

The Annual CSDF-FCDE National Seminar Professional Development Opportunity for Teachers

Every year for the past fifty years, the Canadian Student Debating Federation has sponsored and hosted a debating seminar for high school students, each in a different province across Canada. Since 2012, the seminar has become a truly educational experience in the art of public speaking and debate not only for students, but for teachers who are interested in learning more about this wonderful activity. What used to be a highly competitive event is now an educational experience that benefits students and teachers alike.

The focus of the seminar has developed into an immersion into the debate world that exposes new and developing debaters to skill development, competition, club building, leadership, cultural awareness, and national pride. It has also been the aim of the CSDF-FCDE to provide training and seminars for teachers on how to accomplish these goals for their students and themselves. It is also our aim to provide all of this in our two official languages, English and French.

As professional development, teachers can expect to learn:

- How to use public speaking and debate as not only an extra-curricular activity for students, but as a powerful teaching tool that can be employed right in the classroom
- Very specific skills on the nuances of debate that would meet teachers' needs, regardless of their familiarity or experience with debate, that would help them improve their teaching and coaching techniques
- How to entice and expose students to debate in order to start up new clubs or build existing ones
- How to represent this activity to fellow educators and administrators to get a foothold for new programs in schools
- How debating and public speaking creates confidence, critical thinking skills, analytical skills, and even enhances writing skills that will benefit students across their many curriculums.
- Networking with other teachers in the debate community, and to learn about the variety of models for debate clubs that exist across the country
- How the CSDF-FCDE can support and encourage them in their goals

For further information about the CSDF-FCDE and the national seminar, including where our next seminar will be held, costs, contacts, and general updates on debate in Canada, please visit our website at: <http://csdf-fcde.ca/>

Many teachers have benefited from this excellent professional development opportunity, including current board members of the federation, and our large and growing network of teachers and coaches who believe in the importance of the skills debate has to offer. We look forward to your participation at our next national seminar!

Should you require more information please contact the undersigned at the above email address or phone number.

Sincerely,

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Debra Miko, President