



**Minutes from the
CDTA National Annual Regional Meeting - Saskatchewan Region
In-Person and Zoom Meeting - Sunday, September 30, 2023, 6:30 PM CST**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm CST

Members in attendance: Non-voting: Shannon Vallee (CDTA National President), Melody Lynn Drewitz-Van Veen (CDTA National Past President and Exam Registrar)

SK Region Members: In-Person - Melissa Wallace, Wendy Spicer, Desirae Graham, Paulette Puetz, Barb Jackman, Gillian Horn, Geri Cey, Tessa Gray, Nichole Salsman, Natasha Anderson, Shauna Bzdel, Ali Dressler, Zoe Vassos, Tammy Kustersky, Kristy Neumeier-Sotnikow, Sharla Davidson-Girardin, Renee Hackney, Jo Hanson, Sarah Spicer, Kate Thomas, Elisha Ens, Jenna Trawin, Brooke Zawislak, Jessica Vik, Randi-Lee Loshak, Dani Norman, Dallas Schneider, Kelly Woodley, Pat Gabel-Yablonski, Kylie Redl-Gosselin, Tiffany Wagner, Kara-Lee Sieben, Mandy Yee-Sellar, Renee Skeoch (Honourary - 1, Life - 3, Licentiate - 20, Associate - 1, Pre-Assoc - 2, Affiliates - 7)

Zoom – Barbara Miller, Taylor Neufeld, Kendall Scott, Carolyn McDonald, Teigan Furber, Nicole Ravasco, Kara Chernishenko, Darla Zerff, Abby Blanchard, MacKenzie Drumm, Shayla Brown, Lynn Derkitt, Shelby Martin, Amber Beauregard, Sara Lawson, Brianna Dash, Cara Sigstad, Randi-Lee Ulyott, Angela Wright, Erin Schwalm, Dylan Dimond, Anita Bauck, Keaira Johnson, Alexa Delainey, Sharisse Davidson-Pritchard, Elaine Masich, Eila Miller, Nadine Selinger, Vivienne MacNeil, Dana Mutimer (Life - 2, Licentiate - 21, Assoc - 6, Pre-Assoc - 1)

Quorum was met.

2. Welcome and Introductions

National President, Shannon Vallee welcomed everyone. The National Team and Sask Regional Team members in attendance each gave a brief introduction. All new members were introduced and welcomed.

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 6.0 Notes from the Office, 6.3 75th Anniversary

Paulette P moved to approve the agenda as ammended
Seconded by Wendy S Motion passed unanimously

5. Approval of Minutes

Mandy Yee-Sellar moved to approve the minutes as circulated.
Seconded by Renee Skeoch Motion passed unanimously



6. Reports

6.0 Notes from the National Office

Please note that membership renewal fees were due September 1. Please remit ASAP to remain a member in good standing. SOCAN license renewals are due in December.

Insurance – The National Executive met with two different insurance brokerage companies regarding insurance for our members. Topics discussed were liability, health, home, and vehicle 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 easily accessible and economical and is geared toward individual teachers and not studio owners. It is so important for all dance teachers to have liability insurance (especially for contracted or those teaching independently outside of a studio for workshop/convention/ choreography). The second company offers more comprehensive coverage and would be best for members to contact them directly to ensure all 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 rate. The National Executive is looking into holding an insurance webinar so that the members can receive information and ask questions.

Ambassador Program - The CDTA Ambassador Program information and application is available on the national website. The deadline to apply is October 15 and the winners will be announced on November 1. CDTA Ambassadors shall be role models who exemplify technique and excellence. They will represent and raise awareness of the organization nationally by sharing their dance experiences on social media. Applicants must be 13 and over and have their own public Instagram account. Recipients will receive complimentary products from CDTA, be featured on Social media and CDTA promotional materials for the year. They will also receive a free photo shoot in the city/location close to their residence.

Exam Register Notes – Paulette read notes provided by Melody. Congratulations was given to those teachers in the SK Region that obtained their professional qualifications last year:

Jocelyn Tufts from Swift Current - received her Associate in both Tap and Jazz

Melissa Fielding from Wynyard - received her Associate in Tap

Mackenzie Drumm from Regina - received her Licentiate in Ballet

Shelby Martin from Unity - received her Licentiate Tap

and **Maria Rigetti** from Moose Jaw - received her Licentiate in Jazz

If members have any questions relating to exams this year please call, email, or text Melody anytime. Her email is exams@cdtanational.ca

Just a couple of reminders:

- 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.



6.1 National Directors

Reports were circulated prior to the National AGM in July. The Sask Region report is available in the Members Only area of the website under resources.

During the summer CDTA National attended and had a booth at the Alberta Dance Educators Association Convention and Toronto Dance Expo. There was wonderful attendance at our CDTA Presentations at both Conventions and as a result connections were made and we gained many new members. We also held very successful Syllabus Intensives which will be mentioned in the Division reports.

We are able to host Regional events as long as we can ensure that they will be supported by SK members and that we are financially responsible. Forward any ideas or suggestions for Regional events, seminars, courses, etc. to the National Office (cdta@cdtanational.ca) and they will be forwarded to our SK Region Directors.

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 in July. The syllabus is now complete to Advanced and Gold Star medal. The Elementary and Silver were videoed this summer and we hope to have them posted soon, along with the Gr 4. 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 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. We've had one request for the Inter and Advanced Enrichments to be presented in a course. 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 summer intensives were held for Jr grades (Prelim-Gr 3) and Sr grades (Gr 4-Elementary). They were well attended. 2022 - 36 teachers/examiners attended Jr levels and 23 attended the Sr levels. 2023 – 29 attended the Jr levels and 21 attended the Sr levels. Suggestions or ideas for anything to enhance the division can be emailed to the office or directly to the Reps.

Tap – There were 2 new Associates and 1 Licentiate and over 700 tap exams were held across the country. The Summer Intensives for tap were well attended. 2022 - 30 teachers/examiners attended Jr levels and 22 attended the Sr levels. 2023 – 32 attended the Jr levels and 27 attended the Sr levels. Julie Dionne presented the Inter Techno Rhythm combo at Toronto Dance Expo in 2022 and ADEA Convention in 2023 and some Gr 3 work at Toronto Dance Expo 2023. The presentations had great attendance and all work was well received. Suggestions or ideas for anything to enhance the division can be emailed to the office or directly to the Reps.

Multicultural – We don't have representation in Saskatchewan. The first National Professional exam was held in Multicultural. It was successful with a Licentiate status being awarded in Chinese Dance. A second applicant was examined and received Licentiate status in African Dance.



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. There were quite a few teachers who attended. Would love to see more utilizing the syllabus and incorporating into contemporary, lyrical classes. Level 1-6 videos are available online. Barb would love to offer a level 4-5 and to introduce Level 6 to Sask members in-person. Some of the modern work was presented this summer at both the Toronto Dance Expo and ADEA.

Ballroom – A report was presented for the National AGM and was previously circulated.

Hip Hop – a committee was formed to see if there would be enough interest in forming a hip hop Division. They are looking at different options of how to develop syllabus. Based on their discussions it was felt that a teacher's training syllabus be created first and that exams were not conducive to hip hop culture. They are in the discussion phase and are looking for people who have hip hop experience (both CDTA and non-CDTA) who would be willing to contribute. Contact the office for more info or if interested and the info will be shared with the committee chair.

6.3 Diamond Dance Summit – We are excited to be celebrating 75 years of CDTA in 2024. We are partnering with ADEA to host a convention in Edmonton called the “Diamond Dance Summit”. To be held July 19-21, 2024, In Edmonton at the Fantasyland Hotel. Online registration will be opening on October 1 on our website. There will be movement classes for students and teachers along with professional development and business sessions for teachers/studio owners, and more. Watch your email for additional info and fabulous Canadian faculty announcements. There will be a limited number of registrations accepted due to size limitations of the ballrooms. Get your registrations in soon to avoid being disappointed. Come for a “Teacher Get Away” or make it a “Studio Travel Trip”. With our joint venture with ADEA, we will be able to offer more for our members and students and share the workload, expense/profit, etc. A promo video presentation was shown. There will be a Gala Event on Friday which will include a fashion show from the Costume Company vendors, a keynote speaker, appetizers and beverages, a chance to connect and socialize and more. If you are planning to attend, it is recommended to book your hotel room(s) sooner than later and mention you are attending the Diamond Dance Summit. There are no hotel blocks, but they may honour a special room rate. There will be Primary classes for age 5-6 at lunch each day. A Passport will be available for all attendees to get stamps from vendors and from participating stores in the West Ed Mall. Complete your card for an entry for prizes.

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

- We hope that members of the SK Region can make it work to attend in person to maintain strength of our region and the connections that have been built over the years. We will aim to keep Dance Jam and the ARM together so that travel is limited to once. We would like to continue to bring everyone together for workshops as well and the in-person attendance is important.
- Webinar Suggestion - What kind of insurance do dance teachers need?? National is working on a webinar to provide this information.
- Safeguarding – Melissa spoke with an employee at the City of Swift Current where they have Safe Places Certification Program. They are looking at branching out provincially. (Safeplaces.ca) It is a program designed to support quality programming while reducing potential risks to children and youth specifically related to Bullying, Abuse, Harassment and Discrimination. Safe Places ensures that anyone who comes into contact with youth is vetted and has a baseline standard of education.



The modules also include information on youth nutrition, health, sleep hydration habits, etc. We are looking for someone interested in helping with making things happen for CDTA to be included. Renee Skeoch and Melissa will contact them to see if they would be willing to work with us.

- High School Credit – SK dancers can apply for a “Special Project Credit” and receive 1 high school credit and the teacher has to sign off on it. It seems that every school division and even each school handles this very differently. Some give it easily, some require a lot of extra work and others won't even support it at all. Many members shared experiences and frustration. Melody noted that the National Board is looking into this across Canada.
 - The goal is to have exams be recognized automatically and not require additional hours or work be completed. And, to have each school recognize it with no discrimination.
 - We will need to approach each province's Ministry of Education with a package of info to include: one certified high school teacher to verify and sign off that the content is equivalent to a high school credit and examiners (experts in the field) from each genre.
 - BC students can receive high school dance credits. CDTA recently had to revise their BC criteria to include completions exams and/or medals. It is called an “Extracurricular Credit”. They only have to show their exam certificate to receive the high school credit and it is available for Grades 10, 11, and 12. CDTA had to provide Experts in the Field (for each genre of dance) and also have a Certified Educational Teacher (with required qualifications from the Ministry of Education) who verified the content is equivalent to a high school credit.
- It would be fantastic if Universities would recognize dance as well – in regard to scholarships.
- Send ideas and suggestions to cdta@cdtanational.ca or to Melissa and Wendy.

8. New Business

We encourage all members to be active in CDTA. We are excited to see further growth, recognition and strength of CDTA as a National Organization. We can't do it without the support of all of you!

9. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm CST