



## King's students hold Federal Debate for London North Centre

October 5, 2015

London, ON- King's University College students in Social Justice and Peace Studies and Political Science, as well as members from the King's Debate Society present the King's Federal Debate on October 7, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Joanne and Peter Kenny Theatre, Darryl J. King Student Life Centre, 266 Epworth Ave., London.

The debate will feature candidates running in the riding of London North-Centre. Confirmed participants include Green Party candidate Carol Dyck, Liberal Party candidate Peter Fragiskatos, and the candidate for the New Democratic Party, German Gutierrez. Conservative Party candidate and riding incumbent, Susan Truppe, has declined the invitation to attend. The debate will be hosted and moderated by King's students. Questions throughout the two-hour event will be taken from students, the audience, and social media. The debate will cover a variety of themes and issues relevant to voters in London, including education, infrastructure, poverty, and matters related to social welfare.

This debate is free, accessible, and open to the public. King's is pleased to welcome the broader London community to campus in the interest of political engagement. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Seating is on a first come basis. A reception with light refreshments will follow in the Garron Family Learning Lounge adjacent to the theatre.

"King's has a long history of seeking to increase the engagement of students and the public in politics, of which last year's Mayoral Debate is an excellent example. And what is valid for municipal elections also holds true for those at the federal level: there is a dearth of students engaged in politics, and we are hoping to contribute to a rectification of this issue," says Mick Kunze, a fourth-year Social Justice and Peace Studies and Political Science student at King's. "Public debates are a great opportunity to gain an introduction to the most pressing political issues and to extend one's participation in politics beyond the ballot."

Second-year Political Science student Violette Khammad is a co-moderator of the debate. "The King's Federal Debate not only enables students to be informed and engaged in federal politics, but also encourages students and youth to use their voices as both voters and leaders within the community. Political apathy and disengagement of youth are common misconceptions, especially during elections, but it is obvious that neither is an accurate portrayal of students at King's."

King's University College Principal, Dr. David Sylvester, adds that "the vitality of Canadian democracy depends on our willingness to engage in the issues that shape our communities and our country. I am inspired by the energy and commitment of these young student leaders who are creating this opportunity for all of us to engage in meaningful dialogue."

King's is a publicly-funded Catholic post-secondary institution founded in 1954. King's provides general and honors degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, business, and a master's degree in social work. It is positioned in the top rank of institutions of higher learning in Canada for the high quality of its teaching faculty and student experience. Institutionally-autonomous, King's is academically-affiliated with Western University. King's is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centered on the principles of social justice and the education of the whole person.

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