



**CANADIAN UNIVERSITY SOCIETY FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE DEBATE  
SOCIÉTÉ UNIVERSITAIRE CANADIENNE POUR LE DÉBAT INTERCOLLÉGIAL**

[www.cusid.ca](http://www.cusid.ca)

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 national or international 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, we continued to admit new clubs and generate new interest. CUSID debaters have a strong history of international success; CUSID teams have placed first or second in the last seven North American Championships, and have won two of the last six World University Debating Championships.

As the Société Universitaire Canadienne pour le Débat Intercollégial (SUCDI), we also promote French language debate at the university level. Among the French-language events SUCDI facilitates is the annual Compétitions Nationales Françaises.

The successful operation of a university-level debate club within CUSID is not without significant 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 \$3,500 annually.

Clubs spend the bulk of their budget, however, on external costs. The average CUSID debate club will send competitors to seven Canadian tournaments each year. Most clubs also attend the Canadian National Championships, the World University Debating 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. Individual clubs work hard to generate revenue, but this never adequately covers 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, engaging, and successful 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 encouraging the increasing involvement of our large French Canadian student population. Most of our clubs originate from small undergraduate universities and, therefore, they especially struggle with fundraising difficulties. The travel costs for Atlantic Canadian clubs would be prohibitive 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,

Auyon Siddiq  
President

Gavin Charles  
Vice-President, Atlantic Region