

Thursday, May 28, 2026 @ 12:45-3:00pm PST in Chief Dan George Theatre (190), U Victoria
AGM 2026 Reports, 2025 Financial Statement, 2025 AGM Minutes: <https://catract.ca/2026-agm-materials>

1. *Preliminaries* (20 mins)
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Land Acknowledgement (President: Robin)
 - c. **MOTION**: to Approve the 2026 AGM Agenda
 - d. **MOTION**: to Accept the Minutes of the 2025 AGM
2. President's Report (President: Robin) (30 mins)
 - a. President's Award
3. Elections Report (Elections Officer: Thea) (5 mins)
4. Treasurer's Report (Treasurer: Annie) (20 mins)
 - a. **MOTION**: to approve the 2025 year-end financial statements
 - b. **MOTION**: to approve the 2026 budget forecast
 - c. **MOTION**: to appoint Pennylegion Chung LLP as the public accountant for the 2026 Financial Statements
5. Conference (30 mins)
 - a. CATR 2026 Conference Report (Co-Chairs: Sasha, Sarah)
 - b. CATR 2026 Conference Budget Report (Co-Chair: Sasha)
 - c. Future of the Conference Update: CATR 2027 & CATR 2028 (President: Robin)
6. Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee Report (Chair: Robin) (10 mins)
7. Words from the President-Elect (President-Elect: Jenn Stephenson) (5 mins)
8. Other Business / No Oral Report (15 mins)
 - a. Conference Working Groups Report (WG Liaison: Justin)
 - b. Membership
 - i. Ad Hoc Committee on Membership Report (Membership Coordinator: Heidi)
 - ii. Standing Committee on Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression Report (Chairs: Jimena)
 - iii. Standing Committee on Communications Report (Communications Coordinator: Sebastian)
 - iv. Standing Committee on Conduct Report (CoC *Ex Officio* to the Board: Jess W.)
 - v. Graduate Students Report (Grad Student Rep: Jenn B.)
 - vi. Unaffiliated Scholar Report (Unaffiliated Scholar Rep: Sarah)
 - vii. Accessibility Report (Accessibility Coordinator: Jenn)
 - c. Recognitions
 - i. Associateships Report (President: Robin)
 - ii. Ad Hoc Committee on Recognitions Report/Scholarly Awards Report (Coordinator: Jimena)
 - iii. Scholarships and Grants Report (Chair: Emily)
 - iv. Lawrence Prize Report (Chair: Michelle)
 - d. Cross-Institutional Reports
 - i. SQET Report (CATR Liaison to SQET: Cassandre)
 - ii. TheatreAgora Report (TheatreAgora Co-Chair: Fraser)
 - iii. Global Arts Pact (GAP) Report (GAP Liaison: Julija)
 - e. Standing Archival Committee Report (Chair: Jess R.)

9. *Adjournment*

2. President's Report

Submitted in advance of the 2026 AGM (30 Apr 2026)

by Robin C. Whittaker, President

CATR is 50! This year, the preference was to go back to an in-person Annual General Meeting (AGM), moving back into the Conference again. CATR is the center of much of our research, collegial connections, and friendships. It's good to be together again.

Many exciting, significant, and necessary changes have come to our Association in our 50th year:

Through the **ARAO** Committee and Board leadership, we have grown not only our awareness of, but also our ability to support and respond to systemic racism, oppression, and accessibility barriers within CATR, largely through the ideas, initiatives, and labour of our graduate student and precarious members, supported by tenure stream allies.

CATR has left the **Federation** and its unwieldy Congress and membership portal to save money, labour, and bureaucratic sanity. Membership fees, conference fees, and donations are now fully run through **Zeffy** and administered in-house.

We now have an **in-house conference website** that allows Dave to lead the timely annual building, updating, and troubleshooting of our online conference profile. We will continue to support **TheatreAgora**, which CATR leads jointly with our friends at SQET.

We've learned in recent years that with **Incorporation** comes responsibility. Each summer we must file an Annual Report (a simple online signature), Updated Directors List, and Financial Statements with Corporations Canada.

We have pivoted our financial stake in the journal that CATR "adopted" in 1980 (Plant and Saddlemyer in *THIC* 1:1), **Theatre Research in Canada**, to better support our Association financially while still offering the journal to those who choose to receive it.

Upon learning from our **public account** that they were raising their rates by 40%, the Board appointed Pennylegion Chung to prepare our 2025 Financial Statement.

We clarified that to **serve on CATR committees**, one must be a member of CATR (unless an exception is made by the President or Board) by May 1st. This clearly covers committee members under CATR's Code of Conduct, backs committee chairs if they perceive a discrepancy, and ensures that CATR's work is the will of the membership.

We now have in place a **Covenant** specific to members of the Committee on Conduct to sign, given the particularly confidential nature of their work.

We continue to vastly expand the ways in which we **support graduate students and precarious members** both financially and systemically.

We have ignited a new income stream through **merchandise** sales.

We are now founding members of the **Global Arts Pact**, or GAP. Featuring about 25 member institutions, it's surely the first international group of its kind devoted to worldwide advocacy for the Arts in these troubling times. Please see our website for GAP's statement.

We continue to find ways to work with our close friends and colleagues at **SQET** and hope to find more in the future.

And we have made cross-institutional connections with **Canada's Theatre Museum** and the **Siminovitch Theatre Foundation**.

These are all, or are all related to, long maturing and integral aspects of our Association. Bringing them to where they are now means that CATR should be simpler-to-run and more financially sound for years to come. My hope is that the CATR Board and our committees are now places where our members wish to be actively involved.

It was over a fateful breakfast table at Regina's Atlas° Hotel a year ago that Playwright's Canada Press's Publisher **Annie Gibson**, longtime friend of CATR, expressed interest in being on our Board. Within a few months, the Board voted her in as our new Treasurer. Annie brings to the position shrewd financial acumen and a notable enthusiasm for QuickBooks—we're fortunate to have her! I am also deeply grateful to **Sasha Kovacs** for her time as CATR's Treasurer on an interim basis. The fullness of time has given us greater clarity on where we need to spend our money, and where we need not. Their attention to detail is greatly appreciated.

As it is every year, working on our Conference has been a great pleasure. Thank you to **Sasha Kovacs**, **Sarah Robbins**, and **Kara Flanagan** for leading our Conference this year in beautiful Victoria BC and online. And thank you to everyone on the Conference Organizing Team, the Programming Committee, and the Local Arrangements Committee for your brilliant ideas and energy! Integral to making the conference happen this year are U Victoria doctoral students **Narges Montakhabi Bakhtvar** and **Atefeh Zargarzadeh**—your work and good spirits have been very much appreciated by myself and CATR during a difficult time for world events.

To fellow outgoing Board Members, thank you **Justin Blum** and **Liviu Dospinescu** for serving in the same four years (two terms) as I did. Thank you to **Jimena Ortuzar** for your time on the Board and for your extraordinary leadership as Scholarly Awards Coordinator, Chair of the Ad Hoc Recognitions Committee, and Chair of the ARAO Standing Committee. Thank you to **Sarah Robbins** for your work with the 50th

Anniversary Committee and as Co-Chair of CATR 2026. Among continuing Board members, thank you to **Jenn Boulay** for your innumerable contributions as an advocate for grad students and precarious scholars by leading multiple donation initiatives, being a diligent advocate for maintaining and improving accessibility across our conference and beyond, and being willing to not only suggest great ideas in all aspects of the Association, but also following through—we're so fortunate that you are continuing as one of our Grad Reps for a second term. **Kailin Wright, Stephanie Dotto, Julija Pešić, Sara Schroeter, Heunjung Lee, and Nicola Sibthorpe**, thank you for your continued service as you enter into the second year of your first term on the Board; and thank you to **Cassandra Chatonnier** for entering into your fourth year on the Board and helping to provide institutional memory. Along with past Board members in the last four years, you have all done so much to not only repair this Association after the devastation wrought by the pandemic (really, in all aspects of our work, service, and personal lives), but you have ensured that CATR thrives for years to come.

I enthusiastically welcome our newly elected Board Members: **Rebecca Harries** (Quebec Rep), **Mũkonzi Wa Mũsyoki** (Alberta & Territories Rep), **Alana Gerecke** (BC Rep), and **Mo Horner** (Unaffiliated Scholar Rep)—thank you for committing to serve your fellow CATR members! **Annie Gibson**, our indomitable Treasurer, now has a vote on the Board as elected Representative-at-Large. And welcome back to the Board, after some years absence, **Jenn Stephenson** as President. I know our beloved Association will be in the best of hands! *Thank you all* for your service to the discipline and this Association.

I also wish to thank our Appointed Board Members who are integral to the function of CATR. While several elected Board members also hold appointed positions, other positions are held by members who are not elected but rather appointed by the Board—and we owe them equal gratitude for their service: Secretary **Moira Day**, Membership Coordinator **Heidi Malazdrewich**, Elections Officer **Thea Fitz-James**, Nominations Committee Chair **Matt Jones**, Scholarships and Grants Coordinator **Emily Rollie**, Lawrence Prize Chair **Michelle MacArthur**, and Archival Committee Chair **Jess Riley**. It has been a tremendous joy to work with all of you over the years. As well, thank you to our Staff Members **Dave DeGrow** (Conference and Office Manager) and **Sebastian Samur** (Communications Coordinator) for all of your essential work for CATR. Thank you to **Giorelle Diokno**, our Website Manager, for making sure CATR's website is up to date in a timely fashion. And thank you to **Marlis Schweitzer**, our Corporate Documents Steward, for keeping the Treasurer and me informed whenever CATR snailmail arrives at our Corporate Address at York University. To all those who serve on **CATR Committees**, the Board and I are immensely grateful for your ideas, energy, and time, all of which helps make CATR run.

As I write my last President's Report to the Membership, I am proud of the work we've done over the past four years to change CATR for the better.

3. Elections Report

Committee Membership & Transitions: The Nominations Committee for the 2025–2026 cycle consisted of Matt Jones (Interim Chair), Thea Fitz-James (Elections Officer), Alessandro Simari, and Bethany Schaufler-Biback, who joined following targeted outreach in Fall 2025.

Following the completion of the 2026 election cycle, Matt Jones will be stepping down after serving on the committee since 2019. The committee extends its sincere gratitude for his long-standing service and leadership.

Election Timeline & Process: Building on last year’s adjustments, the committee continued with an extended election timeline aligned with the organization’s handbook. **This earlier timeline resulted in improved committee workflow and the committee recommends maintaining it in future cycles.**

2026 Election Overview: The 2026 election was held from March 18 to March 25 via ElectionRunner. All positions received at least one nominee through a combination of a public call and targeted outreach. **Most positions were filled by acclamation.** The Graduate Student Representative position proceeded to an election with three candidates.

Election Results (announced March 30, 2026):

- President: Jenn Stephenson
- Quebec Representative: Rebecca Harries
- Alberta & the Territories Representative: Mūkonzi Wa Mūsyoki
- British Columbia Representative: Alana Gerecke
- Member-at-Large: Annie Gibson
- Unaffiliated Scholar Representative: Mariah (Mo) Horner
- Elected Member, Committee on Conduct: Jenny Salisbury
- Graduate Student Representative: Jenn Boulay

Voter Participation & Data: A total of **183 members were invited to vote, with 62 ballots cast, resulting in a 34% turnout.** This reflects an increase from 2025 (25%) and is consistent with recent trends, though still below participation levels seen in earlier years.

Reflections & Recommendations

- The extended election timeline continues to improve efficiency and should be maintained.
- Targeted outreach remains essential to ensuring full slates, though most positions continue to be filled by acclamation.
- Voter turnout has stabilized but remains an area for potential growth.

Submitted respectfully,

Thea Fitz-James, Elections Officer
Matt Jones, Chair, Nominations Committee

4. Treasurer's Report

It's a great pleasure to join the CATR board as your treasurer!

Cash flow has been an issue but the board is looking at several initiatives to improve that, from examining membership trends to reviewing GIC renewal protocols. We have also been looking at ways to reduce administrative expenses, including appointing a new accountant, Pennylegion Chung LLP, after our old accountant informed us of a 40% increase to their fee for 2025. We further made a slight increase to membership fees to help cover the cost of conference labour.

Our new accountant has flagged that only having a single signatory to make payments as a significant risk to the association and I agree. Now that there are multiple platforms to collect electronic authorizations rather than mailing cheques back and forth across the country I will be costing this out and making a recommendation to the board regarding a solution.

At the April 2026 board meeting an ad hoc finance committee was struck to assist the treasurer with a number of projects including:

- Gathering data to apply for a GST rebate (2022-2025) to improve cash flow
- Researching banks to move our account to one better suited to the association's needs
- Creating a protocol for reviewing the GICs
- Reviewing awards funding and determining whether a change from the current model is needed

I also plan on streamlining our administrative processes including better utilizing Quickbooks for bookkeeping, removing unnecessary monthly charges from unused accounts, and updating the budget template to reflect a better breakdown of income and expenses and to match the chart of accounts.

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Gibson

5. Conference
 - a. CATR 2026 Conference Report

**CATR Board Report
2026 Conference Report
Sasha Kovacs & Sarah Robbins
28 April 2026**

**Submitted by: Sasha Kovacs and Sarah Robbins
2026 Conference Report**

Dear CATR Board Members,

We are now four weeks away from the start of *CATR 2026: Inheritances in Transition: Rehearsing Change for Theatre and Performance Futures!* The Organizing Committee and the Local Arrangements Committee continue to meet regularly, and--thanks for the dedicated efforts of the committee members--preparations are progressing well.

Since the last Board Meeting, the Conference Organizing Committee has released an updated draft of the full conference schedule (available on the Association website [here](#)).

Conference Manager Dave DeGrow and Web Designer Cameron Clark have created the entire conference programme on the Association's website, listing the complete schedule of events, with all presenter names, bios, and abstracts. When logging-in to the CATR website, members are able to plan ahead by adding events to their own schedule--this is a new in-house model after our move away from TheatreAgora.

Your Co-Chairs are working on a draft of the full conference Programme, complete with the schedule, abstracts, and relevant resources such as indigenous land protocols, campus maps, accessibility guides, local transportation and hospitality guides, UVic wifi access, and conference credits. This resource will be made available online, with some printed copies available on site at the Phoenix Theatre during the conference.

While preparations are in a good place, the organizers are cognizant of the tumultuous state of global affairs, particularly the United States' war with Iran and the resulting impact on global oil prices which are increasing costs of air travel and limiting flight availability. The unpredictability of air travel is out of all of our control, however the organizers are being mindful to have a contingency plan in place should presenters suddenly be unable to arrive in Victoria. The CATR 2026 conference has two separate acts, one in-person and one online, and both are scheduled tightly. The organizers will not be moving to a hybrid model at this stage (as this has proven overly complicated and dissatisfying in the past), and the online act cannot accommodate an expansion of presentations. Should presenters be unable to attend in person in Victoria as originally planned, the organizers will work with these individuals to find an agreeable solution to sharing the work of those absent. With hope, a contingency will prove unnecessary.

A fulsome overview of the conference accumulated revenues to date is provided below.

If you have any questions about the organization of CATR 2026, please do not hesitate to reach out to Co-Chairs Sasha Kovacs and Sarah Robbins.

We are greatly looking forward to meeting with you in Victoria very soon!

Respectfully--

Sarah Robbins
Unaffiliated Scholar Representative (2024-2026)
Conference Co-Chair 2026
sarah.robbins@mail.utoronto.ca

b. CATR 2026 Conference Budget Report

Conference Budget Overview

Revenue to Date Confirmed

Revenue Source	Amount (CAD)
Registration Revenue	\$23,135
Banquet Ticket Revenue	\$6,180
SSHRC Grant	\$25,000
Federation EDIA Grant	\$3,000
Department Sponsorship	\$5,900
Other Sponsorships	\$3,000
Total Revenue	\$66,215

Budget Summary

Current revenues are stable and align with projected expectations. Conference costs have been stabilized accordingly and remain in alignment with available revenues. Special thanks to the Department of Theatre at University of Victoria for providing access to all facilities free of charge, significantly reducing venue-related expenses and supporting the overall financial sustainability of the conference.

c. Future of the Conference Update: CATR 2027 & CATR 2028

Future of the Conference Update: CATR 2027 & CATR 2028
Submitted in advance of the 2026 AGM (30 Apr 2026)
by Robin C. Whittaker, President

It has been a core goal of my Presidency to ensure that CATR's annual conference not only exists, but flourishes in diverse locations across the country. It has. From Halifax (and online with StFX and UFV), to Montreal (and online with C-SET), to Regina (with the Atlas° Hotel), to Victoria (at UVic), we have brought CATR to cities and institutions small, medium, and large across the country and on Zoom. We have overcome not only the usual challenges—catering, number of concurrent sessions, A/V, affordability, accessibility, and, once, Congress—but also unexpected surprises. It is to the patience, good humour, and ingenuity of our Conference Chairs and their teams that we owe our gratitude.

It has not always been easy to find would-be Conference Chairs in this environment of post-secondary austerity and an emerging discourse of anti-volunteerism across many disciplines, including ours. I am grateful to those colleagues who have agreed with me that hosting our conference at their institutions is of great mutual benefit to CATR, the host departments, their institutions and cities, and the discipline broadly defined. It is a time commitment, but it is also a reflection of the value of our Association to its membership and the field of drama, theatre, and performance studies. It has been among my greatest pleasures to work with our many conference leaders, volunteers, and staff over the past 5 years.

Furthermore, we can be assured that our conference is in great hands for the next two years when we return to Ontario after nearly a decade:

- **CATR 2027** will be hosted by the University of Toronto's Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies (CDTPS). Led by Kathleen Gallagher, Jill Carter, and Barry Freeman 'on the ground' and, as always, an intrepid CATR Conference Organizing Team, CATR 2027 will lead us to CDTPS's brand new spaces in their 60th year! CATR members interested in working on the conference in any capacity should contact CATR 2027 Board Conference Liaison (and CATR Treasurer) Annie Gibson (annie@playwrightscanada.com).
- **CATR 2028** will be hosted by the University of Guelph's School of Theatre, English, and Creative Writing, led by Kim McLeod and Peter Kuling. We couldn't be more thrilled to bring CATR to Guelph and back to southern Ontario's tri-city area. Would-be volunteers should contact Kim McLeod (kimberley.mcleod@uoguelph.ca) to express their interest.

Finally, I will acknowledge that I have chosen to spend many of my Presidential hours as our "Conference Whisperer," reaching out to would-be Conference Chairs, regularly attending Conference Organizing Team meetings, and providing guidance where I could over email and Zoom. This collaborative time has been more than worth it because our colleagues are energetic and dedicated. For me, our annual conference remains the best expression of what CATR has been and can continue to be in new and exciting ways! - Sincerely, Robin

6. Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee Report
Submitted in advance of the 2026 AGM (30 Apr 2026)
by Robin C. Whittaker, President

Committee Members: Robin C. Whittaker (Chair), Walter Strydom (Recording Minutes for meetings 4 and 5), Jane Koustas, Sarah Robbins, Sasha Kovacs, 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, Heunjung Lee, Annie Gibson, Kara Flanagan, Shelley Scott.
Previous Members: Alex Ferrone, Jess Riley, Craig Walker

Since December 2024, various sub-committees of the Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee have worked on focused tasks in Janus-headed celebration of, and reflection on, CATR's history and future. Thank you to Walter Strydom (PhD student at U Regina) for offering to take minutes for the last 2 meetings! At 5 meetings, and the spaces in between, we covered much ground.

CATR Communications Coordinator Sabastian Samur has led brilliantly the curation of the [CATR 50th webpage](#)! The page stands as evidence of many CATR successes and much comradery over the decades and can and should be added to on an ongoing basis.

Thea Fitz-James and I worked over email and Zoom with Grace Dixon from [Good Gracious Design](#) to create a **new CATR logo** (on our website) and a **CATR 50th Logo** (on your conference tote bags). The CATR logo is also on **CATR merch**, thanks to Thea's sourcing efforts in consultation with Annie and me. Purchase your CATR merch on the Zeffy [Merch webpage](#) (set up by Annie Gibson and Dave DeGrow), and in person during the conference to rep and support your favourite Association! Pick up your merch this year at the conference table or order online with a shipping fee. If sales go well, we plan to expand our offerings next year.

Jenn Boulay has put much time and many ideas into leading our **donation drive** with Michelle MacArthur and Jess Riley through the 50 for 50 Campaign, in addition to our perennial donation avenues.

We're also working on a **CATR Film Documentary** reflecting on our past 50 years and imagining the next 50. Material will include interviews, videos, and still photos along with audio reflecting CATR to date. To do so, CATR is collaborating with the [Gatherings Partnership](#) to generate interview recordings from a range of CATR members and associates present and past. Still images from conferences have also been received from CATR members and gleaned from the U Guelph Archives (thanks to Kim McLeod and Steve Donnolly!), along with select audio recordings. It's a work in progress, but we hope to have a more fulsome documentary in the not-too-distant future and possibly create a Podcast too. Contact [Sebastian](#) if you'd like to be interviewed or have photos to share!

Several 50th-related sessions appear at CATR 2026. They include a **Founders event** organized by the Local Arrangements Committee. Organized on CATR's end and moderated bilingually by Cassandra Chatonnier, **SQET and CATR are hosting joint roundtables** at our conferences this year in honour of our associations' collaborative histories in our current landmark years. Heunjung Lee has organized an **international panel** online in Act II. I've worked to strengthen ties with [Canada's Theatre Museum](#) and the [Simonovich Theatre Foundation](#). Set up by Annie, a **50th Conference Hub** for publishers and other sponsors and partners will be set up at the U Vic Dept of Theatre as a conference hang out area.

In all, my **deep and heartfelt gratitude** to all of members of the 50th Committee. Your contributions small, medium, and grand are deeply appreciated. It has been an honour to work with you.

Sincerely,
Robin

7. Other Business / No Oral Report
a. Conference Working Groups Report

Submitted by: Justin Blum

CATR continues to support a total of three working groups, including: “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” (Kara Flanagan and Cameron Crookston, through 2027 Conference); “Performance, Migration, and Nationalism” (Yana Meerzon, Sheetala Bhat, and Stephen Eliot Wilmer, through 2026 Conference); and “Gatherings: Oral and Archival Histories of Performance” (Sarah Robbins and Stephen Johnson, through 2026 Conference).

As applications for new Working Groups had been relatively few in recent years and several groups had declined to use their slots in recent conferences, the Board took the decision in advance of the Victoria conference to suspend intake of new Working Groups so that the President could strike an ad hoc committee to consider the future of Working Groups. This committee met on 22 April 2026. At the meeting were Sara Schroeter, Jenn Boulay, and myself as Chair. We discussed the history and current issues around Working Groups, as well as the structure of Working Groups in allied Associations including ASTR and IFTR, and arrived at the following suggestion, which the Board voted to implement during our April 2026 meeting:

In order to reduce the administrative load on the Board and eliminate confusion about how the Working Groups’ participation in the annual conference is managed, the one-year suspension of Working Group submissions under the old process was extended for a period of three further years. During this time the Association should include “Working Group Meeting” as a category of session in the annual conference calls for participation, alongside Seminar, Paper Panel, Praxis Session, and the like. Acceptance will apply only to that year’s conference, but the same or similar groups may propose Working Group Meetings at subsequent annual conferences. At the conclusion of this three-year trial, or earlier if it sees fit, the Board can consider how much uptake there has been for Working Group Meetings in this format and decide whether to make this change permanent, revert to the previous Working Group process, or do something else entirely.

This change should eliminate the need for an individual from the Board to serve as Working Groups liaison for the immediate future. As my term on the Board is coming to an end I wish to thank the President, all the other members of the Board, past members of the Conference Planning Committee with whom I have interacted, and my fellow members of the ad hoc committee on Working Groups. I hope that a future Board will be able to arrive at a structure and process for Working Groups that will serve the needs and desires of the Association membership.

Respectfully submitted 6 May 2026
Justin Blum

b. Membership

i. Ad Hoc Committee on Membership Report Submitted by: Heidi Malazdrewich
Membership Information:

As of May 5th, 2026, there are 240 Active CATR members. The number members may continue to increase as the conference approaches.

Membership income bracket population numbers:

Memberships in Canada Annual Income under \$35,000:	88
Memberships in Canada Annual Income \$35,000 to \$50,000:	22
Memberships in Canada Annual Income \$50,000 to \$75,000:	19
Memberships in Canada Annual Income \$75,000 to \$100,000:	30
Memberships in Canada Annual Income \$100,000 and above:	55
Memberships Outside Canada Annual Income under \$35,000:	10
Memberships Outside Canada Annual Income \$35,000 to \$50,000:	4
Memberships Outside Canada Annual Income \$50,000 to \$75,000:	5
Memberships Outside Canada Annual Income \$75,000 to \$100,000:	5
Memberships Outside Canada Annual Income \$100,000 and above:	2

Zeffy Update:

As I have become increasingly familiar with Zeffy, I am finding it to be much more user friendly than the federation portal. I am now able to respond to members inquiries with more precision and efficiency!

Membership Committee:

At the board meeting on April 18th an ad-hoc membership committee was formed. This committee is still very much in the early stages, but it is our hope that we may be able to find new ways to increase membership and member engagement. It is also a hope of the committee to work collaboratively with the SQET Membership Coordinator and SQET Liaison to CATR.

ii. Standing Committee on Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression Report

CATR Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression (ARAO) Committee Report
Submitted in advance of the 2026 AGM (27 May 2026) by Jimena Ortúzar
(jimena@nyu.edu)

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

Over the past year, the ARAO committee has discussed steps to address several Motions previously submitted to (and passed by) the Board and created new initiatives to inform members of the committee's work, receive feedback and better understand ARAO/EDI issues affecting members. These following items replace (poorly attended) info sessions at previous conferences:

- an ARAO infographic in the conference program which highlights and explains the committee's work, and which includes a QR code to the website where members can go for more detailed information (<https://catract.ca/anti-racism-oppression-work/>).
- an ARAO/EDI survey available at the registration and throughout the conference,
- a lunch session for BIPOC artists and scholars for racialized artists and scholars to gather and share experiences during the conference (see conference schedule).

Update on steps to address several Motions previously submitted to (and passed by) the Board:

- with respect to consulting other associations about their ARAO-related work and helping advocate for our shared goals (Motion 15), CATR has joined Global Arts Pact (GAP), an international consortium formed to respond to attacks on arts and humanities everywhere.
- regarding a new 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 (Motion 6), we discussed at length how to best institute this award and have put together several recommendations for the Ad Hoc Recognitions committee, which will meet in the coming months to prepare the final draft before presenting it to the Board for approval. We are also exploring funding possibilities for this award through potential donors.

In the coming months, the committee will continue working on the following items:

- draft a policy regarding CATR's member data & information collection, storage, and sharing to present to the Board for approval (Items 1 & 19 of the ARAO Final Report).
- we'll be reaching out to Board members and committee chairs across CATR's operations asking them to take stock of potential volunteer and labour

discrepancies on their committees so we can start addressing these issues (see Point of Consideration)

- continue to guide the Board on implementing the remaining Motions (see chart below)
- receive, on an ongoing basis, new ARAO/EDI suggestions for the Board to consider

Below, for reference, is updated table with the Motions that guide our present ARAO work.

Jimena

<p>CATR ARAO Motions Drawn from the Feb 2022 ARAO Final Report, by category, with date passed by the Board</p>	<p>Implementation Update</p>
<p>Guiding Statement and Related Documentation</p>	
<p>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></p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>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 to function as the EDI/ARAO Guidelines Document.</i></p>	<p>Being included while the CATR Handbook is being revised.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Being included while the CATR Handbook is being revised.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Being accomplished in general reviews of all CATR documentation, especially as governance documents are revised.</p>
<p>Recognitions. (See: https://catract.ca/recognitions)</p>	
<p>The President will form an Ad Hoc Committee to Review CATR’s Recognitions (8 May 2023).</p> <p><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></p>	<p>Formed in summer 2023, the Ad Hoc Committee continues to meet to review CATR’s Recognitions. Changes to the Scholarly Awards were made for 2024.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>The Ad Hoc Recognitions Committee met in the fall of 2025 but was unable to agree on how best to institute this award and will meet again in the summer of 2026.</p>
<p>Consultation, Education, and Training</p>	
<p>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)</p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

<p>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)</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Committee on Conduct sessions continue to be offered at CATR’s annual conference.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>CATR 2025 will feature an ARAO infographic. No Session to be held due to 3 years of low attendance.</p> <p>ARAO Session held at CATR 2023, with PowerPoint archived at https://catract.ca/conference-catr-2023.</p> <p>Board held an ARAO/EDI training session led by consultant Warren Clarke, funded by the Federation EDID Initiatives Fund (Motion X).</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>The ARAO Committee will attempt to draft a policy to be approved by the Board.</p> <p>Board and committee members are directed to be cognizant of the confidentiality of the member information they collect, store, and share.</p>

<p>Accessibility</p>	
<p>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></p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>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></p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

<p>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)</p>	<p>Ever ongoing.</p>
<p>Ongoing Self-Reflection</p>	
<p>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)</p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>In progress (we have set a timeline of winter 2027 to begin discussing ideas of how best to carry out this assessment).</p>

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.

iii. Standing Committee on Communications Report

CATR Communications AGM Report 2026

Sebastian Samur

- Throughout 2025-2026, Communications provided support for the CATR board and the conference organizers. This support continues as usual leading up to the 50th anniversary conference in Victoria, including regular monitoring of the inbox, MailChimp account, and Facebook page. Jenn Boulay and Giorelle Diokno have provided additional support for Instagram and CATR website, respectively. Mailouts have been sent out for regular annual items, such as elections info, president updates, CATR scholarly awards, the conference CFP, etc.
- Translation coordination for the board and conference was provided throughout the year as needed. This includes text translation of email communications, social media and website material, as well as live translation support during the conference for major events, such as the keynote and plenaries. Liviu Dospinescu, as well as new committee members recruited this year were very helpful in providing light translation assistance for small mailouts. They have provided translation support for short captions on the 50th anniversary website.
- CATR's 50th anniversary page was developed over the year and soft-launched in 2026. It will continue to be developed as new material is collected. Coordinating with the Gatherings research team, which is interviewing CATR members, video clips will eventually be linked through the website. The Gatherings team will be continuing interviews over the coming months, at the CATR conference, and afterwards, so there will be additional historical material to link to in the new future.
- Communications has supported, as usual, the annual CATR conference. General information and reminders have been sent out, covering accommodations, scheduling, anniversary merchandise, the banquet, and accessibility needs. As the conference approaches, there will be further mailouts and daily eblasts provided during the conference itself, as well as emails informing members of last-minute scheduling changes as needed.

iv. Standing Committee on Conduct Report

Report of the Committee on Conduct - AGM 2026

Submitted by: Signy Lynch

Members: Selena Couture, Andy Houston, Signy Lynch and Jessica Watkin

The committee on conduct continues to monitor our individual and committee email addresses for inquiries regarding the conduct of our members—including those that are more casual and official complaints. This year we looked into options for record-keeping, and drafted a confidentiality clause for new members to sign to formalize our current practices.

CATR members are encouraged to reach out to us with any queries or concerns. More information on the conduct committee and our processes is available [here on the CATR website](#).

Other updates:

New member: Jenny Salisbury was elected as our new member of the committee. Welcome to the committee, Jenny!

Conference: The committee does not have a formal session scheduled at this year's conference, but we intend to continue our informal practice of the past couple of years of spreading awareness of the committee and making sure all CATR members know what they can contact us about and how to do so. Lack of awareness about the conduct committee continues to be the biggest barrier to our work.

Additional members: We are still hoping to see additional members appointed, including an outside ombudsperson.

v. Graduate Students Report

Submitted by: Jenn Boulay

Grad Reps: Jenn Boulay & Nicola Sibthorpe

Throughout the last year, the graduate student representatives have hosted various events and launched fundraising initiatives to support graduate students.

- **Graduate Student Meet & Greet:** Hosted during the ACT I (Online) conference on May 26th was a successful event. Graduate students had the opportunity to meet each other, learn more about the association, and discuss research topics.
- **Graduate Student Social in Regina:** During the ACT II (In-Person) in Regina, about 10 graduate students had the opportunity to meet and get to know each other. It was a great night of networking and celebrating graduate students and their work.
- **Graduate Student Travel Bursary 2025:** With the help of Dr. Jessica Riley and Dr. Michelle MacArthur, the graduate and precarious scholar travel fund fundraising efforts were able to raise close to \$2500 and support 10 graduate students and precarious scholars who travelled to Regina. This would not have been made possible without the generosity of our lovely donors, including and prize donors - THANK YOU!!!
- **Graduate Student Travel Bursary 2026:** For the 50th Anniversary conference we have launched a new fundraising initiative called *50 to 50*. Donors are invited to make a donation in honour of a mentor that supported them as an early career scholar and are encouraged to share a few words about their impact. Messages to mentors can either be shared or kept anonymous. Again, thank you to Dr. Jessica Riley and Dr. Michelle MacArthur for their support with this campaign. This year donations will not only support graduate students and precarious scholars, they will also be assisting retired scholars attend the conference.
- **Upcoming Workshops:** The graduate representatives are working to plan some workshops that will take place during the Fall and Winter Terms.

If you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions, we would be happy to hear from you. You can reach your graduate student representatives at catrgradstudents@gmail.com

Warmly,
Jenn Boulay & Nicola Sibthorpe

vi. Unaffiliated Scholar Report

Dear CATR Board Members,

This past year, I continued work on three core CATR initiatives: as a member of the 50th Anniversary Committee, Co-Chair of the 50th Oral Histories Subcommittee, and as Co-Chair for the CATR 2026 conference.

In February, I assumed the role of Co-Chair of the 2026 CATR conference with Sasha Kovacs upon Kara Flanagan's exit. My role includes serving on the Conference Programming and the Local Arrangements Committees, and overall organization. I am glad to be able to serve the association by collaborating on the 50th Anniversary Conference.

I then stepped back as Co-Chair of the 50th Anniversary Oral Histories Subcommittee, spearheaded by the Gatherings Project. Robert Motum took over as Co-Chair with Stephen Johnson. The subcommittee solicited written memories and conducted interviews with the association's membership, posting these interviews to the Gatherings website: <https://gatheringspartnership.com/catr-50>. Short selections have been shared with President Robin Whittaker in efforts to create a documentary film project. This OH project is ongoing--Gatherings will continue interviewing through a "Memory Booth" station at the 2026 conference in Victoria.

My current term serving the Board has ended. I have served since 2021, first as a Graduate Student Representative (2021-2023), returning shortly after in my current role as the Unaffiliated Scholar Representative (2024-2026). During which time, I proudly served on the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Committee and the Programming Committee for the 2022 CATR Conference in Lethbridge, Alberta in my first term, and most recently the Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee and Gatherings/CATR 50th Oral Histories Subcommittee, and now as Co-Chair of the 2026 CATR Conference in Victoria, British Columbia. Mariah (Mo) Horner' has been elected as the next Unaffiliated Scholar Representative.

It has been my pleasure to serve this association.

Respectfully,

Sarah Robbins

vii. Accessibility Report

Board Accessibility Coordinator
Submitted by: Jenn Boulay

Over the past year, CATR has expanded both its accessibility practices - online and at the in-person conference—and its definition of accessibility. Accessibility is increasingly at the forefront of our conference organizing, event promotion, and our online communications.

- **Image Descriptions:** Across our social media and website, we are implementing the use of image descriptions and alt text. We have been working to make sure that descriptions are available for all images that are included within our communication with members.
- **Expanding Definition of Accessibility:** We are not only removing barriers for disabled CATR members, but also broadening our understanding of accessibility within our practices. By introducing new accessibility initiatives at the annual conference—such as supports for families—we expand our definition of accessibility. This allows us to support more members and encourage broader participation.
- **Conference Accessibility:** Our conference offers a multitude of accessibility initiatives including a Quiet space, captioning, image/visual descriptions, visual venue guides, access papers, and resources for how to integrate accessibility into a conference presentation. Our new initiatives this year include having a family room and nursing room.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for how to improve accessibility at CATR, you can contact the Accessibility Coordinator, Jenn Boulay at jenn.boulay@mail.concordia.ca.

Warmly,
Jenn Boulay

c. Recognitions

i. Associateships Report (President: Robin)

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 79 Honorary Associates (formerly Honorary Members); since 2002, we've lauded 19 Lifetime Associates (formerly Lifetime Members); and since 2023 we've fêted 5 Distinguished Scholar Associates. These 103 educators, researchers, authors, practitioners, scholar-practitioners, publishers, administrators, founders, trend-setters, and visionaries are enshrined on the CATR website under "Recognitions": <https://catract.ca/distinguished-scholar-and-honorary-associates>

This year, at CATR 2026's in-person Act in Victoria, BC, we will celebrate our new Distinguished Scholar Associate, the incomparable **Dr. Shelley Scott!**

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

- ii. Ad Hoc Committee on Recognitions Report/ Scholarly Awards Report

CATR/ACRT Scholarly Awards Coordinator/Ad hoc Recognitions Committee Report

Submitted in advance of the AGM (27 May 2026) by Jimena Ortúzar (jimena@nyu.edu);

2026 Scholarly Award Committees

Jean-Cléo Godin Award: Murielle Bechame, Joël Beddows, and Jean Valenti

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

Ann Saddlemyer Award: Karen Fricker (chair), Jane Koustas, and Christine Balt

Patrick O'Neill Award: Becky Low (chair), Kimberly McLeod, Julija Pesic and Roberta Barker

Once again, recruiting members to serve on award committees has been a slow and difficult process this year, mainly due to time constraints for members as well as some conflicts of interests arising from the nominations. 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.

A special thanks to Cassandre Chatonnier who coordinated this year's committee for the Jean-Cléo Godin Award and circulated the Call for Nomination among Francophone artists and scholars to increase the nominations, which was very successful.

The scholarly awards will be presented during the annual conference (ACT I) in Victoria, at the Recognitions/Banquet session programmed for May 27 at 7pm.

Ad Hoc Recognitions Committee

The Ad Hoc Recognitions Committee (Cassandre Chatonnier, Karen Fricker, Giorelle Diokno, Ben Gillespie, Dennis Gupa, Jimena Ortúzar, and Robin Whittaker) is working in collaboration with the ARAO committee to institute a new 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 (a Motion proposed by the ARAO committee and passed by the Board last year).

Other issues the Ad Hoc Recognitions committee will address in the coming months include a review of the Terms of Reference for the current awards to determine if any changes are needed, a review of the current nomination process, and options for recruiting new members for the four award committees

iii. Scholarships and Grants Report

Submitted by: Emily Rollie (chair)

Members: David Geary, Michael Bergmann

Committee Actions from 2025-2026:

- In fall 2025, the committee reviewed applications for the Heather McCallum Scholarship, Robert G. Lawrence Scholarship, & Denis Salter Grants.
- 2025 Recipients included:
 - o **McCallum Scholarship**
Manvendra Singh Thakur for a project examining the archive and documenting the work of Teesri Duniya Theatre, Montreal
 - o **Lawrence Scholarship**
Anna Vigeland for an interdisciplinary inquiry into circus performances, with a particular emphasis on the memory
 - o **Salter Grant**
Barry Freeman to support travel and research for a book project (*Lifting Rocks*) that examines how performances of “settler resilience” in Newfoundland have been constructed and circulated in a variety of productions
- Proposed Revised Timeline for 2026
 - o For the past several years, we have circulated the calls for applicants in late summer with materials due in fall. However, for 2026, we propose to circulate the calls earlier in the year, shortly after the CATR conference, in the hopes that that may generate more awareness of the scholarship and grant opportunities.
 - o The calls for 2026 have already been drafted, with the intent to publish them in early June. The deadline for submission of materials will be early/ mid-September.

Respectfully,
Emily Rollie

iv. Lawrence Prize Report

Submitted by: Michelle MacArthur (Chair)

2026 Committee Members: Michelle MacArthur (Chair), Amanda Attrell, Julia Henderson, Andy Houston, Hope McIntyre, Sara Schroeter, Alessandro Simari

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

The 2025 Lawrence Prize Committee did the work of adjudicating the Lawrence Prize last summer, following our 2025 AGM. **The 2025 Lawrence Prize** was awarded to **Amanda Attrell** for her paper titled “‘This new idea now appears impossible’: Maria Campbell, Jessica, and Linda Griffiths.” **Honourable mentions** were awarded to **Mo Horner** for her paper “Abolition Dramaturgies of Rehearsal in Richard Lam’s The Candlemaker’s Game” and **Manvendra Singh Thakur (Noor)** for their paper “Fluid Objects, Fluid Bodies, Fluid Homes: Queer Narratives through Performance Art.” All nominees received substantive written feedback from the committee including advice about developing their papers towards publication. A recorded announcement was circulated to our membership.

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 2026 is looking forward to this year’s adjudication process, with results to be announced in the fall. **The deadline for nominations is May 15, 2026.**

Respectfully,
Michelle MacArthur

- d. Cross-Institutional Reports
 - i. SQET Report

SQET report

Suivi concernant la prochaine personne membre honoraire :

En ce qui concerne la prochaine personne membre honoraire, aucune proposition ne fut soumise de la part des membres du CA, à l'exception d'une suggestion qui fut directement – et fortement – appuyée par des membres du comité exécutif, du comité scientifique et organisateur du colloque. Il n'y a donc pas eu lieu d'organiser une rencontre ouverte afin de discuter des candidatures reçues aux fins d'un consensus. Nous aurons l'occasion de célébrer la contribution significative de Maureen Labonté lors de la prochaine cérémonie des prix. Conseillère dramaturgique œuvrant dans le milieu depuis plusieurs décennies, elle a aussi traduit plusieurs dizaines de pièces québécoises vers l'anglais, été en charge du Banff Playwrights' Colony de 2003 à 2011 (résidence pour auteur-trices), en plus de richement contribuer à la relève en enseignant à l'École Nationale de Théâtre.

Elle nous apparaît toute désignée pour recevoir ce titre, particulièrement durant notre prochain colloque qui se déroulera à McGill. Nicole Nolette a accepté de lui préparer un court hommage (avec l'appui possible de Louis Patrick Leroux).

Update regarding the next honorary member:

With regard to the next honorary member, no proposals were submitted by the Board members, with the exception of one suggestion which was directly – and strongly – supported by members of the Executive Committee, the Scientific Committee and the conference organising committee. There was therefore no need to organise an open meeting to discuss the nominations received with a view to reaching a consensus. We will have the opportunity to celebrate Maureen Labonté's significant contribution at the next awards ceremony. A dramaturgical consultant active in the field for several decades, she has also translated dozens of Quebec plays into English, was in charge of the Banff Playwrights' Colony from 2003 to 2011 (a writers' residency), and has made a rich contribution to the next generation by teaching at the École Nationale de Théâtre. She seems to us to be the ideal person to receive this title, particularly during our upcoming conference to be held at McGill. Nicole Nolette has agreed to prepare a short tribute to her (with the possible support of Louis Patrick Leroux).

Suivi concernant les statuts et règlements :

Un document portant sur les Statuts et règlements de la SQET que l'association souhaitons faire adopter lors de la prochaine AGA a été rédigé. une copie de ce document sera partagée au moment de l'envoi du bulletin et de la convocation à la prochaine AGA. Les commentaires des membres du CA sont bienvenus jusqu'au 3 mai.

Update on the Articles of Association and By-laws:

A document setting out the SQET's Articles of Association and By-laws, which the association intends to put to the vote at the next AGM, has been drafted. A copy of this

*document will be shared when the newsletter and notice of the next AGM are sent out.
Comments from Board members are welcome until 3 May.*

Suivi concernant l'axe Recherche-Création :

Depuis plusieurs mois, Claudia Blouin a dû interrompre son mandat pour des raisons personnelles. Dernièrement, Julie Andrée s'est aussi retirée du CA sans poursuivre ses fonctions en tant que coresponsable de l'axe jusqu'au prochain colloque. Nous pouvons nous rassurer à l'idée qu'il y aura une belle séance mettant en lumière la recherche-création dans le cadre du colloque (via la présentation de 4 conférences-démonstrations). Un petit partage d'ajustement en ce sens sera rédigé pour le prochain bulletin.

Update on the Research-Creation strand:

For several months now, Claudia Blouin has had to step down from her role for personal reasons. Recently, Julie Andrée has also stepped down from the Board and will not continue in her role as co-lead for the strand until the next conference. We can rest assured that there will be an excellent session highlighting research-creation as part of the conference (through the presentation of four lecture-demonstrations). A brief update on this will be included in the next newsletter.

Programme préliminaire du colloque :

Un programme préliminaire du colloque a été écrit. Le programme complété sera partagé à l'ensemble des membres dans le cadre du bulletin, au début mai, comme à l'habitude.

Preliminary conference programme:

A preliminary conference programme has been drawn up. The finalised programme will be shared with all members via the newsletter in early May, as usual.

Renouvellement du CA :

Marie-Ève Skelling amorcé une petite tournée de contacts individuels afin de prendre le pouls concernant les intérêts à rester ou non au sein du CA pour la prochaine année, ainsi que votre niveau de satisfaction au regard de votre rôle/implication actuelle et ajustements possibles, selon les cas.

Board renewal:

Marie-Ève Skelling has begun a series of one-to-one meetings to gauge interest in remaining on the Board for the coming year, as well as your level of satisfaction with your current role and involvement, and any potential adjustments, where appropriate.

ii. TheatreAgora Report

TheatreAgora Report, April 2026

1. Update on Activities

No major initiatives have taken place over the past year. Both organizations elected to host their conferences on alternative platforms. No curatorial work has been undertaken.

2. Review of TheatreAgora's Mandate

As noted in the Fall, the committee will facilitate a review of the TheatreAgora mandate. The purpose of this review is to establish recommended next steps for the platform and the committee. Founding members of TheatreAgora, former co-chairs, and current committee members will be invited to participate in this process.

3. Finances

In anticipation of a review of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CATR and SQET, including the TheatreAgora addendum, and in response to changes to the agreement between University of Toronto Press Journals (UTPJ) and CATR with respect to the TRiC subscription, a request was made for a breakdown of TheatreAgora's financial status.

Unfortunately, responses to inquiries were not received in advance of the winter Board meeting. Questions raised include the following:

a) Are there any events planned on TheatreAgora this year?

No. The committee elected to pause the curation of materials and will engage fully in the mandate review process. However, members of the committee have applied for grants and, should those applications be successful—and pending agreement from both organizations—there is interest in using the TheatreAgora platform to host portions of these research projects.

b) Does TheatreAgora need, or have, the funds to continue its operations?

At present, there is minimal overhead cost outside of conference-related events. Hosting is provided by the University of Waterloo at no cost. While certain website plugins previously incurred expenses, these have largely been replaced with open-source alternatives. Should a plugin renewal be required and cost money, this can be facilitated through Koumbit, which has been retained for future work. A breakdown of finances along with explanations as is as follows:

i. The TheatreAgora committee was required to expend the remaining funds from the Digital Generator Grant used to build TheatreAgora by the end of March 2024. In November 2023, the following expenditures were proposed:

Redraft of the site incorporating 2023 feedback \$3,000

Site Use Manual creation (Koumbit) \$3,000

CATR Conference 2024 (Pilot Project) \$5,000

Technical Director fees for 2024 \$3,000

Curator fees for 2024 \$2,000

Commissioning projects \$5,000

Koumbit pre-payment for post–Summer 2024 work \$3,000

Total: \$24,000

ii. It is the understanding of the TheatreAgora committee that all funds were expended accordingly.

iii. Koumbit has confirmed that approximately 21 hours of work remain for TheatreAgora at a rate of approximately \$120 per hour, representing an available value of approximately \$2,520 to draw upon for service and, if needed, technology.

iv. The technical direction team (Jacob Nevins and Corinne Viau) has confirmed that approximately 80 hours of technical support remain available for the platform. If the platform is used to host an event or project, it is advisable that technical support be explicitly included in the project budget, consistent with how CATR has managed conference coordination in the past. Should no events occur, technical needs can continue to be covered through the Koumbit retainer or advance payment.

c) What are TheatreAgora’s aspirations?

At present, no recommendation has been determined. Due to the decision by both SQET and CATR to hold their conferences on different digital platforms this year, the committee elected to step back. This lack of immediate use, combined with scheduling conflicts, has delayed the planned mandate review meeting beyond the traditional Spring examination period.

d) What does it mean in a year when SQET and/or CATR does not use TheatreAgora as its online conference platform?

This does not meaningfully affect the site’s operation. TheatreAgora may continue to be used to advertise conferences—as CATR has done this year—and the platform remains active. While it may also be used for other events or programming, no proposals were received this year. This issue will be addressed as part of the forthcoming mandate review.

4. Current Use

While TheatreAgora is not being used to host a conference this year, and no inquiries were received regarding other events or initiatives, no concerns have been raised by the Canadian theatre research community regarding the site. Fraser Stevens, as co-chair, continues to monitor the platform routinely. Sean Speers (University of Waterloo) receives notifications related to site security; no issues have been reported during the past year. The committee therefore understands that the site remains fully functional and ready for future use.

iii. Global Arts Pact (GAP) Report

Prepared by: Dr. Julija Pešić, Ontario Representative, CATR/ACRT

Date of Zoom Meeting: February 19, 2026

Submitted to: CATR/ACRT President, Dr. Robin C. Whittaker, for the CATR/ACRT Next Board Meeting

Overview

On February 19, 2026, I participated as CATR's representative in the Global Arts Pact (GAP meeting, convened via Zoom with representatives of member organizations. GAP is a collaborative international initiative focused on defending and promoting the Arts and Humanities in the face of increasing political, economic, and institutional pressures worldwide. The meeting focused on advancing the consortium's public visibility, organizing knowledge exchange, establishing criteria for action, and structuring subcommittees to facilitate ongoing work.

Key Items Discussed

1. Update on the Public Statement

Participants confirmed the timeline for posting the GAP public statement on member organizations' websites. It is expected to be published by Friday, March 27, 2026 (World Theatre Day). The development of a press release and official logo is underway, with contributions anticipated from PSI and Drama HE.

2. Knowledge Exchange Formats and Process

The group agreed to organize a series of web-based events, including town halls and online forums, scheduled for May, June, and September 2026. These will facilitate ongoing dialogue, information sharing, and collective learning among members and their constituencies.

3. Criteria for Selecting Action Items

Members discussed the scope of GAP's focus, balancing global and local issues related to arts and humanities challenges. Emphasis was placed on the need for clarity, timeliness, and impact when selecting issues for discussion, forum, or response. The consortium aims to ensure fairness, fact-checking, and safety in its collective actions.

4. Formation of Subcommittees

The meeting proposed creating at least two to three subcommittees: one dedicated to organizing town halls and collective actions, and another focused-on knowledge dissemination. Initial themes for upcoming events include the closure of archival resources in Greece and the impact of economic sanctions on the arts sector. The formal launch of these subcommittees and programming is planned for the March meeting.

Next Steps for CATR/ACRT

- Prepare for the posting of the GAP public statement on the CATR/ACRT website by March 27.

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- Support and promote the upcoming web-based events within the CATR/ACRT membership.
- Assist in disseminating information about GAP's activities and reporting mechanisms relevant to censorship and restrictions in the arts and humanities.

e. Standing Archival Committee Report

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. This work was undertaken by Archival Committee members Kim McLeod and Steve Donnelly (both at University of Guelph), who did some fine work pulling material from the U of G's LW Conolly archives.

Huge thanks, Kim and Steve!

With respect,
Jess