**Sandy and Nora Talk Politics**

**Episode 40**

**Doug Ford Dougs Forward**

[Intro music. "You Are Listening to Sandy and Nora's Podcast."]

N: Hey Sandy.

S: Heeeey Nora. What's uuuup?

N: Oh, you know, I have, I have about like a finger of wine I think is what the official term is.

S: Ooooo.

N: Yeah. (Taps nails on wine glass. Laughs.)

S: I think I have about a finger. (Laughs.)

N: Nice! So whatever we talk about tonight can't be serious. Is that, is that possible?

S: Nooot possible Nora. Sorry to disappoint. Too many serious things happening in the province in which I reside.

N: Oooooo. Oh! I mean so maybe we can just do a Québec episode where I can be like, “OK so all of our liquor stores are on strike, the Premier is like not actually doing a whole lot of things, the whole religious symbol thing has been pushed back till next, next year.”

S: To next never! Because we're going to win.

N: Yeaaaaaaah! (Both laugh.)

S: That is what's up. But we can do, we can do some happy things. Like I guess. It's not just all happening in Québec even though we can all be jealous of you. There's some, some other happy things happening, like postal workers are fighting for their rightsss.

N: Yup.

S: Having a strike and doing some really great actions and rolling strikes across the country. Support CUPW. And then, um, the Fight for 15 fight back, you know it's happening, people are organizing and that's it's good. That's something that should be...

N: Totally.

S: I think that's something that people should be proud of and should support. And so I'm happy about those things. I mean that's not, not serious but it's really great.

N: I'm happy with what I saw from Ryerson it looks like is, is the student press correct in saying that Ryerson has refused this ah academic free speech policy that the government's trying to force on them?

S: Oh my gooooood. Yes! Go Ryerson! And this was lead by the Black Liberation Collective and Indigenous Students Rising.

N: Yeah.

S: Go figure. Black and Indigenous students leading a fight back on Ryerson's campus to on the Ford's government's decree to limit free speech on, on campus. They're calling it the gag order policy. I love it.

N: Yeah.

S: Um, the gag order policy from, from the Premier's office that's telling institutions what type of speech and how students can respond to speech or not respond to speech, it's really ridiculous. And we had previously on this podcast criticized the lack of fight back, and these students you know they took over a Board of Governors meeting. They, um, did a lot of organizing on the ground about it and they actually stopped that policy from being approved at Ryerson and I, and I'm looking around to the other institutions and I'm like c'mon y'all c'mon. It's your turn. Who's next?

N: Well Western made their decision.

S: I mean but were we ever relying on Western to be the vanguard? (Both laugh.)

N: Noooo. No, but it's, it's pretty embarrassing because Western thinks it's a serious university and this is a pretty amateur decision.

S: Mhmm. Mhmm.

N: But, um, yeah, I just wanted to mention with the Ryerson campaign it seems like all it took - like there was obviously a lot of organizing and this kind of thing - but a lot of times people ask me what exactly does that look like, what exactly do you mean? And it seems like they organized specifically to shut down the meeting of the Senate that was considering the policy.

S: That's exactly right.

N: And that was enough. That it was like “OK we're shutting down the meeting” and they said “OK we're going to discuss this at the next meeting” but the timelines are such that it makes it difficult. It demonstrates that there's opposition to it, that's the opposition is organized. I suspect that part of the success is that there are also professors who are willing to say “wait a minute the students are right and they're giving me the confidence that I need”, even though that's ridiculous because the professors should be giving students the confidence that they need to do these things

S: Mhmm. 100%.

N: And it just pushed it off enough to be able to kill it. So major kudos to the students organizing there on that.

S: Mhmm. Mhmm. And now they, they are expecting that there will be, I think, something to come back, you know, there will be some sort of response because the government has said that you know if an institution does not implement this gag order policy, that there will be consequences in terms of funding. We'll keep watching that to see what happens. But the best thing to do to support these students would be to organize on a campus that you're potentially at, or close to, or know people on. The more campuses that have this type of result, the harder it is for the government to implement it.

N: Yeah.

S: It's just the way these things go. So if you listen to us and you're on a campus or near a campus or know people on a campus help them organize against this stuff, it is possible to win.

N: Totally. Totally. So that's probably enough happiness eh? Let's get into the, let's get into the mud.

S: That is enough happiness, now let's go to the worst place.

N: (Laughs.) Which is getting worse too!

S: Ever, right now. It's just getting worse. Which is wherever Doug Ford has power. (Laughs. Deep sigh.) Wherever the "Progressive" Conservatives of Ontario have power. Progressive Conservatives, The Progressive Conservative Ontario Party, the Ontario Progressive Conservatives? I don't know. (Nora laughs.) I don't know what the official thing is. The PCPO.

N: Yes.

S: Uhhh, have been moving a lot in the last, what, week and a half? It feels like it should have been like a month that all of these thing have happened but I think it's been literally a week and a half.

N: Yeah, they are shock and awe-ing.

S: Yeah, there's a lot that's been happening. (Deep breath.) Oh gosh, can we take people through this? So, uh, if you haven't been paying attention, maybe even if you have you may have missed some of this. Uh, the conservative government has announced a number of things and on top of this they had their convention on the very weekend that we're recording this and more things came out of that.

N: Mhmm.

S: So things. They have eliminated the environmental watchdog body, they have extended LCBO hours, they have eliminated the Child and Youth Advocate.

N: Uh, they've eliminated the French like secretariat.

S: Yeah.

N: So the secretariat for Franco Ontarians and also the French university which had been in the plans, which was kind of ???? kind of project that I've been personally pretty critical of as well, but the, there's just kind of like attack after attack on the Franco Ontarian community in general from this government too.

S: Mhmm. They cancelled the moving of the law school or the expansion of the law school at the University of Windsor, in addition to the other cancellations that have happened for universities in - I can't remember if we spoke about this on this podcast before - but in Brampton, uh, and in Markham.

N: Yeah.

S: And then the most, uh, like I don't even know if we can rank these things (Nora laughs), but this weekend Tanya Granic fuckin' Allen, which is like why, why does she still have a political career right now? Like what's going on? She should be in a cave somewhere hiding. But she serves a motion, uh, to the conservative convention that would make it the conservative’s, the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario's policy to no long recognize gender identity "theory" because it's some left wing ideology, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, and that passes. And so while there's no government policy on that yet, it is not a stretch that coming out of this weekend there will be some sort of movement on this new policy from the Progressive Conservative Party. I mean, they've already moved in this direction with what they've done with sexual education but now they're taking this you know "we will not recognize gender identity" to be party policy, which probably means they're going to do something that's going to affect so many people in this province to support that position of their party. There is a lot that is happening.

N: Yeah, so let's ah, let's talk first about this issue, because I think it's, um, it's the most important, well eliminating the child advocate I think is, is also as important...

S: Yeah. Absolutely.

N: But important in a different way. But I have the policy resolution in front of me and I want to read it because it is so loaded and so fucked up that it's like are these people, like what happened to them to make them so angry and so fucked? So here's the motion, it says: “Be it Resolved That an Ontario Progressive Conservative Party recognized quote gender identity theory quote what it is namely, a highly controversial unscientific quote liberal ideology quote semicolon and as such that on Ontario PC government will remove the teaching and promotion of quote gender identity theory unquote from Ontario schools and its curriculum. And so, I mean, uhm, I feel like this might as well just say like cultural Marxism or any of these other buzzwords of the far right that are meant to like just marshall like the fucking worse...

S: Hateful people to support them. (Laughs.)

N: Exactly!

S: The purpose for this is obviously so that they can, they can get support from, you know, organized hate around the province, uh, shepherding that support to the Progressive Conservative Party but also so that they can make it more acceptable to openly hate certain groups of people. And I think, you know, it's like the government has started by attacking particular groups. Like you know they made these changes to, um, the you know, the new changes to the justice system that eliminated what were won through Black struggle in the last little bit, they went after the Child and Youth Advocate, which I think can be understood as a direct attack against Indigenous and Black groups in this province. They are going against Trans folks, they're going after Queer folks through the sexual education curriculum. Like I, I think it's very clear that this government has an interest in making it culturally more acceptable to be openly hateful towards particular groups, and this is a fucking not surprising but stunning attack against Trans people, against Gender Queer folks in our community. It's not policy yet, and so that gives us an opportunity to, to mobilize, but in some ways it kind of is policy because they've they've already started mobilize... or they've already, uh, put in place policy around sexual education, but I just imagine that Tanya Granic Allen you know puts this forward because she wants more to be done, so I want to know what the outcome of that is going to look like. (Deep sigh.) It's pretty fucked up.

Nora: That's a good question because it's like how much theory is actually really taught in Ontario curricula? Like (laughs) gender identity theory sounds to me like something that is pretty located in the halls of the academy...

Sandy: Mhmm.

N: And it is, it is a highly debated and studied and forms the basis of full programs of study. It's as if you're saying like the unscientific liberal ideology of sociology or something like this.

Sandy: Yeah.

N: Gender identity theory is simply a lens through which we can understand certain aspects of society...

Sandy: Mhmm.

N: And there's however many lenses that you want to use to try to understand society and those lenses range from the entirety of the political spectrum. And so, first of all saying that this is unscientific is is a signal to people who have no fucking clue about whether or not this is scientific or not, uh, to go "ah, this is non-scientific bullshit", which is bullshit, because actually in biology of course there is actually gender spectra. Number two, there's grammatical errors with this motion (laughs) so fuck Tanya Granic Allen for her fucking illiteracy.

S: Mmmmm. Very important message.

N: You know they say that they are recognizing gender identity theory as highly controversial, which it fucking isn't, unscientific, which is like fucking has nothing to do with the reality of it because it's a social theory, it's not science, it's like uh-huh correct. And then this quote liberal ideology unquote stuff which is actually not even true (laughs) it doesn't actually come out of liberalism (laughs)...

S: Yeah, like (laughs) so not liberalism guys, like get it together.

N: (Laughs.) And then, and then the most important...

S: Not that they care.

N: No, not that they care.

S: Not that that's the issue.

N: No, but then, but then an Ontario Progressive Conservative government will remove the teaching and *promotion* of it from Ontario schools and it's curriculum. So what they mean is of course is Ontario schools and their curricula. I suspect what they really means also is not Ontario schools but like elementary and secondary public institutions because good fucking luck shutting down these departments at universities. Although that might be an interesting way to consider what the fight back might look like because of course gender identity theory is is going to be found far more prevalent within the university and the college system.

S: Yeah, but I actually think that that might be, because I've been trying to rack my brain around how, what are they going to do further to elementary and secondary schools and then I thought well unless they're interpreting like education in Ontario schools to include college and university, which is going to be really fucking interesting.

N: Yeah.

S: Maybe step one was this gag order policy on campuses and step two is actually trying to get rid of certain fields of study.

N: Right.

S: At institutions. Which is, which is...

N: Yup.

S: Really fucking terrifying if that's the direction that the Progressive Conservatives are moving in, is to attack academic freedom on campuses as some sort of proxy war for this populist fight against fucking liberalism / white supremacist and fascist fight against all that is good.

N: Yup.

S: You know, that's a, that's a interesting but not not that strange way to start because the university campus is often the place that conservatives and the far right will invoke as the place that's you know promoting "cultural marxism" and this liberalism and this blah, blah, blah.

N: Yeah.

S: Right like so. I don't know. It's not unfathomable that that is where they would move.

N: Well, well actually it's far from non-fathomable because if you think about what you, like what is it that we want, we progressive people want students or children to know about, it's not gender identity theory, like you don't teach kids feminist fucking theory in grade three. (Sandy laughs.) You probably show pictures of like dad's cooking right (both laugh)?

S: Dinosaurs.

N: But what you talk about it in elementary and even in secondary school is gender expression, right, that gender expression is socially constructed and this is, it means this and this and this for different kinds of people and some people find themselves on this part of the spectrum and some people find themselves on that side of the spectrum and sometimes people's gender expression clashes with their biological like biological sex. So it's like none of that's necessarily captured by talking about gender identity theory, which is what they keep saying in this motion. And so, you know, it might be splicing words to some extent but I actually think that it it it gives progressives a lot more latitude to be able to fight this because that means you fight it in the classroom by saying "fuck this, we're going to talk about gender expression because guess fucking what every single person" including you Tanya Granic Allen...

S: Mhmm. Mhmm. Mhmm.

N: ... “has gender expression”.

S: (Laughs.) I know it's like. That's the...

N: Right? You fucking look like a classic woman, guess what the fuck that is? You are engaging in that.

S: It's a gender identity. (Laughs.)

N: It's like her gender identity is being a twat. Right?

S: (Laughs.) Yeah, it's just but you know I think what we have identified here is a potential location for where this gets fought on the policy level and if you in probably not that long from now, let's be real, these guys are moving hella fast, is, um, you know important to take stock of and to think of, if you're listening to this podcast, like clearly there is some work to be done by folks to mobilize against this and I think that the campus institutions, educational institutions which is where they have named where they want this fight to be, well perhaps that's the place to start.

N: Yeah, and if you're not on campus it's like send a message to your Member of Provincial Parliament, explain some of this stuff to them, make them look like, or feel like maybe they actually don't know what the fuck they're talking about and maybe they shouldn't listen to a raving evangelical fucking shit head on issues of what is science and what isn't science. Right? Like conservatives do respond to this stuff, so if you're in a part of the province where you are very afraid of this, you have no connection to a campus, get, fuck, get a meeting with your Member of Provincial Parliament. These people should be getting it in the ear all the time, and and sometimes it's really daunting...

S: Mhmm.

N: And sometimes figuring out exactly how to do direct action or other mobilizations that might be a little bit more spicy, sometimes that can be diff, difficult, so at least start there. Be in touch with your local representative, even if you're local representative isn't a conservative, like call the guy the next county over and talk about the Tim Horton's in his riding that you go to or something, I don't know. And then start thinking about those actions that are that are more radical. I mean on Twitter I suggested that we should be finding out where Granic Allen lives and her house should be surrounded by a dildo vigil.

S: A what vigil? What did you just say?

N: (Laughs.) A vigil of people brandishing dildos at her window all the time.

S: You really want a dildo action so bad.

N: Nora. I mean it just seems obvious.

S: You talk about dildo actions so much (both laugh) in these podcasts so far. Somebody organize a dildo action so that Nora will be pleased. Nora, why don't you just organize a dildo action?

N: I just don't know where to get that many dildos.

S: I have some ideas.

N: Oh, OK. (Sandy laughs.) So there's that, there's that. Or you could, I don't know like throw dictionaries at her front door and be like "learn what words fucking mean." (Both laugh.)

S: Dictionary action or dildo action. Maybe a dictionary dildo action. One of these two things, one of these three things. Let's make it happen. But also this is folks... let's take some initiative on this one. It is highly risky be a Trans or a non-cis organizer generally because of the way that the far right focuses on folks who are Trans, or Genderqueer, so let's take some initiative in the mobilizating here, um. and make sure what needs to be done. And checking in on our non-cis family, making sure that folks are OK. That we're taking direction from Trans groups, ah, but like this is you know they are attacking different groups, they're not going to stop attacking different groups, they're not going to stop with this group, we need to be there for one another, and recognize where the risk is highest and try to make sure that those of us who are taking the risks, who are doing the actions, aren't necessarily just the people with the most risk. Like let's not sit around and wait, let's do things. Let's move.

N: Totally, totally. Totally. This, this whole affair has reminded me a lot of the federal Conservative party when they had their motion passed on birthright citizenship and how that was quite a test balloon where the Conservatives were considering whether or not they wanted to remove birthright citizenship and now this is something that is coming up in the United States, or it was before the midterms. But, um, what makes this of course more frightening is the government is the party and this motion makes it very clear that they want swift action and, um, and it's, and it's one of these issues that I think if you don't have any experience with it it can be hard it can feel like it's difficult to plug into it ‘cause you don't, maybe you don't get it, maybe you don't know the right terms, maybe you're not comfortable. It's like now is time for your crash course and so, um, there are resources online, there are really great activists who are talking about this and so you know if you're on social media make sure you're following them, make sure you're re-tweeting them. And I lot of folks, like I saw Lyra Evans who is a Trans, one of the, probably the first openly Trans, uh, School Board representative out in the Ottawa area.

S: In Ottawa. Mhmm.

N: Yeah, Lyra was talking about like just four pretty simple things to get involved and of course one of them is getting in touch with your local representatives, so look for those messengers, look for those ideas and don't sit on your hands. Do, really do whatever you can to the extent that you're able.

S: And I've seen a bunch of teachers also posting and talking about that they don't care, they're going to do the type of teaching that they want to do in their classrooms and those types of things should be supported also if you know about curricula that would be helpful, or cyliby that would be helpful, resources that teachers can use who want to teach this sort of stuff. Let's get organized and show that around and make sure that people have access to that. And if there's alternative schools or alternative like public education or popular education stuff we can, we can organize those resources for ourselves in this province. Just because the state says we don't want to do this stuff...

N: Yup.

S: ...doesn't mean that we have to stop teaching it in any way shape or form. And that's more and more what I think our fight back is going to have to look like.

N: And hopefully I think the unions by in large are taking note of this and so I'm really hoping for excellent important action from the labour movement on this issue. What about the child advocate. How, uh, you know you mentioned that this, this specifically targets Indigenous and Black children. How is this attack going to pay itself out?

S: So I mean, the Ontario Child and Youth Advocate, you know, is an advocacy body that is meant to take a look at when children are being mistreated while in care. Not necessarily just while in care but often while in care. And we know that disproportionately Black and Indigenous children are taken away from their families to be in the system as children who are crown wards or children in care, and those children can go through a lot of really terrible experiences while they are being taken away from their families, it's a really, it can be a really traumatic experience and we need a body like the Child and Youth Advocate, the Ontario Advocate for Children and Youth, to make sure that children have some place to be their advocate when they are experiencing difficult situations while in care or not in care. And this is not to say in any way shape or form that, that, um, that body is perfect, um, not at all but it is, it was the only real place where people could appeal to when they were experiencing traumatic experiences ah in the system. And so for that to be eliminated, what is the government saying when they are eliminating that? Like that these children don't matter? Quite clearly, I think that is what they are saying. That it's not important enough to make sure that these children are alright? Um, I think it's been pretty clear that Ford's, you know, hilariously termed "People's Government" has been sooooo much a government for people who are wealthy, and a government for businesses, and this very strange attack on fucking the most vulnerable children in our society just seems like it's so clear that they do not give a shit about anyone who's not wealthy in this province. Like if there was anything that was more, I don't know, if there is any action that, that's more clear than eliminating the Child and Youth Advocate to make that clear. It's just so, ah, I don't know. It's such an attack on people who, you know, are just going through the worst experiences and most need an advocate. God.

Nora: Yeah, yeah. So the system is full of problems, as many people know. Child services, uh, you can get caught up accidentally, you can get caught up politically, you can get caught up because of your social status, you can get caught up because of your race or your, your status, your Indigeneity, and so undoing the systemic forces within child services is really difficult. Right? These are systems that are layered and complex, and so the Child Advocate was one external way that you could kind of cut through some of these issues and so it is, it is that person that you can appeal to to say look my kids were taking away from me unfairly, can you, can you intervene in this case, can you look into this case? And a lot of Canadian law works like that, like a lot of Canadian law requires that someone, a lawyer, or in this case someone's only job is to advocate on behalf of children in some cases on behalf of their families to try and address some of the gaps that exist within the system. And so you're, you're 100% correct, and this is also very concerning because it's a check on power, it gives, like, people who have very little power in horrible situations and circumstances a little bit of power to be able to challenge, what is really a faceless systems that just kind of steam rollers over a lot of people.

Sandy: Mhmm.

Nora: And so, if you consider that, and you consider they're taking away the, um, additional workplace health and safety legislation that, that the Liberals brought in. You consider that they're also taking away this environmental watchdog.

Sandy: The extra supports for people who are brutalized by police.

N: The basic income pilot project. Like all of this stuff is to put the boot to the necks of the people who are most in need in the province.

S: Mhmm.

N: It's cruel. It's horrible. These people are fucking terrible. And it shows you, it really does show you the banality of evil.

S: Yeah.

N: You know, that, that, that Christine Elliott, who was the fucking advocate for, for what was it hospitals, or for people dealing within the hospital system, like that was literally the job she left to now be the Minister of Health.

S: Mhmm, mhmm.

N: Like they obviously at some level a lot of these folks apparently believe that you need to have these checks and balances on power and then the second they get into power it's like this massive shift to, to, take to dismantle everything that might challenge their power. And they're what 120 days into office? And nothing's going to stop them? Like they're a majority government, there's no government forces that's going to stop them.

S: Noooo.

N: These bodies are just, they're just advocates. It's like the Franco Ontarian community, it's like how many 600, 000 people in the province?

S: Mhmm.

N: Most of them are clustered in certain city centres like Ottawa and in Toronto and in Sudbury and in Timmins and in Hearst, and some in Windsor? And you're going to what? Save not very much money to just be like “fuck you guys, good luck, get your services.”

S: Like why? What is the purpose? Besides just being dicks? And then, but also let's think about you know what we were talking about at the top of the program when it comes to the Child and Youth Advocate being cancelled, like, who are people, what, which children get kicked out of their homes who are most vulnerable to being kicked out of their homes and needing a body like them to protect them? Like is there anything more, is there any more clear evidence that this government hates Queer and Trans people? Just, you know...

N: Yeah.

S: So often the children, you know, the risk of becoming homeless as a child is higher for people who are Queer and Trans and those children may end up wards of the state, may end up in care and neeed advocacy, you are more at risk for needing that type of advocacy if you are a child who's Queer or Trans or Genderqueer. It's just not like you know, this, this government does not give a shit about those of us that experience the most risk in the way that this society is currently set up and in fact, I don't know, proud of that risk that we experience from just living our lives and want to ensure that we continue to exist in a state of fear of not necessarily to be able to live a full life with dignity and that's, ah, absolutely abhorrent.

N: Yeah.

S: Like that is what their track record speaks to.

Nora: Yup.

Sandy: That's what they want.

Nora: Yup.

S: And so we, need to (deep sigh), we need to do something about that. I mean we've got a federal election coming up and that you know elections are always an opportunity to get issues talked about in a big way in, in a society. Um, there's lots of debate around the usefulness of elections and blah, blah, blah and we can have that debate maybe one time on this podcast I don't know. I know we both fall on the same side of that debate because we've had that debate before (both laugh). But you know, regardless of what you think about an actual election or voting, the process of an election, talking about issues, um, like the, the opportunity to elevate issues, I don't think there is much debate about the fact that that's a possibility. So I think....

N: Yeah.

S: ... that we're going to, you know, the, the, the conservative convention that happened this weekend, and we're going to see some of that stuff come forward, federally, um, as we ramp up towards the federal election that's happening in the fall of next year, which I'm already exhausted just thinking about.

N: Mhmm.

S: But we're going to see more of this stuff and so I think there's going to be massive opportunity for us to mobilize, um, on these things more effectively than if there wasn't an election and so I think for those of us that are organizers and thinking about what we're going to be doing, wherever we are, uh, I think it's, it's time for us to really start thinking about these things.

N: And also like explain what is going on to people around you in your life that just don't necessarily understand it. Who hear the three words gender identity ideology and then they tune out the word ideology because they don't really understand what it means.

Sandy: Mhmm.

N: Like these, there are global forces that are trying to wage a war on ensuring that there is man and there is woman and there is nothing else, despite the fact that biologically that's not true, despite the fact that there's tons of people who can like literally “hey look at me I fucking exist” and just prove that not being true. And we've said this before on this show, it's like, it is not a coincidence, that the canary in the coalmine or who is under attack by this government, by the Ford government are Trans people. And it's because the Ford government, like they're all tied directly and indirectly to these far right forces that are global that want to make sure that gender is the thing that never falls to the left, or falls to a world where there's like no man and there's no woman. And it's like it's so, it makes me so pissed because it's like, at the most basic level who the fuck care how you express yourself. Right? Like what business is it of mine that you express yourself in the way that you choose to express yourself. What the fuck business is it of mine, how you were born or what you were like as a fucking five-year-old, or what you were like as a twelve year old or what you were like as a 12-year-old, and then you were like as a 22-year-old. Like, life is a fucking journey and we all have our own journey and the idea that this is the location where the far right, the Ford government included, wants to have this fight, it's not a coincidence. It's because they absolutely are, are, are clutching to the vestiges of an old order that is fucking, thank god, dying.

S: Mhmm.

N: That, that a lot, that the majority of people actually do understand that it's cool, like it's up to you man, like do what you want, that's, that's not really, it's fine. But it's the state and in this case the state in the power of the conservative party that is like, "noooo we have to fucking, no nothing can change from 1956" (both laugh).

S: It also just reveals just how, uh, dishonest conservatives are. Like they say that, especially on the far right, that all of they're about is freedom and you know removing controls and whatever but if you look right down to what their social and economic policies are, they are actually about the most control over our bodies...

Nora: Yeah.

S: .... over what we wear, over what women are allowed to do, what men are allowed to, like nobody else exists. Over, um, you know who deserves having some sorts of rights and liberties and who doesn't. All the way straight down to who is allowed to have money and make money, and who is not allowed to have money and not make money. Like all of these things are about control (laughs) and the far right conservatives they actually are the ones who want the most control over us each as individuals and it's just so interesting how often conservative rhetoric gets spun around to be exactly the opposite of what it is that they say they want.

N: Yup.

S: They say that they want freedom, but at the very base of it they want to be able to control where, uh, poor people go, how they're able to move, um, whether or not we're able to enjoy certain parts of the land that exists on this earth, whether or not we're able to (laughs) fucking water in some of our communities, um, whether or not we're able to exist as who we are (laughing). Like it's, they want to control...

Nora: Yup.

S: ...every single piece of who we are, um, and I don't know it's just really weird that their rhetoric gets spun around (Nora laughs) to be the exact opposite where they're like "we're about freedom, freedom to stop being exactly who you are". Like fuck you! What?

Nora: Yeah, I, it, it, the, the whole liberty and the whole freedom thing, it's funny a little bit to me, uh, the contradictions unfortunately created a perfect path for Maxime Bernier to try to get some legitimacy because he's pointing out a lot of these inconsistencies and a lot of the fact that...

Sandy: Ughhhhhhhhhh.

N: You know, a lot of, all of their rhetoric around freedom is, is, like it takes a fucking 10-year-old to go “wait a minute that doesn't make any fucking sense.”

S: (Laughs.) That doesn't feel free!

N: No, yeah, exactly. The problem is is that it then gets even more grotesque because what, what emerges is a far right that's like, "you're right, we don't want freedom for everybody we want freedom for white men and their women" (both laugh). And it's like "Oh shit! OK. Wow! Did you guys work that out in a boardroom?”

S: And like 75% freedom for their women. (Both laugh.)

Nora: Like Jesus Christ! Like, we are all under attack and we're all under attack in different ways and not all of us are equally under attack but we are all fucking under attack (laughs). If you're listening to this podcast, you are under a-fucking-ttack. (Laughs.)

S: Mhmm.

N: And, and so in the last couple of weeks I've had a lot of folks message me actually and say that they listen to the program and that they're interested in getting involved in something and they're just looking for more stuff to read or or ideas for getting involved. So if you are one of those people, feel free to message me on Twitter, my DMs are open, we can have a conversation if you're confused about anything. But the most important thing to do right now is literally, the mainstream fight backs like the petitions or the meetings or the the letters and also civil disobedience and organizing within people in your community that can see that Rob Ford has no fucking clothes on, the emperor is naked and...

S: Yeah, because he's also dead. (Nora laughs.) You said Rob, I think you meant Doug. (Nora laughs harder.) Sorry, I just had to.

Nora: What would be… the gross part about that is that he probably still has clothes on.

S: Probably does. (Both laugh. Sandy groans.) OK, let's move on from this (laughs).

N: Doug, Doug Ford. Fuck you Doug Ford! Fuck you Christine Elliot! Fuck you Caroline Mulroney! Fuuuuck yoooou Tanya Granic Allen. All of you mother fuckers, shame, that's all I, shame!

S: Yeah, shame! Fuck you! OK so something kind of inspiring....

N: Oh thank god.

S: Welll, I don't know if inspiring is the word. (Nora laughs.) But I just, you know, when there was a, ugh, a mass shooting in California and some doctors started tweeting about how they wanted gun control and the NRA responded by saying, you know, stay in your lane. And then these doctors started sharing all of these stories, about what it was like to treat people over and over and over again who had been harmed by gun violence. And it just goes to show, you know there's this idea that only certain people can be political and other people you know, politics is, is for certain types of people and everybody else should be elsewhere. But you know, doctors should have been super vocal on this from the beginnig in fact (laughs)...

N: Yup.

S:.... because it's so affects them and I think that there's like a resistance in our society sometime to showing how particular types of uh policy affects us because oh maybe that's not right for us. But if you're, you're listenning to this and thinking like "oh yeah, like obviously people need to fight this but not me, because it doesn't affect me." All of the things that we mentioned today affect everyone, either directly or indirectly and there is a way for you to plug in and a way for you to discuss these things and if you don't know what I'm talking about you can google the dicussions that the doctors were having about gun control, um, I think it's useful for folks to take a take a look at that and just see how even if you're not a quote unquote typical political actor, how you can plug into anything, any sort of discussion if it, um, interacts with you either directly or indirectly. And so, kudos to those doctors and I hope that we can sort of replicate that in our own lives. And I also just wanted to say a big thank-you to everyone who came to our live show, thank-you so much for listenning to the podcast and for supporting us live and we have as a result of your donations on that night and also following that, we have surpassed bro level on the podcast, which means soon you'll start to see some translation of the French, sorry the French transcripts. You're going to see French translations of the English transcripts that have been going up on our sites slowly as we get through all of the recordings, and so thank you for that. We're about $15 away from Gebresellassi level which would (laughs) which is going to be us recording a clean version of this podcast, but (laughing) are we still going to do that?

N: We're not sure, we're not sure. We haven't had, no one's really been like "Hey, I really want this" but the thing about the Gebresellassi level is that the idea was that Saron Gebresellassi wanted to make sure that her parents could listen to (laughing)...

S: Mhmm.

N: (Laughing)...which I appreciate because my parents also listen to the podcast and actually so does my grandmother and so they totally don't like my swearing. (Sandy laughs.) But, if we get to the Gebresellassi level I would be happy to make clean episode files of this podcast for teachers to use in their classrooms.

S: Oh great! So you know what, we're about $10-$15 away from that so if you're into it, uh, let us know. We know, we know we're so far behind on responding to people who have sent us messages through our form on our website (Nora laughs) part of the reason is because our email kind of puts them all together as though they're one email and so it doesn't look like multiple emails are coming in. It's really weird. So anyway, we both just discovered (laughs) that there are dozens of messages...

N: A lot.

S: Thank-you all for contacting us! There's dozens of messages on there we're going to try to get through them. I'm going to make it a priority this week, um, and so thank-you for all of your thoughts and keep sending them because we are now checking them on a more regular (both laugh) basis, and thank-you for supporting the podcast. Um, things are really tough this week, the news that's come out has been really tough this week, and I just want to say to all of my Trans, Queer, Genderqueer fam who are listening I love y'all. We are going to do everything that we can on our end and we're really putting it out there to everybody who's listening, you know, let's get, let's get this together. We've gotta fucking mobilize on this shit, it's not policy yet but it will be, um, and you know it is in some ways, so let's get, let's get moving on it.

[Outro music.]