

**Quebec Student Debating Association – Annual General Meeting**  
**Lower Canada College - Thursday, June 3, 2010**

**1. Welcome / Call to Order ( at 4:15 PM )**

**Present: ( voting members listed in bold )**

<b>Chris George</b>	<b>Lower Canada College (and proxy from Selwyn House)</b>
<b>Greg Louden</b>	<b>Vincent Massey ( President )</b>
Edward Bechard-Torres	( Treasurer )
<b>Lauren Shadley</b>	<b>Trafalgar ( Director )</b>
<b>Denis Brault</b>	<b>Loyola</b>
<b>Kim Hamilton</b>	<b>The Study</b>

**Regrets:**

Isabelle Fahmy	Lower Canada College ( Vice-President )
Mary Kate Jackson	Queen of Angels ( Secretary )
James Rioux	Stanstead
Christina Phelps	ECS
Donna Gold	St. George's
Liana Palko	Selwyn House
Christina Grivas	West Island College
Graeme Phillips	Trafalgar School for Girls

**Chair:** Greg Louden  
**Minutes:** Edward Bechard-Torres

**2. Roll Call, Introduce QSDA Executive and all Coaches, Identify Voting members ( 1 per member school )**

The Chair determined that quorum was established.

Motion to adopt the agenda.

Moved by Chris, Lauren seconds. Carried unanimously.

**3. Adopt minutes from June 2, 2009**

Motion to adopt the minutes from June 2, 2009.

Moved by Lauren, seconded by Denis. Carried unanimously.

**4. Business Arising from Minutes of June 2, 2009**

None.

## **5. Membership Update**

Edward: Stanstead, Lake of Two Mountains and Centennial Academy did not register for membership for the 2009-2010 year.

Lauren: Centennial has no effective staff organizing debating.

Louden: What about Stanstead?

Chris: James Rioux has informed me that Stanstead is in the process of finding a new debating staff member. Lake of Two Mountains is inactive; they signed up to attend a National Public Speaking Competition.

## **6. Financial Update**

### **Financial statements for 2008-09**

Edward: Registration fee was set at \$250.00, much of our expenses were dedicated to supervising Chaperon fees for a variety of national tournaments.

Chris: As of 2008-2009, the QSDA is a Registered Charity under the Quebec government. This allows us to write tax receipts for potential donors.

### **Appoint Auditor For Appointing Auditor for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Report**

Motion to appoint Chris George as auditor.

Moved by Denis, seconded by Lauren. Carried unanimously.

### **Budget for 2010-11**

Edward: registration fee set at \$125.00. We ran at a loss of \$232.61. We spent very little this year on Charitable activities (\$240.00 this year as opposed to \$3,318.44 last year). This might compromise our Charity status.

Greg: What is included in the Charity Program expenses?

Edward: McLeese Award, CSDF Annual Membership Fee and Volunteer Canada fee.

Chris: What we might do is include the cost and revenue schedules of individual QSDA events as this would demonstrate Charitable program activity. We might also host debating programs and have program related expenses, like renting costs, on the budget.

### **Set registration fee for 2010-11**

Lauren: Edward and I were thinking of writing letters to law firms trying to solicit funds from law firms. The issue is where money would go.

Louden: Victoria is heavily subsidized by the Law Society.

Chris George: We've approached the Barreau de Montreal for National Events, for which they give a symbolic sum, usually around \$250.00. Would the goal be to expand debating

in Quebec or to give partial “prize” money for travel expenses to those who qualify for out of town tournaments. Ultimately, \$1500 would go a lot farther paying for someone to go around giving workshops than paying someone to go to a tournament, or to lower registration fees.

Lauren: Would we maybe want to allocate subsidies for those who qualify for National Events.

Chris: Any money going to students would have to be raised. It could not come out of our operating budgets. Maybe the money could be a bursary, based on need. The problem is, everyone is in need.

Greg Loudon: As a chaperon, the school pays for registration and travel expenses. Anything above that comes out of my pocket.

Chris: Quebec is hosting, in 2012, junior and senior national championships. In all years, when we had to pay chaperoning expenses, we paid \$1000. When we hosted we directed this money to the event we hosted. If we are to host an event, the QSDA need to commit money towards the event in 2012. We cannot take \$2000 unless it is budgeted two years in advance. I would propose, as part of the budget for 2010-2011, that \$1000 from each year be budgeted towards that event. That would have a subsequent increase in the membership fee. We do not have to raise the fee substantially, given that we have \$3500 in the bank. **I would motion to budget \$1000 for those two years ( towards the 2012 nationals ), and raise the registration fee accordingly.**

**Chris moved, Lauren seconded. Carried**

Greg: \$125.00 is not enough.

Chris: If we increased our registration fee to \$175.00 for 16 teams, we’d get an extra \$800, and more teams to offset the anticipated \$1000 committed to the National competition.

Greg: I think we are losing Queen of Angels. We might fall under 16 teams.

Kim Hamilton: \$200 is good. \$250 might scare schools.

**Kim motions to set registration fee for 2010-2011 at \$200. Chris seconds. Carried unanimously.**

## **7. Report from CSDF and National Seminar**

Greg’s Report (see Agenda)

- Quebec students were discouraged by the open-adjudication for the first two rounds.

- Issue was raised at the AGM which was preferable—3 or 5 inexperienced judges or 1 experienced judge.
- Quebecers did not fit well with expected Western style.
- Next Worlds try-outs is in Toronto during the Oxford Cup.
- National Seminar is to be held at Hay River during the Winter. Options advanced were billeting or being stored in a gym. Most students will have to buy special winter clothing in order to participate.

### **8. Report from Oxford Cup Championships**

Chris: see report. Next year's will be held at Upper Canada College. The World Qualifier will be held adjoined.

### **9. Report from Junior High National Championships**

Chris: Good event, for details, see report.

### **10. Report from National Seminar**

Chris: No one went.

### **11. Review calendar of events for next year / list of previous tournament hosts.**

- Chris: See report ( hosting history ). Question marks identify schools that are due to hold tournaments. Senior Provincial tournament has not yet been bid for. Royal West has done it before, I would like to see them do it again. Schools question marked—Bialik, John Rennie, Loyola, QAA, Royal West, Trafalgar, Westwood.
- Lauren: Trafalgar is keen to host a junior event.
- **Greg: Vincent Massey may host Senior Provincials, likely hosted on a Ped Day. Should we run the tournament earlier than February 5<sup>th</sup>?**
- Chris: Denis, would it be fair to say that Loyola will host the Public Speaking tournament for next year and, in September, inquire into hosting a debating tournament for 2011-2012?
- Denis: November 17, is that OK for a Public Speaking Tournament?
- Chris: But if I host the ESU tournament on November 1<sup>st</sup>, might it be too soon to host 2 public speaking events so close together?
- **Denis: November 17<sup>th</sup> is official for a Public Speaking event.**

### **12. Other Business**

#### **Coaching during tournaments**

Chris: There has been a concern that there are volunteer coaches, who watch and judge rounds of debate, detached from their own students, and other coaches who watch their students round-by-round. Proposal: no coaching should be done while a tournament is in session.

Greg; The concern, for one judge in particular, is that it was a privately paid coach to coach and supervise a set of debaters.

Kim Hamilton: There should be a formalized rule to prevent interested parties from hiring private coaches who uniquely follow their students during a tournament.

**Move that paid outside coaches or staff members from QSDA schools be prohibited from exclusively coaching any of their own students during any QSDA sanctioned event or during the debating-portion of an event for which the QSDA has sanctioned selection which includes, but is not limited to, the Junior National Championships, the Senior National Championships, the Oxford Cup, and the National Seminar.**

**Chris moves, Denis seconds. Carried unanimously.**

### **Code of Conduct for students representing the QSDA**

Chris: There needs to be a signed agreement between the “QSDA” and member schools/participants at national events. This includes the following: an outline of the legal responsibilities vis-à-vis who is responsible for chaperoning, an agreement wherein those who qualify waive the QSDA’s liability (ie, the school undertakes liability, which is already league policy). Secondly, there is an expectation that all students participating in national events attend all organized activities, whether the event is held in or out of province. Thirdly, all participants have to follow QSDA rules (stated in its by-laws or passed by motion at QSDA meetings), including, but not limited to, the QSDA’s uniform policy, its tournament coaching policy. Fourthly, all students are expected to represent the QSDA in a appropriate manner and follow any chaperon-imposed rules and any serious breach may result in students being barred from representing the QSDA at future events, independent of whatever discipline may be imposed by their own school or chaperon. This document shall be drafted and finalized by the Board of Directors for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Failure to comply or agree with any of the aforementioned regulations may result in students being prohibited from participating in QSDA events or, from representing the QSDA at a national event. The board of directors, at its discretion can bar competitors from participating in future events for breaches of the agreement.

**Motion that we adopt this policy to be drafted by the board.**

**Lauren moves, Chris seconds. Carried unanimously.**

### **13. Election of Executive / Board of Directors.**

Lauren nominates Greg Loudon for President. Acclaimed.

Chris nominates Isabelle Fahmy for Vice-President. Acclaimed.

Chris nominates Edward Bechard-Torres for Treasurer. Acclaimed.

Greg nominates Graeme Phillips for Secretary. Acclaimed.

Greg nominates Lauren as a Director. Acclaimed.

### **14. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 6:15 pm. Lauren moves. Carried.