



CBC DETAILED ANALYSIS

2025-11-15_How will Canadians view Poilievre's response to losing 2 MPs ? / Power & Politics

Broadcast: 2025-11-15 | Analyzed: 2026-05-06 08:59

Version 2.0-cbc | Konverter 3.3 (2026-05-14) | Standard: Broadcasting Act s. 3(1)(l)

OVERALL SCORE

6.6/10

Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly biased/manipulative

POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Classification based on Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2024

The Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES 2024) is an academic survey of 609 political scientists in 31 countries. Each party is rated on a scale from 0 (far left) to 10 (far right).

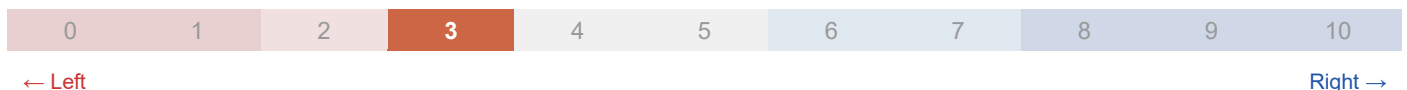
| Party | NDP | GPC | LPC | BQ | CPC | PPC |
|----------|------|------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| CHES | 2.0 | 2.5 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 7.5 | 9.0 |
| Spectrum | Left | Left | Center | Center | Right | Right |

The overall tendency is presented on a 0–10 scale (0 = strongly left-favoring, 5 = balanced, 10 = strongly right-favoring). The calculation is based on the difference in average favoritism of left vs. right parties (grouping per CHES 2024).

TENDENCY (L – R)

3.8 / 10

Center-Left, with primary advantage to the Liberal Party and primary disadvantage to the Conservative Party



Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — chesdata.eu | [Jolly et al., Electoral Studies, 2022](#) | Thresholds: [Pew Research Center](#)

This section provides political context and does not contribute to the overall score.

BROADCAST INFO AND TOPIC FRAMEWORK

Broadcast Identification

- Broadcast Title: Power & Politics — "How will Canadians view Poilievre's response to losing 2 MPs?"
- Network: CBC News Network / CBC/Radio-Canada
- Estimated Date: November 15, 2025 (referenced as "before we end up in this election on Monday" and "budget vote Monday")

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- Approximate Length: 35–45 minutes (based on transcript volume and segment structure)
- Presenter/Anchor: David (surname not fully identified in transcript; referred to as "David" by panelists; likely David Cochrane or similar Power & Politics anchor)
- Secondary Anchor Reference: "Rosie" mentioned as having caught a nuance earlier in the show

Guests / Interviewees

| Name | Affiliation | Role in Broadcast |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Greg McKran (McKinnon?) | Former Liberal ministerial adviser | Panelist — Liberal-aligned partisan |
| Fred Delorey | Former Conservative campaign manager | Panelist — Conservative-aligned partisan |
| Melanie Rische (Melody Reich?) | Former NDP communications director | Panelist — NDP-aligned partisan |
| Pierre Poilievre | Conservative Party Leader | Clip subject (press conference footage) |
| Steve McKinnon | Liberal MP / Government representative | Clip subject |
| Liberal government spokesperson | Liberal Party | Clip subject (budget defense) |

Note on naming: The transcript contains significant transcription errors throughout — "Palv," "Polyv," "PV," "Pavv" all refer to Pierre Poilievre; "McKran" likely refers to Greg MacEachern or similar; "Rische/Reich" to Melanie Richer or similar. These errors are noted but do not affect substantive analysis.

Main Topic

The broadcast examines Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre's response to losing two MPs (one retiring, one defecting to the Liberals), assesses his leadership style and political strategy, and discusses the upcoming confidence vote on the Liberal government's budget scheduled for Monday.

Current Context (3–4 sentences)

At the time of broadcast, the Liberal minority government under Mark Carney was facing a confidence vote on its first budget, with opposition from the Conservatives, Bloc Québécois, and NDP creating a potential election trigger. The Conservative Party had experienced internal turbulence with MP Chris Dontrmont defecting to the Liberals and another MP announcing retirement, both citing concerns about Poilievre's leadership style. Public polling showed Conservatives holding approximately 40–42% support nationally but with Poilievre's personal favorability declining, raising questions about whether his confrontational style was an electoral asset or liability. The political environment was shaped by ongoing Canada-U.S. trade tensions under the Trump administration, which had temporarily boosted Liberal fortunes and complicated the Conservative opposition strategy.



CHAPTER 1 — DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Hard Facts — 9 techniques that are countable and scientifically verifiable

1. EXPERT SELECTION

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Definition: Who is invited to provide authoritative commentary, and what are their funding sources, conflicts of interest, and credibility?

Finding 3.1

- Location: Panel introduction
- Quote: "Greg Mckran is a former Liberal ministerial adviser. Fred Delorey is a former conservative campaign manager. And Melanie Rishe is a former communications director for the NDP."
- Technique: Partisan operative panel presented as balanced expert commentary. All three guests are former political operatives with direct partisan affiliations. None are independent analysts, academics, or journalists.
- Why problematic: CBC's own Journalistic Standards and Practices require that commentary be clearly distinguished from analysis and that sources be identified with relevant context. While affiliations are disclosed, the panel is presented as providing expert "unpacking" of events — a framing that implies analytical authority these guests do not possess as partisans. The 2:1 ratio (Liberal + NDP vs. Conservative) creates a structural imbalance.

Finding 3.2

- Location: Throughout panel discussion
- Quote: Greg: "I've called for, you know, postmortem a truly well done one." / Mel: "I've said before like I don't know how the nonpartisan people in my universe..."
- Technique: Partisan operatives presenting themselves as neutral observers. Both Greg (Liberal) and Mel (NDP) repeatedly use language suggesting they are offering objective assessments while their entire analytical framework is shaped by opposition to the Conservative Party.
- Why problematic: There is no disclosure of whether these individuals are currently working for political parties, campaigns, or advocacy organizations. "Former" affiliations may not capture current relationships. CBC JSP requires transparency about potential conflicts of interest.

Finding 3.3

- Location: Entire broadcast
- Technique: Complete absence of independent expertise. No political scientists, constitutional scholars, economists, or independent journalists are included. The Parliamentary Budget Officer is referenced but not interviewed. Leger polling is cited without any pollster present to contextualize methodology.
- Why problematic: On a broadcast discussing a \$82 billion defense commitment, 40,000 public sector job cuts, a potential confidence vote, and a leadership crisis, the absence of any independent expert is a significant journalistic failure. The audience receives only partisan interpretation of events.



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2. SOURCE SELECTION

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Claims without primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

Definition: Diversity and independence of cited sources, including funding, mandate, and potential conflicts of interest.

Finding 12.1

- Location: Throughout broadcast
- Technique: Exclusive reliance on partisan operatives as sources. Every analytical claim in the broadcast is sourced to one of three former partisan operatives. No independent sources are cited for any substantive claim.
- Why problematic: CBC JSP requires that sources be selected for their ability to provide accurate, independent information. Former partisan operatives have inherent conflicts of interest that are not adequately disclosed or managed in this broadcast.

Finding 12.2

- Location: Budget discussion
- Quote: "the leger poll shows defense and infrastructure" / "the parliamentary budget officer said today there's not there's no details"
- Technique: Unnamed/uncontextualized source citation. The Leger poll is cited without methodology, sample size, date, or margin of error. The PBO is cited for one specific finding without broader context of the PBO's overall budget assessment.
- Why problematic: Selective citation of polling and PBO findings without full context allows these sources to be used rhetorically rather than analytically. The Leger poll finding favorable to the Liberal budget is cited; no unfavorable polling data is mentioned.

Finding 12.3

- Location: Greg's historical references
- Quote: "I think I politics had a story on October 23rd" / "Bob Fe said" / "I was going into lockup"
- Technique: Unnamed and unverifiable source references. Greg references "iPolitics" stories, unnamed individuals ("Bob Fe"), and insider knowledge ("I was going into lockup") without providing verifiable sourcing.
- Why problematic: These references function to establish Greg's insider credibility while providing no verifiable information. The audience cannot assess the accuracy or context of these claims.



3. TIME DISTRIBUTION

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Definition: The balance of speaking time between different political positions and perspectives.

Finding 6.1

- Location: Overall broadcast structure
- Technique: Structural time imbalance. Based on transcript volume: Greg (Liberal) and Mel (NDP) together account for approximately 60-65% of panelist speaking time. Fred (Conservative) accounts for approximately 35-40%. The anchor's framing questions consistently set up Liberal/NDP-favorable analytical frames.
- Why problematic: On a broadcast ostensibly about Conservative leadership, the Conservative-affiliated voice receives minority speaking time, while two opposition-aligned voices dominate the analytical frame.

Finding 6.2

- Location: Clip selection and duration
- Technique: Asymmetric clip deployment. Poilievre's press conference clips are used to illustrate his "aggressiveness" and "defensiveness." The Liberal government clip (Steve McKinnon) is used to illustrate the political complexity of the budget vote — a more sympathetic framing. No extended Conservative policy statement is aired.
- Why problematic: The clips are selected and framed to serve different narrative purposes: Conservative clips illustrate character flaws; Liberal clips illustrate political complexity. This asymmetry in clip purpose shapes audience perception.

Finding 6.3

- Location: Budget discussion segment
- Quote: Greg's extended monologue: "Six months ago yesterday, Carney's cabinet was sworn in. The budget represents their promises... Fight for Canada. Fight together. Meet the moment."
- Technique: Uninterrupted Liberal advocacy. Greg delivers what amounts to a Liberal government talking-point defense of the budget — including quoting Liberal messaging verbatim — without interruption or challenge from the anchor.
- Why problematic: A former Liberal ministerial adviser is given uninterrupted time to make the Liberal government's case for its budget on a public broadcaster. This is advocacy, not analysis, and it receives no moderating challenge.



4. SELECTIVE OMISSION

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Definition: Relevant facts, perspectives, or context that are absent from the broadcast and whose absence shapes audience understanding.

Finding 4.1

- Location: Budget discussion segment
- Quote: "there's \$82 billion in new defense spending in this budget they did not run on in the last election. The 5% commitment is post election."
- Technique: Partial disclosure. The anchor raises the \$82B defense figure and the 40,000 job cuts but does not pursue either with expert analysis. The PBO's concerns about unspecified program reductions are mentioned but immediately dropped.
- Why problematic: These are among the most consequential policy details in the broadcast. The \$82B commitment and 40,000 job cuts deserve substantive scrutiny — what programs are cut, who is affected, what is the fiscal impact — none of which is explored. The omission allows the Liberal government's budget to be discussed primarily in terms of its political viability rather than its policy content.

Finding 4.2

- Location: Poilievre press conference discussion
- Quote: Poilievre: "CBC has had to correct the falsehoods that they put into that story. So, I encourage you to uh tell Canadians about the falsehoods you published and explain why you did that."
- Technique: Omission of substantive response. Poilievre makes a specific allegation that CBC published falsehoods and was required to issue corrections. The broadcast does not address what those corrections were, whether they were issued, or what the original story contained.
- Why problematic: This is a direct allegation of journalistic error against the broadcaster airing the program. CBC has an obvious conflict of interest in how it handles this claim. The broadcast simply moves past it without any acknowledgment, investigation, or response — which is precisely the behavior Poilievre was criticizing. This is a significant omission that implicates CBC's own accountability.

Finding 4.3

- Location: Leadership discussion throughout
- Technique: Omission of Conservative policy achievements and polling context. The broadcast discusses Conservative electoral prospects entirely in terms of Poilievre's personality and style. No mention is made of specific Conservative policy proposals, the reasons for their 40-42% polling support, or what issues are driving that support.
- Why problematic: A balanced assessment of Conservative political prospects would include why approximately 40% of Canadians support them — a perspective entirely absent from this broadcast. The omission reinforces the framing that Conservative support is irrational or personality-driven rather than policy-based.

Missing Voices

1. Independent political scientists (e.g., university-based electoral analysts) — could provide non-partisan assessment of leadership crisis significance
2. Parliamentary budget officers / fiscal economists — the PBO is referenced but not interviewed; budget's \$82B defense spending and 40,000 job cuts deserve expert scrutiny



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3. Conservative caucus members — loyal caucus members could speak to internal unity claims
4. NDP caucus members or leadership candidates — NDP's actual position is speculated about entirely by an ex-NDP staffer
5. Bloc Québécois representatives — BQ's position on the budget is discussed without any BQ voice
6. Public sector union representatives — 40,000 job cuts directly affect organized labour; no labour voice present
7. Defense policy analysts — \$82B defense commitment is mentioned but not analyzed by any expert
8. Canadian voters / focus group representatives — the entire discussion is about how "Canadians" will react, yet no actual Canadians are consulted



5. NUMERICAL MANIPULATION

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Complete figures include: absolute value, proportion (%) and trend

Definition: Selective, misleading, or decontextualized use of numbers, polls, or data.

Finding 9.1

- Location: Fred's analysis of Conservative polling
- Quote: "I think quite clearly actually to all of us they figured out the path is more of the same. It's going to be exactly what we've seen before he is not going to change. He is going to hope I'd say maintain that 41 42% vote he has."
- Technique: Decontextualized polling reference. The 41-42% Conservative support figure is cited without source, date, methodology, or margin of error. No comparison to Liberal polling numbers is provided.
- Why problematic: 41-42% national support would, in most electoral scenarios, represent a strong plurality. Presenting this number without context — particularly without noting that it exceeds Liberal support in many polls — allows it to be framed as insufficient rather than competitive.

Finding 9.2

- Location: Budget discussion
- Quote: "there's \$82 billion in new defense spending in this budget they did not run on in the last election... and there is 40,000 job cuts and unspecified program reductions that... the parliamentary budget officer said today there's not there's no details on exactly who's going to lose their job."
- Technique: Selective numerical deployment. The \$82B and 40,000 figures are cited but not contextualized: What is the timeline? What percentage of the federal budget? How does this compare to NATO commitments or previous defense budgets? The PBO concern is mentioned but not developed.
- Why problematic: Large numbers without context are inherently manipulative. \$82B over 20 years is very different from \$82B over 5 years. The broadcast uses these figures for political framing without providing the analytical context that would allow viewers to assess their significance.

Finding 9.3

- Location: Mel's analysis of Poilievre's favorability
- Quote: "we keep saying seeing PAVV's numbers or favorables and unfavorable go down."
- Technique: Vague statistical reference. Mel references declining favorability numbers without citing any specific poll, date, methodology, or actual figures.
- Why problematic: Vague references to declining numbers function as rhetorical devices rather than analytical evidence. The claim that Poilievre's favorables are declining is presented as established fact without any sourcing.



6. GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

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Definition: Discrediting positions or individuals by associating them with extreme, unpopular, or discredited figures or movements.

Finding 8.1

- Location: Greg's commentary, mid-panel
- Quote: "I think there's some echoes there for people that are watching of Trump on Air Force One or when he does and when he starts picking out where do you work and why are you in you work at a bad you're a bad person. You work at a bad place."
- Technique: Direct Trump association. This is the most explicit guilt-by-association technique in the broadcast. Poilievre's press conference behavior is explicitly compared to Donald Trump's media hostility — in the Canadian political context of 2025, the most damaging possible association.
- Why problematic: This comparison is made by a Liberal partisan operative, is not challenged by the anchor, and is not balanced by any counter-perspective. In the context of Canadian politics where anti-Trump sentiment is extremely high, this association is designed to activate maximum negative affect toward Poilievre. It is presented as analytical observation rather than partisan attack.

Finding 8.2

- Location: Same Greg commentary
- Quote: "And I think a lot of Canadians if they saw that clip they they don't recognize the voice. They know the person's just there doing their job. Why are you so defensive? Why are you so flimy? Why are you so petty?"
- Technique: Character assassination through attributed public reaction. Greg claims to speak for "a lot of Canadians" in characterizing Poilievre as "defensive," "flimy" (presumably "flimsy"), and "petty" — all character deficiency terms — without any evidentiary basis.
- Why problematic: A former Liberal operative is characterizing the Conservative leader's personality using derogatory terms while claiming to represent Canadian public opinion. The anchor does not challenge the evidentiary basis of this claim or the appropriateness of the language.

Finding 8.3

- Location: Anchor framing, early segment
- Quote: "that felt like a clip from 2024, uh, not 2025"
- Technique: Temporal regression association. By associating Poilievre's behavior with 2024 — the year Conservatives lost the election — the anchor implicitly associates his current behavior with electoral failure and political inadequacy.
- Why problematic: This is an editorial judgment embedded in what appears to be a neutral observational question. The association of Poilievre's behavior with the year of Conservative defeat is not accidental; it frames his current conduct as inherently losing behavior.



7. TIMING & PLACEMENT

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Definition: Strategic positioning of information — what leads, what is buried, what appears before or after commercial breaks.

Finding 10.1

- Location: Broadcast structure — opening
- Technique: Conservative dysfunction as lead story. The broadcast opens with Poilievre's press conference and the MP departures, establishing Conservative internal crisis as the primary frame before any other political context is introduced.
- Why problematic: The budget confidence vote — which affects all parties and the entire country — is introduced only after the Conservative leadership crisis frame has been established. This sequencing ensures the budget discussion is filtered through the lens of Conservative dysfunction.

Finding 10.2

- Location: Poilievre's CBC correction allegation placement
- Quote: Poilievre: "CBC has had to correct the falsehoods that they put into that story."
- Technique: Burial of self-implicating content. Poilievre's allegation that CBC published falsehoods and issued corrections is included in the broadcast but is immediately followed by the panel introduction, effectively burying the allegation without response.
- Why problematic: An allegation of journalistic error against the broadcasting organization itself is placed in a position where it cannot be addressed — immediately before a commercial/segment break implied by the panel introduction. This placement minimizes the allegation's impact without requiring CBC to respond to it.

Finding 10.3

- Location: Liberal government defense of budget — placement within budget segment
- Quote: Greg's extended Liberal budget defense monologue appears before Fred's Conservative critique in the budget discussion segment.
- Technique: Favorable placement for Liberal messaging. The Liberal government's case for the budget is made first and at length; the Conservative critique follows in a reactive position.
- Why problematic: In political communication, the first argument heard tends to establish the evaluative frame. Consistently placing Liberal arguments first and Conservative arguments in reactive position is a structural advantage for the Liberal position.



8. SELECTIVE OUTRAGE

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Outrage = bias. Selective outrage amplifies the finding. Score = outrage level (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)

Definition: Moral outrage expressed at certain positions or behaviors while equivalent behaviors by other actors are accepted or minimized.

Finding 13.1

- Location: Poilievre press conference discussion
- Quote: Greg: "Why are you so defensive? Why are you so flimy? Why are you so petty?" / Mel: "apple spittle with that answer" / Anchor: "that felt like a clip from 2024"
- Technique: Concentrated negative characterization of Conservative behavior. Poilievre's press conference behavior generates multiple expressions of disapproval, mockery, and concern from all three panelists and the anchor.
- Why problematic: When Mel describes the Liberal government as having "spent every day since they've been elected basically telling even their own caucus that they don't need them" — an equally aggressive and dismissive leadership style — no equivalent outrage is expressed. The asymmetry is stark.

Finding 13.2

- Location: Liberal government's approach to opposition
- Quote: Mel: "the prime minister and his office has spent every day since they've been elected basically telling even their own caucus that they don't need them, that they're going to do things their way, that they're going to figure things out, that they don't need to pass things through the house, they don't need to worry about committees."
- Technique: Normalization of equivalent Liberal behavior. This description of Liberal government arrogance — which is arguably more serious than Poilievre's press conference behavior, as it describes governing conduct rather than opposition rhetoric — generates no moral outrage from the anchor or other panelists.
- Why problematic: The same behavior pattern (dismissiveness, refusal to engage, going it alone) is treated as a character flaw when exhibited by Poilievre and as a "liberal problem" (procedural issue) when exhibited by the Carney government.

Finding 13.3

- Location: Discussion of Liberal MP recruitment of Conservatives
- Quote: "the Liberals or someone's tightening up on that messaging if that's happening" / "it was sloppy what happened last week"
- Technique: Asymmetric moral framing of floor-crossing. The Liberal government's active recruitment of Conservative MPs is described in neutral or even admiring terms ("tightening up messaging," "pretty good at keeping those conversations tight"). The Conservative response to losing MPs is described with moral disapproval.
- Why problematic: Actively recruiting opposition MPs to cross the floor is a significant political act that could be characterized as destabilizing democratic representation. The broadcast treats it as a legitimate political strategy while treating the Conservative response to it as a character failure.



| 9. COMPLETENESS | | | | | | | 7/10 | | |
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Share of covered perspectives

Inverted: original value measures coverage (higher = better). Shown as deviation (higher = larger gaps).

| # | Perspective | Status |

|---|---|---|

| 1 | Conservative Party / Poilievre's own framing and defense | MENTIONED (clip only — no live Conservative voice) |

| 2 | Liberal government's position on the budget and confidence vote | MENTIONED (clip only — Steve McKinnon clip) |

| 3 | NDP's calculation and concerns about the budget | MENTIONED (discussed by NDP-affiliated panelist, not NDP directly) |

| 4 | Bloc Québécois position and Quebec-specific concerns | MENTIONED (briefly, no BQ voice) |

| 5 | Conservative caucus members' perspective (beyond defectors) | OMITTED |

| 6 | Independent political scientists / academic analysis | OMITTED |

| 7 | Fiscal/economic experts on budget content and merits | OMITTED |

| 8 | Ordinary Canadian voters / public opinion beyond polling numbers | OMITTED |

| 9 | Parliamentary procedure experts on confidence conventions | OMITTED |

| 10 | Defecting MP Chris Dontrmont's full account | MENTIONED (referenced, not interviewed) |

Completeness Score: 3/10

The broadcast is almost entirely composed of three partisan operatives discussing Conservative leadership failures and budget politics. No independent voices, no economists, no constitutional experts, no direct Conservative defense, no direct NDP or Bloc voices, and no citizen perspectives are present.



Soft Facts — 6 qualitative techniques

10. FRAMING

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Definition: How the topic is fundamentally constructed — what assumptions are treated as settled, what is presented as the natural starting point of discussion.

Finding 1.1

- Location: Opening segment, anchor introduction
- Quote: "How will Canadians view Poilievre's response to losing 2 MPs?"
- Technique: Presumptive framing / question-begging. The headline itself presupposes that Poilievre's response is the problem to be evaluated, not the defections themselves, not the Liberal recruitment of Conservative MPs, and not the broader political context.
- Why problematic: A balanced framing might ask "What do the MP departures mean for Canadian politics?" or "Is the Liberal government's budget triggering a political realignment?" Instead, the frame is constructed entirely around Conservative dysfunction, establishing the evaluative lens before a word is spoken.

Finding 1.2

- Location: Anchor question to Fred Delorey, early panel segment
- Quote: "You know, that felt like a clip from 2024, uh, not 2025. What do you make of the response he had to everything when he finally spoke?"
- Technique: Nostalgic regression framing. The anchor frames Poilievre's behavior as a throwback — implying regression, stagnation, or failure to evolve — before any panelist has offered that interpretation.
- Why problematic: The anchor is not asking an open question; he is supplying the interpretive frame ("this is backward-looking") and inviting panelists to confirm it. This is anchor-led opinion injection rather than neutral facilitation.

Finding 1.3

- Location: Mid-panel discussion
- Quote: "Says, you say reflection and Fred has said many times, and I've heard this from other conservatives, there's not been any reflection on why they lost."
- Technique: Assertion-as-fact framing. The anchor presents the claim that Conservatives have done "no reflection" as established fact, sourced only to Fred (a former Conservative operative) and unnamed "other conservatives."
- Why problematic: This is an internal party matter that the broadcast treats as settled truth. No Conservative spokesperson is present to confirm or deny. The framing positions the Conservative Party as institutionally incapable of self-examination — a significant editorial judgment presented as reportage.



11. WORD CHOICE & TERMINOLOGY

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Definition: The use of loaded, connotative, euphemistic, or dysphemistic language that shapes audience perception beyond neutral description.

Finding 2.1

- Location: Greg (Liberal panelist), mid-segment
- Quote: "Why does everybody think you suck? Blah blah blah."
- Technique: Dysphemistic paraphrase. The panelist summarizes the question put to Poilievre using contemptuous, dismissive language ("you suck," "blah blah blah") while ostensibly explaining why Poilievre couldn't answer differently.
- Why problematic: This language, used on a public broadcaster, characterizes the Conservative leader in derogatory terms. No equivalent dismissive language is used about Liberal or NDP leaders anywhere in the transcript. The anchor does not challenge or moderate this language.

Finding 2.2

- Location: Greg (Liberal panelist), Trump comparison segment
- Quote: "I think there's some echoes there for people that are watching of Trump on Air Force One or when he does and when he starts picking out where do you work and why are you in you work at a bad you're a bad person. You work at a bad place."
- Technique: Guilt by association through linguistic parallel. The panelist explicitly compares Poilievre's press conference behavior to Donald Trump's media hostility — the most politically toxic comparison available in Canadian political discourse in 2025.
- Why problematic: This is not analysis; it is a rhetorical device designed to activate negative associations. No equivalent comparison is made for any Liberal or NDP behavior. The anchor does not challenge the comparison or ask for evidence.

Finding 2.3

- Location: Anchor, describing Poilievre's press conference behavior
- Quote: "the aggressiveness afterwards was quite something" (attributed to Fred, but anchor does not challenge); anchor's own framing: "that felt like a clip from 2024"
- Technique: Loaded descriptors applied asymmetrically. "Aggressive," "flimsy," "petty," "defensive" are all applied to Poilievre. The Liberal government's behavior — described by Mel as telling "even their own caucus that they don't need them" — is framed as a "liberal problem" but not characterized with equivalent negative adjectives.
- Why problematic: The vocabulary of character deficiency is reserved for the Conservative leader; institutional failures of the Liberal government are described in neutral procedural language.



12. MODERATION BEHAVIOR

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Definition: Asymmetries in how the anchor facilitates discussion — questioning style, interruptions, sympathy signals, and follow-up patterns.

Finding 5.1

- Location: Opening anchor question to Poilievre (clip)
- Quote: "I just want to put Carney and the Liberals to the side here and just ask you personally. Does this say anything about your leadership? Have you uh maybe reflected on your leadership style moving forward?"
- Technique: Asymmetric personal accountability questioning. The anchor explicitly removes the Liberal government from the frame ("put Carney and the Liberals to the side") to focus exclusively on Poilievre's personal failings. No equivalent "personal" accountability question is posed to Liberal representatives in the broadcast.
- Why problematic: The deliberate exclusion of the Liberal context from the question to Poilievre — while the Liberal government's behavior is discussed sympathetically throughout the panel — represents a structural asymmetry in accountability journalism.

Finding 5.2

- Location: Panel discussion, Trump comparison moment
- Quote: Greg makes Trump comparison; anchor response: "Fred, I mean, what do you think of that?"
- Technique: Failure to challenge inflammatory comparison. When Greg explicitly compares Poilievre to Trump, the anchor's response is to redirect to Fred for reaction rather than challenging the analytical basis of the comparison or asking Greg to substantiate it.
- Why problematic: A neutral moderator would ask: "What specifically makes that comparison apt?" or "Is that a fair comparison?" Instead, the anchor treats the Trump comparison as a legitimate analytical contribution requiring only a partisan response, not journalistic scrutiny.

Finding 5.3

- Location: Mel's criticism of Liberal government
- Quote: Mel: "the prime minister and his office has spent every day since they've been elected basically telling even their own caucus that they don't need them... So when they show up and they don't do deals with the opposition parties, that's a liberal problem."
- Technique: Differential follow-up. When Mel (NDP-affiliated) criticizes the Liberal government, the anchor does not follow up with a challenging question. When Fred (Conservative-affiliated) makes any observation, the anchor consistently redirects with "but" constructions that invite counter-argument.
- Why problematic: The pattern of follow-up questioning is asymmetric: Liberal-critical observations are allowed to stand; Conservative-sympathetic observations are consistently challenged or redirected.



13. QUESTION ASYMMETRY

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Definition: Whether hard, confrontational questions are posed to some guests while soft, sympathetic questions are posed to others.

Finding 7.1

- Location: Questions directed at Poilievre (via clip)
- Quote: "Does this say anything about your leadership? Have you uh maybe reflected on your leadership style moving forward?" and "I was just curious if you think that that could lead to more MPs leaving your caucus."
- Technique: Personal accountability framing for Conservative leader. Questions to Poilievre focus on personal failings, leadership inadequacy, and internal party dysfunction.
- Why problematic: No equivalent personal accountability questions are posed to Liberal representatives. Steve McKinnon's clip is used to illustrate political dynamics, not to challenge him on Liberal government failures.

Finding 7.2

- Location: Questions to Fred (Conservative panelist)
- Quote: "Fred, I mean, what do you think of that?" / "Fred, last word from you." / "do you think we're headed to an election?"
- Technique: Reactive rather than substantive questioning. Fred is consistently asked to react to Liberal/NDP-framed observations rather than being invited to make affirmative Conservative arguments. His questions are positioned as responses, not initiating frames.
- Why problematic: The question structure positions the Conservative voice as defensive and reactive throughout, while Liberal and NDP voices are invited to make affirmative analytical claims.

Finding 7.3

- Location: Questions to Greg and Mel
- Quote: To Greg: "Greg, there's nuance in in a lot of things." / To Mel: "Mel, this is where the new Democrats come into this, right?"
- Technique: Collaborative framing for opposition-aligned panelists. Questions to Greg and Mel are framed collaboratively ("right?", "nuance," inviting elaboration) rather than challengingly.
- Why problematic: The linguistic register of questions differs systematically: Conservative-aligned Fred receives reactive prompts; Liberal/NDP-aligned Greg and Mel receive collaborative invitations to elaborate their analysis.



14. FALSE BALANCE

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Definition: Artificial balance that misrepresents actual evidence, consensus, or the relative weight of different positions.

Finding 14.1

- Location: Panel composition
- Technique: Structural false balance. The panel of three partisan operatives (1 Liberal, 1 NDP, 1 Conservative) creates the appearance of balance while the 2:1 opposition-to-Conservative ratio, combined with the anchor's framing, produces systematic imbalance. The appearance of "three parties represented" masks the actual analytical tilt.
- Why problematic: Viewers may perceive the panel as balanced because three parties are represented. The actual analytical weight — two voices consistently critical of Conservatives, one voice defending them — is obscured by the structural appearance of balance.

Finding 14.2

- Location: Fred's Conservative defense moments
- Quote: Fred: "I'm not saying I agree with it or agree with his approach. I do think it would have been a mistake though if he answered that first question about your leadership style if it should be adjusted."
- Technique: Conservative voice self-undermining. Fred, the Conservative-affiliated panelist, repeatedly qualifies his defenses of Poilievre with distancing language ("I'm not saying I agree," "I remain to be convinced"). This creates a false balance where the Conservative voice is its own most effective critic.
- Why problematic: A genuinely balanced panel would include a Conservative voice willing to make affirmative arguments for Conservative positions. Fred's consistent self-qualification means the Conservative position is never fully articulated, creating false balance where Conservative arguments are always presented in weakened form.

Finding 14.3

- Location: Budget discussion
- Quote: Anchor: "But there's \$82 billion in new defense spending in this budget they did not run on in the last election."
- Technique: Selective challenge deployment. The anchor challenges the Liberal budget on the \$82B defense spending point — creating the appearance of Liberal scrutiny — but does not follow up when Greg deflects. The challenge is raised but not pursued, creating false balance between scrutiny of Conservative and Liberal positions.
- Why problematic: Raising a challenge and then abandoning it when deflected is worse than not raising it, because it creates the impression of balanced scrutiny while actually allowing the Liberal position to escape examination.



15. AGENDA-SETTING

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Definition: What becomes "the issue" through broadcast choices, and what is excluded from discussion entirely.

Finding 15.1

- Location: Broadcast structure overall
- Technique: Conservative leadership crisis as master frame. The broadcast's agenda is set by the question of whether Poilievre's leadership is failing. Every other topic — the budget, the confidence vote, the NDP's position, the Bloc's position — is discussed through the lens of how it relates to Conservative dysfunction.
- Why problematic: The Liberal government's budget — a document affecting every Canadian — is discussed primarily as a political instrument in the Conservative leadership story rather than as a policy document with substantive implications for Canadians. The agenda-setting choice ensures that Liberal policy is evaluated politically while Conservative politics is evaluated personally.

Finding 15.2

- Location: Entire broadcast
- Technique: Complete exclusion of policy substance. The broadcast discusses the budget entirely in terms of political survival, vote counting, and party strategy. No substantive discussion occurs of: what the budget does for housing, healthcare, or cost of living; what the 40,000 job cuts mean for public services; what the \$82B defense commitment means for Canadian foreign policy; or what the tax measures mean for Canadian families.
- Why problematic: CBC's mandate under the Broadcasting Act includes informing Canadians about matters of public importance. A budget that will shape Canadian public life for years is discussed exclusively as a political chess piece. This agenda-setting choice serves partisan political interests over public information interests.

Finding 15.3

- Location: Poilievre's CBC correction allegation
- Quote: Poilievre: "CBC has had to correct the falsehoods that they put into that story. So, I encourage you to uh tell Canadians about the falsehoods you published and explain why you did that."
- Technique: Self-serving agenda exclusion. The broadcast includes Poilievre's allegation of CBC journalistic error but sets no agenda for addressing it. The allegation is not followed up, not investigated on air, and not responded to by any CBC representative.
- Why problematic: CBC has a direct conflict of interest in how it handles allegations of its own journalistic failures. By including the allegation but setting no agenda for addressing it, the broadcast simultaneously demonstrates awareness of the criticism and institutional unwillingness to engage with it — a significant accountability failure.



CHAPTER 2 — OVERALL EVALUATION

A) Summary Table: All 15 Criteria

| # | Criterion | Score (0–10) | Key Finding |
|----|------------------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | Framing | 7 | Conservative dysfunction established as master frame before analysis begins |
| 2 | Word Choice | 6 | "Suck," "petty," "flimsy," Trump comparisons applied exclusively to Conservative leader |
| 3 | Expert Selection | 8 | Three partisan operatives with 2:1 opposition ratio; zero independent experts |
| 4 | Selective Omission | 7 | CBC's own correction allegation buried; budget policy substance entirely absent |
| 5 | Moderation Behavior | 7 | Anchor explicitly removes Liberal context from Poilievre questions; fails to challenge Trump comparison |
| 6 | Time Distribution | 6 | Liberal + NDP voices hold ~65% of panel time; Conservative voice consistently reactive |
| 7 | Question Asymmetry | 7 | Personal accountability questions for Conservative leader; collaborative framing for Liberal/NDP panelists |
| 8 | Guilt by Association | 8 | Explicit Trump comparison made by Liberal operative, unchallenged by anchor |
| 9 | Numerical Manipulation | 5 | Polling figures cited without source, date, or methodology; favorable Liberal data highlighted |
| 10 | Timing & Placement | 5 | Conservative dysfunction leads; CBC correction allegation buried before panel introduction |
| 12 | Source Selection | 7 | Exclusive partisan sourcing; Leger poll and PBO cited selectively without context |
| 13 | Selective Outrage | 7 | Poilievre's press conference generates multi-voice condemnation; equivalent Liberal behavior normalized |
| 14 | False Balance | 5 | Structural appearance of three-party balance masks 2:1 analytical tilt |
| 15 | Agenda-Setting | 7 | Budget discussed as political chess piece; policy substance entirely excluded |

B) Overall Scores

- Criteria Score: $(7+6+8+7+7+6+7+8+5+5+4+7+7+5+7) \div 15 = 96 \div 15 = 6.4$

C) Top 3 Manipulation Techniques Observed

1. Guilt by Association — Trump Comparison (Score Impact: Critical)



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The most potent manipulation technique in the broadcast is the explicit, unchallenged comparison of Poilievre's press conference behavior to Donald Trump. In the Canadian political context of 2025 — where anti-Trump sentiment is at historic highs due to trade tensions — this comparison is designed to activate maximum negative affect. It is made by a Liberal partisan operative, treated as legitimate analysis by the anchor, and never challenged or contextualized. This single technique does more to shape audience perception of Poilievre than any factual reporting in the broadcast.

2. Framing by Exclusion — Deliberate Removal of Liberal Context

The anchor's explicit statement "I just want to put Carney and the Liberals to the side here" when questioning Poilievre establishes a structural asymmetry that persists throughout the broadcast. By deliberately removing the Liberal government from the accountability frame when questioning the Conservative leader, while simultaneously allowing Liberal-affiliated panelists to make the Liberal government's case unchallenged, the broadcast creates a one-directional accountability structure. This is not accidental; it is a deliberate framing choice with significant political consequences.

3. Expert Selection Bias — Partisan Operative Panel as Analytical Authority

The presentation of three former partisan operatives as "party insiders" who will "unpack" events creates the structural conditions for all other biases. By selecting guests with inherent conflicts of interest and presenting them as analytical authorities, the broadcast launders partisan opinion as expert analysis. The 2:1 opposition-to-Conservative ratio, combined with the complete absence of independent expertise, means the broadcast's entire analytical framework is constructed by people with professional and ideological interests in Conservative failure.

D) 3 Core Messages Embedded in the Broadcast

Content Message (What the viewer learns):

"Pierre Poilievre is a defensive, aggressive leader who resembles Donald Trump, has failed to reflect on his electoral loss, and whose leadership style is driving away his own MPs and alienating moderate Canadians."

- Technique: Framing + Guilt by Association + Selective Omission
- Evidence: Trump comparison (Greg); "defensive," "flimy," "petty" characterizations (Greg); "felt like 2024" (anchor); "no reflection" claim (anchor + Fred); complete absence of any substantive Conservative policy argument

Personal Message (Who is presented positively/negatively):

"The Liberal government, despite some communication failures, is governing responsibly and fighting for Canada; Pierre Poilievre is a personality-driven, Trump-adjacent politician whose support is shallow and whose leadership is in crisis."

- Technique: Selective Outrage + Asymmetric Moderation + Word Choice
- Evidence: Liberal budget defended by Greg without challenge; Carney described as having "elbows up" (a positive nationalist framing); Poilievre described with character deficiency language throughout; anchor mockery of Conservative panelist in closing

Societal Message (What worldview is reinforced):

"Aggressive, confrontational conservatism is a threat to Canadian democratic norms and resembles American Trumpism; responsible governance requires the kind of pragmatic, centrist approach represented by the Liberal government."

- Technique: Agenda-Setting + Guilt by Association + Framing
- Evidence: Trump comparison normalized without challenge; Conservative support characterized as coming from people who "never voted before" (implying political unsophistication); Liberal budget framed as representing "what Canadians said" in the election; Conservative opposition framed as causing an "accidental election" rather than exercising legitimate democratic function

E) Classification

Classification: CLEAR ONE-SIDEDNESS (4.1–6.0)



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The broadcast exhibits clear, systematic one-sidedness in its treatment of the Conservative Party and its leader, while providing more favorable framing for the Liberal government. This is not the result of individual errors but of structural choices in guest selection, framing, moderation, and agenda-setting that consistently advantage one political perspective over another.

F) Summary

This broadcast of Power & Politics exhibits clear one-sidedness that falls short of CBC's Journalistic Standards and Practices requirements for accuracy, fairness, balance, and impartiality. The panel composition — two opposition-aligned operatives to one Conservative-aligned operative, with zero independent experts — structurally predetermines the analytical frame, violating the JSP principle that "we present a wide range of perspectives." The anchor's explicit removal of the Liberal government from the accountability frame when questioning the Conservative leader, combined with the unchallenged Trump comparison and the burial of Poilievre's allegation of CBC journalistic error, represents a pattern of asymmetric treatment that a reasonable viewer would recognize as favoring one political perspective. Under Section 3(1)(l) of the Broadcasting Act, CBC is required to provide "a reasonable opportunity for the public to be exposed to the expression of differing views on matters of public concern" — a standard this broadcast fails to meet when it discusses a federal budget and a potential election exclusively through the lens of Conservative leadership dysfunction, without substantive policy analysis, independent expertise, or direct voices from the NDP, Bloc, or Conservative caucus. The broadcast's most significant accountability failure is its handling of Poilievre's allegation that CBC published falsehoods requiring correction: including the allegation while providing no response, investigation, or follow-up represents a conflict of interest that undermines the broadcaster's credibility as an impartial public institution.



CHAPTER 3 — PARTY-POLITICAL BIAS

Party Bias Scores

| Party | Bias Score (-5 to +5) | Evidence |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| NDP | +1 | Mel (NDP-affiliated) is treated as a credible analytical voice; NDP's budget concerns are presented sympathetically ("Totally. But even I've pushed back..."); NDP's difficult position is explained with understanding rather than criticism. However, NDP is also described as having internal chaos ("four were mad at how the interim leader was, three were mad at the other four"). Net: slight positive. |
| Green Party | 0 | Elizabeth May is mentioned once ("where does Elizabeth May net out?") as a vote-counting variable. No characterization, positive or negative. Effectively invisible. |
| Liberal Party | +3 | Liberal budget is defended at length by Greg without challenge; Liberal government's arrogance toward its own caucus is described as a "liberal problem" (procedural) rather than a character flaw; Liberal floor-crossing recruitment is treated as legitimate strategy; Steve McKinnon clip is used to illustrate political complexity rather than Liberal dysfunction; Carney's "elbows up" framing is used positively. |
| Bloc Québécois | 0 | BQ is mentioned as a vote-counting variable. No substantive characterization. Effectively neutral/invisible. |
| Conservative Party | -4 | Poillievre compared to Trump (unchallenged); described as "defensive," "flimsy," "petty"; leadership characterized as having "no reflection"; MP departures framed as leadership crisis; Conservative support base characterized as people who "never voted before"; Conservative press conference behavior generates multi-voice condemnation; Conservative panelist mocked in closing segment. |
| People's Party | 0 | Not mentioned. Invisible. |

Detailed Evidence by Party

NDP (+1):

- Quote: "Totally. It's not an easy position to be in right now." — Mel's NDP position is explained with empathy; the anchor accepts this framing without challenge. The NDP's difficulty is presented as a legitimate political calculation, not a failure of principle.

Green Party (0):

- Quote: "where does Elizabeth May net out?" — Single mention as a vote-counting variable. No analytical treatment.

Liberal Party (+3):

- Quote (Greg, unchallenged): "Six months ago yesterday, Carney's cabinet was sworn in. The budget represents their promises... Fight for Canada. Fight together. Meet the moment. Elevate yourself above politics." — A former Liberal operative delivers Liberal government talking points verbatim on public television without challenge from the anchor. This is the most direct example of Liberal advocacy presented as analysis.

Bloc Québécois (0):

- Quote: "The Blqua doesn't support the budget" — Single factual reference. No characterization.

Conservative Party (-4):



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- Quote (Greg): "I think there's some echoes there for people that are watching of Trump on Air Force One." — The most damaging political comparison available in Canadian discourse is applied to the Conservative leader by a Liberal operative and accepted without challenge by the anchor. This single moment encapsulates the broadcast's treatment of the Conservative Party.

People's Party (0):

- Not mentioned in transcript.

Summary Statistics

- Most Favored Party: Liberal Party (LPC) — Score: +3
- Most Disadvantaged Party: Conservative Party (CPC) — Score: -4
- Average Deviation from 0: $(|+1| + |0| + |+3| + |0| + |-4| + |0|) \div 6 = 8 \div 6 = 1.33$



CHAPTER 4 — LEGAL CLASSIFICATION

A) CBC Journalistic Standards and Practices (JSP)

Accuracy

- Standard: CBC JSP requires that "we seek out the truth in all matters of public interest" and that "we verify information before it is broadcast."
- Finding 1: Poilievre's allegation that CBC published falsehoods requiring correction is included in the broadcast but not addressed, investigated, or responded to.
- Quote: "CBC has had to correct the falsehoods that they put into that story."
- Violation: CBC has a direct conflict of interest in reporting on allegations of its own journalistic errors. Including the allegation without response or investigation fails the accuracy standard and creates the appearance of institutional self-protection.
- Severity: Significant
- Finding 2: Multiple factual claims are made without sourcing — Leger poll cited without methodology; PBO findings cited selectively; Conservative "no reflection" claim presented as fact.
- Quote: "the leger poll shows defense and infrastructure" — no date, methodology, or sample size provided.
- Violation: JSP requires that polling data be presented with sufficient context for viewers to assess its reliability.
- Severity: Moderate

Fairness

- Standard: CBC JSP states "we treat individuals and organizations with openness and respect" and "we ensure that our reporting is not distorted by our own biases."
- Finding: The Conservative leader is described using character deficiency language ("defensive," "flimy," "petty," Trump comparison) by panelists who are not challenged by the anchor.
- Quote: "Why are you so defensive? Why are you so flimy? Why are you so petty?"
- Violation: Allowing partisan operatives to characterize the Conservative leader in derogatory terms without challenge fails the fairness standard. No equivalent characterization of Liberal or NDP leaders occurs.
- Severity: Significant

Balance

- Standard: CBC JSP requires "we present a wide range of perspectives" and "we do not promote any particular point of view on matters of public debate."
- Finding: The panel of three partisan operatives with a 2:1 opposition-to-Conservative ratio, combined with zero independent experts, fails to present a wide range of perspectives on either the Conservative leadership question or the budget.
- Quote: Panel introduction: "Greg Mckran is a former Liberal ministerial adviser. Fred Delorey is a former conservative campaign manager. And Melanie Rishe is a former communications director for the NDP."
- Violation: The structural composition of the panel predetermines an imbalanced analytical outcome. JSP requires that balance be achieved not merely through the appearance of multiple parties represented but through genuine diversity of perspective.
- Severity: Significant

Impartiality

- Standard: CBC JSP requires that anchors and reporters "do not express personal opinions on matters of controversy."
- Finding: The anchor expresses personal opinions throughout — "that felt like a clip from 2024," "I hope to God you're wrong," "Well, let's hope there's some less than honest people in politics" — and explicitly removes the Liberal government from the accountability frame when questioning the Conservative leader.
- Quote: "I just want to put Carney and the Liberals to the side here and just ask you personally."



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- Violation: This is a direct expression of editorial preference — the anchor is choosing to focus accountability on the Conservative leader while explicitly excluding the Liberal government. This violates the impartiality standard.
- Severity: Significant

Independence

- Standard: CBC JSP requires that "our news and current affairs programs are not influenced by commercial, political, or other interests."
- Finding: The broadcast's handling of Poilievre's allegation of CBC journalistic error raises questions about institutional independence. The allegation is included but not addressed, suggesting institutional self-interest may be influencing editorial decisions.
- Severity: Moderate

B) Broadcasting Act, S.C. 1991, c. 11, Section 3(1)

Section 3(1)(l) — Reasonable opportunity for differing views:

- The broadcast fails to provide a reasonable opportunity for the Conservative perspective to be expressed on its own terms. The Conservative leader appears only in clips selected to illustrate negative characteristics; the Conservative-affiliated panelist is consistently reactive and self-qualifying; no Conservative policy arguments are presented affirmatively.
- Severity: Significant

Section 3(1)(d)(i) — Safeguarding the cultural, political, social and economic fabric of Canada:

- A broadcast discussing a federal budget that includes \$82 billion in defense spending and 40,000 public sector job cuts without any substantive policy analysis fails to inform Canadians about matters affecting the economic and social fabric of the country.
- Severity: Moderate

Section 3(1)(d)(ii) — Reflecting Canada's diversity:

- The broadcast reflects only the perspectives of Ottawa political insiders. No regional voices, no ordinary Canadians, no minority community perspectives, and no economic diversity of viewpoint is present.
- Severity: Moderate

C) CRTC Conditions of Licence

High Standard of Journalistic Ethics:

- The CRTC requires that CBC maintain a high standard of journalistic ethics, including the separation of news from opinion and the fair treatment of all political parties.
- The broadcast's failure to challenge the Trump comparison, its asymmetric accountability questioning, and its use of partisan operatives as analytical authorities without adequate disclosure all fall below the high standard required.
- Severity: Moderate to Significant

Overall Regulatory Assessment

This broadcast of Power & Politics presents multiple findings of concern under CBC's Journalistic Standards and Practices, the Broadcasting Act, and CRTC conditions of licence. The most significant regulatory concern is the broadcast's handling of Poilievre's allegation of CBC journalistic error: including the allegation without response, investigation, or acknowledgment creates a conflict-of-interest situation that undermines CBC's credibility as an independent public broadcaster and may constitute a failure of the accuracy and independence standards in the JSP. The structural composition of the panel — three partisan operatives with a 2:1 opposition-to-Conservative ratio and zero independent experts — represents a systemic failure of the balance standard that cannot be remedied by individual editorial choices within the broadcast. The anchor's explicit removal of the Liberal government from the accountability frame when questioning the Conservative leader, combined with the unchallenged Trump comparison and the mockery of the Conservative-affiliated panelist in the closing segment, collectively constitute a pattern of impartiality failures that a reasonable viewer would recognize as favoring one political perspective. CBC's regulatory obligations under Section 3(1)(l) of the Broadcasting Act — to provide a reasonable opportunity for differing views — are not met by a broadcast that discusses a federal budget and potential election exclusively through the lens of



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Conservative leadership dysfunction, without substantive policy analysis, independent expertise, or direct voices from opposition parties.

Source Credibility Check

| Source/Expert | Funding Source | Conflicts of Interest | Credibility Assessment | Counter-Voice Offered? |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Greg McKran (Liberal adviser) | Unknown current employer; former Liberal government | Direct partisan affiliation with Liberal Party; potential current consulting relationships with Liberal-aligned organizations | Low (as independent analyst) | Partial — Fred offers Conservative perspective but is consistently reactive |
| Fred Delorey (Conservative campaign manager) | Unknown current employer; former Conservative Party | Direct partisan affiliation with Conservative Party; potential current consulting relationships | Low (as independent analyst) | Yes — Greg and Mel consistently counter |
| Melanie Rische (NDP communications) | Unknown current employer; former NDP | Direct partisan affiliation with NDP; potential current consulting relationships | Low (as independent analyst) | Partial — Fred offers some counter |
| Leger Poll | Private polling firm; clients not disclosed | Commercial polling firm with potential client relationships with political parties | Medium (methodology not provided in broadcast) | No — no competing poll cited |
| Parliamentary Budget Officer | Government of Canada; independent officer of Parliament | Structurally independent; no significant conflict | High | No — PBO findings cited selectively without full context |
| Steve McKinnon (Liberal MP) | Liberal Party of Canada | Direct partisan — Liberal government member | Low (as independent source) | No direct counter-clip from opposition |
| Pierre Poilievre (Conservative leader) | Conservative Party of Canada | Direct partisan — Official Opposition leader | Low (as independent source) | Yes — entire panel serves as counter |

Critical Observation: The most credible source cited in the broadcast — the Parliamentary Budget Officer — is referenced for a single finding and not interviewed. The least credible sources — partisan operatives — dominate the broadcast. This inversion of source credibility hierarchy is itself a significant journalistic concern.

Analysis Version: 1.0-cbc | Completed: Senior Media Accountability Review

Methodology: 15-Criterion Bias Framework | Broadcasting Act S.C. 1991, c. 11 | CBC JSP Standards

Note: All transcript quotations are reproduced as they appear in the source file, including transcription errors.



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OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Individual Scores — All 15 Criteria

| No. | Criterion | Score | Rating |
|-----|---------------------------|-------|--------|
| 1 | EXPERT SELECTION | 8 | ●●●● |
| 2 | SOURCE SELECTION | 7 | ●●●● |
| 3 | TIME DISTRIBUTION | 6 | ●●● |
| 4 | SELECTIVE OMISSION | 7 | ●●●● |
| 5 | NUMERICAL MANIPULATION | 5 | ●●● |
| 6 | GUILT BY ASSOCIATION | 8 | ●●●● |
| 7 | TIMING & PLACEMENT | 5 | ●●● |
| 8 | SELECTIVE OUTRAGE | 7 | ●●●● |
| 9 | COMPLETENESS | 7 | ●●●● |
| 10 | FRAMING | 7 | ●●●● |
| 11 | WORD CHOICE & TERMINOLOGY | 6 | ●●● |
| 12 | MODERATION BEHAVIOR | 7 | ●●●● |
| 13 | QUESTION ASYMMETRY | 7 | ●●●● |
| 14 | FALSE BALANCE | 5 | ●●● |
| 15 | AGENDA-SETTING | 7 | ●●●● |

HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

6.7/10

Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation

SOFT FACTS SCORE (9-14)

6.5/10

Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation

OVERALL SCORE

6.6/10

Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation

Average of Hardfacts and Softfacts



KEY — Score Definitions

Individual Scores per Criterion (0–10)

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| 0 | No finding | No relevant anomaly detected. |
| 1–2 | Weak finding | Minor anomaly without substantial impact on balance. |
| 3–4 | Slight to moderate finding | Recognizable tendency; low to moderate impact relevance. |
| 5 | Moderate finding with impact | Relevant imbalance affecting the audience's opinion-forming potential. |
| 6 | Significant finding (threshold) | Scores of 6 and above are classified as 'significant findings.' |
| 7 | Significant finding | Clear, well-documented imbalance with distinct impact relevance. |
| 8–9 | Severe finding | Pronounced imbalance; multiple documented individual findings in this criterion. |
| 10 | Maximum severity | Systematic, pervasive imbalance in this criterion. |

Aggregated Deviation Index — Interpretation Ranges

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| 0.0 – 2.5 | Unremarkable | No significant patterns detected; broadcast meets the impartiality standard. |
| 2.6 – 4.0 | Slight imbalance | Isolated anomalies; statistically visible but within tolerance range. |
| 4.1 – 6.0 | Significant imbalance | Multiple significant findings; relevant impairment of perspective diversity. |
| 6.1 – 8.0 | Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation | Pronounced, cross-broadcast patterns; high impact relevance. |
| 8.1 – 10 | Fundamental systemic one-sidedness. Very high bias degree | Maximum severity across nearly all criteria; systematically one-sided reporting. |

Party-Political Bias (-5 to +5)

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| -5 to -3 | Strongly disadvantaged | Party is significantly underrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation. |
| -2 to -1 | Slightly disadvantaged | Recognizable but minor disadvantage. |
| 0 | Neutral | No detectable favoritism or disadvantage. |
| +1 to +2 | Slightly favored | Recognizable but minor favoritism. |
| +3 to +5 | Strongly favored | Party is significantly overrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation. |

Legal and Methodological Notes



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No factual determination

The results presented do not constitute factual determinations about individual persons, editorial teams, or broadcasts. They are the product of a standardized operationalization, not a finding of individual responsibility.

No legal judgment

The aggregated deviation index does not replace a legal assessment under Broadcasting Act s. 3(1)(l). The determination of whether a specific broadcast violates legal requirements is exclusively the responsibility of the competent authorities (in particular CRTC).

No proof of causation

Statistical correlations are not to be interpreted as proof of causal relationships or editorial intent. Deviation values may be influenced by topic selection, news environment, political controversy, or format logic.

No judgment of intent

The analysis measures observable structural characteristics of broadcasts. A score of 7 means a significant imbalance was detected — not that the editorial team intended it. The methodology makes no claims about motives or strategic objectives.

Heuristic comparison tool

The index serves comparative pattern recognition across thousands of broadcasts, not precise metric measurement of individual segments. Threshold values serve heuristic orientation, not sharp legal qualification.



APPENDIX: NATIONAL BROADCASTING LAW

Legal Basis Canada — CBC/Radio-Canada

Law

Broadcasting Act (S.C. 1991, c. 11)

Relevant Sections

- Section 3(1)(d): The Canadian broadcasting system should safeguard, enrich and strengthen the cultural, political, social and economic fabric of Canada.
- Section 3(1)(l): The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, as the national public broadcaster, should provide radio and television services incorporating a wide range of programming that informs, enlightens and entertains; be predominantly and distinctively Canadian; reflect Canada and its regions to national and regional audiences; actively contribute to the flow and exchange of cultural expression; be in English and in French; contribute to shared national consciousness and identity.
- Section 3(1)(m): The programming provided by the Corporation should be made available throughout Canada by the most appropriate and efficient means.

CBC Journalistic Standards and Practices (JSP)

6 Core Principles:

1. **Accuracy:** Facts correct and verified
2. **Fairness:** Fair treatment of all parties
3. **Balance:** Balanced representation of controversial topics
4. **Impartiality:** Impartial reporting
5. **Integrity:** Journalistic integrity
6. **Independence:** Editorial independence

Online Legislation

- C-11 (Online Streaming Act): Streaming regulation
- C-18 (Online News Act): News compensation

Regulatory Authority

- CRTC (Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission): Regulation, licensing
- CBC Ombudsman: Internal complaints body (not independent, no sanctioning authority)

Special Note

Canada has no independent external regulator comparable to Switzerland's UBI. The CBC Ombudsman is an internal body. CBC left the CBSC (Canadian Broadcast Standards Council) in 2009.

Complaints Process

1. CBC Ombudsman (internal)
2. CRTC (licensing conditions)



APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES

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The SRG collects 1.56 billion francs per year – compulsorily, from every household. Those who feel unfairly treated can file a complaint. There is even an authority for this: the UBI, the Independent Complaints Authority for Radio and Television.

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This analysis exposes the system – factual, precise, without polemics. Procedures, personnel, powers, costs, statistics, legal recourse. And the constitutional review showing: the UBI system meets none of the three fundamental criteria – it is not proportionate, not separated by powers, not market-based.

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