

INSTA-DRAM

WHISKY IS BACK — IN UNLIKELY POD FORM. PAGE FP16



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SCHEER ON OFFENCE



SEAN KILPATRICK / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer, right, and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau spar during the federal leaders debate in Gatineau, Que., on Monday.

Court win for excluded right-wing media

PAOLA LORIGGIO

TORONTO • A judge has ordered the Leaders' Debate Commission to accredit two right-wing media organizations that were barred from covering the election debates.

Rebel Media and the True North Centre for Public Policy established they would suffer "irreparable harm" if denied access to the English-language leaders' debate on Monday and the French-language debate later this week, said federal court judge Russel Zinn.

True North argued that the commission's decision amounted to "an attempt by the current government to censor and silence media outlets that have provided a platform for Canadians with views inconsistent with its mandate."

Last month, journalist Andrew Lawton, who is a fellow with True North, was barred from going on Justin Trudeau's bus; denied access to a policy announcement and several news conferences by the Liberal party on the basis that he wasn't "accredited;" and was later booted from a public rally held by Trudeau. See ACCREDITATION on A4

CALLS TRUDEAU A FRAUD WHO DOESN'T DESERVE TO GOVERN

STUART THOMSON

Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer wasted no time in attacking Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau in the only English-language debate to take place during the election campaign.

Monday night's most biting exchanges came between the two front-runners, especially when Scheer confronted Trudeau on the SNC-Lavalin affair.

"Mr. Trudeau, you are a phoney and fraud and you do not deserve to govern this country," said Scheer, in his opening comments, which set the tone for his strategy on the night.

When it came time for Scheer to

ask a question of any leader on the stage, he dramatically turned to Trudeau, drawing laughs from the crowd assembled at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Que.

"When did you decide that the rules don't apply to you?" said Scheer, before moving on to Trudeau's initial denials about the SNC-Lavalin affair. "Those were all lies," Scheer said.

Later in the debate, Trudeau sought a confrontation with Scheer over his personal views on abortion and gay marriage, but that was the moment the debate devolved into cross-talk.

See DEBATE on A4

Blatchford: I missed the Leafs game for this? Page A6

TRUMP THREATENS TURKEY OVER KURDS

'Totally destroy and obliterate'

HUMEYRA PAMUK AND DAREN BUTLER

WASHINGTON/ISTANBUL • Donald Trump on Monday launched a harsh attack on NATO ally Turkey, threatening to destroy its economy if Ankara takes a planned military strike in Syria too far even though the U.S. president himself has opened the door for a Turkish incursion.

Trump said he would "totally destroy and obliterate" Turkey's economy if it took action in Syria that he considered "off limits" following his decision on Sunday to pull out American forces from northeastern Syria.

The withdrawal by the U.S. will leave Kurdish-led forces in Syria that have long allied with Washington vulnerable to a planned incursion by the Turkish military, which brands them terrorists.

See SYRIA on A9

COMMENT

Timing of leaders debate a raw deal for anyone west of Thunder Bay

TYLER DAWSON

EDMONTON • The final English debate — which also happened to be the only English debate where Justin Trudeau bothered to make an appearance — kicked off Monday at 7 p.m. Toronto time.

Lest we all forget, that was 5 p.m. in Saskatoon and Edmonton and Yellowknife. And 4 p.m. in Vancouver, Victoria and Whitehorse.

Which means in three provinces and two territories (and parts of Nunavut, which uses, variously, eastern, central and mountain time)

some people wouldn't even have been finished work, let alone made it home, prepared some dinner, grabbed a beer and parked themselves in front of the television.

Which means that in three provinces and two territories, many, many people likely didn't get to see the entire debate.

Last night was the only time in the entire election campaign where Trudeau, Andrew Scheer, Maxime Bernier, Jagmeet Singh, Elizabeth May and Yves-François Blanchet all shared a stage and presented their visions for the future of Canada in English.

See TIMING on A5

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COMMENT

The most venomous election since the past one. Coyne, A10

FP S. African rival to buy North American Palladium for about \$1B. FPI

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