

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. Individual clubs work hard to generate revenue, but it never adequately covers the cost of running a successful debate club.

The strength and membership of debating clubs in Ontario and Quebec has risen exponentially in past years, but there still exists the potential for further growth. French debating in particular has expanded astoundingly, with the number of tournaments annually tripling and the membership of Quebec schools nearly doubling. This growth in membership has been mirrored in our debating success. Debaters from our member schools have recently won several prestigious international tournaments, including the North American Championships and the World University Debate Championships. Most of our clubs, however, have significant fundraising difficulties every year. The travel and registration costs for Central clubs would be unworkable without the support we receive from our sponsors. It is this generosity that allows Central Canadian debating to represent the region across Canada and internationally.

Sincerely,



Padraic Ryan  
President



Paul-Erik Veel  
Vice-President, Central Region