcoming Globe and Mail Leaders' Debate (<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/elections/introducing-the-globe-and-mail-leadersdebate/article25806782/>)?

The plan is to have interested members of the ERS community come together on the evening of Thursday, 17 September, monitor the debate live and tweet 'fact-checks' promptly. There are three goals for the experience as a whole:

- To learn about the key energy and environmental issues in the federal election campaign
- To experience what a 'real-time reaction to events'-activity involves
- To have fun by building community

You can come and be involved (by live-tweeting corrections, etc. from your own twitter account) or you can simply come to support others and to soak in the atmosphere.

The 'ask' of you as a participant is as follows:

- To have your focus be non-partisan: the goal is not to advance particular policy positions, but it is instead to encourage/catalyze more informed discussion in the federal election campaign by illuminating errors of fact and/or incompleteness of stories as presented by the three leaders during the debate; our goal is to offer evidence, highlighting additional information, etc. ... Do go ahead and campaign for your favourite party, person, etc., but please do so at other times – during these two hours, be the neutral information-provider.
- Use the particular hash-tag we identify (tbd) for the event in your tweets during the debate.
- Refrain from swearing, using obscenities, libelous language, personal attacks, etc. in your tweets – you are indirectly representing ERS, ENV and UW, so please work to the highest ethical and quality standards.
- Agree to be photographed while in the debate-watching room.

What 'we' (ERS faculty) will do for you:

- Provide the debate for you live on 'the big screen'.
- Tweeting from the @ers_uw account (and other advance information from the Faculty's information conduits) will be about 'what we are doing (collectively)', so as to generate a bit of a vibe/buzz beforehand and during.
- A number of ERS professors (including Collins, de Loë, and Rowlands) have agreed to be resource people, to help you with your content (either in advance and/or 'on the night').

How it could unfold for you:

- If you are interested, please RSVP to Prof. Ian Rowlands (irowlands@uwaterloo.ca) with 'Election Debate' in the message subject-line. You will see below that there are two preparatory sessions. You are not obliged to attend both (or either) of these in order to attend on Thursday night.
- On Monday, 14 September, from 12-1pm, come out to EV2-1001. This will be the first preparatory session; Prof. Ian Rowlands will introduce the activities, we will all watch the half-hour of the first debate (from August) that focused upon energy and environment issues, Ian will present some examples of live-tweets from that debate, and issues that could well arise during the next debate will be brainstormed.
- On Tuesday, 15 September, from 4:30-5:30pm, come out to EV2-1001. This will be the second preparatory session; students will share areas they are thinking about fact-checking, and they will present samples that they have prepared that are 'ready to tweet'. Brainstorming about strategies will also occur.
- Thursday, 17 September, 7-9:30pm, come out to EV2-1001 for the debate (8pm start). Ian will be there from 7pm, to set up, to answer questions, to prepare, etc. It appears that 'energy and the environment' will be one of five themes during the first hour of the debate (so 10 minutes there). Then, during the second hour, any issues will be revisited, so it might appear again.

We look forward to getting engaged with you on this!

Ian Rowlands, 9 September 2015