



Quebec Student Debating Association

www.qsda.org

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Dear Debate Colleagues,

On behalf of the Quebec Student Debating Association, we are writing to invite all QSDA schools to participate in the QSDA Provincial Debating Championships. The event will be run over two days, Friday February 6th, and Saturday, February 7th, 2026. Both the Junior and Senior provincial championship tournaments will be held simultaneously at **Lower Canada College**.

This event will qualify teams for both the Senior and Junior National Debating Championships. The Senior Nationals will be held on May 22 – 24 in Truro, Nova Scotia, and Junior Nationals will be held May 8 – 10 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The exact number of teams who will advance has not been determined, and does vary year to year. However, we will remind you of the QSDA regulations relating to selection: there are NO SUBSTITUTIONS allowed. That means that you must debate with the partner that you wish to attend Nationals with. If one person is unable to attend, then the team is ineligible for Nationals. As well, there are restrictions on who may be selected. Specifically, for the Senior Nationals, no more than two teams per school are allowed within the top six teams, and for the Junior Nationals, no more than one team per school are allowed within the top four. However, please note as per the QSDA by-laws, that should we need to go as low as tenth place, or outside the top half of the teams, the above restrictions may be relaxed at the discretion of the board. In addition, if any of the top six (Senior) or four (Junior) teams withdraw their spot at Nationals, the board may also relax the team limit per school.

Tournament Format:

We have modified the tournament slightly for this year. While we will continue to use the Canadian National Debate Format (CNDF), we will modify the senior speaking times to deviate from the official times, and we will use speaking times of 7-7-7-7-3-3. Speaking times for the Juniors will remain as 6-6-6-6-3-3. Protected time for points of information in both divisions is one minute as per official CNDF rules (which differs from BP).

In another change this year, **we will not have a prepared round**. All rounds will be impromptu. However, in the interest of efficiency, we will still randomly pair

the two rounds on Friday, such that you will debate once as proposition and once as opposition. There is also school protection guaranteed in these two rounds. On Saturday, there will be four additional rounds, all impromptu, and all rounds will be bracketed. Please note there is no guarantee of school protection after the first two rounds. (i.e. you may very well debate against a team from your own school)

Finally, one more change for this year, in keeping in line with procedures used at BP Nationals last month, cell phones will be expressly prohibited for ANY reason (**including time keeping**), from the moment the draw and motion is released until the end of the round when the judge releases you AFTER receiving feedback. Teams caught using their cell phones will be warned once, and the second time disqualified from the tournament.

Registration:

We are going to set a cap of ten teams per school (total across both divisions). Each school must be able to provide a judge for the whole tournament for every two teams that they send. The registration fee for the tournament is \$130 per team, and is due by cheque on the day of the tournament. Please make cheques payable to the “*Quebec Student Debating Association*”.

In order to register, please email Chris George, at cgeorge@videotron.ca and indicate how many teams in each category you wish to register. Also indicate the number of judges you are bringing (see above). We do not need the names of debaters at the time you register, but we will need those at least two days in advance.

The registration deadline is Monday, February 2nd. We must have final numbers by this day. Any committed and registered teams withdrawing AFTER Mon. Feb. 2 will still be responsible for paying the full registration fee as we will have already committed to expenses for meals and such. Please make sure you bring your registration cheque with you the day of the tournament.

Judges:

As indicated above, we are requiring that every school bring one judge for every two teams that they register. Senior students (grade 11 and above) are acceptable for judges in the junior division, but you must have at least one adult judge, and not more student judges than adult judges you provide.

Schedule:

Friday, February 6th:

Registration will be at 3:30 p.m. at Lower Canada College in the auditorium. We intend to start the judges' / debaters' briefing at 4:00 p.m. sharp, with the intention of starting round one at 4:30 p.m. Dinner will be served for everyone between rounds one and two. We expect the day to end no later than 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 7th:

Morning registration will be at Lower Canada College as of 8:30 a.m, and a light breakfast will be served at that time. We intend to start the day by announcing pairings at 9:00 a.m. sharp. A judges' briefing will also be provided while debaters prepare the first topic of the day. Lunch will be served for everyone between rounds 4 and 5. We expect the day's events will wrap up around 5:00 p.m.

Worlds Qualifying:

The CSDF will hold its worlds qualifying event as part of the Senior National Debating Championships. We will use the individual results of the senior division to determine which individuals will represent the QSDA. Please note that you do not need to attend Nationals to be eligible for the world qualifier. However, you must participate in the Provincials in the Senior category, and if selected, need to understand and agree to a number of conditions regarding the necessary commitment. Information will be sent from CSDF.

On behalf of the QSDA executive, we look forward to welcoming you at the provincials. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely:

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