

FDC 2026 Annual General Meeting Agenda

Fight Directors Canada Annual General Meeting
Saturday, July 18th at 8:09 PM Eastern Standard Time

Digital Meeting on Zoom, plus Nationals in-person group Zoom attendance.

Members In Attendance on Zoom:

Mike Kovac, John Knight, Michelle Lewis, Emmett McCourt, Sylvie La Riviere, Christopher Mott, Daniel Levinson, Aaron Casselman, Jackie Hanlin, Nathania Bernabe, Joe Wright,

Joined at 8:43PM EST - Celene Harder.

Members In Attendance at Nationals:

Tammy Everett, Richard Comeau, Oliver Donahue, Danielle Spilchen, Kevin Cambridge, Else Gallagher Kai Cummings, Ian Kimpton, Lana Whittington, Abby Weeks, Noah Labranche, Iseult Brasselle, Thomas Usher, Andy Hightower, Cameron Gilmour, Kody Farrow Daniel Perryman, Jordan Empson, Josh Hope, Andreas Schroeder, Joseph McLellan, Ella Schaloske, Eilidh Tew, Todd Campbell

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Secretary Report – Emmett McCourt
3. President's Report – Mike Kovac
4. Treasurer's Report – John Knight
5. Director of Training Report – Tammy Everett
6. Director of Admin Report – Christopher Mott
7. FM Rep Report – Laryssa Yanchak – Read by M. Kovac
8. Fight Director Rep Report – Sylvie La Riviere
9. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a) Awards Reminders
10. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a) TBC
13. Questions from the Floor

8:09 PM EST - Called to order by M. Kovac.

Welcome to Fight Director's Canada's 2026 Annual General Meeting. It's the second week of Nationals and we are welcoming people from everywhere.

President Mike Kovac, joined the gathering today from the ancestral and unceded homelands of the henqeminem (huan-cumm-eehnum) and Skwxwmu7mesh (Squamish) speaking people in Burnaby, British Columbia.

You are welcome to this meeting no matter where you are or how you identify.

Thank you for being here.

1. Approval of 2025 Minutes

- i. Motion to approve T. Everett; seconded R. Comeau.
- ii. Motion Passed.

2. Secretary Report – Emmett McCourt

Hi All,

I'm delighted to be giving my first Secretary Report.

The two biggest updates on my end are that I have been going through previous boards' To-Do lists and wishlists, and compiling a list of what hasn't been done yet, and that I am talking with the Canada Council for the Arts to create a profile for FDC to apply for Non-Profit funding.

For the To-Do and Wish lists, so far the overarching theme across boards seems to be wanting to make FDC more inclusive as an organization, and create clearer and more easily accessible power structures and reporting processes. Some of the solutions that were looked into were successfully implemented, but many of them were not. Many of the identified issues don't currently have concrete solutions attached. For now, I'm continuing to compile all this information. One suggestion from Kovac is to create a flow-chart for a reporting process, to create clear and concrete steps that members and boards can take to deal with issues. My hope is that we can gather some people to look at creating this over the next couple of years.

For the CCA, I have talked with someone there who helped me set up a profile, and the board has gone over most of the info we need to begin. It is a competitive process, so there's no specific guarantee that we would receive funding, but if we can, it would help lighten our financial stresses. I'm hoping to talk to a few people who have knowledge on this before continuing.

If anyone would like to volunteer to share any experience they have with NPO's and CCA, or would like to help with the creation of a flow-chart for reporting etc, please reach out to me!

Emmett McCourt
secretary@fdc.ca

3. FDC 2026 President's Report – Mike Kovac

Overall, I am thrilled to report that for FDC this past year has been one marked by growth, expanding awareness, and engagement. Through the dedication and effort of our collective teamwork we have been able to welcome new members at every level of actor-combatant, fight director, and fight instructor positions.

We only need to look upon the truly wide variety of projects Fight Directors Canada members have had a hand in creating to see the effect our energy brings. From performing in union and non-union

theatrical productions, producing those productions, and in some cases, both acting and producing those productions at the same time.

- Fight directing shows that played in almost every province and territory (I couldn't get firm confirmation on Nunavut – but I'm really eager to welcome new faces up there!). Appearing as stunt performers, doubles, stunt coordinators and fight coordinators in entertainment spanning from major Hollywood movies to video games, to television and beyond.
- Teaching at everything from community centers and open fields to acting conservatories and world-renowned post-secondary institutions.

... all of these activities and more have seen FDC members at the helm. We are instructors, mentors, artists, athletes, and (very importantly) life-long students.

We have seen long-standing leaders in our community retire from their previous positions and move towards the next chapter of their story, all while staying involved with the community they helped build. And we have seen a new crop of participants pick up a sword for their very first time... and then probably be told their targets are too high and that their footwork needs some attention. We celebrate all of this and more.

I would like to take the time to personally thank everyone on the Board:

Our Secretary, Emmett McCourt

Treasurer, John Knight

Actor/Combatant Representative, Michelle Lewis

Fight Instructor/Apprentice Representative, Rachel Flesher

Fight Master Representative, Laryssa Yanchek

And a special welcome to our new Fight Director Representative, Sylvie La Riviere

These are the people who keep things on track and moving forward, and FDC wouldn't function without them. On top of all their hard work, they are also subject to receiving more emails and attending more Board meetings than perhaps anyone should be subjected to.

And I cannot thank our Executive Branch of the organization enough. Without our incredible Director of Training, Tammy Everett, we wouldn't have the organization, dynamic ability to act on matters, and future-based mindset that we have today, not to mention things like Nationals simply wouldn't happen. Without our indispensable Director of Administration, Chris Mott, we would be without our connectivity, communication, troubleshooting matters would be a nightmare, and I feel confident in saying that literally none of us here would be members.

I would like to thank our College of Fight Masters. Without your leadership, guidance, and experience we would be floundering. For the record I've called members of the college in search of help with a matter as recently as two weeks ago – which is a good reminder! Reach out for help if you need it and offer to help if you see someone else who needs it.

Thank you, Board, Fight Masters, and thank you Chris and Tammy.

None of this would be possible without all of our involvement – and I mean this. With that in mind, I would also like to thank all members here and those who couldn't be here for making Fight Directors Canada what it was, what it is, and what it will be in the future.

I send particular greetings to everyone taking part at Nationals out in Edmonton. For the record, I am very jealous of you. Right now, you're going through all the trials and tribulations with everything this event entails. You're probably bodily and mentally tired, and maybe kinda stressed with the prospect of testing at the level you're going for. Sore, sweaty, wherever you're at in the process – yes, I'm jealous of you.

I'm jealous because throughout all the hardship and effort, you're doing the thing. As stressed and as ground down as you may be, I hope you're still able to sit back when you've got the time and remember why it is that you chose to do this thing in the first place. Everyone's got their specific reasons, but I think most of the time those reasons share the commonality of teamwork, artistic expression, and... well... joy. I am addicted to the process of doing this artform, and I'll tell you why. I am addicted to the trust. Every time we line up across from our partners in an en garde we are silently telling the other person, "I trust you." And they trust us. We are acknowledging that there is a chance we could hurt one another or ourselves, but we are still taking that leap of faith and trusting one another to keep the whole thing safe while also telling a story and doing it in style. We are coming together to create this thing that was built by everyone involved. We are still individuals within this, but we refer to the overall result as "The fight" in the singular for a reason. It is the culmination of our teamwork. It will and can never be perfect, but that's not the goal of art – this one or any other.

My favorite definition of art is – "the finite expression of infinite things." Our work, our trust together has made me feel this art, and I'm addicted to it. Go out there and enjoy it. Thank you.

Special Hello and Welcome from the President of the Society of Australian Fight Directors, Lyndall Grant. We continue to expand our awareness with educational institutions. As they learn about us, they want to work with us. We are also working with Equity for a greater understanding of what we do and how we can help. Working on this with the DCFI committee and Scott Bellis, Council President of Equity.

4. Treasurer's Report – John Knight

"FDC's financial picture is healthy despite a small loss in the Unrestricted Surplus of \$310.51 in 2025. This loss amount was expected. It was primarily due to having to remit GST payments to the federal government. In previous years we hadn't been required to make this payment and therefore hadn't built it into our pricing models. Starting with the 2026 Nationals we are pricing and budgeting with this tax expense in mind and therefore expect to avoid loss positions in the future.

Our starting bank balance for 2026 was \$19,723.23. This put us in a healthy position to be able to maintain staffing payments at current levels as well as have start up capital available for the 2026 Nationals event. Nationals continues to be the primary expense and income generator for FDC. As this year's event is currently still underway it isn't possible to report on the numbers for the event at this time; however, it is expected to run sufficient surplus to keep our financial position healthy for staffing and Nationals into 2027.

On a reporting note: our income tax return and GST filing are up to date with Revenue Canada. Following this meeting required annual reporting will be made to Corporations Canada."

5. Director of Training Notes – Tammy Everett

Thank you everyone for an incredible 2025/2026! It has been incredible working with so many of you over the last 12 months, and I am honoured to have been able to serve in the position of Director of Training. Two of our main accomplishments this year were:

1. Additions to Policies and Procedures:
 - Reactivating Lapsed Membership
 - Challenging
 - Conditions
 - Conflicts of Interest
2. The 2026 Nationals in Edmonton

In Oct 2025 we added a section on Reactivating Lapsed Membership which will hopefully reduce barriers to reentry, and encourage past members to rejoin AFDC. This was added to the “Membership” portion of the P&P (1.5.5.2).

In early 2026 we made several changes to the P&P, either to clarify sections, or to add new sections. We added a section on Challenging clarifying the requirements, and the roads to access. We also had to add a section addressing Challenging with Conditions. Lastly, upon receiving the incredible honour and responsibility of being named a Fight Master, I created a section addressing Conflicts of Interest, it sets some rules around a member of the Executive becoming a Fight Master. These changes and others can be found in the ‘News’ section of FDC’s website, under ‘Policies and Procedures Updates’, as well as in the P&P.

We are Zooming in from an exciting, and very successful 2026 nationals at the University of Alberta. We have an inspiring group of Instructors, and Journeys. We are working with 29 actor combatants in Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced, and 3 incredible Instructor Candidates (Lana, Justin, and Jordie). I am pleased to announce that our 2027 Nationals will likely be held at the University of Alberta, again. Staying for 2 years in one city will help us foster a strong, stable stage combat presence, and bring our Nation’s stage combat communities together. I cannot thank our local Instructors and our Maître d'Armes enough for their wonderful work here, and for being such generous hosts. The 2027 nationals will likely be taking place in July.

I will be sending out Facebook posts and posters once contracts are signed, dates solidified, and the budget has been approved by the board. I will also provide Chris the information for FDC’s website, so people should be able to start signing up for the nationals by September-October. We will again have early bird prices to help our students with cost. This is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of. This year we began collecting data on the prevalent Concepts and Learning Outcomes of each discipline at each level for the Syllabus. Rachel Flesher, Daniel Levinson, Laryssa Yanchak, and others have been elemental in getting this started. It is a work in progress, but we hope to have some incredible material to add to the P&P.

This has been an exciting fourth year as Director of Training. I appreciate everyone who has worked with me, taught me, and put their faith in me this past year. I hope I have the opportunity to continue serving our community.

Thank you,

Tammy Everett
director@fdc.ca

6. Director of Administration Report – Christopher Mott

Membership trends

Big-picture, we're seeing a continuation of the trend of FDC events popping up across the country. There are now regular regional events in Montreal (in conjunction with our membership in the Northeastern U.S.), Rapier Wit in Toronto has re-opened, Toronto Metropolitan University offered it's first certification class, and there are regular certifications happening in both Calgary and Vancouver. In terms of number of certifications 2025 was FDC's best year since 2019.

There were more certifications issued last year than in 2023 & 2024 combined, and while we may or may not see quite the same rate this year we are still seeing significant growth across the country. Overall membership numbers have already seen some growth in the first half of 2026, but for the same reasons as above the bulk of the growth will happen through the latter half of the year, and I expect it to be nearly the same total membership growth as in 2025. To put that in perspective, by the end of 2026 we're likely to have built back approximately half the loss of membership that we experienced post-pandemic.

Total Certifications (new and re-certifications)

Level	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 to AGM
Basic	65	5	10	67	27	22	74	13
Intermediate	25	11	0	6	8	8	17	0
Advanced	9	0	0	9	11	9	11	0
FI	4	0	0	0	2	3	2	5
FD	1	3	0	0	0	3	0	2
FM	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	105	19	10	82	48	45	104	21

Total Active Membership (as of date of AGM)

	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 to AGM	+/-
Associate	88	50	61	71	25	23	41	50	9
Youth	18	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Basic	223	246	240	123 (274)	114	103	123	136	13
Intermediate	64	72	76	48 (74)	35	23	39	34	-5
Advanced	69	67	69	51 (75)	46	38	40	43	3
FI	20	23	22	22	19	19	17	24	7
FD	17	15	18	19	18	13	17	15	-2
FM	9	10	9	9	8	8	8	8	0

Current Membership	508	498	496	343 (544)*	265	226	285	310	25

* First number indicated current members, second includes those eligible for recert before Feb. 2023

7. Fight Master Report – Read by M. Kovac for Laryssa Yanchak

Hello Members-

The Fight Masters are pleased to welcome aboard our newest FM Tammy Everett. Her dedication to FDC as an organisation, her passion and knowledge for the art form along with her desire to help others & foster good relationships between members and sister organisations allowed us to see the dedication she brings to the table. Congrats and Welcome Tammy!

We continue to admire the members who strive to grow FDC and work to expand their knowledge to include the history and evolution of FDC and this artform. We are here to mentor and help our members flourish in this art and to that end we encourage discussion and knowledge sharing as best we can. We're artists too and love to play although sometimes the realities of life do not allow us to participate as much as we want - we're always thrilled to consult and support - so please reach out. We're happy to pass along the stories of our experiences through the decades of our practice.

Warm wishes to the fighters at this year's Nationals - may you succeed in learning new skills and finding new fight partners. I'm sorry I can't be there in person - but send you all the best.

PART II - I know that Tammy's been an FM for a year already - amazing how time flies - feels like yesterday to me personally. Ideally this year we'll endeavour to clarify and help educate what we see the parameters of Fight Master incorporate so that we can ensure strong leadership as we navigate this adventure called life.

Cheers!

Laryssa

8. Fight Director Representative Report – Sylvie La Riviere

I'll keep it brief, but I just want to let everyone know that I'm here to support not only members who are already certified as fight directors, but anyone who's interested in becoming one as well.

If you're hoping to certify but are unsure how to do it or need some support with the process, please reach out to me at fdrep@fdc.ca. Likewise if you're a certified FD who needs support, please send me an email and I can help or help to connect you with the right people.

I also want to invite both certified FD's and those interested in certifying to a Fight Director meeting in September. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss what we would like going forward - whether that's ongoing education, a mentorship process, or for things to stay as they are.

If you're interested in attending, please email me at fdrep@fdc.ca. We'll be choosing the specific date based on when the majority of interested people can attend, but it will be on a weekend in September and it will be over Zoom.

9. Old Business:

a) Awards Reminders

T. Everett: People can send nominations to Tammy Everett or Chris Mott. They are then compiled and sent to the different people who select the winners – for example: JP Fournier selects the nominated member who wins his award. The awards just need to be compiled by Midnight tonight (or tomorrow afternoon if you are really behind...).

When nominating someone, please include some context on why you are nominating this person, as well as their first AND last name!

Both nominated individuals and their nominator have to be current FDC members.

The awards are:

- **The Henry Marshall Memorial Award** – granted in recognition of Inspiration, Vision, and Excellence in the building and promotion of the art form and it's history in a spirit of generosity, sharing and the nurturing of new talents. A recipient of the Henry Marshall is an example of outstanding human kindness, diplomacy, humanity for all and model citizenship. It is the highest honour granted to an individual at the national or international level by Fight Directors, Canada and is given only when warranted (ie it's not given every year by rote).
- **The Paddy Crean Award** - is granted to a participant at the National Stage Combat Workshop who has not only shown exceptional performance and technical skill as a fighter but most importantly has demonstrated the values that AFDC hold dear. This person must demonstrate generous partnering skills, and a personal generosity towards their colleagues in class and rehearsal. It is awarded to a person who demonstrates grace and humility in times of stress and who we as an Association believe demonstrate the future leadership qualities we wish to celebrate.
- **The Gelineau award** – in honour of FM Paul Gelineau, is granted to a member who has demonstrated leadership in humanitarian efforts outside of the fight community. Dedication in the areas of volunteerism, healing, community building, conflict resolution, health and wellness, as well as leadership in social issues are all be reasons to be considered.
- **The Fournier Fellowship** – given annually to a member who exemplifies the personal and professional standards held up by our Maitre d'Armes, J.P. Fournier. The award is given to a member shows not only skill in their art, but also generosity, humility, leadership, a willingness to learn and a desire to help others.

10. New Business:

No new business to discuss.

Addition to the Secretary's Report:

Emmett McCourt: Often the board does a lot of work that members don't know is happening. We want members to be able to connect with us and know what we are working on, so we are planning to start publishing board meeting agendas in the next little while. If an agenda item catches your eye, members can reach out to a board member and ask what happened with that item, or have a discussion about it etc.

Kovak: We often assume that everyone knows what's going on, but sometimes people need a catch-up.

11. Questions from the Floor

R. Comeau: Clarification for nominations, he was told you need two sentences for the nominations, but then the website doesn't say anything about what should be added to the nominations. Two sentences are a very small amount to cover everything that might need to be said.

Kovac: That should be "AT LEAST two sentences: Whatever you need to get your point across, but don't feel you have to write a full thesis.

Meeting Adjournment: 8:48 PM Eastern Standard Time.