

Quebec Student Debating Association  
Meeting – September 15, 2004  
Lower Canada College

1. Welcome/Call to order/Introductions

- A warm welcome from Mr George.
- The roll is called; brief introductions around the table.

Present:

Chris George	President – LCC
Sandy Cross	Vice-President – Westwood
Rachel McCabe	Treasurer – Trafalgar
Judith Schurmann	Chambly Academy
Brandon Uditsky	Herzliah (Snowdon)
Padraic Scanlan	ECS
Arielle Rabinovich	Herzliah (St. Laurent)
Louise Chalmers	John Rennie
Alice McLeod	LCC
Denis Brault	Loyola
Erin Russett	Selwyn House
Gloria Koyounian	St. George's
Jeff Deepro	St. George's
James Phelan	St. George's
Isabelle Fahmy	The Study
Adam Gross	The Study
Erica Pimentel	Marianopolis
Colin Potter-Bonar	John Abbott
James Roy	Westwood
Sharen McDonald	Weston
Stacey McCoy	Trafalgar

Regrets:

Catherine Grimanis	ECS
Elizabeth Cohene	LCC
John Commins	Royal West
Tino Bordanaro	Sacred Heart
Claude Picard	The Study

2. Master list circulated for correction

3. Minutes from last meeting, June 8, 2004, reviewed

- Discussion of item 11, re: Awards. The issue of Dream Debaters not receiving individual awards is clarified, and the issue is tabled to “other business”. It is decided that the term “empty handed” does not accurately reflect the situation under discussion, and should be changed.

4. Business arising from last meeting

- A proposal to ban school uniforms at QSDA tournaments was considered. It was generally agreed that the policy would help to counteract, or be perceived to help counteract, a more general bias in judging that favours private schools. It was also seen by some as a partial remedy to the problem of host-school bias, though others expressed doubts as to the effect the proposed measure would have on the problem. However, several potent objections were raised: that schools which pride themselves on tradition are likely to be upset by the new rule, and may refuse to send teams in civilian

dress; that it will be difficult to send away students who forget to change clothes (if the offending item is a tie, there's no trouble in asking the student to take it off, but if it's a kilt?); that sending kids to tournaments will lose PR value for schools, as their students will not be identified publicly until the award ceremony. It was agreed that professional dress ought to be expected of competitors, should the motion pass. A one-year trial ban on uniforms was put to a vote.

- The motion—that the QSDA ban school uniforms at all of its competitions for a one-year trial period; that students be expected to wear professional dress instead; and that team names not identify the competitors' schools either—passed with 10 in favour, 3 opposed and 1 abstention (Mr Bordanaro of Sacred Heart voting by proxy.)

#### 5. Calendar of events reviewed

- It is noted that the Provincial Championships at LCC are being held on the same day as the Girls For The Cure Walkathon. Several member schools are participants, namely: Trafalgar, ECS, Sacred Heart, Villa, QAA, and The Study. The conflict is unfortunate, but the date for the LCC tournament cannot be changed.

- Selwyn House will probably host a tournament in January.

- Westwood will almost certainly be able to host Senior Provincials (spring).

- Marianopolis proposes moving its tournament to a Sunday. Nobody has a problem with this. The idea of lengthening the tournament to accommodate extra public speaking rounds is met with less enthusiasm.

- We still don't have a host for Junior Provincials

#### 6. Senior Provincials at LCC

- Schools are reminded that the CSDF Style training seminar is being held on Thursday, Sept. 23.

- The tournament's schedule is reviewed, with no objections.

#### 7. North American Championships

- Worlds' style will be used. The style is described briefly. (Those with questions about it should consult Mr Kyte's "Modest Precis", or contact someone who has debated, or trained debaters, in the style.)

- A qualifier will be held at Dawson College on Oct. 20. Thanks to Ms Evans.

- Schools are cautiously encouraged to give it a shot: the event has never been held before, so nobody can vouch for its quality, but good people (viz. Mr Kyte) are involved.

#### 8. QSDA Website

- It's up. Standardized ballots, speakers' scripts, and judges' instructions are posted there. Host schools are encouraged to use them.

#### 9. New Letterhead

- It's available too. Host schools are welcome to use it.

#### 10. Membership Business

- Schools are reminded to make their cheques payable to the QSDA, not to Trafalgar.

#### 11. Junior Nationals 2006

- The 2006 tournament was to be held in Montreal. However, Branksome Hall, the school that originally intended to host Junior Nats in 2005, has asked to hold the event in 2006 instead. The 2005 tournament will be held at the Sacred Heart School in Halifax.

- It is suggested that a Montreal school or, preferably, a pair of Montreal Schools host Junior Nats in 2007. Any takers?

## 12. Senior Nationals

- The tournament is being turned into a quasi-corporate entity, with an executive that will ensure its continuity from year to year.

- It has been proposed that the National Championships and National Seminar swap dates. Worlds' Qualifiers would stay put, preceding the Championships rather than the Seminar. The Seminar would become more of a seminar.

## 13. Chaperones for out-of-town competitions

- Mr George offers to accompany the Quebec squad to Senior Nationals.

- In all other cases, it is agreed that the chaperone should be appointed after the provincial team has been named, so that potential chaperones know whether they will be going with students from their school.

## 14. Other Business

- The McLeese Opportunity Fund sets aside twenty thousand dollars annually for debate-related (but not Worlds-related) initiatives.

- Reminder: tournament materials (ballots, etc.) are available on the website.

- Awards should, in the very least, be given to the top ten speakers and top two teams in any tournament.

- A Resolutions committee is to be established, to review motions and ensure that the same topic is not debated competitively more than once in a year.

- Spectators are welcome at QSDA events. They should tell the hosts, though, and pay for any food they eat.

## 15. Adjournment

- Mr Deeprope proposes a motion to thank Mr George and adjourn. It is seconded widely and approved unanimously.