
Canadian Student Debating Federation Debate Camp 2023

February 1, 2023

Dear Debate Coach and Debaters,

We are delighted to announce that **Brian Casey and John Robinson**, in collaboration with the CSDF, will organize a Debate Camp to be held from **Monday, August 14 to Friday, August 18** in Toronto Ontario. The event will be hosted at **Toronto French School**. While we expect this will appeal largely to those in the Toronto who will commute each day, this event is open to anyone and accommodations can be arranged at Glendon College, with the 13th and 19th being travel days, at an additional cost.

We are delighted to have this organized by Brian Casey and John Robinson. They have immense experience in debate with 40 years of organizing debate competitions at all levels, and have coached countless championship calibre debaters in their time. Brian and John have delivered debate camps in every province in Canada, and internationally. Both are former presidents of the CSDF and past organizers of the National Seminar, and hosted a very successful debate camp at Sacred Heart School in Halifax that was well attended for over 15 years. This year's camp will follow a format resembling previous years, for which you can find information here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/shshdebate/summer-camp>

You can also find previous year's resources, for free, at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ldrey8m74n8v8oe/2020%20Materials.pdf?dl=0>

Those attending the camp will receive an updated set of materials.

The camp is directed at debaters who are going into grades 10-12, although sections are available for younger debaters. There is no limit on students per school. We are unable to say with certainty how many spaces the camp will have, but we encourage you to register early to avoid disappointment.

This event is being run in parallel with the **CSDF National Seminar**, and we expect about 50 or more students and their provincial representatives to attend this event as well. If you are from outside of Toronto you should speak with your provincial organization, as travel funding MAY be available as well. However, the debate activities at the school will essentially operate as one event for everyone.

The focus of their camps has been to teach students skills in various styles of debate, provide workshops and resources on issues of relevance that will be debate topics, and

most importantly provide ample opportunity to practice skills in a non-competitive environment while receiving feedback from a number of experienced debate judges. The theme of the National Seminar will be “**Federalism in Canada**”, and will look at its history, the division of powers of levels of government, and examine and debate issues. This theme will be a focal point of some seminars, workshops, speakers and rounds of debate throughout the week’s activities. There will also be a model parliament for everyone.

We anticipate 8 rounds of debate during the week, and seminars on:

- Debate Skills
- Economics
- International Affairs
- Canadian Politics
- Coaching Debate

In past, the Debate skills sessions have included the following:

- First principles
- Reasons are not arguments
- How judges decide debate
- Openings and framings
- Rebuttal and rebuilding
- Modeling and using prep time
- Style seminars (eg, BP, CP, Worlds, CNDF)
- Structure, case construction and POIs
- Different speeches (PM, LO etc)
- How to deal with a bad government case

Those attending the debate camp will be responsible for getting to Toronto French School, located at Lawrence Avenue and Bayview Avenue before 9:00 a.m. each day. We will wrap up at 4:30 p.m. or so each day. The event will be run in English, however, there will be at times Bilingual components such as speakers, and the opportunity to debate in a Bilingual or French format is an option for those who wish.

The cost of the one week programme will be \$600, which is only a slight increase from last time the camp was run. This will include lunch every day, snacks throughout the day, resources, and the cost of delivering the programme. There will be evening activities planned for participants in the National Seminar, however, some of these activities may be available, and of course optional, for camp participants, perhaps with no or minimal cost.

The cost for the camp for those from out of town requiring accommodations will be \$1000. This will cover your stay at Glendon College in dorm rooms, across the road from the school, and the entire event including all meals and activities.

As this camp aims to foster debate in Canada, any debate coach who wishes to attend the week’s activities, may do so for the cost of \$100 to cover meals. If you are a new coach and/or this cost is a barrier, we will waive the fee on request. You are welcome to attend only the parts of the event that most interest you or as your schedule allows, and some workshops will be targeted to new coaches.

A tentative schedule is attached at the end of this document. The event website is located at: <https://csdf-fcde.ca/debate-camp/>

This document should have all of the information you need, but you should check with the website for future updates.

Registration for Debate Camp is now open. You can register as follows:

Debater Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/n21yAgzTXZtex8C57>

Coaches Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/7DCnutbpVgMxUyUw7>

Payment information will be provided to those who register. **We would ask for payment within 14 days after registering please.**

Should you have any questions about the event, or relating to registration, you may contact:

Brian Casey: bcasey@shsh.ca

John Robinson: jdr400@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you to Toronto for what we expect will be a very exciting event, and we are thrilled to be hosting in-person once again.

Sincerely,
Chris George
President
Canadian Student Debating Federation