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## David Suzuki kicks Sun News out of 'Eco Tour' debate despite Elizabeth May's intervention



JOSH VISSER | Feb 27, 2013 3:58 PM ET | Last Updated: Feb 27, 2013 4:29 PM ET  
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Sun News Reporter Jessica Hume (left) says David Suzuki kicked her and her cameraman out of a debate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Screenshot

Does famed environmentalist David Suzuki not know that Sun News often reports about Sun News?

A reporter for Sun News says Suzuki refused to appear at a public policy debate Tuesday night, until she and her cameraman were escorted from the premises at the Ottawa stop of the "The Eco Tour."

"When it was revealed we represented Sun News, we were no longer welcome," reporter [Jessica Hume said in a post Wednesday called "The good doctor will not see you now."](#)

"David Suzuki didn't just refuse to speak to us. He refused to appear altogether, sending a handful of hostile event organizers to remove us from the premises.

“After much debate and my reiterating I would be staying to ask a question, one of the event-organizers-turned-Suzuki-mandated-  
 d to the sizable crowd, incensed that I wouldn't leave quietly, and yelled for someone to call 911.”



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In a video accompanying the post, an organizer tells Hume: “Unfortunately, David Suzuki does not have time to talk to you tonight, you can wait outside.” The video is worth watching for the moment the smile on Hume's face approaches “Gotcha!” level five.

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May was moderating the event, and according to her spokesman, she appealed to the Sun News team to stay until after the event, where she would take questions.

“Only Rob Ford calls 911 on the media!” she joked.

May also gave Hume a big hug, which has to be considered a historic moment in environmentalist-Sun News relations. Hume later said on Sun News that she has “tremendous respect” for May.

So, what possible reason could Suzuki have for being incapable of being in the same room as Sun News?

As the *National Post's* [Jonathan Kay has reported](#), Sun News has been riding Suzuki hard for a while now.

. . .which brings us to David Suzuki, another left-wing icon whom Sun News loves to hate. Few in this country would dare say a negative word about Suzuki, who has repeatedly been voted the most-trusted Canadian in Readers Digest magazine-sponsored polls. But Sun, and Ezra Levant in particular, have been going after Suzuki for a while now, and Suzuki himself admitted that Sun's focus on his politicized activities was one of the reasons he felt obliged to step down from the board of the David Suzuki Foundation.



'All better now.' Green Party Leader Elizabeth May hugs Sun News reporter Jessica Hume.

Screencap, Sun News

Sun News' Ezra Levant, never one for much love towards CBC employees, has been particular tough on the environmentalist.

In a January edition of his program “The Source”, Levant attacked Suzuki for being a “one percenter” with multiple homes and for having accepted big cash for public speaking events.

Levant also said Suzuki was “kissable” but not romantically, just “the kind you'd give Santa.” So, there's that.



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Similarly, Hume would refer to Suzuki as “environmental guru, would-be benevolent dictator and all-around perfect human” in her post Wednesday. She later called Suzuki a “hypocrite” and a “narcissist” for those who don’t get sarcasm.

“Were David Suzuki a stronger, smarter man, he would face Sun News; give himself the opportunity to have his voice heard on a network whose viewers don’t always agree with him. But he’d rather preach to the converted,” Hume wrote in her closing argument.

“The Eco Tour” features debates between Suzuki and Jeff Rubin, the former chief economist of CIBC who famously quit his job to write “Why Your World is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller” in 2009, which argued the end of cheap oil would be the end of easy growth. The pair are speaking in Calgary Wednesday night.

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