



**Minutes from the  
CDTA National Annual Regional Meeting - BC Region  
Zoom Meeting - Sunday, October 1, 2023 10:30 AM PDT**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:37 am PDT  
Members in attendance: Non-voting: Melody Lynn Drewitz-Van Veen (CDTA National Vice-President, Exam Registrar)  
  
BC Region Members: Shannon Vallee, Julie Dionne, Shauna Milne, Lillian Li, Irene Booth, Calvin Lee, Elizabeth Smailes, Stacey Butterworth, Susan Mitchell, Carol Coulson  
  
Quorum was met.
2. Welcome and Introductions  
National President, Shannon Vallee welcomed everyone and all in attendance gave a brief introduction.
3. Meeting Procedures
  - 3.1 No comments or discussions will be recorded in the minutes unless the recording secretary is directed so to do.
  - 3.2 Time limits will be set to make sure the meeting concludes in a timely manner. Breaks will be given as decided at the meeting.
  - 3.3 All motions, directives, and recommendations will be clarified to recording secretary.
  - 3.4 Please speak loudly and clearly during the meeting as it is being recorded. Say your name before moving or seconding any motion.

**4. Approval of the Agenda  
Addition of 6.3 Notes from the Office**

Shauna M moved to approve the agenda as ammended  
Seconded by Stacey B      Motion passed unanimously

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Carol C moved to approve the minutes as circulated.  
Seconded by Shauna M      Motion passed unanimously

**6. Reports**

**6.1 National Directors**

It has been a very busy year. Julie shared a video presentation highlighting of things that have been offered to the members throughout the year. ie. Webinars – 1) Gender Diversity within the Classroom & 2) Navigating Stress; quarterly newsletters; education centre; syllabus intensives; opportunities for promotion via social media; music sharing session; CDTA Ambassador Program and more. Thank you to everyone, it has been a successful year and we hope to meet many of you in Edmonton at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Julie attended and CDTA National had a booth at the Alberta Dance Educators Association Convention and Toronto Dance Expo. There was wonderful attendance at our CDTA Presentations. Many new connections were made and it also provided an opportunity to renew connections with past members. A video presentation was shown. CDTA gained many new members through this promotion.



A video presentation was shown promoting the West Edmonton Mall and Fantasyland Hotel where we will be hosting a convention to celebrate CDTA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. CDTA is partnering with ADEA to host this convention July 19-21, 2024 in Edmonton called the "Diamond Dance Summit". There will be dance movement classes for students and teachers along with professional development and business sessions for teachers/studio owners, and more. Registration opened on October 1 through our website. If you plan to attend and/or make this a studio outing, register soon to avoid disappointment (there is a limit to how many students will be accepted due to ballroom size). A bunch of information will be forwarded soon. There are no hotel blocks, but they may honour a special room rate if you call and mention that you are attending the CDTA Diamond Dance Summit. It will be a fantastic convention for both teachers and students and a wonderful venue and area for a family vacation!

## 6.2 Divisional and Committee reports from Regional Reps

**Acrobatic Dance** - 40 students did acrobatic dance exams across the country. The Gr 4 and Sr Bronze Level were introduced during the summer intensive. The syllabus is now complete to Advanced and Gold Star medal. The Elementary/Silver were videoed this summer and we hope to have them posted soon, along with the Gr 4/Bronze. We need 2 tricks that need to be filmed yet – they are contortion tricks and we need to find students to demonstrate. All updated acro grades with revisions are posted online.

**Ballet** – Excellent attendance at both 2022 and 2023 summer intensives for ballet. Minor revisions to Junior Syllabus in 2022 are posted online and minor revisions to Gr 4, 5 and Inter will be available in October. The summary of revisions is available free of charge on the website in the members only area. The videos for Gr 4, 5, and Inter will be available soon. Over 1000 ballet exams were held across the country which was the highest of all divisions. Suggestions and ideas for events/webinars that will enhance ballet (non-syllabus or syllabus) are welcomed. More information about a special partnership with Ballet Jorgen will be available soon.

**Jazz** - There were 2 new Associates and 1 Licentiate and over 700 jazz exams were held across the country. The 2022 and 2023 summer intensives were held for Jr grades (Prelim-Gr 3) and Sr grades (Gr 4-Elementary) well attended.

**Modern** - 49 Modern exams were held across the country. Summer Intensives were attended by many teachers and examiners attended Levels 1-3 and 4-5 were presented. Level 1-6 videos are available online. Would love to see more utilizing the syllabus and incorporating into contemporary, lyrical classes.

**Ballroom** – Pre-Professional and Professional Handbooks, Ballroom Manuals, Amateur Teacher Exam and Adjudicator Exam information PDF's have been updated and are available on our website. Calvin looks forward to reaching out and building relationships within the Ballroom Division. CDF members are not allowed to be a member of another professional organization. Calvin has been promoting CDTA to CDS members, as they would be allowed to join other organizations. He has been working to promote medal tests and establishing more interest.

**Tap** – There were 2 new Associates and 1 Licentiate and over 700 tap exams were held across the country. Julie presented the Inter Techno Rhythm combo at Toronto Dance Expo in 2022 and ADEA Convention in 2023 and it was well received. The Summer Intensives for tap were well attended in both 2022 and 2023. We have a lot of Pre-Associates and the goal is to provide support and have them move forward with taking their professional exam.



**Multicultural** – We have professional multicultural dance teachers representing many countries: Africa, China, India and Pakistan – the Punjab, Scotland, Ukraine, Poland and Russia with cultural diversities comprising historic folklore, dances, music, authentic colorful costumes, and choreography. The first National Professional exam was held in the Multicultural Division. The first was awarded a Licentiate status being awarded specializing in Chinese Dance, and the second was awarded Licentiate status specializing in African Dances and African Fusion.

### 6.3 Notes from the Office

- Note that membership renewal fees were due September 1. Please remit ASAP to remain a member in good standing by logging in to your member profile. You will be prompted to pay using credit card. If you are unsure of your password, contact the office for support. SOCAN license renewals are due in December. ReSound information will be sent out in January.

- Insurance – The National Executive met with two different insurance brokerage companies regarding insurance for our members. Topics discussed were liability, health/dental, home and auto insurance. We are currently considering both companies but for different reasons. One offers an online application for liability insurance which offers immediate coverage. It is geared more toward freelance teachers or younger teachers who want basic liability as dance instructors (2 million liability). It is easily accessible and economical. The second company offers more comprehensive coverage. There is no online application, but you would contact them directly to create a package to ensure all your needs are met. There are so many different variables for insurance coverage depending on whether you are a studio owner, sole proprietor, inc. body, contractor, freelance, etc. They will not only work with you to find the coverage you need professionally but are also willing to quote on a package to include your personal insurances to get you the best rates possible. The National Executive is looking into holding an insurance webinar so that the members can receive information and ask questions.

- Exams: Congratulations was given to those teachers in the BC Region that obtained their professional qualifications last year:

**Annaliese Rios Leo** from Richmond - Licentiate in Ballet

**Tania Do Amaral** from Nanaimo - Licentiate in Multicultural (African Dances and African Fusion)

- The next exam entry deadline is October 15 for exams before Xmas.

- We have updated a few important things online as of Aug 2023:

- the CDTA Student and Professional Examination Handbooks

- the Professional Exam Manuals

- all Part B Entry Forms as entry fees were adjusted

- the "How to Enter Exams" PDF

- and the Acro Syllabus for all Grades (a Summary of revisions is also online)

Grades 4, 5, and Intermediate Ballet Syllabi have also had minor revisions. The free "Summary of Revisions" PDF will be available on the website.

## 7. Open discussion of events/activities members would like to see happen in the Alberta Region

- Would love to be able to host in-person events in BC. The north, ie. Prince George was suggested as a good hub. Vancouver and Victoria are so expensive. We would need commitment that members would attend and that the event would be financially responsible. The Region would be responsible for creating and presenting a budget to the head office for approval. Once approved the Region would be responsible for organizing the event. Perhaps the Okanagan area as well for a weekend or one-day non-syllabus workshop, start with a small



event and build up to a larger event in future years. Incentives may entice new members to join (ie. Give \$5.00/registrant back to the studio as a kickback).

- Using colleges/dorms was suggested to keep cost down.
- Suggest something similar to previous “Master Classes” day as was organized in the past by Susan Mitchell and Marie.
- Julie will create an email and send to BC region members to ask if they would participate in a Regional event (list a few areas: Prince George, Okanagan, Island, Maple Ridge).
- Extra-curricular School Credit for dance – we were required to resubmit and update information to the Department of Education and are waiting for their response. When we receive approval, we will let the members know of the updated criteria (levels updated and inclusion of Acro, Ballroom and Modern).

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1 Maria Lewis Award**

Congratulations to Amanda Qinru Li who is the 2023 recipient of the Maria Lewis Memorial Bursary and will receive \$500. She received Honours in Grade 4 CDTA Ballet and is a student of Lillian Li and Annaliese Rios Leo. We hope to receive a photo of Amanda with the certificate and her teachers to post on social media and include in our October Newsletter.

We encourage BC Ballet teachers to have their students apply for the Bursary. It is awarded in fall of each year. If students have received Highly Commended or Honours in either Grade 4, Grade 5, Inter or Advanced CDTA Ballet exam they are eligible to apply for the award. We would love to recognize the fantastic ballet dancers in the BC Region.

We encourage all members to be active in CDTA.

## **9. Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm PDT**