

## ?Silence is not golden? when it comes to Federal debates

(Re: Conservatives to skip Vote Smart debates, September 10)

With all the hype of the election's promises and criticisms of the other party's campaign platform, it is important to critically examine some issues which do not get the media attention; specifically Native rights, poverty and veterans' benefits need to be highlighted.

We should look at the larger picture of the welfare of the Nation.

The all candidates' Vote Smart debates, for two local ridings, at the Aurora Cultural Centre on September 16 and 17, will provide a good opportunity to discuss these issues.

However, in order to have a debate, you need the Conservative candidates to show up for this meeting.

So far, the Conservative candidates are telling the organizers of the meeting that they will not attend. This is a democratic society where information should be open and transparent; it should not be suppressed.

But, the Conservative candidates are following the narrow party approach dictated by Harper.

In this case, silence is not golden. What topics and opinions are the local Conservative candidates avoiding and skipping away from now?

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