

Wednesday, August 18 2021



Mr. David Johnston
Commissioner
Federal Debates Commission

Dear Mr. Johnston,

Thank-you for your invitation to the upcoming federal election Leaders' Debates. I am delighted to accept.

I also understand that the Commission is still deciding whether to include Maxime Bernier, Leader of the People's Party of Canada, in the Debates.

As you know, New Democrats objected to the inclusion of M. Bernier in the 2019 Leaders' debates. Ultimately, the Commission made a different decision. I continue to object to including M. Bernier in the upcoming debates.

M. Bernier has made clear statements against the public health measures currently in place to fight the fourth wave of COVID19. He has repeatedly disobeyed public health rules designed to protect others from COVID19. He has also clearly stated that he will not be vaccinated against COVID19.

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/national/maxime-bernier-says-he-wont-take-the-covid-19-vaccine>

M. Bernier has the right to hold these views and express them and can choose to not be vaccinated. However, allowing him a national televised platform to spread misinformation about COVID19 and vaccination is simply not acceptable.

Respectfully, I request that the Commission include these considerations as it makes the decision about who should participate in these debates.

Sincerely,

Jagmeet Singh
Leader
Canada's NDP