



2019 Canadian Junior and French National Debating Championships

Montreal, Quebec

Thursday, May 23 – Sunday, May 26, 2019

<http://www.qsda.org/jrfr2019>

February 15, 2019

I am pleased to invite you to both the Junior National Debating Championships and the French National Debating Championships to be held in Montreal, Quebec from **Thursday, May 23 to Sunday, May 26 at Lower Canada College**. The Thursday will be the travel day to arrive in Montreal. Events will start first thing on Friday morning, and will end early enough on Sunday, May 26 to allow for a departure home that evening.

In terms of the Junior Nationals, I am initially inviting 6 teams per province to start, but if you wish to send more, I may be able to accept a 7th at a later date. So, I am asking each provincial organization to please confirm how many teams you would like to send, and if you would take 7 if that was offered to you. I am aiming for an event to be between 46 and 50 teams at the most.

In terms of the French Nationals, what I am aiming for is as many as 20 teams. I think at this point I would ask how many teams each provincial organization would like to select, up to four, and then I will see where I am at. We are also planning to as part of expanding the size of the event going to, where it makes sense, invite some teams directly from French speaking schools outside of provincial organizations. So, if you can let me know how many teams you think are serious about attending, and who we might target in terms of French schools, I will go from there.

In terms of eligibility, teams competing in Junior Nationals must be grade 9 or less, and may not also be competing in the Senior (English) Nationals in Halifax in April. There are otherwise no restrictions on debating in the French category except that teams must be in high school, and any team that may have just completed their school year in early May of course remains eligible. Hybrid teams are eligible to compete in Junior Nationals, if you provincials regulations allow it of course. For French, we will discourage, but still accept hybrid teams on the condition they may not advance to semi-finals, but debaters remain eligible for speaker awards.

I would really like to hear from each province by **Wednesday, February 27** with your intentions for how many teams you will send for each tournament, and I will be in touch about possible extra team(s). By early March I would like to sort out at least final allocations and size of the tournament.

The cost of the event will be \$325 per person, debater or adult. Of course, each school or provincial organization is responsible for providing adequate chaperoning for their team(s). The cost will include all meals on Friday and Saturday, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday, transportation during the tournament, along with all tours and sightseeing.



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Cheques should be made out to "Lower Canada College" and sent to:

Chris George
Lower Canada College
4090 Royal Avenue
Montreal, Quebec, H4A 2M5

The tournament hotel will as usual will be the Best Western Ville Marie, which is where many of the events will take place, buses will depart from, etc. However, the hotel was unable to give us more than 40 rooms, about a quarter of which are with one queen bed, and the rest are two queen beds. A limited number of cots are available at an additional charge. All hotel bookings at this hotel are to be done through me. However, because of the complexity of potentially managing schools sending Junior and French teams, and not knowing who or how many at the same time, I am going to only accept firm bookings from schools who know with 100% certainty how many teams they are bringing to either event and know precisely the names of their registered debaters that have been confirmed by their provincial association as having qualified. I cannot have a situation where schools book rooms, and don't really know who's is coming or how many rooms they need, or might want to add someone later if you find you are bringing another team - there will not be space and I cannot afford schools to hold rooms they may or may not use. I am going to do what I can to make it work, but I cannot guarantee anyone space in the hotel without final registration details of the chaperon and debaters. I will do my best!

I am of course going to work on some other options at nearby hotels as well, and anyone who wishes to make their own arrangements should feel free to do so. I will be in touch in a couple of weeks with alternatives. Having said that, I am committed to a hotel contract of 40 rooms at the Best Western and must fill these.

In order to register for either event, provincial coordinators should first of all confirm with me the names and schools of all students, and names of coaches I will expect to hear from. Either coaches or provincial organizations should send me by email all debaters names, school names, travel plans when you know them, and special needs such as dietary restrictions. As well, you can indicate to me whether you wish to stay in the Best Western Hotel, and how many rooms (and what type) and I will work out with you what is available and give you a price to add to the registration. The price per room based on single or double, is \$625 for 3 nights would includes all taxes. (this is based on \$179 per night plus taxes, which is a good price for this time of year).

Prepared topics will be released by approximately April 15.



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The tentative schedule is:

Thurs. May 23

- arrival and registration at Best Western Hotel
- free time on your own
- coaches welcome reception

Fri. May 24

- opening breakfast banquet and welcome at Best Western Hotel
- sightseeing and lunch in Old Montreal
- debating (prepared rounds) and dinner at Lower Canada College

Sat. May 25

- breakfast at Lower Canada College
- four rounds of impromptu debate including lunch
- Dinner / Disco cruise

Sun May 26

- breakfast at Best Western Hotel
- all break rounds at the hotel (quarters in juniors, semis in French)
- lunch at Best Western Hotel
- you may book a flight after 6 pm or stay until Monday at your expense

Please note that we expect EVERYONE to attend all events that are planned, including the sightseeing on Friday. Buses will depart from the hotel after the opening breakfast, and go directly to the school for debating later. We expect all schools to arrive on Thursday. I ask provincial coordinators to help support in this regard, teams who insist on coming Friday and/or skipping Friday's sightseeing should have their spot offered to another team. As is customary, in order to be fair and respectful, students should participate in all aspects of the event.

I will be in touch in a later date when I have some further information about additional hotels. I am also working on setting up a website that will have some resources, etc. It is a work in progress.

In the meantime, I really would like to hear from provincial coordinators as soon as you can to firm up delegation sizes. And then I really will need firm registrations from everyone attending again by about April 15.

Let me know if you have any questions!

Chris George
Tournament Chair