

Canadian Bridge Federation – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: September 08, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM ET

Location: Online Meeting (Zoom)

ATTENDEES	Title	
Shelley Burns	President, Director Zone VI	Present
Allan Callard	Vice-President, Director - Zone I	Present
Lois Matton	Treasurer, Director - Zone V	Present
Xavier Combey	Director - Zone II	Present
Terry Du	Director - Zone III	Absent
Marielle Decelles-Brentnall	Director - Zone IV	Present
Paul Janicki	Director at Large	Absent
Kathy McDonald	Director at Large	Present
Sondra Blank	Executive Administrator	Present
Louise Mascolo	Webmaster	Present

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Shelley Burns called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM Eastern Time. The meeting was conducted via zoom video conference.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.

- Moved by: Allan Callard
- Seconded by: Lois Matton
- Result: Carried
- **Motion 26-39**

3. UPDATE ON EVENTS

3a. Maple Leaf Games

The Friday Maple Leaf Games are covering their costs, although attendance remains modest.

The Board reviewed several complaints about inappropriate conduct by a participant and agreed that the written warning prepared by the directing team should be sent, with a copy provided to the CBF Recorder to establish a record of the incident.

- The CBF zero-tolerance policy will be applied to Maple Leaf Games and communicated to participants at the beginning of each game.
- The Board will confirm with the directing team how the policy and penalties will be administered in the online environment.

Post-meeting update: *Following the meeting, the player whose conduct was discussed submitted an apology. The apology was shared with those concerned, including the Recorder for the official record. The apology was accepted and the CBF considers the matter closed.*

3b. Celebrity Auction

Three participants had registered at the time of the meeting. Board members reported interest generated by bookmarks distributed at the World Championships in Poland, but noted that many prospective participants were not yet ready to commit.

- The auction committee will meet on Saturday Sept 12th, to prepare further promotion and an email campaign.
- The CBF has approximately 208 email contacts from last year's auction for follow-up.

3c. 2027 Canadian Championships

The Board reviewed the responses to the schedule survey sent to 126 recent participants. The original proposed schedule received the strongest support, while the alternatives involving a one-day final or online stages received more “unacceptable” responses. The Board confirmed that the original schedule will be retained.

- The Travelodge Quebec City contract has been signed. The regional organizers will not reserve a competing room block at the hotel, and the hotel has agreed to match the CBF room rate when rooms are available.
- The Quebec regional will begin Wednesday afternoon rather than Wednesday morning because its room setup will take place that morning.
- The Board declined a request to fund a second or assistant director for the championships because Dominique Guay is sufficient for the expected table count.

3d. 2026 Fall Team League

Registration will open with the new website. The league begins October 1, 2026 and will be divided into Open and B divisions only if there are enough teams. A partnership and teammate-matching desk will be available. The registration deadline is September 24.

3e. 2026 Canadian Mixed Pairs Championship (CMPC)

The Canadian Mixed Pairs Championship remains scheduled for November 7–8, 2026, with Dominique Guay directing (provided the interface between ACBLScore and RealBridge has been rectified). Sondra will adapt the Canadian Open Pairs information for this event rather than prepare a separate detailed Conditions of Contest document.

3f. Erin Berry Rookie Master Game

The Erin Berry Rookie-Master Game is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026. Clubs may run the game at any time that day using the same hands. Danny Miles will prepare the hand analysis.

3g. Canadian Championship Qualifiers

The Board agreed to continue promoting club qualifiers for both team and pairs events because they raise awareness, provide additional masterpoints and generate approximately \$5,000–\$6,000 annually for CBF programs. Clubs may run any number of qualifiers.

- The CBF will schedule several online team qualifiers on varied weekdays and weekends, separate from the Friday Maple Leaf pairs game and the Fall Team League.
- Pairs qualifiers will continue periodically within the regular Friday game schedule.
- Dates, directors and minimum-entry requirements for the online team qualifiers will be determined before the next meeting.

3h. Quarterly Member Communication

Kathy McDonald and Allan Callard will prepare a quarterly communication for Canadian ACBL players describing upcoming CBF events and the partnership desk. The same communication may also be sent to club managers requesting that it be sent to all club members. The first message should be ready as soon as practical, preferably by September 17, ahead of the Team League registration deadline.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Hall of Fame

Marielle received Nader Hanna's response to Barry Senensky's Hall of Fame proposal. Nader does not support the recommendations, including the proposed nomination changes. Marielle will circulate the full response and prepare a synopsis with recommendations for the Board's consideration.

Conditions of Contest

Xavier reported that he has incorporated comments into the draft Canadian National Teams Championship Conditions of Contest and is circulating revised chapters to committee members. Response has been limited. Xavier expects a working document in early October and will send Shelley and Sondra the current draft for review. Registration is targeted to open by mid-October.

5. TREASURER REPORTS

Lois presented the financial statements through August 2026. Key items included:

- Cash in chequing accounts was approximately \$30,000. Term deposits exceeded \$300,000 and are now staggered, with \$100,000 maturing in March, \$20,000 in July, \$175,000 in September and \$10,000 in November.
- Accounts receivable was approximately \$10,000, including about \$6,000 related to the Erin Berry Fund. Deferred membership revenue was approximately \$65,000, the Erin Berry Trust Fund balance was approximately \$25,000, and total fund balances were approximately \$278,000.
- Membership revenue through August was approximately \$48,000 against an annual budget of \$85,000. The year-end estimate is approximately \$73,000, below both budget and 2025 results. Current membership is approximately 3,500.

- The \$49,000 Junior Fund administration entry was reversed so that ACBL would release approximately \$10,000 owing to the CBF. The Board deferred any motion concerning the reversal while discussions continue.
- The general fund is expected to be close to break-even before the \$49,000 reversal. International Fund activity is on track, and World Bridge Federation entry fees should be substantially below budget because Canada sent only two teams.
- Across all funds, the current net income was approximately \$44,000. Lois projects a year-end surplus of approximately \$25,000, with higher travel spending expected in 2027.

Shelley will continue discussions with ACBL about eligible Junior Fund expenses, including whether training costs qualify.

6. IT WEBSITE AND MEMBERSHIP

- Sondra reported that the new website was ready to launch and that Definite Image had been asked to schedule the migration. The new site includes an updated events calendar and an interactive partnership desk that can be searched by event and masterpoints.
- Monthly ACBL membership data creates delays of up to 30 days and generates unnecessary renewal inquiries and manual verification. Sondra is continuing discussions about a more current membership-validation process for renewals and event registrations.
- Shelley asked ACBL to make the CBF membership option more prominent during ACBL renewals. ACBL agreed to review the display.

7. ACTION ITEMS FOLLOW-UP

- Canada–Mexico zonal playoff: Shelley contacted Patricia Herrera and will continue advocating for the 2027 playoff to be conducted online to reduce travel and accommodation costs for Canadian teams.
- Richmond Trophy certificates: Allan will prepare a standard congratulatory message, after which zone directors will distribute certificates to their recipients. Lois reported that she distributed several remaining pins at the Edmonton tournament.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Bridge Canada Magazine

The Board reviewed a formatting problem in a submitted article and was advised that it was corrected promptly. The costs of producing the magazine have been reviewed and cost savings have been implemented.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

Motion	Moved / Seconded	Result
26-39: Approve August minutes	Callard / Matton	Carried
26-40: To adjourn the meeting	Callard / Combey	Carried

ACTION ITEMS SUMMARY

Action	Owner	Due / Target	Completed
Send the Maple Leaf Games conduct warning to the participant and copy the CBF Recorder	Shelley / Trisha	ASAP	Completed
Add a zero-tolerance notice to Maple Leaf Games and confirm online enforcement procedures	Shelley / Trisha	Before next game	
Prepare and send celebrity-auction follow-up communication	Sondra / Shelley	Ongoing	
Prepare quarterly CBF events communication for ACBL members and club managers	Kathy / Allan	September 17	Completed
Schedule online team and pairs qualifiers, including directors and minimum entries	Sondra	Before next meeting	Completed
Send current CNTC Conditions of Contest draft to Shelley and Sondra	Xavier	Early October	Completed
Adapt Canadian Open Pairs event information for the Canadian Mixed Pairs Championship	Sondra	Before registration	Completed
Circulate Nader Hanna's Hall of Fame response and prepare a synopsis	Marielle	Before next meeting	
Continue ACBL discussions about Junior Fund expenses and administration	Shelley / Lois	Ongoing	
Review which third-party events should appear on the CBF calendar	Sondra / Board	Ongoing	
Continue negotiations for an online Canada-Mexico zonal playoff	Shelley	Ongoing	
Draft Richmond Trophy congratulatory message and distribute certificates	Allan / Directors	Outstanding	
Confirm WBF policy on transgender and non-binary player eligibility	Paul	Outstanding	

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday October 12, 2026, at 6:30 PM Eastern.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion 26-40: to adjourn moved by Allan Callard, seconded by Xavier Combey.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM Eastern Time.

_____ Shelley Burns, President Date: _____	_____ Sondra Blank, Executive Administrator Date: _____
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