

Election 2015: Week 7 was a battle of economic ideas



This composite image shows Conservative Leader Stephen Harper, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair, and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau.

CTVNews.ca Staff

Published Saturday, September 19, 2015 10:10AM EDT

The social media gaffes died down during the seventh week of the campaign and the focus turned to the economy. Here's a recap.

MONDAY

There are more than five million senior citizens and they are much more likely to vote, so [it's no surprise all three parties were dangling carrots for the elderly](#).

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau promised to eventually boost the guaranteed income supplement by \$920 a year, and to index old age security benefits to inflation.

The [NDP said they would not only boost the GIS](#), but also spend more on home care, nursing home beds, palliative care, 'dementia and Alzheimers.

The Conservatives - who previously announced a slew of benefits for seniors - celebrated the news that [Canada had posted a \\$1.9-billion surplus](#) for 2014-15 under their watch.

TUESDAY

Not to be outdone on the seniors file, Conservative Leader Stephen Harper announced [a \\$2,000 tax credit for single pensioners](#), which he said would start in 2017 and save them up to \$600 a year.

Mulcair made an announcement for another demographic, [a \\$100-million mental health fund](#) for youth, but that was overshadowed by [a manifesto from celebrities and prominent New Democrats](#), including Rachel McAdams, Stephen Lewis and Naomi Klein.

In contrast to the NDP's platform of balanced budgets, openness to free trade and sustainable development of Alberta's oilsands, [the Leap signatories](#) said they want the next government to end free trade deals and a phase out fossil fuels in a few decades.

Harper was in Vancouver, where [he said](#) a recession in Alberta "has been made worse because the NDP government came in and followed up by raising taxes."

WEDNESDAY

Trudeau was more kind to the Alberta NDP, [saying their victory gave him hope for a breakthrough in the province, which usually shuts out Liberals](#). He accused Harper of "missing an entire boom cycle" in Alberta and not getting "any of the projects needed" built.

The NDP, meanwhile, offered [a "costing" of their platform](#), which suggests they would pay for billions of dollars of new promises in part with a two per cent rise in the corporate tax rate - similar to the Alberta NDP's recent hike.

THURSDAY

Facebook revealed that the economy has certainly been on the minds of voters. It was the most-discussed topic between early August and mid-September, with big spikes coinciding with the news that Canada had slipped into technical recession and that it posted a \$1.9-billion surplus.

At an economy debate in Alberta, the leaders fought over their plans for greenhouse gases, a possible house price bubble, the wisdom of deficits and immigration policy.

Green party leader Elizabeth May wasn't invited but took to Twitter, where she shared videos, including one "fact-checking" Harper's comments on renewable energy.

FRIDAY

As the pundits argued over who won, all three leaders attempted to create post-debate momentum.

Harper upped his game by doing a Q&A in Toronto with Conservative super fan Wayne Gretzky.

Mulcair went to the land of Tommy Douglas (Saskatchewan) to announce his commitment to working with the provinces toward universal prescription drug coverage.

Trudeau, meanwhile, seized on a comment Harper made at the debate about "old stock Canadians," telling supporters in Montreal it showed Harper was "eager to use the politics of division."

Nanos Research's daily tracking for CTV and The Globe and Mail continued to show a three-way race Friday morning, as it had for eight days.

Next week will show whether any leader broke through.

MOST WATCHED

1 2 3 4

Login

Write a comment

26 Comments

Sort Subscribe

Countryboy 11 hours ago
Everyone in this country knows that the popular vote doesn't count! Harper can get elected with just 31% as long as he wins more seats...which he's done in the past! I hope we have an NDP or Liberal minority!, that way they all have to actually work together for the better of our country!!
Like | Reply | Share | 2 replies

Cre047 11 hours ago
There's one thing from the debate that is not discussed a lot, but is really concerning for the economy is regarding, the TPP and the auto parts sector which apparently could put 80 000 jobs (I would suspect most of them in Ontario at risk. So it's not the surplus, it's not the old-stock controversy, this is probably the most important part stemming from the debate
Like | Reply | Share | 3 replies

Stan M 11 hours ago
Two plans with VISION tm
A) Spend NOW tax em later
B) Tax em now give something from the bag of offerings later.