

To whom it may concern,

As president of the Canadian University Society for Intercollegiate Debate, it is my pleasure to bring to your attention that the World University Debating Championships, university debating's most important competition and one of the largest student events in the world, will be held within Canada for the first time in half a decade. On December 27th, debaters and judges from all over the world will converge in Vancouver and be hosted by the University of British Columbia Debating Society.

Since the last time the WUDC, a tournament which clubs must bid on in international competition to host, was hosted in Canada – at the University of Toronto in 2002 – the Canadian presence on the international debating circuit has exploded. Both the 2005 and 2006 championships were won by Canadian teams; an increasing number of Canadians attend the tournament every year; Canadians have had strong success at invitationals in both the United Kingdom and the United States. With the 2007 championships, the Canadian debating community hopes to replicate this success, both in participation and competitive results.

The benefit of a Canadian-hosted WUDC is that it allows the largest possible number of Canadians to participate in this event, where they face intense intellectual competition, meet other students from around the world, and see some of the best orators in the world. While the UBC organizing has done extensive fundraising and the event is heavily sponsored, there are still significant costs involved in attending this tournament: registration costs (including housing, meals, and other associated costs) are set at \$540 per person, and depending on the point of origin, travel costs to Vancouver could be just as much, or more.

While some debate clubs budget annually for the WUDC, there is a strong desire to maximize attendance at a Canadian worlds. Other clubs do not regularly attend the WUDC, and want to capitalize on one so close to home. Without financial support, many debaters will miss out on this fantastic opportunity. Please help ensure a strong Canadian presence at this tournament, as well as helping the Canadian community reap the benefits of such exposure to international debate.

Sincerely,



Padraic Ryan
President, 2006-2007