

Minutes of the CNDC AGM September 7th, 2022

Chris George called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

Attendance

Board - Chris George; John Robinson; Jon Bracewell; Nicole Ratti

Voting Members – Laura Noble; Joshua Judah; Emily Bonia; Nicole Ratti; Jason Hong; Jon Bracewell; Carissa Balcaen

Observers – Debra Miko; Graeme Berrington; Brent Schmidt; Ian Brake; Daria Skibington-Roffel; Rob McLeese

Discussion surrounding returning to in person events:

1. Chris reviewed the role of the CNDC board – oversees SH Nats; and BP. They also take care of JH Nats. All national events have been online for the past few years. There is a sense that we can run things in person again. Covid is still with us, but we can look at hosting things in person. We need to have a feel for what everyone feels about being in person. The beauty about it online is it was free, and no one had to pay anything hosts absorbed the costs for awards and zoom. Going live again means that costs are tremendous such as hotels, flights, food, etc.
2. Chris is generally concerned about the costs moving forward. Montreal - Chris has someone who can look after us and costs are better. Looked into Toronto \$290+ for up to quad this would be before the May long weekend. Would people not come because the school is still worried about Covid, or will the costs to attend be a problem? November 18th – 20th – Montreal would give us the best rate around \$150/night. All food at Selwyn, bus to Selwyn – Hotel prices in Calgary at the end of April, unclear what that will be.
3. John R: raised a good point another issue was not do a group booking making the organization responsible for guaranteeing the rooms. Contracts mean that you need to put a deposit on, and it is non-refundable. Provincial organizations need to be careful about having to put a deposit on rooms.
4. The overall feeling was if your team can't come at the last minute, we can't accommodate online and in person its one or the other.
5. Emily – perhaps creating new relationships with hotels, or already established hosts/provinces would end up having to do most of the hosting. Cost prohibitive for a lot of faraway places.
6. Josh – not an expectation with the host to hold hotel rooms; maybe give a few suggestions and folks find their own hotel/accommodations. If we have enough notice, we can start to plan and fundraise.

7. Laura N – very expensive to fly anywhere from New Brunswick – Nat Sem for 2024 in Fredericton, NB. Not a lot of funds so online has been great. In a rebuilding phase so not a lot of students to send.
8. Jon B – Quebec concurs with most of what was said. Being able to travel and meet people in person is a big deal. The hybrid model is not sustainable. Some events may be done completely online, but hybrid is not sustainable.
9. Nicole – Ontario doesn't have a whole lot to add to. OSDU will have online for the fall and transition to in person for the spring. Some of a few schools are doing in person, but on board either way.
10. Carissa – In Manitoba some events have gone back to in person since spring. Schools are travelling to Boston soon as an example – they are good with in person, or online.
11. Jason – Alberta hasn't really gotten into the details. Depending on the success of BP, Jon's event then we will see what we do for SH Nats. Some will be left out how do we make it even for all students to be able to attend. We know what the costs used to be, but students don't, so not necessarily a sharp drop in numbers. Maybe room to do an online national event for kids that don't necessarily have access to events but came out for online.
12. John Robinson thinks that perhaps in his retirement he can offer 1 or 2 National online events. Also, for schools just starting out and do not have the resources to attend.
13. Costs will be pretty good considering the connections with hotel and school support. Covid may be the concern then, but we do not know at this time.
14. Green light to proceed as there were no objections from the members present. Slightly smaller event than usual but it will happen.

JH Nationals – may be about \$300/night for hotels; restaurants will be expensive; dinner cruise; etc. cost of a hotel in Toronto – after Victoria Day long weekend. No objections to going ahead and planning.

SH Nationals – good to go maybe not a visit to Banff but as mentioned earlier contingent on how well BP Nationals in Quebec fair.

It was agreed that if a province wants to hold a National Championship online, they will need to get the approval from the board in order to proceed.

Upcoming Hosts:

BP Nationals

- 2022 – Quebec
- 2023 – Manitoba (decided after meeting had ended)
- 2024 – Newfoundland and Labrador
- 2025 – Ontario

SH Nationals

- 2023 – Alberta
- 2024 – British Columbia
- 2025 – Saskatchewan
- 2026 –

JR Nationals:

- 2023 – Ontario
- 2024 – Quebec
- 2025 – Nova Scotia
- 2026 – Manitoba

Elect a board – bylaws state the convenor for the SH Nationals plus 6 elected board members.

1. Jason Hong – Convenor of SH Nationals
2. Chris – nominated by NS
3. John Robinson – nominated by MB
4. Jon Bracewell – nominated by ON
5. Josh Judah – nominated by QC
6. Graeme Barrington – nominated by MB
7. Brent Schmidt – nominated by ON

Elected but declined: Debra Miko and Nicole Ratti

Board acclaimed!

CSDF News: Debra is stepping down and there are a lot of gaps to be filled. Debra's announcement to step down and her role at Speech and Debate Canada, as executive director. Members on the call thanked her for her outstanding contribution and dedication to Canadian Debate.

Chris thanks Brent and Arsalan for the tremendous amount of work with our national teams.

Brent commented trying to put in half as many hours as Deb. He thanks Chris for organizing the pre-worlds camp in Montreal. Training camp attendance at the end of August. Good group of kids coming up for the 2023 Team.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm – John Robinson motioned – Laura Noble seconded. All in favour.

Meeting Chaired by: Chris George

Minutes taken by: Debra Miko