OSDU - UODE

Ontario Student Debating Union / L'union ontarienne des débats étudiants

Invitation to 2026 Simcoe-Muskoka Regional Tournament
December 5, 2026

Dear Simcoe-Muskoka Debating Coaches and Students,

The debate students of Simcoe-Muskoka Region, who are members of the Ontario Student Debating Union (OSDU), are invited to compete in the **Regional Debates** on **Saturday, December 5, 2026,** at **Barrie North Collegiate Institute, Barrie**. The maximum number of teams schools may send is ten (twenty students total). Please see the attached itinerary for the day's schedule. This tournament will qualify the top teams to participate in the **OSDU Senior Provincial Championship**, which will take place at Appleby College from February 26 - February 28, 2027. The top teams at the Provincial Championship will qualify to represent Ontario at the National Championship in the spring of 2027.

Please Note:

- To attend this event, schools must be registered with OSDU and have paid their membership fee.
- Both the Regional Qualifier and the Provincial Championships are **team events**. Students may only qualify for the next level of competition in teams. If a team qualifies for Provincials based on the Regional tournament, they **can't make any changes to the team they send to Provincials**.
- No school hybrid teams are allowed.
- We will recognize and award medals to the top three **novice** speakers. Novice speakers are classified as students in grade 9 or 10 who are in their first year of high school debate.
- All debaters and judges must fully participate in all four rounds of the tournament.
- All schools must provide **one judge for every two teams registered**. We will do a detailed judge briefing at the start of the tournament. Judges must be SCDSB teachers or adults on the SCDSB-approved volunteers list. Registered judges must be available for all four rounds of debate.
- **NEW! No cell phones will be allowed out once the motion is released at the tournament until the debate is over.** During the debate, students must use stopwatches to time themselves. If students are caught using cell phones during prohibited times, they risk disqualification.
- **NEW! Once registered, there will be no refunds after 2:00 pm on Friday, December 4, 2026.** This is at the discretion of the organizers.

- Debaters should dress professionally for this tournament. No jeans, hoodies, etc..
- In case of inclement weather, the tournament will be moved online. Coaches will receive an e-mail from lholla@scdsb.on.ca by 6 am on December 5 with the tournament homepage and Meet link.

Tournament Format

For the first two rounds of the tournament, each team will debate both sides of **this prepared resolution**:

The motion will be released on Friday, November 20.

There will be school protection for both of the prepared rounds. The third and fourth rounds will be impromptu, with pairings generated by seeding from earlier rounds.

Debate Format

For all rounds, students will debate in the Canadian National Debate Format (CNDF). For the first two rounds, each team will debate both sides of the prepared resolution. The third and fourth rounds will be impromptu debating and will also follow the Canadian National Debate Format. Please note that **no squirreling** will be permitted for the third and fourth rounds. The overall structure of the CNDF is as follows:

A. Constructive Speeches

1)	First Proposition : Prime Minister (PM)	8 minutes
2)	First Opposition: Leader of the Opposition (LO)	8 minutes
3)	Second Proposition: Deputy Prime Minister (DPM)	8 minutes
4)	Second Opposition: Deputy Leader of the Opposition (DLO)	8 minutes

B. Summary/Theme Speeches

1)	First Summary Speech: Leader of the Opposition (LO)	4 minutes
2)	Second Summary Speech: Prime Minister (PM)	4 minutes

Points of Information

Points of Information are allowed only during the constructive speeches, but not during the first and last minutes of these speeches (called “protected time”). During the round, the timekeeper will bang the desk after one minute has elapsed to signal that POIs are now allowed, and again with one minute remaining in a speech, to signal that time is once again protected.

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Please review the full Canadian National Debate Format Rules with your debaters before the tournament.

Registration

The registration deadline for this tournament is **Wednesday, December 2, 2026 at 8:00pm**. Please ensure that you complete your school registration form using the link below.

Simcoe-Muskoka Regionals Registration Form

The registration fee is **$90 per team** of two debaters (or $45 per student). Invoices will be emailed to coaches upon completion of the registration form. Registration includes lunch and snacks. In order to reduce the tournament's carbon footprint, debaters are asked to bring refillable water bottles and use the filling stations in the school.

***Please make cheques payable to Barrie North Collegiate Institute and submit them at the registration table on December 5th.**

Please direct tournament inquiries to Simcoe-Muskoka Regional Coordinator Linda Holla at lholla@scdsb.on.ca or Barrie North Collegiate Staff Advisor Karen Turnbull at kturnbull@scdsb.on.ca.

We look forward to welcoming you to Barrie North in December.

Sincerely,

Linda Holla and Karen Turnbull

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Tournament Itinerary

Simcoe-Muskoka Regional Debates Saturday, December 5, 2026

8:30-9:00	Registration for debaters, judges, and volunteers
9:00-9:45	Briefings for debaters, judges, and timekeepers
9:45-10:45	**ROUND 1** (Prepared)
11:00-12:00	**ROUND 2** (Prepared)
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-1:15	Announcement of motion for ROUND 3 and prep time for round 3
1:15-2:15	**ROUND 3** (Impromptu)
2:45-3:15	Announcement of motion for ROUND 4 and prep time for round 4
3:15-4:15	**ROUND 4** (Impromptu)
4:30-5:00	Awards presentation and meeting of provincial delegates