



Canadian Bridge Federation – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: February 9, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM ET

Location: Online Meeting (Zoom)

MEETING TYPE: Regular ▾

MINUTES TYPE: Proposed ▾

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm ET

II. Roll Call

	Tt ATTENDEES	Title	☾ Status
SB	Shelley Burns	President, Director Zone VI	Present ▾
AC	Allan Callard	Vice-President, Director - Zone I	Present ▾
XC	Xavier Combey	Director - Zone II	Present ▾
TD	Terry Du	Director - Zone III	Present ▾
MB	Marielle Decelles-Brentnall	Director - Zone IV	Present ▾
LM	Lois Matton	Treasurer, Director - Zone V	Present ▾
MH	Paul Janicki	Director at Large	Present ▾
SO	Sondra Blank	Executive Administrator	Present ▾
LM	Louise Mascolo	Webmaster	Present ▾

III. Approval of January 13th, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion 26-05: To accept the minutes of the January 13, 2026 Board Meeting.

Moved by: Allan Callard

Seconded by: Terry Du

Ayes: 7

Carried unanimously

IV. Ratification of Email Motion

Note: The following motion was circulated to the Board via email on February 2 2026:

Motion 26-06: Director At Large

I motion to accept Paul Janicki as Director at Large, effective immediately.

Moved by: Shelley Burns

Seconded by: Allan Callard

Carried unanimously (via email vote)

Note: The following motion was circulated to the Board via email on February 4 2026: :

Motion 26-07: WBF Representative

I motion to nominate Paul Janicki as our WBF representative.

Moved by: Shelley Burns

Seconded by: Terry Du

Carried unanimously (via email vote)

The Board further noted that Mr. Paul Janicki accepts the appointment as WBF Representative.

V. Appointment of Trustees – CBF Charity Funds

Note: An email was circulated confirming the appointment of trustees for the CBF Charity Funds.

Formally record the 2026 Trustee Appointments for the Erin Berry Memorial Fund and the CBF Charitable Fund

The incumbents of the Zone positions on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Bridge Federation are hereby appointed as trustees for calendar year 2026, namely:

- *Allan Callard, zone1@cbf.ca*
 - *Xavier Combey, zone2@cbf.ca*
 - *Terry Du, zone3@cbf.ca*
 - *Marielle Decelles-Brentnall, zone4@cbf.ca*
 - *Lois Matton, zone5@cbf.ca*
 - *Shelley Burns, zone6@cbf.ca*
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VI. Governance

- The minutes will explicitly record when directors leave the Board.

Welcome of New Director:

Shelley Burns formally welcomed Paul Janicki as Director-at-Large and confirmed his appointment as CBF WBF Representative. **Mr. Paul Janicki accepts the appointment.**

Departure of Directors:

The following directors concluded their service on the Board:

- Deb Harper, *Director - Zone II* – left the Board on December 31, 2025
- Michael Hargreaves - *Director at Large* – left the Board on January 21, 2026

The Board thanks them for their service and contributions.

VII. NABF Representation

- The Board discussed the two CBF seats on the North American Bridge Federation (NABF).
 - Shelley proposed that Paul Janicki serve as one of the representatives to maintain close coordination between CBF, NABF, and WBF.
 - Shelley will consult with current representatives (Nick Gartaganis and Nader) and report back by email.
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VIII. Update on Events

Fundraiser – Celebrity Auction:

- ACBL agreed to send the auction email to all ACBL members (not only Canadians).
- Additional promotion via ACBL website slider and results pages.
- Zonal reps asked to contact clubs in their zones to promote the auction.
- Board encouraged to share CBF posts on Facebook to increase reach.
- Unsold celebrities will be available after auction close via donation mechanism (led by Danny Miles).
- An after-party / analysis session will follow the February 23 game, with invited experts including Mitch Dunitz and Geoff Hampson; Robert Todd and Zach Grossack to be contacted.

Maple Leaf Games:

- Start time moved to 8:00 PM ET to improve participation in central/western regions.
- Board noted some complaints from Atlantic players; in response
- Zonal reps asked to promote participation, especially in larger zones.

0-499 IMP Pairs:

Tuesday night IMP Pairs game at 8:00 PM ET continues.

Proposal:

- Expand eligibility from **0-499** to **up to ~1500** to broaden participation and training ahead of March championships.

Concern:

- Some reservations expressed about mixing very different skill levels in one field.

Decision:

- The board approved opening IMP Pairs to 0-1500, with a re-evaluation after March 10.

2026 Canadian Championships

- Only 4 senior teams entered → no round robin. 2 days of play in Penticton.
- Teams will be charged the difference only between RR and playoff fees.
- The Championship schedule was discussed and the possibility of aligning schedules.
- Regional schedule is 1pm & 7pm and CBCs traditionally start at 10am

STAC – Feb 2026

- STaC week is February 16-22, 2026.

*It was suggested to try to promote events to clubs 3-4 months out, so that they can plan accordingly

2025-2026 Team League

- The round robin has concluded. A post-event survey was circulated to players.
 - **Positives:** RealBridge platform, competition level, social aspect, and cost.
 - **Negative:** Scheduling was a major problem for captains and teams
- The Board agreed to move away from flexible scheduling to a fixed weekly slot - Thursdays 8:00PM ET
- A **Spring Team League** will be run starting in March (exact dates to be finalized)
- The board agreed to allow non CBF members to participate in the spring league with a surcharge of \$15 per non-CBF player. That the permission does not apply to other team league offerings.

Action:

- Sondra to finalize Spring League dates and registration details
- Sondra to Select/implement an alternative scoring/standings solution

IX. Subcommittee Reports

Educational Foundation proposal: Allan reported receiving extensive background information (email, PDFs, and phone discussion) from GIM regarding the creation of a new educational foundation.

- He will sift and consolidate the information and prepare a written draft proposal for the Board
- The proposal would establish a completely new entity, separate from the existing CBF Charity Fund, and would require new CRA charitable registration.
- Donations to this new foundation would be eligible for charitable tax receipts.
- This could support planned giving (e.g., bequests in wills).
- Currently, the CBF charitable arm directs funds to community charities, not bridge; this new foundation would allow charitable donations specifically for bridge development.
- It was suggested (and agreed in principle) that the six zonal representatives would serve as directors of the new Educational Foundation.
- It was cautioned against moving too quickly, noting the Board and staff are already heavily committed to multiple initiatives.

Action:

- *Allan to circulate a draft written proposal to the Board by end of February.*
- *Board to review, provide feedback, and discuss timing and next steps at a future meeting.*

Financial Report: Lois presented the January financial statements (balance sheet and income statement) and provided a status update to the Board.

- **Cash / Liquidity:** Checking accounts have sufficient funds to cover near-term bills.
 - **Accounts Receivable:** Approximately \$57,000 reported as accounts receivable, including an estimated \$35,000–\$50,000 believed owing from ACBL. Lois reported difficulty obtaining a response from ACBL since early December.
 - **Credit Card:** The Board confirmed the CBF now has a Visa card in use, held by Sondra Blank.
 - Lois reported filing GST returns. GST payable and interest/penalties were noted, with further returns still pending
 - All funds currently retain positive balances.
 - Membership revenue for January was reported at \$6,142; Lois noted this implies an annualized figure lower than historical levels. It was discussed that membership declines are also being observed at ACBL.
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X. Proposal to Allocate General Fund Expenses to Junior Fund

Discussion addressed the appropriate percentage and the basis for calculating the allocation; Lois proposed 5% of general administrative costs as reasonable, defensible, and simpler to apply.

Motion 26-08 To allocate 5% of applicable general administrative costs as an administrative charge to the Junior Fund.

Moved by: Marielle Decelles-Brentnall

Seconded by: Lois Matton

Motion carried, with one opposed.

XI. 2027 Canadian Championships

- Sondra reported a Facebook discussion regarding CoC Section 3.4 (“English is the official language... during a match, players may only converse in English”), and concerns from some francophone players.
- Discussion covered potential Québec language law implications for a championship hosted in Québec City and the need to avoid alienating francophone members.
- It was noted that between hands players may converse in any language; during active play there are very limited partner communications, and for any necessary table communications English (or a language agreed by all at the table) is appropriate for fairness and clarity.
- Consensus that the main issue is the wording/clarity of CoC Section 3.4; the board supported clarifying wording to better reflect the intended rule
- It was agreed that a French-speaking director must be a priority for Québec-based championships.

XII. IT, Website & CRM Platform

Membee

- Sondra reported an issue identified by Bill Halliday related to data dating back to 2022, resulting in approximately 200 members being incorrectly marked inactive after becoming Life Masters; the records were corrected and those members are now active.

Website:

- The CBF website experienced downtime due to bandwidth issues
- Sondra reported feedback that the auto-refresh on the Championships pages was perceived as more annoying than helpful, and was cited as contributing to the website outage; requested review prior to Penticon.
- Louise advised that the auto-refresh issue has already been addressed.

New Platform:

- Louise is cleaning up old files/folders (FTP/back-end) prior to any migration planning.
 - Sondra summarized the new platform as an all-in-one CMS with membership database integration (ideally linking with ACBL and replacing membee), mailing capabilities (replacing Mailchimp), and additional features; WordPress would still be used.
 - Still waiting confirmation that the database integration is feasible.
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XIII. Other Business

CMTC - Request for substitution

- Terry raised an item regarding a Mixed Team that has only one female player available and asked what options exist.
 - Sondra confirmed the request is to allow a substitute/replacement; noted the Conditions of Contest have been reviewed recently and are clear in this situation; and that similar requests have already been declined.
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Motion 26-09: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Allan Callard

Seconded by: Marielle Decelles-Brentnall **Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM ET

Next Meeting: March 9, 2026 at 6:00PM ET