

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing on behalf of the Canadian University Society for Intercollegiate Debate (CUSID), the national organization that governs university debating in Canada. We sanction several official tournaments every year, including three separate regional championships, the British Parliamentary Championships, the National Championships, and the North American Championships in conjunction with the American Parliamentary Debate Association. Our membership is comprised of university debating clubs, sanctioned by their respective institutions, from across Canada. Born in the 1970s, our organization now encompasses over 30 debate clubs from British Columbia to Newfoundland & Labrador. This past year alone, we admitted a handful of new clubs and we continue to generate new interest.

As the Société Universitaire Canadienne pour le Débat Intercollegial (SUCDI), we also promote and facilitate French language debate at the university level, including hosting the Compétitions nationales françaises. Many of our newest member clubs are from French language universities in Quebec.

The successful operation of a university-level debate club within CUSID is not without costs. Internally, debate clubs host regular meetings, show debates, a high school tournament, and one annual CUSID-wide tournament. As such, clubs incur costs associated with booking rooms, buying food for tournament participants, and hosting social events to facilitate club cohesion. On average, such costs can range between \$500 and \$3500 annually.

Clubs spend the bulk of their budget, however, on external costs. The average debate club will send competitors to seven Canadian tournaments a year. Most clubs also attend CUSID Nationals, the World University Debate Championships, and American tournaments. While costs depend upon the level of participation and distance from tournaments, clubs incur the costs of tournament registration (which averages \$120/two-person team), accommodation, and travel costs. In this light, the average debate club spends approximately \$25 000 on external activities. While most clubs will generate up to \$4000 from their high school tournament, this money does not adequately cover the cost of running a successful debate club.

The Atlantic Canadian region has some of the oldest debate societies in the country. We have a longstanding history of producing talented and engaging speakers. Debaters in our region are not only busy attending and hosting competitions on the east coast, but travel across the country and internationally to compete at top level debate competitions; including the Canadian National Championships and the World University Debating Championships. In the future, we hope to see the continued growth of debating in Atlantic Canada. We are particularly interested in the increasing involvement of our large French Canadian student population. Most of our clubs originate from small, undergraduate universities and, therefore, they especially struggle annually with fundraising difficulties. The travel costs for eastern clubs would be unworkable without the support we receive from our sponsors. It is this generosity that allows Atlantic Canadian debating to represent our region across Canada and internationally.

Yours truly,



Jessica Prince
President



Alexa Smith
Vice-President, Atlantic Region