



Canadian Bridge Federation – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: January 14, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM ET

Location: Online Meeting (Zoom)

MEETING TYPE: Regular ▾

MINUTES TYPE: Proposed ▾

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm ET

II. Roll Call

	T 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	Mike Hargreaves	Director at Large	Present ▾
SO	Sondra Blank	Executive Administrator	Present ▾
LM	Louise Mascolo	Webmaster	Present ▾

III. Approval of December 8th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion 26-01: To accept the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Board Meeting.

Proposed by: Lois Matton

Seconded by: Mike Hargreaves

Ayes: 7

Carried unanimously

IV. Ratification of Email Motion

Note: The following motion was circulated to the Board via email on Dec 12, 2025:

Motion 25-69: Erin Berry Fund Application

I move to pay \$940 to Aydan Jia, \$940 to Alexa Jia, and \$2,148 to Casper Weizhou.

Moved by: Terry Du

Seconded by: Shelley Burns

Carried unanimously (via email vote)

V. Formal confirmation of the election

Record: The Board formally confirmed the election of:

- Xavier Combey as Zone 2 Representative (no longer serving as At-Large).
- Lois Matton as Zone 5 Representative.

The Chair thanked both directors for serving.

VI. Update on Events

Fundraiser – Celebrity Auction:

- The initial strategy included “package pricing” around Christmas/Hanukkah, with positive early sales results.
- Approximately 120 pros/celebrities have donated items to the auction to date.
- Auction activity to date was reported at approximately \$7,700 USD (approx. \$10,000 CAD).
- The auction remains open to additional pros donating items until the closing date; Board members were asked to help spread the message that participation is still open.
- After the auction closes, any unsold items may be moved into a “live auction” category for additional days, with an additional platform cost discussed (approx. \$70).
- Stripe was connected to collect donations.

Request: The Board was encouraged to support CBF communications by:

- *Following and liking the CBF Facebook page.*
- *Regularly liking, commenting, and sharing posts to increase reach.*

Maple Leaf Games:

The Board discussed whether the current Friday scheduling is optimal and explored alternatives.

Concerns noted:

- *Friday scheduling conflicts with many members' personal schedules.*
- *Regional time-zone impact (e.g., West Coast start time).*
- *Avoiding competition with face-to-face club games.*
- *Sectional tournaments typically occur on weekends.*
- *Suggestion to avoid starting at unusual times*

Options Discussed:

- *Move to Saturday or Sunday morning (e.g., 12:00 ET).*
- *Move to a weekday evening (Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday).*
- *Keep Friday but adjust the start time later.*

Consensus: Maintain Friday play but shift the Open game start time to 8:00 PM ET, and 0-499 game to 7:50 PM ET beginning February 6 (pending confirmation with the director).

Implementation:

- Directors working on RealBridge are to advise players of the time change.
- Update website and communications to reflect the new time

0-499 Online Team League Update:

- The 0–499 IMP Pairs League is scheduled for Tuesdays at 8:00 PM ET, with 14 boards, followed by expert analysis.
- A short training session for experts/directors was scheduled for Sunday at 12:30 PM ET (approx. 20 minutes).
- Expert coverage for specific dates was discussed (e.g., January 27 required coverage; contingencies identified).

2026 Canadian Championships

- Defense to Multi 2D will be allowed for the 2026 round robin and playoffs
- Discussion about the in-person board meeting discussed (**see minutes on travel policy**)
- Saturday, June 13 - meetings begin mid afternoon, 14th - full day and 15th will be a half day.
- It was confirmed that a quorum will be present

2027 Canadian Championships - Host Location Proposal – Quebec City

The Board resumed discussion of the 2027 Canadian Championships planned in Quebec City

- Xavier reported that the venue partner provided two pricing scenarios
- Shelley emphasized that decisions must be based on a full budget, including:
 - venue rental
 - director costs
 - other operational costs
- The Board indicated preference that the associated regional be at least five days, and expressed concern if the partner event were reduced to 4 days.

Action:

- *Shelley, Lois, Xavier and Sondra will meet to complete a full budget and scenario analysis.*
- *Xavier will contact Marc-André Fourcaudot to confirm deadline for committing*
- *Shelley indicated that the CBF is committed to the 7 day schedule as a baseline with any extension contingent on affordability.*

COPC 2026

COPC will be held April 25–26 (on RealBridge) with a COPC-B flight (0-2500) to be held on the same days

Discussion points:

- There was debate on whether “B” participants should still be required to qualify:
- Shelley preferred open access to reduce barriers, others noted qualification can be achieved easily
- Louise Mascolo suggested that introducing a new event close to April may be rushed and could be better implemented next year with stronger promotion; Shelley preferred offering it this year and promoting through clubs.
- Xavier strongly supported running a COPC “B” event, arguing that many matchpoint-focused club players fall in this range and the B flight may draw more participation than Open.
- It was noted that only 50% of players read mass communications.
- Using the list of qualifiers to identify which clubs players came from and sending targeted club communications promoting the new “B” opportunity.

Decisions:

- Pre-registration is required so eligibility can be checked.
- Qualification is needed for both the Open and the B flight
- CBF membership is required for participation.
- Registration Deadline - April 11th, 2026
- Clubs may continue running qualifiers through the end of March.

STAC – Feb 2026

- STaC week is February 16–22, 2026.
- Clubs register through the ACBL, and ACBL retains a share before remitting the proceeds.

Helen Shields Rookie Master Game

- Date confirmed for Monday, April 13
- Sondra confirmed analysis will be provided by Fred Pollack and Jeff Smith
- New flyer created for the clubs.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

Sustainability Fee: Allan reported significant pushback from regional tournament organizers regarding the previously discussed \$1 per player fee. He proposed shifting to a \$1 per table fee, estimating this could generate ~\$8,000 annually if broadly adopted.

Motion 26-02 Amend the Sustainability Fee Initiative to request \$1 per table per session at regional tournaments.

Moved by: Allan Callard

Seconded by: Mike Hargreaves

Motion NOT carried

- Shelley expressed concern about loss of goodwill and questioned whether the initiative is still necessary given improved fundraising outlook and other upcoming funding options.
- Lois asked whether the fee was intended for the general fund or international team support; she noted the general fund is budgeted for a surplus in 2026, and suggested focusing instead on September International Fund Month initiatives.
- Mike supported more discussion but raised practical concerns about collection mechanics.
- Marielle expressed reservations: not convinced reducing from \$1/player to \$0.25/player would meaningfully increase uptake

Vote: Motion not carried.

1 in favour, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions.

Sustainability Fee Initiative - Motion #2

Motion 26-03 Cancel the Sustainability Fee Initiative

Moved by: Allan Callard

Seconded by: Lois Matton

Motion: Carried

WBF Representation: Shelley noted the WBF requires two representatives for the North American Bridge Federation (NABF).

- Nader remains willing to serve as one representative
- Shelley suggested Mike as the other
- Terry suggested Paul Janicki as a strong candidate - experience on district board, ACBL board, and prior WBF involvement

Action: Shelley to speak with Paul and Nader. Revisit next meeting.

Financial Update: Lois shared a financial table for the year ended compared budget with variances

- Overall expenses were in line and approximately \$6,000 under budget (general fund context).
- International fund: budgeted revenue included \$12,000 expected from ACBL that had not been received; Lois intends to address this with ACBL. International fund expenses were in line; international fund loss was noted as about \$7,800, which would be offset if the missing ACBL funds arrive.
- Junior fund: expected ACBL contribution had not been received;

- Lois stated she retroactively applied 5% of general operating costs to the Junior Fund starting in 2018 creating a large one-time adjustment - to be discussed next meeting.
 - Lois stated the junior fund currently shows an approximately \$80,000 loss for 2025, which could improve materially if the missing ACBL amounts are received.
 - Terry stated there is no 2026 junior budget shown and noted ACBL junior funding is tied to activities expenses; also said there may be outstanding 2025 junior amounts owed
 - QuickBooks was converted from desktop to QuickBooks Online and is active.
-

VIII. Proposal to Allocate General Fund Expenses to Junior Fund

Discussion: The Treasurer applied a 5% allocation of administrative costs to the Junior Fund, retroactive to 2018,

- The Junior Fund must be kept separate because it contains restricted donations.
- It is reasonable and appropriate to charge a portion of administrative costs to the Junior Fund.
- The 5% rate is conservative and was originally discussed under Catherine's tenure.
- Terry questioned why the allocation was not applied in earlier years and asked why prior leadership had avoided charging it.

Action: Shelley to speak with Nader and Ina to see if there was a reason this was never applied. Lois needs this information by next week as GST filings and year end reporting must be completed by the end of January.

IX. Travel Policies

The Treasurer proposed, and the Chair agreed, that:

Accommodations:

- The CBF should cover two hotel nights for Directors attending in person:
- This aligns with meetings beginning Saturday afternoon and ending Monday midday.
- It was suggested that a reimbursement cap of \$200 per night be applied
- Directors choosing higher end accommodations may do so at their own additional cost.

Meals:

- The CBF will cover a group dinner on Saturday night.
- Alcohol will not be reimbursed.
- A per diem for other meals was proposed, in the range of \$60–\$80 per day, for two days

Travel Costs: (There was general agreement that:)

- Reimbursement should be fair and reasonable, recognizing geographic differences
- No formal caps were set at this time; the principle of reasonable, economy-class travel reimbursement was supported.

Executive Administrator Expenses:

- Directors agreed that the EA's attendance is not optional given operational responsibilities, and that her expenses should be covered.
 - Rental car should not be necessary, Shelley and Lois will both have their vehicles available.
-

X. Affiliation with the French Bridge Federation

Sondra outlined a proposal from the French Bridge Federation to create a Francophone bridge partnership .

Key points:

- No cost to the CBF.
- No conflict with ACBL.
- CBF would receive revenue share from Canadian members participating.
- Partners already include Morocco and others.

Discussion:

- Shelley Burns expressed concern about member confusion and organizational overload.
- Louise Mascolo highlighted that Quebec participation in CBF events is currently low and that outreach should be prioritized internally first.
- The Board agreed timing was the main concern.

Decision: The Board agreed to defer the Francophone Federation partnership until next year, after current initiatives are stabilized.

XI. Canadian Bridge Championships

Eligibility: Sondra described a case where a Canadian player participated in a European pre-qualifying process, raising questions about eligibility under CBF Conditions of Contest.

- Mike confirmed that under current wording the player may have been ineligible for 2027, but the rules should be clarified.

Action: Mike will tighten wording in the Conditions of Contest.

Written Defenses: Whether written defenses should be allowed in CBF championship events.

- Written defenses will continue to be allowed for 2026.
 - Advance notice will be given that written defenses will be disallowed starting in 2027.
-

XII. Zonal Elections

- Zones 2 and 5 had only Xavier Combey and Lois Matton stand.
 - Both were elected by acclamation.
 - Allan is rewriting zonal election procedures:
 - Draft to Board → Unit consultation → Final Board approval → Publish.
-

XIII. IT, Website & CRM Platform

Microsoft 365

- All Board members are now on Microsoft 365.
- SharePoint is live and in use for Board documents.

CRM / “Lens on Luxury”: Sondra presented a new all in one system for the CBF

- Board requested a written proposal including
 - Full costs
 - Functionality
 - Workload impact
 - Fine print

Action: Sondra will obtain this so the board can vote by email (Sent proposal via email 2026-01-15)

Website:

- Monthly ACBL disciplinary data now published on cbf.ca for Canadian players, branded and updated regularly
 - New Club Manager tool kit section is being developed
-

XIV. Other Business

Name Tags for Penticton

- Board agreed new large, prominent badges are needed
- Must say “Canadian Bridge Federation” (not just CBF).

Hall of Fame vs Lifetime Achievement

- Teachers are no longer eligible for Hall of Fame
- Lifetime Achievement Award exists for educators.
- Website language must be corrected.

Website Update Recognition

- David Cohen credited for fixing technical infrastructure.
 - Sondra credited for modern design and presentation
-

Motion 26-04: To adjourn the meeting.

Proposed by: Allan Callard

Seconded by: Mike Hargreaves

Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 PM ET.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2026 at 7:00PM ET