

# Minutes of the CNDF AGM

September 13, 2021

Chris George called the meeting to order at 7.00pm at Eastern Daylight Time.

## Attendance

Board – Chris George, Melissa Ong, Frankie Cena, John Robinson, Debra Miko, Josh Judah, Jon Bracewell and Nicole Ratti

Members – Jacqueline Belzberg, Daria Skibington-Roffel, Fiseko Musonda, John Robinson, Nicole Ratti, Jon Bracewell, Laura Noble, Will Fraser

Brian Casey - observing

1. The meeting agreed to approve the minutes as circulated – Moved by Nicole Ratti/John Robinson – carried unanimously
2. Jon Bracewell reported on the 2021 nationals. The event was much more accessible with very few provinces who were unable to attend, because of its online format. Congratulations to Jon Bracewell for hosting, and thanks to Chris George for his assistance.
3. The National BP tournament will take place either 19-21 of November or 26-28<sup>th</sup> of November. Manitoba will host it, online.
4. Upcoming tournaments

**Cambridge** plans to hold its event in person – it is not clear whether travel will be possible to the UK from Canada. Presumably we will still announce the persons who qualify. Dates will probably be the second last weekend in November. Frankie Cena is in charge of co-ordinating Canadian participation.

**Senior High Nationals** – Nicole Ratti reported – Dates are April 29-May 1. She and Chris hope it might be in person but of course it is early to know that.

**Junior High Nationals** – Jacqueline Belzberg reported – At this point it is not certain whether the event will be held in person or online. It will take place in mid May

5. Upcoming hosts for BP, Senior Nationals and Junior Nationals:

## **BP**

2022 – Quebec  
2023 -  
2024 - Manitoba  
2025 -

## **Senior**

2022 – Ontario (French also)  
2023 – Alberta  
2024 – BC (French also)  
2025 – Saskatchewan

### **Junior**

2022 - BC  
2023 - Ontario  
2024– Quebec  
2025– Nova Scotia

6. Provincial Reports – Debating has worked well online – single day events have worked well

Chris George will only run junior events this year – a number of university events will likely occur – Non-competitive events would serve local debate well.

Quebec will host a couple of events in person (with vaccine passports). Josh – thanks to CG for the events he did run last year. We were able to have teams participation that never would have made it to tournaments.

Manitoba has had more schools involved – but some of the established schools have found it difficult because of the pressure on the teachers which precluded their participation. The students did not find online tournaments as enjoyable as in-person tournaments are. The number of teams taking part went down, and the size of tournaments was much smaller.

Jacqueline will follow up to determine if West Point Grey Academy will continue to host the junior national speech and debate competition.

Will Fraser – It was very helpful for rural schools to attend online events because of Covid. A lot of Nova Scotia coaches couldn't get into schools this year – because of Covid restrictions on outside persons attending the school. We had hoped to host our fall tournament in person, but that is looking less likely now. We had five new members last year.

Manitoba, and New Brunswick have found it harder because of Covid.

Saskatchewan lost about 20 of their 25 clubs – but had lots of individual debaters, including new debaters – tricky part is getting the teachers re-engaged given their additional public health role

Alberta – generally positive experiences but lots of schools decided not to do anything at all – some parent groups got together and created community clubs – there are a few new schools because now, remote Alberta was able to participate. Online for the next while

Chris commented on how impressive it was to keep things running despite the new challenges. The quality of debate has not suffered as a result. Doing it online re-energized Chris' club – people who would otherwise have other activities took on debating.

Josh noted the opportunity to draw on a wider judging pool for online tournaments –

Online worked well for some Manitoba schools – but some ran into difficulties – a number of interprovincial events were excellent opportunities – for it to work, Manitoba required each team to supply a judge. The expectation is that every province provide a judge for every team – and require an adult chaperone to attend.

Junior nationals – there is a video from the finals which is awaiting participant permission before it is released.

#### 7. Election of Board –

The following new board members were acclaimed:

Nicole – automatic

Chris = nominated by Josh Judah and Jon Bracewell

Josh Judah = Frankie Cena and John Robinson

Frankie Cena = Debra and Josh Judah

John Robinson = Melissa Ong and Debra Miko

Fiseko = Melissa Ong and Frankie

Jon Bracewell = Josh Judah and John Robinson

Jacqueline = Melissa Ong and Laura Noble

Melissa, Debra, Laura and Brian declined nominations to the Board.

#### 8. CSDF report

Debra Miko reported that only 5 members were fully registered for the Seminar -- Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and New Brunswick.

Nova Scotia and BC have registered members but have not completed their provincial membership.

CSDF has only 36 delegates registered for the Seminar – it needs 68 for the event to be financially successful. If your province or territory has additional potential delegates, please sign them up.

Future Seminar hosts are booked as follows:

2021 – Online (CSDF)

2022 - PEI

2023 - NB

2024 - BC

2025 – NWT

The meeting adjourned at 8.15 EDT.