



Rick Peterson

*President of Peterson Capital Vancouver
I am an investment banker. I finance Canada's best entrepreneurs. I have offices in Vancouver, we have people in Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Geneva, and all we do every day is find Canada's best entrepreneurs and try to raise capital for them to grow.*

The message that the Conservative Party received in 2015 was a clear one. You're good, you have good policies, but we have to turn the page we need something new. I am the voice of the new.



Lisa Raitt

*MP for Milton (2008-present)
One of the shocking things you're going to hear today is that we all agree somewhat on policy, but we agree fundamentally on one big thing, and that's the fact that we can't let Justin Trudeau get a second term.*

I would submit to you that there are two things we need as a leader in order to beat Trudeau in 2019. The first is to be effective in the House of Commons and the second is to be effective in communicating with the Canadian people, she added.

I am smart, I am prepared and I am ruthless.



Steven Blaney

MP for Bellechasse-Les Etchemins-Lévis (2006-present)

I have two problems this afternoon here in Ontario. The first one is crazy high electricity bills. And the (Liberal solution) this week is pay less now but pay more in the longer time... Well, this is what the Liberals want, they want the money out of your pockets.

We talk a lot about how to attract the millennials and how to attract (them) as Conservatives. It's easy. We just have to put some green on our blue collars.



Kevin O Leary

President of O Leary Financial Group Toronto

There is a similarity with (Donald) Trump. Both of us achieved some notoriety through a social media base and reality television and business. So, I was on Shark Tank and he was on The Apprentice, but that's where the similarities end. I'm an Irish-Lebanese immigrant. If there was a wall around Canada I wouldn't exist. So our policies are nothing really like the U.S. We're a very inclusive society and will always remain that way. That's our competitive advantage. I'm all for immigration, but legal immigration. I don't want people pouring over the border and I don't know who they are. We got to fix that.



Andrew Saxton

*MP for North Vancouver (2008-15)
Folks, we need to get back to a balanced budget. I am the only candidate to have a constant and written plan to get back to balance by 2021.*

To win in 2019, we have to listen to our grassroots. We lost touch with the grassroots in the last election. We had a one-size-fits-all strategy that didn't take into consideration the issues in the provinces and territories. It's important that we listen to our grassroots. It's important that we win back seats in the cities... We need to win in the cities if we are going to win government in 2019.

address 800 party faithful in Halton

mitment to environmental sustainability in different ways was also a common theme. As were calls for growing the Conservative base among millennials.

Leitch led things off by addressing immigration and Canadian values, which mirrored many of her now controversial comments in a recent Facebook video. Her position stood in stark contrast perhaps strategically to a more welcoming, but resilient tone from most.

Lemieux, the former MP for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell from 2006-15, also spoke further to the right than most of the field on the immigration file, echoing in some

respects Leitch's more hawkish stance.

He, more than any other speaker, emphasized terrorism as it relates to immigration and also railed hardest against political correctness.

Blaney also emphasized securing borders, and questioned the government's refugee policy. His tone was a little softer than Leitch and Lemieux, but he definitely fell into the tough-on-immigration camp. He spent most of the remainder of his time discussing Ontario's high hydro rates and energy policy.

Perhaps looking to make up for missed opportunities at last week's debate, almost

the entire field referenced the importance of being able to speak French and/or attending debates at some point in their speeches not-so-subtle shots at perceived front-runner O Leary, who doesn't speak French and has skipped the last two debates.

O Leary used the majority of his six minutes discussing economic growth or a lack thereof and calling out the Trudeau government's economic policies. He also spoke a lot about his experiences working with young entrepreneurs and an ability to connect the millennial generation to the party's targeting in 2019.

There was a strong contingent of pro-business candidates on-hand, with Rick Peterson and Andrew Saxton joining O Leary as the most vocal in this regard. Both shared O Leary's emphasis on the importance of entrepreneurs.

Like O Leary, Peterson has never held public office. He presented perhaps the most unconventional economic idea of the day by suggesting a zero-per-cent corporate tax and blanket 15-per-cent income tax.

Peterson is president of Peterson Capital, a Vancouver-based venture capital firm.

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