

The 2006 Canadian Leadership Debates

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The Hamilton Spectator

January 10, 2006

My comments on the English Language Debate as they appeared in The Hamilton Spectator on Tuesday, January 20, 2006.

From The Spectator Community Editorial Board Lyla Miklos activist, broadcaster

"Distressingly, Duceppe was the most passionate and inspired leader in the debate. He didn't sidestep the issue of homosexuality. Harper was a demonically possessed robot. Layton sounded so earnest and overly rehearsed I thought he was hosting a World Vision infomercial. Martin looked battered, wounded, old and tired."

My unedited comments on the English Language Debate:

Why is voter turnout so low? Because Martin, Harper and Layton have nothing new to say. Shame on CBC, CTV, Global and CPAC for, yet again, not inviting every federal party to the debate. Elections Canada's Website lists 15 registered political parties. National television broadcasters prevented Canadians from hearing some unique and original visions for our country. Distressingly, Duceppe was the most passionate and inspired leader in the debate. More distressingly, only the Separatist didn't sidestep the issue of homosexuality. He referred to queer rights as evolutionary and progressive. It almost makes me want to learn French and move to Quebec (wink). Harper was a demonically possessed robot. Layton sounded so earnest and overly rehearsed I thought he was hosting a World Vision infomercial. Martin looked battered, wounded, old and tired. Duceppe was a little spitfire, likely because he had nothing to lose.

My unedited comments on the French Language Debate:

Speaking French apparently puts some fire in our leaders' bellies! Did they all take a swig of piss and vinegar before they started debating? This debate was exciting, spontaneous, articulate and interesting. Replacing Harper's forced smile with a constant petulant smirk made him come across as a smug bully rather than a creepy robot. Duceppe proudly and unapologetically supports decriminalizing marijuana, assisted suicide and same-sex marriage. I guess Quebec truly is a distinct society! Layton suddenly came alive but still can't seem to convince Canadians or himself, despite all his feistiness, that he can truly lead this nation. Chretien . . . oops . . . I mean Martin (You know they both look so much alike!?!) keeps telling Canadians all that ails them and promises he's going to fix everything and make it better. Funny. His Liberal party has been in power since 1993. I guess 12 years wasn't enough time to fix it already.