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*By Shauna Sylvester*

I was raised in a household where the dinner table (which was located just off our kitchen) was constantly full of people. Some of my friends were a little intimidated when they first joined us for a meal because the conversation moved fast and furiously. If my friends were introverts, they generally found our dinner table a hostile zone. For those that liked to debate ideas, particularly about politics or religion, they found many worthy opponents to challenge and they felt right at home.

While a Kitchen Roundtable might share some of the same characteristics as my family dinner table, it isn't an exact replica. At Canada's World, our focus is on creating spaces where people can feel comfortable enough to share their ideas about Canada's role in the world. We focus on dialogue as opposed to debate (see **Annex 1**), and we try to create an environment where learning and exploration at

world, we want to start where all good democracies should: with a discussion among equals – a discussion around our nation’s kitchen tables.

In this How To Guide, I’ll walk you through the steps of hosting a Kitchen Roundtable – from inviting guests to facilitating the discussion around the table to letting us know how it went. If you have any suggestions for how to improve this guide please let me or any of the Canada’s World team know.

Making the decision to host a Kitchen Roundtable may come easy to you if you



When you think about the introduction, consider what kind of tone you want to set. In addition to getting people acquainted your introduction should also get people focused on the topic. It's always good to put the ques



introduction) and allow everyone to make a final comment

- thank them on behalf of Canada's World for being a part of the process,
- send them a link to the **Canada's World website**, and particularly to the **Host a Dialogue section** where the results of your roundtable will be displayed.

If you or any of your friends are interested in hosting another Canada's World Kitchen Roundtable, let us know. Email our Outreach Coordinator Tasha Nijjar, and check out the Host a Dialogue section of the website for guides to other types of dialogues.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assumes there is one right answer (and you have it)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assumes that others have pieces of the answer</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to prove the other side wrong</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to find common understanding</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective is to win</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective is to find common ground</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening to find flaws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening to understand</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defends personal assumptions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explores and tests personal assumptions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criticizes others' point of view</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examines all points of view</li> </ul>



With your permission, Canada's World will send you an email after your dialogue session to invite you to join our online community. The subject line of this email will be:

"Reilly Yeo has invited you to the Canada's World online community"

Please check your junk mail in the week following the session to ensure that you receive this message.

The email invitation will contain the following text:

"Dear YOUR NAME,

You have been invited to join: Canada's World.

CLICK HERE to join."

Simply click on CLICK HERE to be taken to the registration page, where you will be asked to give your name and create a simple log-in identity. Once you have completed this process, you will receive an email from IGLOO asking you to confirm your membership in our community. Following confirmation, Canada's World will send you an email with some instructions on using the many features of our website including our discussion forums, where you will be able to continue the dialogue after this weekend. In the period following the dialogue you may find yourself having many thoughts you w

Please give us contact information for the host of the kitchen roundtable (name and email address at a minimum):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

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Did you follow the Canada's World How to Host a Kitchen Roundtable Guide?

Yes

No

Could you offer suggestions for improving the guide? (Questions you liked, didn't like, etc.)


Please note what people liked about the roundtable:


Please note what people disliked about the roundtable:




2. What don't you like about being Canadian?


3. How do you think others perceive us?


4. How do you want them to perceive us?




Did your group have time to answer questions on what they would like Canada to achieve in the next ten years, and necessary compromises? If yes, please note the things that your group would like Canada to achieve in the next 10 years:


What compromises did they identify?


How would you summarize the feeling of the night?


Are you interested in hosting another kitchen roundtable or other event?

- Yes
- No

We are always looking for good quotes to help communicate what Canadians think about Canada's role in the world. If you can, please offer a quote that you would feel comfortable allowing us to use in our ma