

CONVERGENCE

Did Justin Trudeau's Government Fail? We Decide.



APRIL ISSUE

GOOFY JOKERS PLAN TO REMIND JUSTIN TRUDEAU OF HIS PROMISE

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STAFF REPORTER

Today I will bring attention to one of the best political initiatives to ever exist in Canada, the Longest Ballot Committee, who is planning to break the Guinness Record for the longest election ballot for the fourth time in three years here in Toronto St-Paul's. Critics allege that this is irrelevant, and it might be, but an interesting story emerges as you read on, so please do.

Politicking

Basically, Canada currently has a first-past-the-post system, which, if you haven't taken Civics yet, means that the "winner" in each district becomes an MP while the votes of the "loser" don't get represented. However, there are a few problems with that system: firstly, the reality in Canada is that a candidate can win a district with as little as 29% of the vote (in the 2021 election) and usually around 35-40% of the votes. That means in general, 50-70% of the district's votes goes unrepresented. Even if that doesn't happen and a political party routinely wins their district by a landslide (i.e. a "safe seat"), the remaining voters will be discouraged from voting because they feel that their vote cannot change anything. This is similar to the situation here in Toronto St-Paul's, usually described as a "very safe" Liberal riding. When all 338 ridings are tallied, the results are often wildly different from how people actually voted. For example, the Liberals won a majority in 2015 with only 39% percent of the vote. The Prime Minister promised to change the system in 2015, when he was first elected. Then, of course, he dragged his toe for 9 years. This February, Parliament finally took action: the Liberals, along with the Conservatives, defeated Motion 86, the motion designed to carry out electoral reform. This is one of the main reasons cited by Kieran Szuchewycz for the founding of the Longest Ballot Committee. Now to how he did it.

Longest Ballot Committee

Newton's third law states that there is an

equal reaction to every action. Perhaps in politics, that can be modified to "there is an equal reaction to every inaction". Szuchewycz decided to run in 2015 as an independent candidate in then-Prime Minister Stephen Harper's riding. Harper was eventually defeated by Justin Trudeau in the general election, but Szuchewycz didn't have nearly as much luck as Justin Trudeau: he was blocked from running, because he didn't have a \$1000 deposit which was required by Elections Canada for a candidate to run. Having wasted his money on law school and therefore not bothering to pay the deposit, Szuchewycz took the second-best option: he sued the new Attorney General to abolish the deposit. In 2017, the deposit was ruled to be contrary to the Charter of Rights, and one of the justifications used by the judge was that it did not necessarily prevent "unserious" candidates from running. As they say, there are only so many honest lawyers in this world, and Szuchewycz is not one of them, for he is about to run joke candidates. Lots of them.

ers. They allege, according to Kieran, that there is an 'inappropriate conflict of interest at the centre of [Canada's] democracy... because politicians have too much skin in the game', and that their mission is to 'help start a conversation between voters about how our democracy could be improved, put a bit of pressure on our leaders to do the right thing, and absolve themselves of this conflict of interest'.

Now comes the part where it starts to become interesting: this year, they are running candidates in Toronto St-Paul's, which is the riding UCC is located in. Traditionally a safe Liberal seat, there is now a statistical tie between the Conservatives and the Liberals, with the NDP not being out of competition either due to its ability to attract Green party votes. This is the closest election the LBC has ever participated in, so the LBC just might be the deciding factor to whether the Liberals would lose the seat or not and can potentially make its biggest impact. K. Szuchewycz, in one of his past elections, got 78 votes, and 78 votes,



Source: X @LongestBallot

In 2021, he was able to run 21 candidates in St.Boniface-St.Vital, a riding in Winnipeg. Then, in 2023, he ran 40 candidates in Mississauga-Lakeshore, 48 candidates in Winnipeg South-Centre, and 11 out of 18 candidates in Kitchener Centre during the provincial election, in the process breaking the record for the most candidates in the federal election thrice and breaking the Ontario provincial record once. Sometime along the way, the Longest Ballot Committee was born, consisting of K. Szuchewycz, his brother Tomas, Tomas' partner Ali, the leader of the Rhinoceros Party Sébastien CoRhino, and oth-

believe it or not, matters when there is 34% support for the Liberals, 32% support for the Conservatives, and ~30% for the NDP. As a reminder, if the Liberal candidate is defeated, Justin Trudeau will be in deep, deep trouble, as I will cover in another article.

Another Perspective

However, some critics are skeptical about the Committee, and they have two main problems with it. The first problem: it's not effective in actually generating a serious discussion. According to Robert Williams, a professor emeritus of political science at the University of Waterloo, the

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single elections that the LBC fields their candidates in usually have marginal effects on the overall political landscape of the country, and that the only factor that would actually generate any discussion is the obscurity of its candidates. 'Notable' allies are the Rhinoceros Party and the Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada, and as you know, these parties are really, really powerful forces in Canadian politics, aren't they? As a result, he says that it will fail to ignite thoughtful conversations. The second problem: it is unlikely that it will have any effect on how people would vote. According to Andrea Perrella, an associate professor of political science at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, most people don't make up their minds on who to vote in the polling station (hopefully you don't!), and that whatever number of candidates, be it 21 or 48, will only be a minor nuisance to those who are determined to find their favorite candidate.

There are also people who are skeptical about the mission of electoral reform itself: after all, voters have already rejected it twice in direct referendum, in BC and in PEI. Another federal referendum on electoral reform, which is necessary, could feature fierce battles among partisan lines and can potentially be an unneeded facepalm by the government. It must be said that surprises are prone to happen in referendums: in Ireland, a twin referendum

on removing "the woman's place in the family" clause in their constitution, which obviously should have passed in a breeze and had support of almost all major political parties, failed because the government phrased the question in an inconsiderate way, and led to the Prime Minister resigning. The last piece of criticism is that more proportional systems lead to far-right parties gaining substantial power, which has happened in numerous European countries because they had proportional systems. An example is Italy, where there is a far-right Prime Minister who habitually rallies against LGBT rights and had ministers who admire Benito Mussolini. Even if they don't gain power, they make governments extremely fragile, like Portugal's, where because all parties refuse to collaborate with the far-right party, the new government only has 80 seats out of 230.

K. Szuchewycz's response? Well, since his goal of getting a fair amount of media attention and having a blast seeing how many votes the long ballot candidates get on election night while spending exactly 0 dollars is already achieved, he hopes that people would see the humor in the LBC's actions and actually talk about it without getting too serious.

Perhaps the expert criticism above is a little too serious. Perhaps not. You decide.

Verdict: Why I Endorse the Longest

Ballot Committee

Currently, Szuchewycz and the Longest Ballot Committee have about as much chance of winning this election as insert another election reference the chance of me putting Worcestershire sauce on my Montréal baked chicken. However, I will be trying to cover every major political candidate in my special issues (the Conservative candidate has already ghosted me), and if you, the reader, are not satisfied with any of them, I encourage you to support the people they field. Their mission is goofy yet serious, dumb yet smart, and just very entertaining in general. According to their X page of the same name, 12,543 people have already signed their petition, and you (or your parents) could be the 12,544th who will do so. When you are 18, you can send your name to their email, also found on their X page, to field yourself as a candidate in a future election. I haven't even come close to making a decision on whom to endorse for this election, but if the "serious" candidates are no good, voting for someone from the Longest Ballot Committee is certainly a safe bet, and which ultimately weighs over the criticism of experts on its effectiveness.

OUR RIDING HAS A BY-ELECTION. WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?

This is a question many of you have in your minds. I'm going to help you clarify that.

What's My Job?

This special issue will hopefully be the first of many where I cover this byelection. I will be seeking out interviews with politicians who are running, connected people who know more about the political situation, ordinary people who live in the riding, and the school community on their insights. I will seek out the platforms which the political candidates are running on. Then, I will be rating the political candidates on a moving rating up to 40 and

assigning an IB score to them, updating the ratings each time I interview them. In the end, you can vote for the candidate which you feel is the best suited for the position of MP, and I will be publishing a final summary on the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate and additionally posting the mock election results. This issue features a thorough background to the election, the adventures of a joke political group, and an interview with Liberal pre-candidate Leslie Church. So be tuned in!

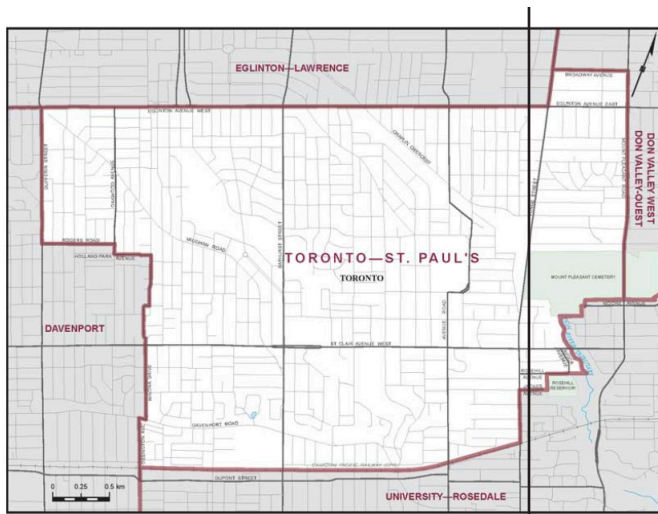
Background

Toronto St-Paul's is the consti-

tuency UCC is located in. There is a very complicated description in Elections Canada, but it is roughly a rectangle of Eglinton West, Dufferin, the Canadian Pacific Railway (between Davenport and Dupont), and Mt. Pleasant. The Member of Parliament for our riding of almost thirty years, Carolyn Bennett, resigned this year, triggering a special byelection.

On the surface, this constituency is a safe Liberal seat: Carolyn Bennett has consistently led by 20+ points over her opponents, and if so, I wouldn't have a whole special issue on it. However, it has a history

of producing surprise victories for upstart candidates when incumbents lose popular-



what the NDP-Liberal confidence-and-supply agreement is, it's when the NDP is currently not in government, but is proping up the minority Liberals by supporting key votes such as the budget, which is the current situation. If the Liberals or the NDP are defeated by the Conservatives in this historically **very safe** riding, it will serve as a powerful rebuke to the Liberal government's signature policies at home.

Secondly, the government is facing multiple crises both at home and abroad. For the primary crisis at home, only 8% of Canadians (and even less here in Toronto St-Paul's, a riding of mostly high-rise condominiums) approve of how the government is handling the housing crisis, a staggering low percentage. If either the NDP or the Conservatives defeat the Liberals here, it is a clear message, again, that the Liberals aren't the best at handling this crisis.

As for foreign policy, the Liberals are even more disoriented. On handling the Israel-Hamas war, when adjusted for people who can't say, polls by Angus Reid have found that 69% of Canadians disapprove of the Liberal government's response. Even the Liberal government themselves are at absolute loggerheads: there is a Liberal MP who is openly calling for Israel to be prosecuted, while another Liberal MP who holds a leadership position in the party, Anthony Housefather, is considering resigning his position due the government passing a bill calling for Palestinian statehood. Again, this is an extremely insensitive handling of foreign affairs: the government has somehow alienated both pro-Israel and pro-Palestine Canadians plus fracture the Liberal Party itself. If either the NDP or the Conservatives defeat the Liberals in this riding, it shows that the government is failing to strike the right balance in foreign policy.

What if the Liberals are defeated?

There is a ~35% chance that the Liberals will be defeated by the Conservatives in the byelection and a ~10% chance that it will be defeated by the NDP, and the race is very much likely to be won on razor-thin margins. Now the question arises: what will happen if they are defeated, or if they win by a margin of less than 5 percent?

In situation one, where the Liberals are defeated, it should be obvious that if they can somehow lose a seat that they didn't lose in 2011, the Liberals' worst defeat in Canadian history, that their policies are unwelcome. That means that their days in government are probably numbered, as they will lack the legitimacy to push more policies, and three courses of action remain. The best one is that they could call an election immediately to damage control; if not and they stay on, they would be a lame duck because of their weak mandate, and in the worst case, the NDP could call a no-confidence vote like in 2006 and oust Justin Trudeau before the election.

In situation two, it is a bit more complicated. Because the Liberals won in this scenario, there is an interpretation more to their favor, that the Liberals can bounce back. Because of that, they won't have to directly call an election, and will probably have more space to maneuver, which they will definitely use. However, the Conservatives / NDP also didn't really lose in this scenario, so 'campaign period' could possibly start way before the writ is issued, and the campaign, in one of the most polarizing times in Canadian history, will not be pretty.

ity: in the 2018 city council election, Josh Matlow defeated incumbent Joe Mihevc by 9-points, who had a 68-point lead over his runner-up in 2014. In the provincial election that same year, Jill Andrew of the NDP overturned a 35-point lead by the Liberals in the previous election, survived a re-election campaign, and is still our Member of Provincial Parliament to this day.

Unfortunately, Justin Trudeau is very unpopular, with a 64% disapproval rating and 30% approval rating as of late, and opinion poll aggregations in this riding are very worrying for him: as of the time of writing, Liberals have 34% support, Conservatives have 32%, the NDP has 18%, and the Greens have 15% support. As you can see, there is a statistical tie between the Liberals and the Conservatives, while if the NDP or the Greens successfully consolidate the left-wing votes in one party, they will also have a shot at winning.

This is very bad for the Liberal government for many reasons. Firstly, it has embarked on a series of ambitious domestic reforms such as the newly minted carbon tax to transition towards carbon neutrality, a national dental plan, and increasing immigration to 500,000 annually. These policies, especially the carbon tax and the immigration target, are already either controversial or outright unpopular. The one I left out, the national dental plan, was the result of heated negotiations between the Liberals and the NDP and almost led to the NDP withdrawing its confidence-and-supply agreement with the Liberals. If you don't know

IN DEPTH ANALYSIS #1: INTERVIEW WITH LESLIE CHURCH

As promised, this is only the beginning of a much more ambitious series where I interview political figures, including but not limited to candidates and pre-candidates of the byelection here in Toronto St-Paul's. This time, I interviewed a Liberal pre-candidate, Leslie Church, but before I delve into the in-depth analysis (and it is really in-depth, for it took me over a month to do the entire analysis), there are some things you need to know.

The Methodology

Normally, the way people do political interviews is that they will have a "fun" hook, then transcribe what the candidate said with impeccable detail, after which they shower praise on the candidate. Things don't work like that here. Because I am seeking to evaluate all candidates, I'll have much more analysis about the context to help you understand more about the candidate and will be taking a much more critical angle. After each interview with a candidate / pre-candidate, I will be putting them through an assessment process, which I will justify with what I heard in the interview and what research I did on them. In no way are the assessments permanent though, and updates will be done whenever I could. Here is the table:

Assessment mechanism:

16 points for policy proposals
 -10 points for justifications of policy
 -3 points for straightforwardness in explanation
 -3 points for compassion of policy (ie helping vulnerable groups)
 12 points for character
 -8 points for straightforwardness
 -2 points for friendliness

-2 point for preparedness
 6 points for school community
 -2 points for supporting Toronto / Canada
 -2 points for ensuring a good future for the school community
 -2 points for upholding school values
 8 points for experience
 -4 points for tenure outside politics
 -2 points for political experience
 -2 points for age

40-45 = 8

35-39 = 7

30-34 = 6

25-29 = 5

20-24 = 4

0-19 = fail

Also fail:

<=5 points in substance/character

<=2 points in school community

0 points in experience

I am trying to eliminate as much bias as possible in the assessment process, so I will explain the few parts that are ambiguous. The "justifications" of policy is similar to how one would judge a debate speech: I will put aside whatever preconceived bias I have to determine if there are meaningful policies they mention and whether they are backed up with evidence. The "straightforwardness" pertains to whether or not someone is just parroting the party line, whether they fill their time with bluster, and whether they blame others on a problem which they should have a meaningful plan for. Lastly, the "friendliness" factor is how much respect the candidate has for me, which normally should not be a problem. If you want to dispute an assessment, email me at fzhan28@ucc.on.ca with evidence. Onto the candidate.

Who is Leslie Church?

Leslie Church is the only declared candidate for the Liberals' nomination, and so far, the most qualified, but it is still possible (not likely) that the Liberal Party would choose someone else. The other likely candidate, Josh Matlow, has decided not to run. After she graduated from law school, Church practiced law before becoming a Google Canada executive (where, among other things, she mapped the Canadian Arctic and taught Google software to use Indigenous languages), but even before that, she served as Director of Communications to Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff (a UCC alumnus and former head of Wedd's). In 2015, after Justin Trudeau's election, she served as Chief of Staff to multiple cabinet ministers, notably the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Minister of Women and Gender Equality, and eventually the Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Chrystia Freeland, before stepping down in 2023 to pursue the Liberal nomination for Toronto St-Paul's.

Favorite Animal?

Her dog, Ginger.

Hobbies?

Sports, and a huge love of it, for that.

Person You Admire The Most?

Her grandmother, who came to Canada during World War Two.

Rating: It is undisputed that Church has central roles in policy making, is very experienced, and can be a very effective lawmaker if elected. However, since she has never been an elected member of parliament,

ment and ran an unsuccessful campaign with Michael Ignatieff in 2011 where the Liberals suffered their worst defeat in history, I will deduct one point from 'political experience', giving her 7/8 in experience.

Is She Good for Upper Canada College?

How can you benefit the school community?

When I asked her about how she could benefit the school community, she cited her previous contribution in the elimination of student debt interest which could save an estimated \$3000 over the loan's lifetime (factcheck: True) and said that there is a continuing need to broaden access to good postsecondary education, including universities, colleges, and trade schools. She also cited her commitment to a country where someone can build their own life, career, and family.

Can you defend Toronto sports teams in Ottawa?

This question was necessary because when Joe Biden came to Canada, he mocked the Maple Leafs to everyone else's applause. When I asked her this, she cited her love of sports, support for the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL), her support for the mental health of youth, and her childrens as reasons why she would try to improve sports for everyone when/if she is in Ottawa.

Your Priorities?

Church said that controlling rent, improving food security, and strengthening access to healthcare were her priorities.

Rating: Her values are clearly compatible with almost everyone at this school, but because she doesn't have a more exact plan about the school com-

munity and because she failed to directly pledge allegiance to Toronto sports teams, I deducted 0.5 point from the school community category and one point from the support for Toronto category, giving her a score of 4.5/6.

Policies

Note: Polling numbers for my articles generally come from Angus Reid reports, which are comprehensive and to my knowledge quite accurate.

Many Liberal policies are under fire for their alleged ineffectiveness and unclearness, with slogans like "Axe the Tax" gaining widespread support, even by Liberal premiers. Since Church played such a central role in policy making, it is up to her to defend the Liberal Party's policies. I also asked you about what issues you were concerned about before the interview, and this is also where Church answers them. Everything is covered, from the Liberals' climate strategy, their solution to the housing crisis, to their \$10-a-day childcare plan. Here is her response.

How would you make a better climate program than the current one? How would you explain the large amounts of investment into carbon capture programs which are not proven to be effective yet?

Background: the Liberal government is aiming for a reduction of emissions by 40% by 2030. Unfortunately, it is far from the goal: emissions are only down by 8% from 2005, being one of the worst performances in the G7, and in addition, oil sand emissions in Alberta are found to be chronically underreported, sometimes even by 6300%, which means the emissions reduction is even less significant

than official data.

Church's response: she and the Liberal Party in general is very concerned about climate change and is actively working to stop it; she tells me a lot about the Liberal government's existing achievements, like being on track to conserve 30% of Canada's land by 2030. However, she didn't really give me a concrete plan of any sort which could solve / mitigate the problem of not being on track to reduce emissions, which, frankly, I would have liked better than rattling off a list of achievements and berating the Conservatives' climate plan.

Addressing the carbon capture programs, she said that the copious government investments could increase interest in innovating and potentially make Canada lead the world in terms of carbon capture technology. She also notes that transitioning from fossil energy will be an arduous decades-long process and carbon capture technology can ease that transition.

How would you address general confusion and opposition to the government's carbon tax?

Background: the resistance against the carbon tax or rebate is so strong that 7 out of 9 premiers, including ours, Doug Ford, either oppose it outright or oppose a planned hike due to take effect on April 1st, and it's not without merit, because the carbon tax / "rebate" is objectively very poorly explained, even if it actually is effective. 78% of Canadians, as of March 2024, either don't know how much rebate they got, didn't get any, or think they got less in rebates than they received, which is interesting, because the government insists that 80% of households receive more than they pay. 68% of Canadians don't even think that the tax helps reduce emissions.

Answer: Church started with emphasis on the figure that 80% of households receive more than they pay and that no money actually goes to the federal government. She also emphasized that the government's aim is to put a price on pollution and that people should not think that it is free. But she does acknowledge, in the end of her answer, that more communication and talking to people is necessary. I must comment that this is identical to the party line of the Liberal Party, and the number of answers provided are limited. Church, or rather the Liberal Party in general, is sorely lacking a substantial answer to the criticisms of the carbon tax, with the rather belated "people will care more about climate change and plus they get more rebates" argument being repeated over and over again.

What is your plan to address the housing crisis? (Asked by another student)

Background: Oh the irony! The second largest country in the world and one of the least densely populated is facing a twenty-year housing crisis! Unfortunately, we live in this country. The Liberal government response is widely criticized for not being enough, but I digress because a representative of the party is here to explain themselves.

The response: Church emphasized that providing adequate amounts of affordable housing will be a major task. The international student cap is one of the measures the government will be implementing. The international student cap, Church said, was a way to ensure that international students are not taken advantage of for their tuition without access to adequate housing.. A second part of the response points to the success of the Housing Accelerator Fund and

suggests more investment into it, which, by the way, is a \$4 billion fund that municipalities can get a slice of only if they reform outdated zoning laws and build homes at a rate 10% more than their rate of population growth. Lastly, she wants an increase in people training for construction, co-op housing (which are collectively-managed government-owned houses that ran out of funding during the 90s), and utilization of underused plots of federal land, but with assurance that Greenbelts will not be encroached upon. Overall, a response that combines urgent solutions for housing with respect for the environment, which is not bad. But the real question is whether she can expand the plans (which are being criticized as too meager in funding) in Parliament or not. Hopefully your question is answered.

There have been concerns about the 10-a-day childcare plan being underfunded and overloaded, and this being one of the signature policies of the government, how would you improve it if elected?

Background: In 2021, the government implemented a national child care subsidy program that aims to reduce the cost of early childcare to \$10 a day (\$300 a month) by 2026. While the benefits of cost reduction and the increase of female participation in the workforce from 84% to 87% is undisputed, waitlists for child care have since ballooned and are now >12 months in Toronto. Unfortunately, UCC is not a vacuum bubble and teachers with children are acutely affected, this being the reason I asked this question. Hopefully this article provides somewhat of an answer to your concerns.

Church's response: She emphasized that it was a policy that she was "most proud to have worked on": the childcare plan already reduced childcare prices by half in

almost all provinces and that female participation in the workplace has grown as a result (factcheck: True). She also stated the need to create extra spaces. However, she then criticized Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre (factcheck: partially True) and premiers like Doug Ford for not stepping up to provide help. This is partially true, but because Church's responsibility is to outline how to create extra space (she didn't really do that), not criticize the Conservatives (plenty of people do that already), I am not completely satisfied with her response.

How would you ensure that the Eglinton LRT is completed in time?

Background: A faculty member asked this question, and even though this is managed by the province, the federal government also directs a lot of funding to the LRT, and therefore has the responsibility to make sure that taxpayer money isn't wasted and is put to good use.

Church's response: She responded that there definitely should be more accountability in those programs, and that the first step to create accountability would be to improve coordination between multiple levels of government and transit providers. Exactly how that is supposed to happen is not mentioned (I'll probably follow-up), but hopefully that is enough to answer your question.

How would you address food insecurity?

Background: According to the latest data in 2023, almost 1/5th of all Canadians are experiencing food insecurity, which is an all-time high. Worse, Canada is one of the only developed countries without a national school lunch program (even the USA has

one).

Response: Church said it was one of her most important priorities, and responded by suggesting the creation of a national school food program. A framework involving the creation of the program was passed at the end of 2023, though it is still doubtful that it will be codified into law. I didn't have enough time to further question her on this, so I will go in-depth on this specific topic in my next interviews.

What is your opinion on Pierre Poilievre's comments on transgender women participating in sports?

Background: One of my friends asked me to seek comment from the Liberal pre-candidate on this, because at the time of interview, Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre stated that he supports banning transgender women from women's sports, changerooms, and bathrooms. This is evidently very controversial, and he wanted the stance of the Liberal Party. Here it is.

Response: Church, representing the Liberal Party's position, stated that she is a staunch supporter of the Charter of Rights, and that she opposes any measure that, quote, "restricts the rights of young and LGBTQ people". Hopefully your question is answered.

Conclusion

Overall, I'd say Leslie Church is a very solid candidate in general: she doesn't lack integrity (0 lies recorded in the interview, most statistics pass fact-check) and doesn't repeat Liberal attack lines on the Conservatives verbatim. Given that she is behind much of Chrystia Freeland's policies since COVID, you might like her or hate her, but she is likely to leave a mark and participate in lots of policy-making at Parliament if elected, which is undoubtedly not a bad thing. However, there are important parts still missing in her answer to things like the Eglinton LRT and she did not explain herself very well when defending policies like the carbon tax. Here are my marks:

Character: Friendliness 2/2, Pre-

paredness 1/2 (she didn't provide me answers or was too vague in some of my questions), and 5.5 /8 for honesty (there was a little too much Conservative-blaming and some unexplained parts about how she is going to improve her own signature policy), overall 8.5/12.

Policies: 5/10 in justification (she didn't back her arguments up with enough evidence/plan when explaining the carbon tax, the \$10-a-day childcare plan, and the Eglinton LRT), 1.5/3 for straightforwardness (she was often too vague when talking about her proposed policies), and 2/3 in compassion of policy (much of her policy helps vulnerable groups, which I like). Overall 8.5/16

Total Score: 28.5/40, 5

This is a really good performance by my standards (I think I mark hard), but is not unbeatable. If you want to dispute my assessment or better yet, help me contact a candidate, email me at fzhan28@ucc.on.ca. Hopefully you enjoyed my in-depth analysis! Watch out for the next issue.