

= Ford Nation =

Ford Nation was an opinion and discussion programme that aired on the Canadian news channel Sun News Network . The show featured two sitting Toronto politicians , mayor Rob Ford and his brother , city councillor Doug Ford , Jr . , and was pulled from the network after only one airing on November 18 , 2013 . An online version of the show aired on YouTube for five episodes between February and April , 2014 . The title is a reference to the ardent , mainly suburban supporters of the Fords and their populist conservative agenda .

= = Background = =

From February 2012 to November 3 , 2013 , the Fords hosted The City , a weekly two @-@ hour Sunday afternoon show on CFRB radio which Rob Ford described as " an unfiltered take on the work we do every day at Toronto City Hall . " After months of controversy involving the mayor , criticism of the station for letting the Fords use the show as a " bully pulpit " where their political allies were promoted and opponents cut down , and complaints to the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council alleging the show breached its code of ethics , CFRB announced in November 2013 that it and the Fords had " mutually determined " to end The City .

On November 14 , the brothers were tapped by Sun News Network to host a weekly pre @-@ taped one @-@ hour program on the TV network , to be titled Ford Nation .

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The lone airing of Ford Nation was broadcast on Monday , November 18 , 2013 , taking the 8PM (ET) slot normally occupied by Sun News Network 's The Source with Ezra Levant . The format included a back @-@ and @-@ forth dialogue between Rob Ford and Doug Ford , with the former readmitting the personal mistakes he has made as mayor (" It is what it is . I 've admitted to my mistakes . ") . Segments included discussions with Levant and Toronto Sun columnist Joe Warmington . Levant 's appearance included a commentary critical of the Toronto Star 's investigations into Rob Ford , with Levant likening the media 's treatment of the mayor over his recent controversies to the paparazzi 's hounding of Princess Diana .

= = Cancellation and revival as web series = =

On November 19 , 2013 , less than 24 hours after Ford Nation 's debut , Sun News Network announced it was cancelling the program after just one episode . Sun News cited high production costs involved with the premiere episode ; the show , taped one day before its airing , reportedly took five hours to record and an additional eight hours to edit . Additionally , the show met with advertiser resistance about being associated with the controversial politicians . Doug Ford , in a later conversation with The National Post , insisted that the brothers entered into the project with Sun with the understanding that Ford Nation was a " one @-@ off " project , one that was not intended to evolve into prolonged status .

Despite the show 's expense and its immediate cancellation , Ford Nation 's sole episode attracted an audience of 155 @, @ 000 viewers for the original broadcast , plus an additional 45 @, @ 000 for its replay on prime time in Western Canada and 65 @, @ 000 downloads of the program online . The audience was , according to Sun News vice @-@ president Kory Teneycke , " by far the most successful thing , from an audience perspective , the network has ever done , " topping a 2012 charity boxing match between Liberal MP Justin Trudeau and Conservative Senator Patrick Brazeau .

Rob Ford 's celebrity status had , according to Doug Ford , caught the eye of several reality television producers in both Canada and the United States . Councillor Ford stated that the brothers passed on those offers , but took an interest in suggestions by videographers for an online program that would retain the Ford Nation title and be posted weekly on YouTube . The program employed a

format similar to what the Fords enjoyed on CFRB 's The City , with the Fords " [getting] the message out " on various topics in a " professional , yet simple " presentation , with occasional interactions with guests and audiences .

Councillor Ford announced the new show would be released on YouTube " before Christmas " 2013 . A series of short videos of under 5 minutes in length was launched on YouTube on February 10 , 2014 . In one segment , Mayor Ford admitted lying about his drug use . Others were lighter in tone and included predictions for the Stanley Cup playoffs and other remarks . In the second video , Ford named 18 councillors he wanted defeated , offering his support to any campaign opposing them . Each weekly " episode " consisted of 3 to 5 short videos of 1 to 5 minutes in length . Comments were disabled ; however , the brothers occasionally answered viewer emails in the segments . The National Post described the program as " a bizarro world version of Wayne 's World " .

Five episodes of the web series aired , with some episodes broken up into several parts . No new episodes were filmed after April 2014 when Rob Ford entered rehab following the emergence of a second video of him smoking crack cocaine .