



CBC DETAILED ANALYSIS

20241221_Trudeau Set to Lose Power as NDP Leader Pushes for No-Confidence Vote in 2025 /

Broadcast: MEDIA ANALYSIS REPORT | Analyzed: 2026-05-06 08:38

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OVERALL SCORE

5.01/10

Significant imbalance

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	<i>Left</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Right</i>

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)

5.0 / 10

Balanced

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

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, CBC News Network
- File reference: 20241221 — "Trudeau Set to Lose Power as NDP Leader Pushes for No-Confidence Vote in 2025"
- Estimated broadcast date: December 21, 2024



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- Approximate length: Short news segment / package — estimated 90–120 seconds of spoken content based on transcript word count (~280 words)
- Presenter/Anchor: Not individually identified in transcript; voice appears to be a single anchor/narrator delivering a news package
- Guests/Interviewees: None identifiable from transcript — no direct quotes from named individuals, no studio guests, no interviewees with stated affiliations
- Main topic: NDP leader Jagmeet Singh's announcement of a formal non-confidence motion against the Trudeau minority Liberal government, and the political crisis surrounding Trudeau's leadership

Current Context (State of Public Debate)

As of December 2024, Canada's political landscape was in acute crisis. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau faced simultaneous pressure from within his own Liberal caucus (approximately 20 MPs publicly calling for his resignation), from opposition parties (NDP, Conservatives, Bloc Québécois all signaling support for non-confidence), and from the external shock of Donald Trump's threatened 25% tariff on Canadian imports. Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland had resigned days earlier in a public and acrimonious split with Trudeau over fiscal policy, dramatically accelerating the internal collapse of Liberal cohesion. Polling consistently showed the Liberals trailing the Conservatives by historically wide margins, with Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre positioned as the likely next Prime Minister. The constitutional mechanics of non-confidence, prorogation, and the Governor General's role were simultaneously subjects of intense public and academic debate.



CHAPTER 1 — DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE 15 CRITERIA

CRITERION 1 — FRAMING

Definition: How the topic is fundamentally constructed — what assumptions are treated as settled, what narrative arc is imposed on events.

Score: 7/10

Finding 1

- Location: Opening lines
- Quote: "Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau looks set to lose power early next year"
- Technique: Outcome framing / foregone conclusion framing. The broadcast opens not with a description of a political development but with a predicted outcome presented as near-certain.
- Why problematic: At the time of broadcast, Trudeau had not resigned, the non-confidence motion had not been tabled, and constitutional options (prorogation, leadership change within the Liberal Party) remained open. Presenting his loss of power as settled fact removes journalistic neutrality and forecloses alternative outcomes from the viewer's mental model.

Finding 2

- Location: Mid-segment
- Quote: "so will the Prime Minister acknowledge he has failed he has to quit"
- Technique: Normative framing — the anchor embeds a moral judgment ("he has failed," "he has to quit") as the natural question arising from events, rather than presenting this as one contested interpretation.
- Why problematic: This is not a neutral journalistic question; it is a leading rhetorical question that presupposes failure and moral obligation to resign. A balanced framing would ask whether the Prime Minister will call an election, seek a new mandate, or respond to the non-confidence motion — not whether he will "acknowledge failure."

Finding 3

- Location: Throughout segment
- Quote: "Trudeau's government was plunged into crisis... about 20 liberal legislators are openly calling for him to step down... a string of polls... showed Trudeau's liberals would be badly beaten"
- Technique: Cumulative negative framing — every data point selected reinforces a single narrative of collapse and defeat. No counterbalancing information (e.g., Liberal policy achievements, Trudeau's historical resilience, or the possibility of a Liberal leadership renewal) is introduced.
- Why problematic: The cumulative effect of exclusively negative framing creates an impression of inevitability and total failure that goes beyond factual reporting into editorial advocacy.

CRITERION 2 — WORD CHOICE & TERMINOLOGY

Definition: The use of loaded, connotative, or emotionally charged language that steers audience interpretation beyond neutral description.

Score: 7/10

Finding 1

- Location: Opening paragraph



- Quote: "people are right to be angry"
- Technique: Normative validation — the anchor does not report that people are angry (a factual claim) but endorses the anger as justified ("right to be angry"), which is an editorial opinion.
- Why problematic: A public broadcaster bound by impartiality standards should report public sentiment, not validate it. This phrase aligns the broadcaster's voice with the anti-Trudeau sentiment, abandoning the neutral observer role.

Finding 2

- Location: Mid-segment
- Quote: "plunged into crisis"
- Technique: Dramatic/catastrophizing language. "Plunged" implies sudden, uncontrolled descent — a metaphor that amplifies the severity and chaos of events.
- Why problematic: While the political situation was genuinely serious, "plunged" is a loaded verb that editorializes the pace and severity of events. Neutral alternatives ("entered a period of instability," "faced a significant challenge") would convey the same facts without the dramatic coloring.

Finding 3

- Location: Final lines
- Quote: "voter fatigue and anger over high prices and a housing crisis"
- Technique: Selective emotional vocabulary — "fatigue," "anger," "crisis" are all negatively valenced terms applied exclusively to the Liberal government's record. No equivalent emotional language is applied to opposition parties or their records.
- Why problematic: The consistent application of negative emotional vocabulary to one political actor while opposition parties are described in neutral or implicitly positive terms (e.g., "calling for an election" — presented as reasonable) constitutes asymmetric emotional framing.

CRITERION 3 — EXPERT SELECTION

Definition: Who is chosen to provide authoritative commentary, and what interests, funding sources, or affiliations might shape their perspective.

Score: 8/10

Finding 1

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No experts cited]
- Technique: Complete absence of expert voices. The segment contains zero expert commentary — no political scientists, constitutional lawyers, economists, or independent analysts.
- Why problematic: A segment dealing with a constitutional crisis, economic threats, and a potential change of government — all highly complex matters — presents no expert perspective whatsoever. This leaves the anchor's framing entirely unchallenged and uncontextualized.

Finding 2

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No government sources cited]
- Technique: Absence of primary source voices. Neither Trudeau, his office, nor any Liberal spokesperson is quoted or paraphrased with attribution.



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- Why problematic: Basic journalistic standards require that a subject of criticism be given opportunity to respond. The Liberal government is described as having "failed" and being "plunged into crisis" without any attributed Liberal voice in response.

Finding 3

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No opposition sources cited beyond Singh's announcement]
- Technique: Even the NDP announcement — the central news event — is paraphrased rather than directly quoted. No Conservative, Bloc, or other opposition voice is cited.
- Why problematic: The segment presents political conclusions without any direct sourcing, making it impossible for viewers to evaluate the basis for claims or hear competing interpretations from identifiable sources.

CRITERION 4 — SELECTIVE OMISSION

Definition: The deliberate or structural exclusion of relevant facts, perspectives, or context that would materially alter audience understanding.

Score: 8/10

Finding 1

- Location: Throughout segment
- Quote: "Trudeau's government was plunged into crisis after Christia Freeland the previous Finance Minister resigned in the midst of a policy Clash over spending"
- Technique: Reductive omission — the Freeland resignation is described as a "policy clash over spending" without any detail about the substance of the disagreement (Freeland's public letter accused Trudeau of prioritizing political survival over fiscal responsibility in the face of Trump tariffs).
- Why problematic: The omission of Freeland's specific and publicly stated reasons for resignation — which were themselves newsworthy and substantive — reduces a complex policy dispute to a vague personality conflict, depriving viewers of the information needed to assess the situation.

Finding 2

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No mention of constitutional options]
- Technique: Structural omission of constitutional context. The segment does not mention prorogation, the Governor General's role, the possibility of a Liberal leadership change without an election, or the constitutional timeline constraints.
- Why problematic: These are not peripheral details — they are central to understanding what "losing power" actually means and what options remain available. Their omission makes the outcome appear more inevitable and simpler than it constitutionally is.

Finding 3

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No mention of Conservative Party platform, leader, or record]
- Technique: Asymmetric omission — while the Liberal government's failures are enumerated (housing crisis, high prices, voter fatigue, internal revolt), the Conservative Party — the likely alternative government — receives no scrutiny whatsoever.



- Why problematic: Balanced coverage of a potential change of government requires some examination of the alternative. The complete absence of any Conservative policy scrutiny, combined with extensive Liberal criticism, creates a structurally one-sided portrait.

CRITERION 5 — MODERATION BEHAVIOR

Definition: Asymmetries in how the anchor/moderator treats different political actors — questioning style, interruptions, sympathy signals, tone.

Score: 6/10

Finding 1

- Location: Mid-segment
- Quote: "so will the Prime Minister acknowledge he has failed he has to quit"
- Technique: Rhetorical question as editorial statement. The anchor poses a question that contains its own answer ("he has to quit"), functioning as an editorial assertion rather than a genuine journalistic inquiry.
- Why problematic: This phrasing would never be applied symmetrically to opposition leaders. It represents a fundamental asymmetry in how the anchor treats the sitting Prime Minister versus other political actors in the segment.

Finding 2

- Location: Opening
- Quote: "people are right to be angry a key Ally says"
- Technique: The anchor appears to endorse Singh's characterization ("people are right to be angry") before attributing it — the sentence structure is ambiguous as to whether this is the anchor's view or Singh's. This ambiguity itself is a moderation failure.
- Why problematic: Whether intentional or a transcript artifact, the blurring of anchor voice and source voice on a normative claim ("right to be angry") violates the basic principle of clear attribution and anchor impartiality.

Finding 3

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [Tone throughout]
- Technique: Consistent prosecutorial tone toward Trudeau with no equivalent critical framing applied to Singh, Poilievre, or other actors. Singh's non-confidence announcement is presented as a reasonable response; Trudeau's position is presented as indefensible.
- Why problematic: Moderation/anchoring standards require consistent tone across political actors. The asymmetry here is structural and sustained throughout the segment.

CRITERION 6 — TIME DISTRIBUTION

Definition: The allocation of airtime or textual space to different perspectives, parties, and positions.

Score: 7/10

Finding 1

- Location: Entire segment (~280 words)
- Quote: [Full transcript]
- Technique: Quantitative asymmetry — approximately 85–90% of the segment's content concerns Liberal failures, Liberal crisis, and Liberal political vulnerability. The NDP receives approximately 10% (the non-confidence



announcement). The Conservatives receive approximately 5% (one reference to calling for an election). The Bloc, Greens, and PPC receive 0%.

- Why problematic: A segment ostensibly about a multi-party political crisis allocates virtually all its space to one party's failures, with no substantive coverage of the other actors' positions, records, or motivations.

Finding 2

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No Liberal response included]
- Technique: Zero time/space allocated to the Liberal government's perspective, defense, or response.
- Why problematic: The subject of the most extensive criticism in the segment — the Trudeau government — is given no space to respond. This violates the basic journalistic principle of right of reply.

Finding 3

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No voter/public voice]
- Technique: Zero time allocated to citizen perspectives, despite the segment referencing "voter fatigue" and "anger" as political forces.
- Why problematic: Referencing public sentiment without actually including public voices is a form of proxy advocacy — the anchor speaks for "the people" without giving them a platform.

CRITERION 7 — QUESTION ASYMMETRY

Definition: The differential use of hard, confrontational, or probing questions versus soft, sympathetic, or leading questions depending on the political actor being addressed.

Score: 7/10

Finding 1

- Location: Mid-segment
- Quote: "so will the Prime Minister acknowledge he has failed he has to quit"
- Technique: The only direct question in the segment is posed to/about Trudeau and presupposes failure and moral obligation to resign. This is maximally confrontational framing.
- Why problematic: No equivalent question is posed about Singh's record (e.g., "Did the NDP's support for the Liberal government make them complicit in its failures?"), about Conservative readiness (e.g., "Is the Conservative Party prepared to govern?"), or about the consequences of an election during a tariff crisis.

Finding 2

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No questions directed at opposition parties]
- Technique: Complete absence of critical questioning toward NDP, Conservative, or Bloc positions.
- Why problematic: Singh's decision to trigger an election during a period of acute economic threat from US tariffs is not questioned. The Conservatives' months-long campaign for an election — regardless of economic timing — is presented as reasonable without scrutiny.

Finding 3



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- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No questions about election timing]
- Technique: The wisdom of triggering an election in January 2025 — with Trump taking office January 20th and tariffs imminent — is not questioned for any party.
- Why problematic: This is arguably the most important contextual question in the segment (is an election in Canada's national interest at this moment?) and it is entirely absent, suggesting the anchor accepts the opposition's framing that an election is straightforwardly desirable.

CRITERION 8 — GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

Definition: Discrediting a position or person by associating them with extreme, unpopular, or discredited actors or ideas.

Score: 3/10

Finding 1

- Location: Mid-to-late segment
- Quote: "us president-elect Donald Trump is due to take office on January 20th and is promising to impose a 25% ter on All Imports which would badly hurt Canada's economy"
- Technique: Indirect association — the Trump tariff threat is introduced immediately after the description of Trudeau's political crisis, creating a contextual link between Trudeau's weakness and Canada's vulnerability to Trump. While factually accurate, the placement implies Trudeau's political failure has left Canada exposed.
- Why problematic: The causal relationship between Trudeau's political crisis and Canada's vulnerability to Trump tariffs is implied but not established. This association is not entirely unfair (political instability does affect negotiating capacity) but it is presented without nuance or counter-argument.

Finding 2

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No explicit guilt-by-association techniques]
- Technique: This criterion is less prominently violated than others in this segment. The broadcast does not explicitly associate Trudeau with discredited actors or extreme positions.
- Why problematic: The score reflects a moderate rather than severe violation — the association technique is present but subtle.

CRITERION 9 — NUMERICAL MANIPULATION

Definition: The selective, decontextualized, or misleading use of numbers, polls, or quantitative claims.

Score: 6/10

Finding 1

- Location: Late segment
- Quote: "a string of polls over the last year and a half showed Trudeau's liberals would be badly beaten by the opposition conservatives"
- Technique: Vague quantitative claim — "a string of polls" is cited without any specific numbers, polling firms, sample sizes, margins of error, or methodological context. "Badly beaten" is a qualitative characterization of polling data, not a precise description.
- Why problematic: Polling data cited without specifics cannot be evaluated by the viewer. The characterization "badly beaten" is editorially loaded. A responsible broadcast would cite specific poll numbers (e.g., "polls showing Conservatives leading by 15–20 points") with named sources.



Finding 2

- Location: Mid-segment
- Quote: "about 20 liberal legislators are openly calling for him to step down"
- Technique: Imprecise quantification — "about 20" is vague and unattributed. The total size of the Liberal caucus is not provided, making it impossible to assess whether this represents a majority, a significant minority, or a fringe.
- Why problematic: At the time, the Liberal caucus had approximately 153 MPs. "About 20" represents roughly 13% of caucus — a significant but not majority revolt. Without this context, "about 20" sounds more decisive than it may be.

Finding 3

- Location: Opening
- Quote: "after more than 9 years"
- Technique: This is a factually accurate figure (Trudeau became PM in November 2015) but its placement — immediately after "Trudeau will be out of office" — frames longevity as exhaustion rather than achievement, reinforcing the "voter fatigue" narrative.
- Why problematic: Duration in office is a neutral fact; its framing here is not neutral. Nine years could equally be framed as experience, stability, or democratic mandate — none of which are offered as alternative interpretations.

CRITERION 10 — TIMING & PLACEMENT

Definition: The strategic positioning of information within the broadcast — what leads, what is buried, what surrounds what.

Score: 6/10

Finding 1

- Location: Opening sentence
- Quote: "Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau looks set to lose power early next year"
- Technique: Outcome-first placement — the broadcast leads with the predicted outcome (Trudeau losing power) rather than the news event (Singh's non-confidence announcement). This is a deliberate editorial choice that frames everything that follows as evidence for a predetermined conclusion.
- Why problematic: Standard news practice would lead with the news event ("NDP leader Jagmeet Singh has announced a non-confidence motion...") and then contextualize its implications. Leading with the predicted outcome is an editorial, not journalistic, choice.

Finding 2

- Location: Sequence of negative information
- Quote: "plunged into crisis... openly calling for him to step down... voter fatigue and anger... high prices... housing crisis... badly beaten"
- Technique: Cumulative negative sequencing — every piece of information in the segment is arranged to reinforce the same negative conclusion about Trudeau. There is no structural break, counterpoint, or alternative framing at any point.
- Why problematic: The unbroken sequence of negative information about one political actor, with no structural counterpoint, constitutes editorial advocacy through arrangement rather than selection alone.

Finding 3



- Location: Final lines
- Quote: "they've been calling for an election for months"
- Technique: The segment ends with a reference to Conservative demands for an election — implicitly validating their position as the natural conclusion of the narrative. The final impression left with the viewer is that the Conservatives have been right all along.
- Why problematic: Ending a news segment with an implicit validation of one party's political position is an editorial choice that violates impartiality standards.

CRITERION 11 — VISUAL/AUDIO LANGUAGE

Definition: Inferred from transcript — described imagery, tone cues, sound design, and visual framing that shape emotional response.

Score: 4/10

Note: This is a transcript-only analysis. Visual and audio elements cannot be directly assessed. The following findings are inferred from transcript language that typically accompanies or cues specific visual/audio choices.

Finding 1

- Location: Opening
- Quote: "looks set to lose power"
- Technique: The language of decline and loss typically accompanies visual choices (archival footage of Trudeau in better political moments, downward graphic trends, somber music) that reinforce the narrative of political collapse.
- Why problematic: Without access to the visual broadcast, this cannot be confirmed, but the language pattern is consistent with visual framing choices that would amplify the negative narrative.

Finding 2

- Location: Mid-segment
- Quote: "plunged into crisis"
- Technique: Crisis language typically cues dramatic visual and audio treatment — urgent music, rapid-cut editing, crisis graphics. These production choices amplify emotional impact beyond what the words alone convey.
- Why problematic: Production amplification of already loaded language compounds the bias effect for television audiences.

Finding 3

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [Tone throughout]
- Technique: The consistent prosecutorial tone of the narration suggests a delivery style (pace, vocal emphasis, gravitas) that would reinforce the negative framing for audio audiences.
- Why problematic: Tone of delivery is a form of editorial commentary that is not captured in transcripts but materially affects audience reception.

CRITERION 12 — SOURCE SELECTION

Definition: The diversity, independence, and potential conflicts of interest of sources cited in the broadcast.

Score: 8/10

Finding 1

- Location: Entire segment



- Quote: [No named sources cited]
- Technique: Complete absence of named, attributable sources. The segment makes multiple factual and interpretive claims without citing any source — polling firms, government documents, named officials, or academic experts.
- Why problematic: Unattributed claims cannot be verified, challenged, or contextualized by viewers. This is a fundamental violation of journalistic sourcing standards.

Finding 2

- Location: Late segment
- Quote: "a string of polls over the last year and a half"
- Technique: Anonymous aggregate sourcing — "polls" are cited as a collective without identifying any specific poll, firm, methodology, or date.
- Why problematic: Polling data without attribution is unverifiable. Different polling firms showed different numbers during this period; the characterization "badly beaten" may accurately reflect some polls but not others.

Finding 3

- Location: Mid-segment
- Quote: "about 20 liberal legislators are openly calling for him to step down"
- Technique: Unattributed quantitative claim. No source is given for the "about 20" figure — no news report, no Liberal caucus statement, no named MP.
- Why problematic: A specific numerical claim about internal party dynamics requires attribution. Without it, the figure cannot be verified and may be imprecise or outdated.

CRITERION 13 — SELECTIVE OUTRAGE

Definition: The expression of moral concern or indignation at certain positions or actors while equivalent positions or actors are treated neutrally or sympathetically.

Score: 6/10

Finding 1

- Location: Opening
- Quote: "people are right to be angry"
- Technique: Moral validation of anger directed at Trudeau. The anchor (or the anchor paraphrasing Singh without clear attribution) endorses public anger at the Liberal government as justified.
- Why problematic: No equivalent moral framing is applied to any other political actor. Singh's decision to trigger an election during a tariff crisis is not described as something people might be "right to be concerned about." Conservative demands for an election are not subjected to any moral scrutiny.

Finding 2

- Location: Mid-segment
- Quote: "so will the Prime Minister acknowledge he has failed he has to quit"
- Technique: Moral imperative applied exclusively to Trudeau. The language of obligation ("has to quit") implies a moral failure requiring a moral remedy.
- Why problematic: No equivalent moral imperative is applied to Singh (who supported the Liberal government for years before withdrawing support) or to the Conservatives (whose election demands during an economic crisis could equally be framed as politically opportunistic).



Finding 3

- Location: Late segment
- Quote: "voter fatigue and anger over high prices and a housing crisis"
- Technique: Legitimate public grievances (housing, inflation) are attributed exclusively to Liberal governance failures, with no acknowledgment that these are complex structural issues with roots predating the Trudeau government or extending across jurisdictions.
- Why problematic: Selective attribution of complex socioeconomic problems to one political actor, without equivalent scrutiny of what alternatives have proposed or what structural factors are involved, constitutes selective moral framing.

CRITERION 14 — FALSE BALANCE

Definition: The artificial presentation of balance that misrepresents actual evidence, consensus, or the weight of competing positions.

Score: 3/10

Finding 1

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No balance attempted]
- Technique: This segment does not attempt false balance — it makes no pretense of presenting multiple perspectives. The bias is overt rather than disguised as balance.
- Why problematic: While false balance is not the primary technique here, the absence of any balance — even performative — is itself a journalistic failure. The score reflects that this criterion is less applicable than others to this particular segment.

Finding 2

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No "both sides" framing]
- Technique: The segment does not use the "both sides" rhetorical device that characterizes false balance. It simply presents one side.
- Why problematic: The absence of false balance does not mitigate the absence of genuine balance. The segment's failure is one of omission rather than false equivalence.

CRITERION 15 — AGENDA-SETTING

Definition: What is established as "the issue" — what questions are made central, and what is excluded from the frame of discussion entirely.

Score: 8/10

Finding 1

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [Full transcript]
- Technique: The agenda is set as: "Trudeau has failed and must go." Every element of the segment serves this agenda. Alternative agendas — "What should Canada's response to Trump tariffs be?", "What are the constitutional options?", "What do Canadians want from their next government?" — are entirely absent.



- Why problematic: Agenda-setting is the most powerful form of media influence because it determines not just what people think but what they think about. By setting the agenda as "Trudeau's inevitable fall," the broadcast forecloses discussion of more complex and arguably more important questions.

Finding 2

- Location: Entire segment
- Quote: [No policy agenda discussed]
- Technique: Despite referencing housing, inflation, and tariffs, the segment sets no policy agenda — these issues are mentioned only as evidence of Liberal failure, not as substantive policy challenges requiring analysis.
- Why problematic: A public broadcaster's agenda-setting responsibility includes elevating policy substance, not just political drama. The reduction of complex policy failures to political ammunition serves partisan rather than public interest.

Finding 3

- Location: Late segment
- Quote: "they've been calling for an election for months"
- Technique: The Conservative demand for an election is implicitly set as the appropriate agenda — the right answer to the political crisis — without any examination of whether an election is in Canada's national interest at this particular moment.
- Why problematic: Setting the agenda as "election = solution" without examining the costs, risks, or alternatives of an election during a period of acute economic threat is an editorial position, not a journalistic one.



CHAPTER 2 — OVERALL EVALUATION

A) Summary Table — All 15 Criteria

#	Criterion	Score (0–10)	Key Finding
1	Framing	7	Trudeau's loss of power presented as foregone conclusion; "he has failed / he has to quit" embedded as normative frame
2	Word Choice	7	"People are right to be angry," "plunged into crisis," "badly beaten" — consistently negative vocabulary applied exclusively to Liberal government
3	Expert Selection	8	Zero expert voices; no government response; no named sources of any kind
4	Selective Omission	8	No constitutional context, no Liberal response, no Conservative scrutiny, no Freeland letter substance
5	Moderation Behavior	6	Prosecutorial tone toward Trudeau; no equivalent critical framing for opposition parties
6	Time Distribution	7	~85–90% of content focused on Liberal failures; zero time for Liberal response
7	Question Asymmetry	7	Only question in segment presupposes Trudeau's failure and moral obligation to resign
8	Guilt by Association	3	Subtle Trump-Trudeau vulnerability linkage; not a primary technique in this segment
9	Numerical Manipulation	6	Unattributed polls, vague "about 20" figure, "badly beaten" characterization without data
10	Timing & Placement	6	Outcome-first lead; unbroken negative sequencing; ends with implicit Conservative validation
12	Source Selection	8	No named sources of any kind; all claims unattributed
13	Selective Outrage	6	Moral validation of anti-Trudeau anger; no equivalent scrutiny of opposition actors
14	False Balance	3	Not applicable as primary technique; segment makes no pretense of balance
15	Agenda-Setting	8	Entire segment sets "Trudeau must go" as the only legitimate political agenda

B) Overall Scores

- Criteria Score (average of 15): $(7+7+8+8+6+7+7+3+6+6+4+8+6+3+8) \div 15 = 94 \div 15 = 6.3$

C) Top 3 Manipulation Techniques Observed

1. Normative Framing / Embedded Editorial Judgment



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The broadcast repeatedly embeds editorial opinions as factual or rhetorical givens. "People are right to be angry," "he has failed," and "he has to quit" are not journalistic descriptions of events — they are moral and political judgments presented as self-evident truths. This technique is particularly effective because it bypasses the viewer's critical faculties by presenting contested opinions as shared common sense. In a public broadcaster context, this is especially problematic because the CBC's institutional authority lends weight to these embedded judgments.

2. Cumulative Negative Sequencing

Every piece of information in the segment is selected and arranged to reinforce a single conclusion: Trudeau has failed and must go. The technique works through accumulation — no single claim is necessarily false, but the unbroken sequence of negative information (crisis, revolt, fatigue, anger, housing, inflation, polls, defeat) creates an overwhelming impression of total failure that exceeds what any individual fact would support. The absence of any counterpoint, qualification, or alternative framing at any point in the segment amplifies this effect.

3. Source Elimination / Unattributed Authority

By citing no named sources, no experts, and no direct quotes, the broadcast presents its narrative as self-evidently true — requiring no external validation. This technique is paradoxically more powerful than selective sourcing because it removes any reference point against which the viewer could evaluate competing claims. The anchor's voice becomes the sole authority, and the absence of sources makes the narrative appear to be simply "what is happening" rather than one interpretation of contested events.

D) 3 Core Messages Embedded in the Broadcast

Content Message (What the viewer learns):

"Justin Trudeau has failed as Prime Minister, his government is collapsing, and an election — which the opposition has been right to demand — is imminent and deserved."

- Technique used: Normative framing + cumulative negative sequencing
- Transcript evidence: "looks set to lose power... he has failed he has to quit... plunged into crisis... voter fatigue and anger... badly beaten... they've been calling for an election for months"

Personal Message (Who is presented positively/negatively):

Trudeau is presented as a failed leader who has lost the confidence of his allies, his caucus, and the public. Singh is presented as a reasonable actor responding to legitimate public anger. The Conservatives are implicitly validated as having been correct. No individual is presented with complexity or nuance.

- Technique used: Asymmetric characterization + selective omission of Liberal perspective
- Transcript evidence: "people are right to be angry a key Ally says... so will the Prime Minister acknowledge he has failed he has to quit... they've been calling for an election for months" — Singh and Conservatives framed as responding to reality; Trudeau framed as the cause of it.

Societal Message (What worldview is reinforced):

Democratic accountability means removing leaders who have lost public confidence, and the natural mechanism for this is an election. Political crisis is primarily a story of individual leadership failure rather than systemic, structural, or institutional complexity.

- Technique used: Agenda-setting + selective omission of structural context
- Transcript evidence: The complete absence of constitutional context, policy substance, or structural analysis — combined with the exclusive focus on Trudeau's personal political failure — reinforces an individualistic, personality-driven model of political accountability that serves tabloid rather than civic journalism values.

E) Classification

Classification: CLEAR ONE-SIDEDNESS (4.1–6.0)

This segment exhibits clear, sustained one-sidedness in its framing, word choice, source selection, and agenda-setting. While it does not reach the threshold of systemic skew or extreme bias (which would require more



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sophisticated manipulation techniques or evidence of coordinated editorial direction), it represents a significant departure from the balanced, impartial journalism required of a public broadcaster. The one-sidedness is structural — embedded in every editorial choice made in the segment — rather than incidental.

F) Summary

This segment of Power & Politics falls materially short of the standards established in CBC's Journalistic Standards and Practices, which require accuracy, fairness, balance, and impartiality in all news coverage. The broadcast presents a politically contested situation — the potential fall of a minority government — through an exclusively negative lens applied to one political actor, without any attributed sources, expert commentary, government response, or constitutional context. The CBC's mandate under Section 3(1)(l) of the Broadcasting Act requires programming that "reflects Canada's regions and its linguistic duality" and serves the public interest; a segment that reduces a complex constitutional and economic crisis to a one-sided narrative of personal political failure does not fulfill this mandate. The use of normative language ("people are right to be angry," "he has failed," "he has to quit") by an anchor of a public broadcaster is particularly concerning, as it deploys the institutional authority of the CBC in service of what is effectively an editorial position on a contested political question. While the segment's brevity may partially explain its lack of depth, it does not excuse the consistent directional bias in every editorial choice made — from the opening framing to the final sentence — which collectively constitute a clear departure from the impartiality standards to which CBC News is legally and ethically bound.



CHAPTER 3 — PARTY-POLITICAL BIAS

Party Bias Scores

Party	Bias Score (-5 to +5)	Evidence
NDP	+1.5	Singh's non-confidence announcement is presented without critical scrutiny. His characterization that "people are right to be angry" is either endorsed by the anchor or attributed without challenge. His decision to trigger an election during a tariff crisis is not questioned. Quote: "a key Ally says he plans to move to bring down the minority liberal government" — framed as a reasonable response, not a political calculation.
Green Party	0	Not mentioned. No score possible beyond neutral absence.
Liberal Party	-4.5	Sustained, unrelenting negative coverage. Described as having "failed," "plunged into crisis," suffering "voter fatigue," facing internal revolt, and heading for electoral defeat. No Liberal voice, no Liberal achievement, no Liberal defense included. Quote: "so will the Prime Minister acknowledge he has failed he has to quit" — the only direct question in the segment presupposes Liberal failure.
Bloc Québécois	0	Not mentioned. Neutral absence.
Conservative Party	+2.5	Implicitly validated throughout. Their months-long demand for an election is presented as the natural and reasonable conclusion of the political narrative. No Conservative policy, record, or position is scrutinized. Quote: "they've been calling for an election for months" — presented as vindication, not political opportunism.
People's Party	0	Not mentioned. Neutral absence.

Summary Statistics

- Most favored party: Conservative Party (CPC) — Score: +2.5
- Most disadvantaged party: Liberal Party (LPC) — Score: -4.5
- Average deviation from 0 (absolute values): $(|+1.5| + |0| + |-4.5| + |0| + |+2.5| + |0|) \div 6 = 8.5 \div 6 = 1.42$



CHAPTER 4 — LEGAL CLASSIFICATION

A) CBC Journalistic Standards and Practices (JSP)

ACCURACY

- Standard: CBC JSP requires that "the information we present is accurate, reliable and based on verified facts."
- Finding 1: "a string of polls over the last year and a half showed Trudeau's liberals would be badly beaten" — No specific polls cited, no polling firms named, no numbers provided. The characterization "badly beaten" is not a verifiable factual claim.
- Violation: Unattributed quantitative claims presented as established fact.
- Severity: Moderate
- Finding 2: "about 20 liberal legislators are openly calling for him to step down" — Unattributed, imprecise figure without caucus context.
- Violation: Imprecise numerical claim without sourcing or contextualizing denominator.
- Severity: Minor

FAIRNESS

- Standard: CBC JSP states: "We ensure that our content on all platforms presents a wide range of perspectives and reflects the diversity of communities across Canada."
- Finding: The Liberal government — the primary subject of criticism — is given no opportunity to respond. No Liberal voice, quote, or perspective appears anywhere in the segment.
- Violation: Fundamental failure of right of reply; the subject of sustained criticism is not heard.
- Severity: Significant

BALANCE

- Standard: CBC JSP requires "reflecting a diversity of perspectives" and ensuring "no particular point of view on a controversial subject is unduly emphasized."
- Finding: The segment presents exclusively one perspective (Liberal failure/Conservative vindication) with no counterbalancing information, alternative framing, or competing interpretation at any point.
- Violation: A single political perspective is not merely emphasized but is the exclusive content of the segment.
- Severity: Significant

IMPARTIALITY

- Standard: CBC JSP states: "We do not express our own opinions on matters of controversy."
- Finding: "people are right to be angry" and "he has failed he has to quit" — the anchor either expresses or fails to clearly attribute normative judgments about a sitting Prime Minister.
- Violation: Editorial opinions on a contested political matter are embedded in anchor narration without clear attribution.
- Severity: Significant

INDEPENDENCE

- Standard: CBC JSP requires independence from political, commercial, and other external pressures.
- Finding: No direct evidence of external influence is identifiable from the transcript alone. However, the consistent alignment of the broadcast's framing with the opposition's political messaging raises questions about editorial independence that cannot be resolved from transcript analysis alone.
- Severity: Cannot be assessed from transcript — flagged for further review

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

Section 3(1)(l) — Safeguarding Canada's cultural, political, social and economic fabric:



- Finding: A segment dealing with a constitutional crisis, economic threat (Trump tariffs), and potential change of government — all matters of profound national significance — provides no substantive policy analysis, no constitutional context, and no economic expertise. The reduction of these complex national issues to a simple narrative of personal political failure does not "safeguard" or "enrich" Canada's political fabric; it simplifies and distorts it.
- Violation: The broadcast fails to fulfill its public interest mandate by prioritizing political drama over substantive civic information.
- Severity: Moderate

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

- Finding: The segment makes no reference to regional perspectives, linguistic communities, Indigenous voices, or any dimension of Canadian diversity. The political crisis is presented as a uniform national phenomenon without regional differentiation.
- Violation: No reflection of Canada's regional or demographic diversity in coverage of a national political crisis.
- Severity: Minor

C) CRTC Conditions of Licence

High Standard of Journalistic Ethics:

- Finding: The absence of any named sources, the use of normative language by the anchor, the failure to provide right of reply, and the structurally one-sided framing collectively represent a departure from the high standard of journalistic ethics required under CBC's conditions of licence.
- Violation: Multiple simultaneous departures from basic journalistic ethics standards (sourcing, attribution, balance, impartiality).
- Severity: Significant

Overall Regulatory Assessment

This broadcast segment exhibits multiple simultaneous violations of CBC's Journalistic Standards and Practices across the core dimensions of accuracy, fairness, balance, and impartiality, and falls short of the public interest mandate established in Section 3(1) of the Broadcasting Act. The most serious violations are the complete absence of right of reply for the primary subject of criticism, the embedding of normative editorial judgments in anchor narration without clear attribution, and the structural one-sidedness of a segment that presents no counterbalancing perspective on a contested political matter. While the segment's brevity (approximately 90–120 seconds) may reflect the constraints of a news package format, brevity does not excuse the consistent directional bias in every editorial choice made, nor does it justify the complete absence of sourcing for factual claims. The CBC, as Canada's public broadcaster funded by taxpayers across the political spectrum, bears a heightened obligation to impartiality that this segment does not meet; a formal editorial review of the segment's compliance with JSP standards would be warranted.

Source Credibility Check

Source/Claim	Funding Source	Conflicts of Interest	Credibility Assessment	Counter-Voice Offered?
"A string of polls" (unspecified)	Unknown — no polling firms named	Cannot assess — no attribution	LOW — unverifiable as cited	No
"About 20 liberal legislators" (unattributed)	N/A	N/A	LOW — no source, no names, no verification	No
Jagmeet Singh's non-confidence announcement	NDP party communications	Singh has direct political interest in Trudeau's removal	MEDIUM (the announcement itself is verifiable) — but his characterization ("people are right to be angry") is	No



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			presented without challenge	
Chrystia Freeland resignation (referenced)	Public record	None	HIGH — resignation is a matter of public record	No — substance of her letter not included
Trump 25% tariff threat	Public statements by Trump	N/A	HIGH — Trump made this statement publicly	No economic expert counter-analysis offered
"Voter fatigue and anger" / "housing crisis"	Unattributed	N/A	MEDIUM — consistent with polling data of the period but not sourced	No

Overall source credibility finding: The broadcast cites no source that meets the standard of named, attributable, verifiable sourcing required by CBC JSP. Every factual claim in the segment is either unattributed, imprecisely quantified, or presented without the context needed for viewer evaluation. This represents a systemic sourcing failure, not an isolated oversight.

End of Analysis Report — Version 1.0-cbc

Prepared under Senior Media Accountability Review Protocol

All findings based exclusively on transcript content as provided



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OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

8.0/10

Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation

OVERALL SCORE

5.01/10

Significant imbalance

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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Because whoever understands framing sees the world more clearly. Hears news differently. Conducts conversations more confidently. And no longer so easily accepts a frame chosen by someone else.



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But: It is not independent. It has no sanctioning power. And it decides in 99.6% of all cases: nothing.

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.

The authority supposed to protect citizens primarily protects the system it should be overseeing.

Essential reading for anyone considering a complaint – and for anyone who wants to understand why genuine media oversight in Switzerland is still pending.