

Democracy Bootcamp 2025

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

Arcadian Loft, 401 Bay St. 8th Floor, Toronto, ON M5H 2Y4

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| 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm | Registration |
| 6:30 pm - 6:50 pm | Opening remarks |
| 6:50 pm - 8:00 pm | <p>Party Lines & Power Plays: What's Next for Canada?</p> <p>CTV's 'Strategy Session' panel will dive deep into the latest political developments and unpack where the parties stand as we head toward the next federal election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kathleen Monk (Monk + Associates)• Scott Reid (Feschuk-Reid)• Kory Teneycke (Rubicon Strategy Inc)• Moderator: Vanmala Subramaniam (The Globe and Mail) |
| 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Mix & Mingle |

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Arcadian Court, 401 Bay St. 8th Floor, Toronto, ON M5H 2Y4

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| 7:45 am - 8:30 am | Breakfast |
| 8:30 am - 8:45 am | Welcome and warm-up activity |
| 8:45 am - 9:40 am | <p>Student Vote Canada: Program Overview and Best Practices</p> <p>Get an overview of the Student Vote Canada program and a first look at the resources available for the 2025 federal election. This session will also include discussions about best practices for implementation and school-wide engagement.</p> |
| 9:40 am - 10:10 am | <p>Understanding Values and Biases in Political Discussions</p> <p>Explore the themes and activities of the PoliTalks program, focusing on how values and biases shape political discourse. This workshop will equip educators with strategies to help students recognize and navigate these influences in a constructive and thoughtful way.</p> |

10:10 am - 10:25 am	Break
10:25 am - 11:00 am	Engaging in Constructive Discourse: Exploring Election Issues Teachers will explore a sample election issue using the Structured Academic Controversy (SAC) protocol, a method that fosters critical thinking, respectful dialogue, and multiple perspectives.
11:05 am - 12:05 pm	Common Ground Participants will engage with Common Ground, a new community consultation simulation designed to strengthen students' decision-making, perspective-taking, and consensus-building skills.
12:05 pm - 12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm	Breaking News: Canada's Information Crisis This panel brings together a group of journalists to discuss the state of the Canadian information ecosystem. Topics will include the continued threat of mis/disinformation, changing publishing models, declining public trust in mainstream media, and how journalism can support and strengthen democracy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Regg Cohn (Toronto Star) • Renata D'Aliesio (The Globe and Mail) • Craig Silverman (ProPublica) • Moderator: Sanjay Ruparelia (TMU)
1:45 pm - 1:55 pm	Movement Break
1:55 pm - 3:00 pm	CTRL-F: Digital Media Literacy in an Age of AI Explore how AI tools function and their responsible use in the classroom. This session will provide practical strategies for helping students critically assess digital content, focusing on identifying AI-generated information and enhancing digital media literacy skills.