

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Membership

Monday, June 16, 2025 @ 12:00-2:45pm EDT on Zoom

AGM 2025 Reports, Financials, Minutes: <https://catract.ca/2025-agm-materials>

1. *Preliminaries* (15 mins)
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Land Acknowledgement (President: Robin)
 - c. **MOTION**: to Approve the 2025 AGM Agenda
 - d. **MOTION**: to Accept the Minutes of the 2024 AGM
2. President's Report (President: Robin) (15 mins)
3. Treasurer's Report (Treasurer: Sasha) (15 mins)
 - a. **MOTION**: to approve the 2024 year-end financial statements
 - b. **MOTION**: to approve the 2025 budget forecast
 - c. **MOTION**: to appoint Adams & Miles as public accountant for the 2026 fiscal year
4. Conference (Chair: Alex Ferrone) (20 mins)
 - a. CATR 2025 Conference Report
 - b. CATR 2025 Conference Budget Report
5. 50th Anniversary Committee Report (Chair: Robin) (20 mins)
6. Federation Report (President: Robin) (20 mins)
7. *Other Business / No Oral Report* (30 mins)
 - a. Conference Working Groups Report (WG Liaison: Justin)
 - b. Recognitions
 - i. Associateships Report (President: Robin)
 - ii. Scholarly Awards Report (Coordinator: Jimena)
 - iii. Scholarships and Grants Report (Chair: Emily)
 - iv. Lawrence Prize Report (Chair: Michelle)
 - c. Membership
 - i. Membership Report (Membership Coordinator: Heidi)
 - ii. Elections Report (Nominations Committee Chair: Matt)
 - iii. Graduate Students Report (Grad Student Rep: Jenn)
 - iv. Unaffiliated Scholar Report (Unaffiliated Scholar Rep: Sarah)
 - v. ARAO Report (Co-Chairs: Robin, Jimena)
 - vi. Accessibility Report (Accessibility Coordinator: Jenn)
 - vii. Communications Report (Communications Coordinator: Sebastian)
 - viii. Committee on Conduct Report (Committee Rep: Jess W.)
 - ix. Zeffy Report (Conference Manager: Dave DeGrow)
 - d. Cross-Institutional Reports
 - i. TheatreAgora Report (Theatre Agora Co-Chair: Fraser)
 - ii. SQET Report (CATR Liaison to SQET: Cassandre)
 - iii. Ad Hoc Committee on *TRIC* Report (Chair: Fraser)
 - e. Archival Committee Report (Chair: Jess R.)
8. *Adjournment*

President's Report

Submitted in advance of the 2025 AGM (25 May 2025)

by Robin C. Whittaker, President

You have likely noticed that we moved the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** off of the conference dates this year, which I assume is a first in our 49 years. Rest assured, this was not the preferred choice, but we landed here because the membership wished to do an online AGM (so we didn't place it during the in-preson Act). And the May online conference dates were too early for our Treasurer to reconcile our books (having just taken on the role in December). We needed to give time to the accountants to review the Financials, and to give the Board time to approve them for the Membership's 21-days-in-advance review. We intend to recalibrate our AGM within the regular conference dates next year.

Our members are CATR. An association the size of CATR, hovering around 200, requires dedicated members serving on the Board and on Committees to put in key volunteer time. If we didn't want to, we wouldn't be an association. We continue to be spoiled with members who are putting the time in to make CATR the association that it is and aspires to be. We owe immense gratitude to **Alex Ferrone**, who, in his first year with CATR, took on the repsonsibilities of chairing CATR 2026 *and* (when no one else ran) Vice President. We're sorry to lose him from the Board. We're also sorry to lose **Fraser Stevens**, who co-chaired CATR 2024, chaired the ad hoc committee on *TRIC*, and has been CATR's Theatre-Agora co-chair. Both Alex and Fraser are taking with them a huge amount of institutional memory and have both been a pleasure to work with. I hope they won't stay away for long.

All CATR members owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Sasha Kovacs**. For two years now, every Board member, save one (thank you, Craig), has declined to take on the role of Treasurer. In December, when Craig Walker needed to back out of the role, Sasha kindly agreed to take over as interim-Treasurer and has saved our financial skins. Her wish is to not continue on in this role beyond this AGM so that she can focus on leading CATR 2026. As the entire Board has declined to take on this role, **CATR desperately needs someone be Treasurer. Please contact me immediately (rwhit@stu.ca) if you are able and willing to do so.** Sasha and I are more than happy to answer any questions you have.

Jenn Boulay served as our only Grad Rep this year, as well as the Conference Accessibility Coordinator, the Board's Accessibilty Coordinator, and CATR's Social Media guru. I've been trememdously impressed by her ideas and initiative. Member-at-Large **Jimena Ortuzar** has coordinated our Scholarly Awards Committes and co-chaired, with me, our ARAO Committee with skill and commitment. **Moirra Day** took over the role of Secretary before last year's AGM and is, as I type, labouring diligently on those Minutes while (trying to) live her best retirement life. **Thea Fitz-James** and **Matt Jones** guided the Nominations Committee splendidly this year, tweaking the deadlines to make their tasks more managable. CATR's staff Conference Manager **Dave DeGrow** and Communications Coordinator **Sebastian Samur** have helped to shift much of CATR's administrative labour into productive directions. **Giorelle Diokno** has been extraordinarily attentive to updating our website throughout the year. Thanks are also due to **Cameron Clark** at **Phantom Owl** for giving our website a refreshing new look (a result of a necessary update to the Wordpress backend).

Huge **gratitude** to all elected Board colleagues **finishing their terms** at the conclusion of this AGM: VP **Alex Ferrone**, Ontario Rep **Craig Walker**, Prairie Region Rep **Jess Riley**, BC Rep **Shelley Liebembuk**, and Representative-at-Large **Fraser Stevens**. Québec Rep **Liviu Dospinescu**, Representative-at-Large **Jimena Ortuzar**, Grad Rep **Jenn Boulay**, Unaffiliated Scholar Rep **Sarah Robbins**, and my Presidential self are **continuing** in the second year of our terms. Your commitment to the association is deeply appreciated! I'm thrilled to welcome our **newly elected Board members** starting their term: VP **Kailin Wright** (recently our Atlantic Rep), Atlantic Rep **Stephanie Dotto**, Ontario Rep **Julija Pesic**, Prairie Rep **Sara Schroeter**, BC Rep **Shahrooz Yousefian**, Representative-at-Large **Heunjung Lee**, Grad Rep **Nicola Sibthorpe**, and returning to the Francophone Rep position **Cassandre Chatonnier**.

This year, **CATR 2026: On Interiority: Staging the Liminal**, in wonderful Regina, SK, will be the first time in CATR's illustrious 50 years that we've been hosted at a hotel, the locally founded and owned Atlas° Hotel, with praxis sessions held at U Regina and key sponsorship from C-SET and the Regina Hotel Association. Conference Chair Alex Ferrone has led a dedicated and imaginative Conference Organizing Team. Though our in-preson participant numbers are down this year, as they often are in smaller cities, we are proud to continue to offer conferences, from time to time, outside of just the large research insitutions and their large cities. Our two-day in-preson conference Act is 'catching' a number of members who are not able to travel this year. For those traveling, I can't wait to be back in the Prairies and see you in Sask!

We're already gearing up for **CATR 2026** in beautiful Victoria, BC. Sasha Kovacs and her department will host at U Victoria. It will be CATR's **50th Anniversary!** Please see the Reports.

You will have noticed the great news that we have finally managed to resolve the sharing of **joint-member lists with SQET!** This means that everyone who pays for a joint membership, whether this originates with CATR or SQET, will now receive mailing list emails from both associations, including CFPs and other information about our respective conferences. Thanks are due to SQET President Hervé Guay for helping to finally sort this out.

As many members know, for well over a decade we have been talking about leaving the **Federation** and the **Congress** that it runs. Though last year, in Montreal, had its particular challenges, underneath those lie the systemic beaurocratic ones: the added fees, the incompatable deadlines, the Byzantine spreadsheets, and the revolving staff. **Let's talk about staying with or leaving the Federation at the AGM.** We are paying up to \$3000/year to be a member of the Federation. If, upon reflection, our present Zeffy experiment works out, we won't need the Federation's membership, conference fee, and donations portal. There are pros and cons to consider. Please see the Federation Report for details.

Sincerely,



Robin C. Whittaker,
President, CATR

Canadian Association for Theatre Research

Interim Treasurer Report, Sasha Kovacs

Submitted 5 June 2025 for 2025 Board Meeting

2024 Year End Financials:

The primary responsibility over Feb-May has been the preparation of the 2024 financial statements, in collaboration with CATR Accountants, Adams and Miles. This process was challenging: transactions from 2024 were not pulled into QuickBooks, and thus not coded. In addition, locating financial documents (T5s and Investment Reports) was challenging on account of various addresses on file at different banking institutions. It would be prudent for the Association to have one address on file across the various banking institutions, but this is an ongoing challenge. The more CATR can consolidate its investments and cash into one account, the better. This is especially important in moments of turnover. I secured bookkeeping support in this process from Julia Gaunt-Rannala (Young and Associates). I have recommended to the Board that CATR engage a bookkeeper for a limited number of hours through the year to assist with the preparation of the Association's financials.

The financial statements prepared by Adams and Miles position CATR in a healthy financial position at the conclusion of 2024. The 2024 financials are attached.

One thing to note regarding those financials, though, is that payment to TRiC is not included as a 2024 expense, though it always has been in years past (approximately \$8000). Both Robin Whittaker and Katrina Dunn were consulted to obtain an invoice from TRiC/UTP, but no invoice was ever provided. In the event that TRiC does provide an invoice for 2024, the financials will need to be adjusted. The accountants will be present at our meeting to report on CATR's financials.

Charity Information Return:

I am presently supporting CATR Accountant Adams and Miles in completing the Charity Information return. This is a straightforward submission of the T3010.

GIC Investments Update:

Former treasurer Katrina Dunn did an excellent job of working to consolidate CATR investments into the CIBC account. That said, there are still two investments situated at Bank of Montreal. Dunn and I are working to slowly move investments at BMO to CIBC investments, as they come to term.

Bookkeeper Engagement

Given the challenges encountered in preparing year end, and the specialized knowledge in bookkeeping required to adequately prepare items for submission to the accountants, I am recommending that CATR engage a bookkeeper for 10 hours per year. My suggestion would be to continue engagement with Julia Gaunt-Rannala at *Young and Associates*:

<https://www.youngassociates.ca/>. I have contacted her to determine an estimate for this work.

Term of Treasurer Engagement

My occupation of the CATR Treasurer role was intended to be on an interim basis. That said, the Association has encountered difficulty with finding another individual to fill the role. I have let the President, Robin Whittaker, know that I can continue in the role only with the right supports. Engagement of a bookkeeper, that has the specialized knowledge to keep the Association's Quick Books account and year end reporting in order, is required. The stress of year end reporting is exacerbated because I do not have the financial background to be able to respond to some of the accountant's queries. I would also appreciate the Association's support in onboarding a new Treasurer.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THEATRE RESEARCH/L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE LA RECHERCHE THÉÂTRALE; 2025 Budget		
INCOME REVENUE	Projections	Actuals
30000 Memberships & Partnerships		
200 SQET Memberships via CATR	\$ 1,250.00	
300 CATR Memberships via SQET	\$ 650.00	
30100 Memberships General	\$ 22,150.00	
31000 Donations		
1000 Graduate Student Travel Grants Donations	\$ 1,750.00	
1050 Dennis Salter Grants Donations	\$ 2,000.00	
1100 Indigenous Host Initiative Donations	\$ 2,000.00	
1200 Canada Helps General Donations	\$ 1,500.00	
32000 Conference		
1300 Conference Registration	\$ 14,000.00	
32510 Press Sponsorships	\$ 5,500.00	
32520 Theatre Department Sponsorships	\$ 7,000.00	
32530 Translation & Accessibility Supports	\$ 5,000.00	
32540 Other Sponsorships	\$ 5,000.00	
33000 Investment Income		
500 CIBC Bank Interest	\$ 50.00	
600 Investments Interest (McCallum/Lawrence)		
800 McCallum/Lawrence Award Transfer from Investments	\$ 2,000.00	
900 Robert Lawrence Prize Fund Transfer from Investments		
34000 Grants		
1450 ConferenceSpecial Project Grant and Sponsorship Revenue		
Billable Expense Income		
GST & Other Rebates	\$ 1,500.00	
Total Income	\$71,350.00	
Expenses		
40000 Conferences	\$ 35,000.00	
3500 Board Directed Special Events/Initaitives	\$ 250.00	
41000 Publications		
4000 TRiC (Theatre Research in Canada) portion of membership dues	\$ 8,500.00	
42000 Administration		
2000 Teleconference/Videoconference Fees		
2100 CATR Website Licenses, Fees, and Management	\$ 1,700.00	
2500 Printing		
2600 Fundraising Charges (Canada Helps)		
2700 Paysafe Merchant Services Charges	\$ 250.00	

2800 Bank Charges (Visa, MasterCard)	\$ 1,000.00	
2900 CIBC Account Charges	\$ 200.00	
3000 Director's Insurance	\$ 850.00	
3200 Translation & Accessibility Costs	\$ 1,700.00	
5340 Miscellaneous	\$ 200.00	
43000 Memberships & Partners		
1500 Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences	\$ 2,100.00	
1700 FHSS Membership Management System	\$ 150.00	
1900 SQET Transfer	\$ 1,250.00	
3950 Indigenous Host Initiative	\$ 2,000.00	
44000 Professional Fees		
3100 Consulting	\$ 3,000.00	
4200 Accounting Fees	\$ 5,000.00	
45000 Awards and Grants		
3600 Heather McCallum Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00	
3650 Robert G. Lawrence Scholarship	\$ 500.00	
3700 Robert G. Lawrence Prize	\$ 200.00	
3800 Dennis Salter Grants	\$ 3,000.00	
3850 Jury Diversity Support Honorariums	\$ 750.00	
3900 Graduate Student Travel Grants	\$ 1,750.00	
95000 Special Projects		
5050 TheatreAgora		
5100 Other	\$ 1,000.00	
Total Expense	\$71,350.00	
Total Net Income	\$ -	

2025 CATR AGM Conference Report

Submitted by Alex Ferrone, Conference Chair

Work on the CATR 2025 conference began in early summer 2024 with a series of conversations about whether to disaffiliate from Congress in 2025 and, if so, when and where to schedule our conference. In light of the numerous Congress-related obstacles we encountered in 2024, a consensus formed around holding our conference independently. The Regina Hotel Association (RHA) expressed interest in hosting us and invited Robin Whittaker (CATR President) and Taiwo Afolabi (outgoing CATR Vice President and 2024 Conference Co-Chair) to visit three hotels. After deliberation and consultation with the Board, the Atlas° Hotel in Regina, Saskatchewan, was selected as the co-host for the in-person leg of CATR 2025 along with the Centre for Socially Engaged Theatre (C-SET) at the University of Regina.

As incoming Vice President, I agreed to chair the conference with support from the Programming Committee (co-chair Fraser Stevens, Cameron Crookston, Moira Day, Thea Fitz-James, Dennis Gupa, Jonathan Seinen, Robin Whittaker), Conference Manager Dave DeGrow, Local Arrangements Coordinator Andrew Manera, Translation and Communications Chair Sebastian Samur, Accessibility Chair Jenn Boulay, and the ad hoc Finance and Fundraising Committee (Andrew Manera, Fraser Stevens, Robin Whittaker, along with interim CATR Treasurer Sasha Kovacs, who stepped into the role after the resignation of former Treasurer Craig Walker but was not directly overseeing conference finances).

The theme, *On Interiority: Staging the Liminal*, connects the geography of our host city to the many valences of in/out binaries. Programming for Act I consisted of: a keynote address by Jill Carter, 8 paper panels, 2 curated panels, 3 roundtables, 1 working group session, 1 praxis session, a graduate student meet and greet, and an issue launch for UTPJ. Programming for Act II consists of: a keynote address by Moira Day, 16 paper panels, 1 curated panel, 3 roundtables, 2 artist spotlight sessions (one in English, one in French), 1 working group session, 5 praxis sessions, 3 performances, the Associateships and Scholarly Awards ceremony, a banquet, a pub night, a graduate student social, and three other off-site excursions.

We encountered several financial challenges. First was our cobbling together of an ad hoc Finance and Fundraising Committee after Craig's resignation and the persistent issues with CIBC (likely discussed in Sasha's Treasurer's report). We did not receive a SSHRC Connection grant despite positive feedback and high placement—this funding avenue seems to be decreasingly reliable. Initial conversations with the RHA overestimated the eventual attendance of our in-person leg, so we risked incurring fees for reducing our meeting spaces and not achieving the minimum threshold of hotel room nights. However, I was able to negotiate new rates with the Atlas° Hotel in late May 2025 in order to keep our meeting room expenses within our initial budget. Unfortunately, the RHA sponsorship (a maximum of \$10,000) is prorated based on the percentage of estimated room nights we manage to convert into actual bookings. We estimate now that we will likely receive only 50% of this sponsorship.

We do not have an Indigenous host for CATR 2025. We reached out to three groups, who were not in a position to participate for various reasons (timing, staffing, etc.). We received useful feedback along the way about some of the local nuances relating to these kinds of collaborations, which reaffirms the need for local members to manage Indigenous host collaborations in the future. In lieu of naming a formal host, the Organizing Team has agreed to make a donation to the Sâkêwêwak First Nations Artists' Collective, the first group we contacted (and who are unable to participate because they are currently unstaffed).

Act I proved to be a rich and worthwhile event. Notwithstanding some minor confusion with the TheatreAgora.ca user interface, feedback to programming was generally very positive. We are equally excited about our programming for Act II, which gathers scholarship and performance from across the world, an exciting collaboration between C-SET and Howard University (at a fraught time for US universities, especially HBCUs), and plenty of opportunities to engage with our host city, Regina.

CATR 2025 Conference Budget	
REVENUES	
<i>Registration fees</i>	
Act I registrations (78 registrations)	\$3,170.00
Act II registrations (47 registrations so far)	\$5,620.00
<i>Banquet fees</i>	
Banquet fees (\$50 x 40 estimated guests)	\$2,000.00
<i>Host funding</i>	
RHA (estimated 50% of maximum \$10,000 sponsorship)	\$5,000.00
C-SET (Centre for Socially Engaged Theatre)	\$8,000.00
<i>Department sponsorships</i>	
National department sponsorships	\$8,000.00
<i>Press sponsorships</i>	
Playwrights Canada Press	\$2,500.00
Talonbooks	\$1,500.00
University of Toronto Press Journals	\$1,000.00
<i>Donations</i>	
Donations	\$850.00
Total revenue:	\$37,640.00
EXPENSES	
<i>Host expenses</i>	
Atlas° Hotel meeting rooms	\$7,056.00
Atlas° Hotel lunches (\$2400 x 4 days + GST + PST + 15% service fee)	\$8,467.20
Atlas° Hotel coffee/refreshments (\$450 x 4 days + GST + PST + 15% service fee)	\$1,512.00
Atlas° A/V (\$732 x 4 days + GST + PST + 15% service fee)	\$3,661.90
<i>Banquet expenses</i>	
Banquet expenses (\$47 x 40 estimated guests + GST + PST + gratuity)	\$2,462.80
<i>Transportation</i>	
Shuttle buses	\$3,974.25
<i>Translation and Accessibility</i>	
Translation	\$2,000.00
Accessibility	\$2,500.00
<i>Honoraria</i>	
Keynote speakers	\$2,000.00
<i>Conference staff</i>	
Conference Manager (Dave DeGrow)	\$11,300.00
<i>Other expenses</i>	
Onsite insurance	\$500.00
Printing	\$150.00
Contribution to CATR Travel Awards	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00
Total expenses:	\$46,584.15
TOTAL SURPLUS/LOSS:	-\$8,944.15

50th Anniversary Committee Report

Submitted in advance of the 2025 AGM (25 May 2025)

by Robin C. Whittaker, Chair

Committee Members: Robin Whittaker (Chair,), Jane Koustas, Sarah Robbins, Sasha Kovacs, Jess Riley, Heunjeun Lee, Kim McLeod, Steve Donnelly, Taylor Graham, Sebastian Samur, Thea Fitz-James, Jenn Boulay, Cassandre Chattonier, Moira Day, Stephen Johnson, Richard Plant, Kailin Wright, Jess Watkin, Taiwo Afolabi

For the next 12 months, CATR will be **celebrating and reflecting** on our 50th anniversary, culminating at U Victoria at CATR 2026 / CATR 50! Plans are underway among the above-listed and enthusiastic committee members and we're more than happy to add **more volunteers**. Importantly, we are separating this 50th Committee from the Conference Organizing Team, which will be led by Sasha Kovacs, to ensure that the conference is still our annual conference.


The theme of CATR 50 is Janus-headed: a **look back** to celebrate and (respectfully) critique the past 50 years while also **looking ahead** to the next 50 years to blue-sky imagine what CATR can become. We're working to invite and involve members across generations and career moments (from emerging to emeritus!), and we intend to offer 50th Anniversary Programming throughout the year—because we can't fit all the events into just the conference!

Goals

- honour and productively critique the past 50 years of CATR; envision futures for the next 50
- keep the celebrations going for 12 months, culminating in CATR 2026
- liaise with CATR 2026 organizers without burdening them with conference *plus* 50th plans
- engage “historic” and “emerging” members cross-generationally, in all possible ways
- engage partners, including SQET, *TRIC*, *CTR*, PCP, Talonbooks, local and national artists
- research CATR's origins, histories, high points, challenges, *etc.*
- seek grants & donations to fly & accommodate retired & precarious members to CATR 2026
- curate year-round events: interview past and current members, organize regional roundtables
- curate UVic events: presidents roundtable, Saddlemyer roundtable, cross-generational sessions, longtables, video screen with CATR documentary, “speaker's corner,” trivia night
- edit a documentary video (or mini-docs) featuring interview, roundtable, and archival material
- edit and sell a book-length souvenir publication
- periodically circulate updates to Members and the public

Call for Materials! We're eagerly looking for CATR-related **photographs**. Please scan and email these to Robin (rwhit@stu.ca) or Sebastian (catr.communications@gmail.com). We're also collecting **memorabilia**). The CATR Archival Committee's Kim McLeod and Stephen Donnelly are meticulously scouring CATR's archives held at U Guelph and have already unearthed some impressive gems, including video, photographs, and audio recordings, past conference programs. What can you provide?

Sincerely,



Robin C. Whittaker,
President, CATR

Report on the Federation by Robin C. Whittaker (rwhit@stu.ca)

Submitted in advance of the 2025 AGM (25 May 2025)

by Robin C. Whittaker, President

This Report is closely drawn from my January 2025 Federation Report to the Board. —Robin.

On May 8 of this year, Presidents of Federation-affiliated associations received an email stating that plans for securing a host for Congress 2026 had fallen through. Instead, Congress will go entirely online, though they “plan to offer a smaller-scale in-person event at a yet-to-be-determined location.” Source: <https://www.federationhss.ca/en/announcement-congress-2026>

As often reported at CATR Board Meetings, the Federation and its Portal are difficult to work with. This is particularly true when it comes to managing our Membership Fees and Conference Fees. To this end, our staff Conference Manager Dave DeGrow spent time in the fall comparing dozens of alternative online ticketing platforms and meeting with several viable contenders. He strongly recommended that CATR move away from using the Federation platform to using the free platform **Zeffy** (<https://www.zeffy.com>), which we have done on a trial basis.

Moving to Zeffy would re-centralize our fee and donation platform by linking it directly to our Membership and Conference procedures, effectively removing the Federation as the “middleman.” My understanding is that it would be easier for the Membership Coordinator to manage memberships, the Communications Coordinator to update our Mailchimp list, and the Conference Manager and Conference Organizers to liaise with TheatreAgora’s system. We could generally do away with the complicated wait-times and obscure systems of the Federation.

If we are to drop our Federation membership entirely, **consider the following:**

Q: Does CATR wish to stay with the [Federation](#)? **Q:** Will we ever want to go back to [Congress](#)?

For well over a decade, CATR members and, particularly, Board and Conference Organizing members, have been dissatisfied with the Federation and its Congress. Since CATR 2017 we have been in a position to choose whether or not to attach our annual conference to Congress, or note We pay the Federation’s annual association dues either way. CATR 2024 in Montréal was difficult owing to multiple political environments directed at the original host institution and the Federation. Thus, when the Federation emailed me this fall, as they did all member Presidents, to discuss the Federation’s relationship to its member associations, I had plenty to say, recounting our views as follows:

CATR’s historic **dissatisfactions** with the Federation and Congress include: During at least 3 Congresses within a 10-year span, caters did not show up with our lunches, or showed up too late for us to eat the food (they still tried to charge us the full amount); Congress scoops up theatre spaces at host Departments and redistributes them out of our hands to other Associations (presumably based on association size), leaving us to lobby heavily to present our conference performances in actual performance spaces; Congress adds an additional layer of conference fees; Congress has deadlines that do not always mesh with our own (e.g. for room booking, fee-setting, catering, etc.); the Federation’s

online ticketing and conference organizing platforms remain difficult to access (e.g. it took them months to onboard Heidi for access to our membership list—even *their* staff was confused!); the Federation charges associations a four-digit annual membership fee; and as was clear last year, when we are with Congress we deal with the Federation's politics.

Conversely, there are some **advantages** to being with Congress: The Book Fair is substantial and in one place; Congress offers select programming available to all in attendance; Congress can publicize our events to other member associations (we've rarely taken advantage of this); importantly, some of our members are also members of other associations.

To this last point, and following my inquiry during my meeting with the Federation, they provided us with **data** that shows the following from 2024 and 2019 (UBC):

CATR 2024: 159 registrants, 25 of whom registered with *other* conferences too:

Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE): 7
Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE): 4
Film and Media Studies Association of Canada (FMSAC): 3
Canadian Game Studies Association (CGSA): 3
Canadian Communication Association (CCA): 2

1 in each of: Folklore Studies Association of Canada (FSAC); German Studies Canada (GSC); Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS); Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS); Canadian Sociological Association (CSA); Canadian Association for the Study of Discourse and Writing (CASDW); Canadian Society for Digital Humanities (CSDH).

CATR 2019: 198 registrants, 27 of whom registered with *other* conferences too:

Canadian Disability Studies Association (CDSA): 5
Film Studies Association of Canada (FSAC): 4
The Indigenous Literary Studies Association (ILSA): 2
Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE): 2
Canadian University Music Society (MusCan): 2
Sexuality Studies Association (SSA): 2
Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes (WGSRF): 2

1 in each of: Canadian Communication Association (CCA); Association for Canadian and Québec Literatures (ACQL); Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies (CSRS); Association des professeur.e.s de français des universités et collèges canadiens (APFUCC); Black Canadian Studies Association (BCSA); Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture (EPTC); Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE); Canadian Association for Commonwealth

Literature and Language Studies (CACLALS); Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID); Canadian Game Studies Association (CGSA).

Thus, up to 1/6th of our membership attends Congress for CATR *plus* at least one other Association. If we want to commit to not being with Congress in the future, we need to understand that we may lose some conference participants who prioritize another association's conference in a given year or routinely. At the very least, we should try to avoid programming our conference on top of Congress.

To date, we have maintained CATR's annual Federation fees in order to give us the option to be with Congress in a given year and to have them manage our membership, conference fees, and donations portal. CATR 2024 in Montreal was intended to be a *test* to see if we wished to go back to Congress from time to time and remain with the Federation in perpetuity. Perhaps we were not able to give the Federation a fair shake in 2024? Or perhaps this is the Federation, and it is time to move away from them?

Sincerely,



Robin C. Whittaker,
President, CATR

Report of the Conference Working Groups Liaison
Submitted by: Justin A. Blum

The Association currently supports three Working Groups:

- 1) Performance, Migration, and Nationalism facilitated by Yana Meerzon, Sheetala Bhat, and Stephen Elliot Wilmer (2024-2026)
- 2) Gatherings: Oral and Archival Histories of Performance facilitated by Sarah Robbins and Stephen Johnson (2024-2026)
- 3) Perspectives from Emerging to Emeriti: Innovating and Adapting Canadian Theatrical Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Training to New Interior and Exterior Landscapes in Theatre and Non-theatre Education facilitated by Kara Flanagan and Cameron Crookston (2025-2027)

Both the “Performance, Migration, and Nationalism” and “Perspectives from Emerging to Emeriti” groups held meetings during the online act of the Association conference in May of 2025; the “Gatherings” group declined to use its conference slot this year.

Proposals for new WGs have been thin in the ground in recent years, and the overall number is lower than historical averages. Given this, I believe it is time for the Board to begin a discussion about the future of the Association’s WGs. While the administrative burden of liaising with them is not massive it does exist, and there is often confusion among WG leads about whether they need to propose sessions for a given annual conference and what issues they should be in communication with the WG Liaison with and when their queries are better directed to the Conference Organizing Committee.

I advise that the Board hold concrete discussions of the future of WGs at a meeting prior to the next Conference application deadline to consider what role they fulfill and how they might be continued, or not, in the future. My own initial suggestion would be to consider transforming the “Working Group” into a category of Conference event that is adjudicated by the Organizing Committee on an annual basis, with terms stating a preference for those that have met before and made good use of Conference time. The Board or general membership may have other desires or suggestions that would represent an equally positive change.

Respectfully,
J. Blum

Associateships Report

Submitted in advance of the 2025 AGM (25 May 2025)

by Robin C. Whittaker, President

CATR values and honours those who have contributed to the discipline as scholars and artists. Since 1979, our third year as an association, CATR has celebrated 78 **Honorary Associates** (formerly Honorary Members); since 2002, we've lauded 19 **Lifetime Associates** (formerly Lifetime Members); and since 2023 we've fêted 3 **Distinguished Scholar Associates**. These are 100 educators, researchers, authors, practitioners, scholar-practitioners, publishers, administrators, founders, trend-setters, and visionaries. Their names are enshrined on the CATR website under "Recognitions": <https://catract.ca/distinguished-scholar-and-honorary-associates>

This year, at our conference's in-person Act in Regina, SK, we will celebrate three new CATR Associates:

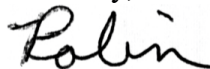
Dr. Kathleen Irwin, Distinguished Scholar Associate

Dr. Laura Levin, Distinguished Scholar Associate

Ms. Kelly Jo Burke, Honorary Associate

We particularly encourage nominations to come from the city or region that hosts our conference. A Call will be circulated in the fall.

Sincerely,



Robin C. Whittaker,
President, CATR

2025 Scholarly Award Committees

Jean-Cléo-Godin Award: Cassandre Chatonnier (chair), Joël Beddows, and Yves Jubinville (appointed by SQET in accordance with the MOU between CATR/ACRT and SQET)

Richard Plant Award: Benjamin Gillespie (chair), Heunjung Lee, and Signy Lynch

Ann Saddlemeyer Award: Karen Fricker (chair), Sheetala Bhat, and Jane Koustas

Patrick O'Neill Award: Dennis Gupta (chair), Peter Kuling, Becky Low, and Heidi Taylor

All award committees are in the final stages of selecting the winners of the 2025 scholarly awards and writing citations for each winner and honourable mention. The awards will be presented during the Awards and Associateships session at the upcoming conference taking place in Regina from June 25th to 28th (the exact date and time will be available soon). At the moment the programming committee is exploring the possibility of a hybrid session to accommodate both presenters and recipients of the awards who are not able to attend the conference in person.

Recruiting members for the various committees has been a long process this year, mainly due to time constraints for many interested members and some conflicts of interests with members whose work was nominated for the awards. I would like to extend my gratitude to the committee members listed above for volunteering their time, and for all their hard work and dedication.

2025 Scholarly Award Nominations

The Ann Saddlemeyer and Patrick O'Neill awards both received nominations for a wide range of research in theatre and performance studies in both French and English, and I have been working with translation programs to facilitate reading for committee members who are not fully proficient in French. Nominations for the Richard Plant and Jean-Cléo-Godin awards were lower than usual this year and we are discussing more outreach options for next year's awards.

Ad Hoc Recognitions Committee

The awards coordination this year has not left sufficient time to reconvene the Ad Hoc Recognitions committee, which was put together last year to address a number of questions and concerns raised over past years regarding the award process (including a review of criteria for the awards with respect to EDI/ARAO principles and revising terms of reference where needed). As soon as the awards are completed, the Ad Hoc Recognitions committee members will be resuming this work.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimena Ortúzar

Report of the CATR Scholarships & Grants

Submitted by: Emily Rollie (chair)

Members: David Geary, Michael Bergmann

Committee Actions from 2024-2025:

- In fall 2024, the committee reviewed applications for the Heather McCallum Scholarship, Robert G. Lawrence Scholarship, & Denis Salter Grants.
- 2024 Recipients included:
 - McCallum Scholarship (split between two recipients)
 - Atefeh Zargarzadeh for "Unveiling Power Dynamics and Identity Negotiations: Exilic Middle Eastern Artists in the Canadian Intercultural Theatre Landscape"
 - Margarita (Rita) Rebetskaia for the integration of spoken and recorded text into contemporary choreography project
 - Lawrence Scholarship
 - Marilo Nunez for "The Year I Learned to Write Plays- Writing Race, The Fornes Method and Dismantling the Aristotelian Foundation of Writing Pedagogy"
 - Denis Salter Grants
 - Alessandro Simari for support for conference – “On Theatre & Transport”
 - Jenn Boulay for e-initiatives for CATR grad students and emerging scholars
 - Tania Canas for Live digital performance exchange that brings together 10 performance artists who have lived experience of forced displacement and now based in Canada and Australia
 - Video announcement for Grants and Scholarships (also announcing the Lawrence Prize, chaired by Jess Riley) available online via the CATR Youtube channel: <https://youtu.be/6G52Sr1R-eY?si=rBICgLobsLqEmFBP>

Respectfully,
Emily Rollie

Lawrence Prize Report

Submitted by: Michelle MacArthur (Chair)

2025 Committee Members: Michelle MacArthur (Chair), Andy Houston, Hope McIntyre, Jessica Riley, Sara Schroeter, Alessandro Simari

2024 Committee Members: Jessica Riley (Chair), Sheetala Bhat, Kelsey Blair, Peter Farbridge, Sasha Kovacs, Lindsay Lachance, Michelle MacArthur

The Lawrence Prize Committee for 2024 did the work of adjudicating the Lawrence Prize last summer, following our 2024 AGM. **The 2024 award was given to Alessandro Simari** for his paper titled “The Usher is Watching and Working.” A recorded announcement was circulated to our membership last fall. Members can read the full citation for this excellent paper and a complete list of past winners at: <https://catract.ca/robert-g-lawrence-prize-past-winners/>

The Lawrence Prize Committee for 2025 is looking forward to this year’s adjudication process, with results to be announced in the fall.

Respectfully,
Michelle MacArthur

Membership Coordinator Report- June 2025

Submitted by: Heidi Malazdrewich

Membership Information:

As of June 2025, there are 132 Active CATR paying members. Additionally, there are 18 special memberships that will never expire (Honorary or Lifetime Achievement Awards). Of the 132 paying members, 98 of them have purchased their memberships through Zeffy and 33 have purchased through the Federation portal.

The self-identified income brackets for the 132 paying active members are populated as follows:

- 55 members with an annual income under \$35,000
- 10 members with an annual income between \$35,000 and \$50,000
- 15 members with an annual income between \$50,000 and \$75,000
- 18 members with an annual income between \$75,000 and \$100,000
- 34 members with an annual income of \$100,000 and above

Of the 132 paying members 16 have identified as joining from outside of Canada.

Zeffy Update:

The shift to Zeffy appears to have been quite successful. As noted above, the majority of CATR memberships for 2025 have been purchased through the website. There have only been a few concerns raised to the membership coordinator regarding Zeffy. Through the Zeffy website a total of \$9730.00 has been raised.

Communication Developments:

The shift to Zeffy has resulted in most of the membership information being collected via the new website. This change has substantially decreased the membership coordinator's activity within the federation portal. At the time of writing, the membership coordinator and David DeGrow, who oversees and manages the Zeffy website, have been regularly updating the communications coordinator to ensure that all CATR members are receiving up to date information.

Report of the Elections Officer and the Nominations Committee

Submitted by: Matt Jones

Committee Members: Matt Jones (Chair), Thea Fitz-James (Elections Officer – on leave), Alessandro Simari

Changes to the committee

The committee went through a few changes this year. Michelle MacArthur stepped down as Chair, after five years on the committee. We thank Michelle for her service! Matt Jones moved from Elections Officer to Chair. Thea Fitz-James took over as Elections Officer and Alessandro Simari joined the committee. Thea is currently on leave but expects to return to the role for next year's election. The committee is looking to add an additional member for next year.

2025 Board Election

We did not want to repeat the experience of last year's election, which was entirely acclaimed, so we began the process of recruiting candidates much earlier (as suggested in the CATR handbook). We held elections for two of the positions. The annual election was held for 10 days, ending on April 10th. These are the results:

- **Nicola Sibthorpe** Graduate Student Representative
- **Heunjung Lee** Member-at-large
- **Signy Lynch** Member of the Committee on Conduct
- **Kailin Wright** Vice-President
- **Stephanie Dotto** Atlantic Region
- **Julija Pešić** Ontario
- **Sara Schroeter** Prairie Region
- **Shahrooz Yousefian** British Columbia
- **Cassandre Chatonnier** Francophone Representative

Congratulations to our new Board members!

Challenges

This year's election had a higher rate of participation than the last two years and brought some exciting new voices onto the Board (welcome, new voices!). We still face the systemic problem that it is easier to fill “entry-level” positions such as members-as-large or graduate student representatives. Higher level positions, which are intended for more senior faculty, have been harder to fill. In addition, because of the nature of systemic discrimination in our field, there is a smaller pool of diverse candidates to run for these positions. We will continue to work with the Board and other members of the Association to find solutions to them.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Jones

Chair, Nominations Committee

Graduate Students Report (Grad Student Reps: Jenn)

Submitted by: Jenn Boulay

Members: Jenn Boulay

In the fall, Jenn Boulay applied for the Denis Salter Grant. I was successful and received the grant. Since then, Jenn has been working organize events and events for graduate students. These events include the following:

- **Graduate Student Meet and Greet.** Hosted during the ACT I (Online) conference on May 26th, 2025.
- **Graduate Student Social.** Jenn will be organizing a social for grad students as part of the in-person conference. This event will be taking place on the evening of June 25th or 26th, on-site at the Atlas° Hotel. Exact date, TBA.
- **Writing Group.** Planned for the Summer and Fall, exact dates TBD.
- **Writing Grant Proposals** for academic funding (SSHRC) and artistic funding (ex. Canada Council Grants). Planned for Fall/Winter, exact date TBD.
- **Mental Health Workshop** on navigating transitions and anxiety within academia. Planned for late Fall, exact date TBD.
- **Publishing Workshop** with TRIC, CTR, and Playwrights Canada Press. Planned for Winter 2026.

Nicola Sibothorpe was elected to the Board as the newest Graduate Representative (2025-2027) and will officially join the Board after the AGM.

The CATR Grad Reps are keen to hear from graduate members of the association. You can reach your graduate student representatives by email at catr.gradstudent@gmail.com.

Warmly,
Jenn Boulay

Report of the Unaffiliated Scholar Representative

Submitted by: Sarah Robbins

Dear CATR Board Members,

In my first year as the Unaffiliated Scholar Representative of the Board, I have worked on liaising with members of the association who identify as “unaffiliated”, or consider themselves to be precariously- or under-employed in our field of Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies.

Such work has included consultation with the past chairs of the now-defunct “Precarious Scholars Working Group”, Jacquelyne Taucar and Neil Silcox, to gain insight on how I might best be of service on the Board in this capacity.

Additionally, I have shared communications with the Board about matters of “precarity” from folks in our field, such as passing on [an open letter](#) from an organization called Performing Arts in Context (PAC) which is responding to the growing crises of instability facing theatre and performing arts programs at postsecondary universities--in Canada and internationally. You can read the letter here: [“Open Letter to Brock University Toronto, Karol Gaspar Budapest and Zurich University of the Arts \(ZHdK\) by the network PAC”](#).

<https://www.pac-now.online/>

I have also worked on the “CATR 50th Anniversary” Committee. In my role as Project Manager for the SSHRC Partnership Project [“Gatherings: Archival and Oral Histories of Performance”](#), I have also taken on leadership of a project related to the CATR 50th Anniversary celebrations taking place at the University of Victoria next year. “Gatherings” has volunteered to spearhead an oral histories and interviews project honoring the past 50 years of the association, and thinking towards its future. I am co-leading this initiative with “Gatherings” Principal investigator, Stephen Johnson.

I view my role of Unaffiliated Scholar Representative as one of solidarity with those in our field who are most impacted by the changes to conditions affecting academic scholarship in North America, and to advocate for support and increased solidarity from the membership of this association.

Please feel free to write to me with any questions or concerns. If you, yourself, are experiencing challenges as an unaffiliated or precariously-employed scholar, do not hesitate to contact me to discuss how I may best advocate for you on the board.

Respectfully--

Sarah Robbins
Unaffiliated Scholar Representative
sarah.robbs@mail.utoronto.ca

Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression (ARAO) Committee Report

Submitted in advance of the 2025 AGM (25 May 2025)

by Robin C. Whittaker (rwhit@stu.ca) and Jimena Ortuzar (jimena@nyu.edu), Co-Chairs

Committee Members: Robin C. Whittaker (co-chair), Jimena Ortuzar (co-chair), Jenn Boulay, Cassandre Chatonnier, Alex Ferrone, Taylor Graham, Andy Houston, Shelley Liebembuk, Carla Melo, Heunjung Lee

Our committee numbers have pleasantly **expanded** in the past year, for which we are grateful. Robin is stepping down as the committee's Co-Chair to focus on other pressing Board initiatives and Jimena will take over as the committee's sole Chair. It has been my (Robin's) pleasure to serve in this capacity since Feb 2023, guiding the preparation and ratification of 16 ARAO-motions, 2 Presidential Ad Hoc Committees, and 1 Point of Consideration (all listed below with updates), drawn from the Feb 2022 ARAO Report.

Over the past year, the ARAO committee:

- added a **new webpage** for updates (<https://catract.ca/anti-racism-oppression-work>), found under the CATR homepage's "Initiatives" link
- supported the Board in transitioning the ARAO Committee's **status** from Ad Hoc to Standing
- prepared a **Guiding Statement** for Board ratification: (<https://catract.ca/guiding-statement>)

We decided not to host an ARAO conference session at this year because the last three sessions were not well attended. We discussed several options that might better inform the membership of CATR's ARAO work and have prepared an **ARAO infographic** that will be available to conference-goers with a QR Code to the ARAO webpage. We have also added a **PowerPoint presentation** to the ARAO webpage to inform members of the committee's ongoing work.

We have been invited to sponsor and speak at a roundtable session at this year's conference organized by ARAO committee member Jenn Boulay and former ARAO committee member Signy Lynch. The roundtable session seeks to explore the role of **listening in challenging structures of power and oppression** within theatre and performance institutions, including universities and theatre companies. This session is the culmination of work on justice that Jenn and Signy have been conducting at past CATR conferences.

The ARAO Committee's **next steps** are to:

- continue to guide the Board on implementing the remaining Motions; and
- receive, on an ongoing basis, new ARAO/EDI ideas and suggestions for the Board to consider

Below, for reference, are the Motions that guide our work, with updates in the right-hand column.

Robin & Jimena

CATR ARAO Motions Drawn from the Feb 2022 ARAO Final Report, by category, with date passed by the Board	Implementation Update
Guiding Statement and Related Documentation	
MOTION I: To move that, as related to Item 3 of the ARAO Final Report, the board strike an ad hoc committee to develop a living EDI/ARAO guiding statement that is made public and has a review mechanism to support the guiding statement's ongoing evolution. (24 Sept 2022) <i>Note: The Guiding Statement should both guide and reflect ongoing EDI/ARAO measures as they are developed.</i>	Completed.
MOTION IV: As related to Item 4 of the ARAO Final Report, to incorporate the Guiding Statement drawn from Item 3 into the CATR Handbook to reflect EDI/ARAO principles such that the CATR Handbook guides all CATR activities from EDI/ARAO standards. (8 May 2023) <i>Note: To avoid generating a new document, the ARAO Committee recommends that the extant CATR Handbook be updated <u>to function as</u> the EDI/ARAO Guidelines Document.</i>	Will be implemented when the CATR Handbook is being revised.
MOTION V: As related to Item 17 of the ARAO Final Report, to ensure that the Guiding Statement drawn from Item 3 informs all Conference-specific procedures and that these procedures are reflected in the CATR Handbook. (8 May 2023)	Will be implemented while the CATR Handbook is being revised.
MOTION XI: As related to Item 6 and Item 8 of the ARAO Final Report, to update all CATR governance documents as applicable to reflect all Board-approved Motions drawn from the ARAO Final Report. This includes updating vocabulary to reflect gender neutral and anti-oppression language. (6 June 2023)	Being accomplished in general reviews of all CATR documentation, especially as governance documents are revised.
Recognitions. (See: https://catracrt.ca/recognitions)	
The President will form an Ad Hoc Committee to Review CATR's Recognitions (8 May 2023) . <i>Note: There was a MOTION VII (to strike an ad hoc committee to review CATR's Recognitions) related to Item 2 of the ARAO Final Report, but this was deemed procedurally unnecessary because the President can strike an ad hoc committee without a Board vote.</i>	Formed in summer 2023, the Ad Hoc Recognitions Committee plans to reconvene in the new session to review CATR's Recognitions. Changes to Scholarly Awards were made in 2024.
MOTION VI: As related to Item 2 of the ARAO Final Report, to institute a recognition that honours a drama, theatre, and performance scholar and/or practitioner whose scholarship, practice, and or/community engaged work has significantly advanced anti-colonial and/or EDI/ARAO-based goals. (6 June 2023)	To be drafted and proposed to the Board by the Ad Hoc Recognitions Committee.

Consultation, Education, and Training	
MOTION II: To move that, as related to Item 12 of the ARAO Final Report, the board creates outward facing recruitment procedures for both board positions and committee positions that makes transparent recruitment processes and board/committee composition. (24 Sept 2022)	In progress.
MOTION III: To move that the board “Create and post a clearly articulated and secured reporting process for conflicts/Code of Conduct violations, etc.” (ARAO Final Report Item 18). (24 Sept 2022)	Completed.
MOTION VIII: As related to Item 5 and Item 21 of the ARAO Final Report, to provide a web-link to the Code of Conduct on the CATR Membership sign-up and renewal portal with language clarifying that any new or renewing member must read and accept its terms. A reminder to review the Code of Conduct should be sent to all conference participants before the Association’s annual conference. (6 June 2023)	Completed.
MOTION IX: As related to Item 5 and Item 24 of the ARAO Final Report, to provide avenues for ongoing direct membership consultation, education, and training about the Code of Conduct and the Committee on Conduct, for example at the annual Conference or in stand-alone meetings held on virtual platforms (e.g. Zoom). (6 June 2023)	Committee on Conduct sessions continue to be offered at CATR’s annual conference.
MOTION X: As related to Item 7, Item 14, and Item 25 of the ARAO Final Report, to provide avenues for ongoing, CATR-specific consultation, education, and training for Board Members, the Board’s Equity Officer, and the membership on subjects related to anti-oppression and anti-colonial practices, for example in workshops at the annual Conference, in stand-alone meetings held on virtual platforms (e.g. Zoom), or through in-your-own-time training modules. (6 June 2023)	CATR 2025 will feature an ARAO infographic. No Session to be held due to 3 years of low attendance. ARAO Session held at CATR 2023 and Board held an ARAO/EDI training session led by consultant Warren Clarke, funded by the Federation EDID Initiatives Fund.
With reference to Items 1 & 19 of the ARAO Final Report, the President will form an Ad Hoc Committee to Review CATR’s member data & information collection, storage, and sharing (8 May 2023).	The Committee is to be formed and a policy to be drafted and approved. Board and committee members are directed to be cognizant of the confidentiality of the member information they collect, store, and share.

Accessibility	
MOTION XII: As related to Item 16 of the ARAO Final Report, to create a living Accessibility Policy that covers the annual Conference and other CATR events and activities. This should be included in the CATR Handbook and made available on the CATR website. Conference accessibility should be reviewed annually, for example through the mechanisms of the Conference Survey and/or accessibility-specific surveys, and by the Conference Accessibility Coordinator and/or their committee. (9 Feb 2024) <i>Note: The ARAO Committee believes it is important to include a definition of “living” in the forthcoming EDI/ARAO Guiding Statement in reference to the various motions in which the word appears.</i>	In progress.
MOTION XIII: As related to Item 16 of the ARAO Final Report, to create and include in the CATR Handbook a set of living Accessibility Recommendations that guide the design of the CATR website. (9 Feb 2024) <i>Note: The ARAO Committee is cognizant that a website redesign may occur before Accessibility Recommendations are ready.</i>	In progress.
MOTION XIV: As related to Item 16 of the ARAO Final Report, to create and include in the CATR Handbook a set of living Accessibility Recommendations for CATR Board meetings, the Annual General Meeting, and other CATR committee meetings.	In progress.
MOTION XVIII: As related to Item 15 of the ARAO Final Report, to consider, whenever financially possible, a reduction in CATR’s annual conference fees for low-income graduate students and precariously employed CATR members. As a rule of thumb, “low-income” can be taken to mean the lowest income bracket represented in the CATR membership portal. (19 Apr 2024)	Ever-ongoing.
Ongoing Self-Reflection	
MOTION XV: As related to Item 22 of the ARAO Final Report, to consult with comparable associations about their ARAO-related work and help advocate for our shared goals. This may include joint and collaborative Conference or event sessions with other associations doing similar work. (9 Feb 2024)	In progress.
MOTION XVI: As related to Item 23 of the ARAO Final Report, to establish regularized mechanisms that ensure that all guidelines and policies are understood to be “living documents” that can change over time. This may include regular Reports to the Board from the ARAO Committee. (9 Feb 2024)	In progress.
MOTION XVII: As related to Item 23 of the ARAO Final Report, to review CATR’s ARAO work and its effectiveness. For example, every four to six years, conduct an internal or external ARAO review as needed. (9 Feb 2024)	In progress.

We note one remaining **Point of Consideration** related to the Feb 2022 Final Report’s Item 11. Here, we ask Board Members and committee chairs across CATR’s operations to take stock of potential volunteer and labour discrepancies on their committees and pass these on to the ARAO committee as they arise, or in their Reports to the Board. We still do not have enough data to understand how best to respond to this concern. As reported at the Feb 2024 Board Meeting, we might consider: Is there adequate mentorship and institutional knowledge available to each committee? Can the work asked of the committee be done evenly and/or equitably? If not, why not? And what would you recommend for improving the situation? Observations can be reported back to the ARAO Committee Chair or any other ARAO Committee member. (As always, breaches of the Code of Conduct can be reported to members of the Committee on Conduct as described on the CATR website.) From these observations, the ARAO Committee could discuss and potentially draft Motions for the Board to address such discrepancies.

Accessibility Report (Accessibility Coordinator: Jenn Boulay)

Submitted by: Jenn Boulay

In Fall 2024, Jenn Boulay agreed to become the CATR Accessibility Coordinator. Throughout the year, Jenn made recommendations for how the association could improve on accessibility.

The following recommendations have been made:

- To further improve accessibility on the CATR website, Jenn suggested adding an accessibility plug-in. The plug-ins allows for users to increase the font, change background colour, etc.
- It was recommended for CATR members during meetings and larger events to before sharing their thoughts to say their name (“This is Jenn speaking...”), providing a visual description of themselves, and concluding their thoughts with saying “end of thought”. This provides visual access for folks who identify as being Blind or have Low Vision.
- It is recommended that CATR adds ALT Text and visual description on any photographs posted to the association’s Instagram.
- The final recommendation to improve accessibility is within the communication that goes out leading up to and during the annual conference. It would be beneficial to have image descriptions /ALT text available for any images or logos, and larger font (email is not always easy to zoom in on).

The Accessibility Coordinator is always interested and happy to receive suggestions for how accessibility could be improved or further access measures that could be implemented at CATR. You can reach the Accessibility Coordinator at jenn.boulay@mail.concordia.ca

Warmly,
Jenn Boulay

CATR Communications Report 2024-2025 Sebastian Samur

- Communications support for the CATR board and the conference organizers was provided throughout the year, including regular monitoring of the inbox, MailChimp account, and Facebook page. Mailouts were provided for regular annual items, including the elections, AGM, conference CFP, calls for participants, scholarly prizes and associateships, conference logistics information, promotion of keynote speakers, and so on.
- Translation coordination for the board and conference was provided as needed. This included text translation of email communications and website material, as well as facilitating live translation for online and in-person keynote presentations, in addition to the AGM. Support for smaller translation jobs was kindly provided by Liviu Dospinescu.
- Jenn Boulay joined the communications committee to assist with social media during the conference, particularly with Instagram. Her work focused on highlighting major events and promoting online exchange during the conference.
- Work is currently underway to reduce the MailChimp email list, which currently includes numerous duplicate email addresses as well as former members who have not continued to update their registrations in the last two years. Following the conference, former members who have not been registered since 2023 will be removed. This will provide additional space for MailChimp daily mailouts.
- A communications plan was developed and executed to support regular promotion of the annual conference through daily mailouts and related posts on the Facebook account.
- As CATR's 50th anniversary planning progresses, Communications will assist with gathering and disseminating multimedia content. I have been attending the planning meetings regularly and will continue to provide support as the associated events are developed.

May 2025 Committee on Conduct Report

CATR 2025 AGM June 16, 2025

Written by: Jessica Watkin (on behalf of the committee)

Year review:

We have had a handful of discussions with different CATR members about different experiences of conduct throughout the 2024-25 year. Mediating and negotiating solutions is the goal for the Committee on Conduct, and as a result of some discussions we are attempting to presence the Code of Conduct for CATR more widely at the in-person conference in late June by presencing the Code in the conference program among some other initiatives.

Committee Business

Looking forward to the 2025-26 year, the Committee on Conduct would like to strengthen its working relationship with the board and continue to work with board members and CATR members in general to strengthen the processes and presence of the Code of Conduct. Taking a look at having a CoC covenant is on our to-do list for the next few meetings potentially in collaboration with Robin (CATR President) and board.

Zeffy Report

Prepared for Board of Directors of the Canadian Association for Theatre Research

Prepared by David DeGrow, Conference Manager - CATR 2025

Throughout the CATR 2024 Conference, attendees encountered a continuing series of technical difficulties registering for the conference through the Federation website. These issues were never resolved structurally on the website, and so attendees had to contact the Federation directly to resolve each of their issues individually. As a result, it was decided to seek out alternative options for CATR to sell memberships and conference registrations online. After extensive research (described in the previous report to the CATR Board), it was decided to use Zeffy, a website built to support not-for-profit organizations that does not charge fees to either the organization or the attendees.

We setup a Zeffy account in January and it has been running for the past five months. In that time we have taken in \$20,566. This includes some 98 Membership purchases, 78 Act I registrations, 47 Act II registrations, and 22 Banquet tickets. Additionally we have had some \$850 donated. And according to Zeffy's calculations, it has saved us some \$1,055 in transaction fees based on an estimated 5% per transaction fee charged by other companies.

The site seems to be very stable, no one has had any trouble connecting with it, and we have had no technical concerns with it. It also emails the catractsubmit gmail account as soon as a purchase is made. This allowed us to ask unregistered attendees in the Zoom waiting room to purchase registrations and memberships, and then let them in within minutes of the purchase being made. This was a significant improvement over previous years, where I would need to message the membership coordinator, who in turn would need to download the full registration spreadsheet from the website and send it to me.

The only downside seems to be that Zeffy currently does not issue an invoice, only a payment receipt upon purchase, and a tax receipt at the end of the year. Three members have asked for official invoices for reimbursement purposes, which out of some 250+ purchases is not bad. Zeffy also takes requests as to improvements to be made in the future, and I have added my name to the list of folks requesting this change. This has also meant that some members purchased their registrations twice, however we now have the ability to issue refunds on demand, which we did not have with the Federation, so these concerns were quickly resolved.

Annual Report on TheatreAgora (2024–2025)

Overview

The TheatreAgora Committee has continued to work at enhancing the platform's functionality, visibility, and sustainability. The platform continues to serve as a collaborative digital space for CATR and SQET, supporting artistic and academic initiatives.

Key Developments

1. Website Development and Branding

- Engaged developers (Koumbit and Jake Nevins) for ongoing and future website enhancements.
- Collaborated with designers to refine the site's branding for broader accessibility and appeal.
- Slight reformatting of the site's text and branding was implemented to improve user experience.

2. Programming and Initiatives

- Curated Exhibits and Symposia: Hosted successful exhibits and small symposia that engaged diverse audiences and fostered rich discussions.
- Working Group Collaborations: Continued support for collaborative projects within the community.
- 'Just Meetings' Initiative: Curated by Jordie Cox, this initiative was well received and may be repeated to support non-traditional academic and artistic submissions.
- Staging Better Futures: Ongoing project using the platform for dialogue and scholarship.

3. Funding and Sustainability

- Finalized reconciliation and reporting for the Canada Council for the Arts Digital Generator Grant.
- Exploring sustainable funding options, including:
 - Grant applications
 - Potential incorporation and bank account setup (still under discussion)
 - Subscription models for external users

4. Governance and Agreements

- The MOU between CATR and SQET, including the TheatreAgora addendum, is up for review/renewal.
- Members are encouraged to provide input on potential revisions.
- Leadership of TheatreAgora continues under Dr. Jordana Cox (University of Waterloo), who curates the site.

1. Review and Renew the MOU and Addendum

Promptly address the renewal of the MOU with SQET and the TheatreAgora-specific addendum.

2. Support Sustainable Funding Initiatives

Encourage and support the committee's exploration of funding models for further development and use of the site.

3. Expand Public Engagement

Consider strategies to make TheatreAgora more public-facing while maintaining its academic integrity.

4. Continue Support for Artistic and Academic Commissions

Allocate resources or seek funding to support future commissions and initiatives like 'Just Meetings.'

Next Steps

- Begin strategic planning for the website's short-, medium-, and long-term development.
- Gather community feedback on the MOU and platform direction.
- Continue exploring funding opportunities and infrastructure needs.

Assemblée générale Annuelle - SQET

Rapport du président. Les grands chantiers:

- le colloque à Chicoutimi
- le rattrapage de percée avec un soutien financier de la SQET.
- Remerciement des membres du CA de la SQ ET.
- Remerciement des responsables des axes.
- fin du mandat de Hervé Guay. Remerciement pour les deux années passées au sein de l'Association

Rapport financier:

Année standard. Légère hausse dans les cotisations pas de différence majeure côté dépenses. Versement de 1500 \$ en bourse au lieu de 3000 \$ parce qu'il n'y a pas eu de demande de bourse en doctorat en 2024 petit surplus. Ils ont de l'argent dans les comptes d'épargne. Budget 2025 prévu avec un revenu des adhésions revues un peu à la baisse. Au contraire il y a eu beaucoup plus d'adhésion: grand succès du colloque de Chicoutimi. Bonne année au niveau des dons. Aide financière ponctuelle offerte à la revue Percée : c'est rentré dans la section autres projets. Déficit : c'est bien car l'objectif est de dépenser le surplus accumulé depuis plusieurs années.

Les adhésions en 2024 : 152 membres, 49 double adhésion via CATR: augmentation notable. Il y a des membres chargés de cours, artistes, pédagogues, etc: la SQET a doublé ses membres. Cela démontre un vrai lien avec le milieu. Les membres chargés de cours et indépendants payent moins cher pour rendre ça plus accessible.

Bilan axe théâtre et formation : séance avec une activité qui a eu lieu pendant le colloque. Mise en lumière de l'aspect créatif de la pédagogie

Bilan axe recherche-crédation: animation des séances recherche-performance. Réflexion sur l'offre d'ateliers plus corporels lors des prochains colloques. Année 2024: plus réflexive.

Bilan Théâtre québécois d'hier et d'aujourd'hui : Table ronde qui n'a pas eu lieu. Période de réflexion pour préparer le 50^e de la SQET

Bilan Théorie et critique: cette année c'est le thème du témoignage qui a retenu l'attention du comité: journée de travail qui a été effectuée en décembre 2024. Séances de réflexion a pendant le colloque. Le groupe SQET 50: né au colloque l'année passée.

Inter-axes: chercheurs émergents. Objectif: œuvrer au récit de l'histoire théâtrale québécoise à travers l'histoire de la SQET. Subvention obtenue pour ça. 2027: dossier de percée sur le travail du comité *Conception de l'exposition* sur les archives de la SQET présentée au colloque 2025 de Chicoutimi.

Prix de la SQET: 1 bourses de maîtrise. 2 bourses d'appui: 1 bourse de déplacement s prix du chercheur émergent. Prix de la meilleure performance prix de la meilleure communication scientifique. À venir: prix du meilleur ouvrage.

Bibliothèque académique: Ils refont la bibliothèque académique qui avait été faite en 2023 avec les mémoires et les thèses sur le théâtre québécois et canadiens écrits en français.

Théâtre Agora: Nicole Nolette n'est plus responsable du dossier depuis mars 2025. Il y a eu des rencontres avec CATR. On essaie de voir s'il y a toujours un intérêt partagé pour ce projet. La réponse n'est pas claire pour le moment. C'est la fin des financements pour la plateforme; il reste quelques montants qui ont été versé pour le maintien du site pour deux ans. Il va falloir demander d'autres subventions pour le maintien de cette plateforme. Le site va exister encore 2 ans. Steven Fraser va surement poursuivre à travers un projet d'humanité numérique. Il faudra s'assurer d'une présence suffisante du français.

Rapport de la direction de *Percée* : 2 publications depuis 2024. Marie- Christine Lesage est devenue co-directrice de l'édition. Survol des thèmes des derniers numéros et des futurs numéros. Obtention d'un financement du FRQSC. 25000 \$ par an pour quatre ans. Il y aura une autre demande au CRSH. Remerciements à la SQET pour l'apport financier pour la publication du nouveau numéro.

Reconfiguration visuelle du site internet de percée.

Élection des membres du CA 2025-626. L'annonce sera faite sur le site.

Annual General Meeting - SQET

Chairman's report. Major projects:

- the conference in Chicoutimi
- Catching up on the breakthrough with financial support from the SQET.
- Thanks to the members of the SQ ET Board of Directors.
- Thanks to the people in charge of the axes.
- End of Hervé Guay's term of office. Thanks for the two years spent with the Association

Financial report: Standard year. Slight increase in membership fees, no major difference in expenses. Payment of \$1,500 in bursaries instead of \$3,000 because there were no

applications for doctoral bursaries in 2024 - small surplus. They have money in savings accounts. The 2025 budget is forecast with membership income revised downwards slightly. On the contrary, there were many more members: the Chicoutimi conference was a great success. A good year for donations. One-off financial assistance offered to the magazine Percée: this was included in the other projects section. Deficit: this is good because the objective is to spend the surplus accumulated over several years.

Membership in 2024: 152 members, 49 double members via CATR: significant increase. There are members who are lecturers, artists, teachers, etc.: the SQET has doubled its membership. This demonstrates a real link with the community. Lecturer and freelance members pay less to make it more accessible.

Axis theatre and training: session with an activity that took place during the conference. Highlighting the creative aspect of the pedagogy

Axis research-creation axis: moderation of the research-performance sessions. Reflection on offering more physical workshops at future conferences. Year 2024: more reflective.

Axis Théâtre québécois d'hier et d'aujourd'hui: round table that did not take place. Period of reflection to prepare for the SQET 50^e

Axis Theory and criticism: this year it was the theme of testimony that caught the committee's attention: working day that took place in December 2024. Reflection sessions during the conference. The SQET 50 group: created at last year's conference.

Inter-axis: emerging researchers. Objective: to work on telling the story of Quebec theatre through the history of the SQET. Grant obtained for this. 2027: breakthrough dossier on the work of the committee Design of the exhibition on the SQET archives presented at the 2025 symposium in Chicoutimi.

SQET prizes: 1 master's scholarship. 2 support grants: 1 travel grant s Emerging Researcher Award. Best Performance Award Best Scientific Communication Award. Forthcoming: prize for best book.

Academic library: They are rebuilding the academic library that was created in 2023 with theses and dissertations on Quebec and Canadian theatre written in French.

Théâtre Agora: Nicole Nolette has no longer been in charge of this project since March 2025. There have been meetings with CATR. We are trying to see if there is still a shared interest in this project. The answer is not clear at the moment. This is the end of the funding for the platform; there are still some amounts that have been paid to maintain the site for two years. We'll have to apply for other grants to maintain this platform. The site will exist for another 2 years. Steven Fraser will probably continue with a digital humanity project. We'll need to ensure that the French language is sufficiently present.

Report from the management of Percée: 2 publications since 2024. Marie-Christine Lesage has become co-publishing director. Overview of the themes of recent and future

issues. Obtained funding from the FRQSC. 25,000 per year for four years. There will be another application to SSHRC. Thanks to the SQET for its financial support for the publication of the new issue.

Visual reconfiguration of the percée website.

Election of 2025-626 Board members. The announcement will be made on the website.

Annual Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on TRIC-CATR (2024–2025)

Overview

This year, the relationship between CATR and TRIC, published by UTPJ, has been the subject of extensive review by the Ad Hoc Committee on the CATR-TRIC Relationship. The focus has been on clarifying governance, improving communication, and addressing financial and access concerns.

Key Findings

Governance and Ownership

- TRIC is owned and controlled by UTPJ; CATR has no legal ownership or formal governance role in TRIC
- CATR's formal liaison role was also dissolved, although informal communication has continued through individuals like Selena Couture.

Documentation and Contractual Clarity

- Multiple efforts to locate the official contract between UTPJ and TRIC have been unsuccessful. CATR seems to have no legal standing to request a copy of the contract.
- Discrepancies exist between circulated drafts of the contract and the supposed, signed agreements, particularly regarding editorial appointments.

Financial and Subscription Concerns

- CATR has expressed concerns about the financial burden of TRIC subscriptions.
- SQET members emphasized the importance of TRIC access and proposed cost reductions, especially for students and unaffiliated scholars.
- There is openness to digital-only subscriptions as a cost-saving measure, while print subscriptions would be an add-on for those who are interested.

Communication and Liaison Role

- The committee recommends re-establishing a liaison role between CATR and UTPJ, and potentially with the TRIC Editorial Board.
- A liaison role would not and should not mediate between UTPJ and the Editorial Board but would represent CATR's interests.

Recommendations to the Board

1. Establish a Liaison Role

- Establish a formal or semi-formal liaison position to improve communication with UTPJ and the TRIC Editorial Board. This could be the same person or two different people.

2. Negotiate a New Subscription Arrangement

- Form a negotiation committee to explore:
 - Reduced digital subscription rates for CATR and SQET members
 - Opt-in print subscriptions.
 - Cost reductions for students and precarious scholars.
 - Engage Experienced Scholars
- Include senior scholars familiar with publishing in any negotiation or liaison roles to ensure informed representation as well as representatives from SQET
More details on the recommended committee composition can be found within previous reports from the 2024-2025 year.

Next Steps

- Initiate discussions with UTPJ regarding subscription models and cost reductions.
- Follow up on documentation requests with the TRIC Editorial Board and UTPJ.
- Report back to the Board with updates and findings.

Report of the Chair of the Archival Committee Report

Submitted by: Jessica Riley

Members: Jessica Riley (Chair), Moira Day, Kim McLeod, Robin Whittaker, and Stephen Donnelly.

Since last year's AGM, the work of the CATR Archival Committee has been focused on sourcing archival ephemera (images, recordings, etc.) for use as part of the 2026 CATR Conference, which will mark the 50th anniversary of our Association.

The labour of combing through CATR's records at the University of Guelph's L.W. Conolly Theatre Archives has been undertaken by our Guelph-based committee members, Kim McLeod and Steve Donnelly. Huge thanks, Kim and Steve!

Respectfully,

Jess Riley