



Title of Proposal **Canadian Mathematics Education Forum 2009**

Contact information

*The one person and place to
Communicate with the applicant(s).*

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Institution or department to administer grant funds

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Summary *Less than 100 words* **Total amount requested in this competition** \$ **5000**

The fourth Canadian Mathematics Education Forum will meet in Vancouver for three days in May 2009, and our plan is for CMEF to continue to meet somewhere in Canada every four years. Our intention is that this will not be simply a meeting of professionals in teaching and mathematics education, but rather a focused working meeting of existing working groups made up of teachers (elementary and secondary) and university and college folks (mathematicians and math educators), to bring the fruits of their work to a community of peers for discussion, dissemination, and the generation of new ideas. Thirteen working groups (chosen from applications) are already in operation and the Vancouver meeting will allow us to test this new CMEF model. Our main funding objective is to obtain travel money for school teachers.

Applicants

Put any specific information on the relevant experience or expertise of an applicant in "Other".

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CMS member num- ber	003846	004875	
Current Grants	NSERC Discovery 32K/yr CMS Endowment 08-09 2K		NSERC CRYSTAL 15K/yr, CMS Endowment 08-09 2.5K

The Canadian Mathematics Education Forum (CMEF) has met three times, in 1995 (Quebec City), in 2003 (Montreal cosponsored by CMS and CRM), and in 2005 (Toronto: cosponsored by CMS and Fields). In 2006, the question arose whether we should continue with these meetings. Since we have the semi-annual CMS Education sessions and the annual CMESG meeting, what is the purpose of the CMEF? After extended discussion, together with a close look at the successes and recommendations of the three CMEFs, we decided that the Forum should continue, that it should meet regularly, perhaps every 4 years, and that it should have two characteristics that set it apart from the other meetings, first that it should centre around the work of ongoing working groups, and secondly that its activities should feature significant encounters and collaboration between school teachers and university/college mathematicians and math educators. Indeed, such collaboration should be at the heart of the CMEF purpose and activities.

The first Forum with this new mandate in the new four-year cycle will be held in Vancouver, April 30 to May 3, 2009 and will have about 220 participants. Its theme will be “curriculum and assessment,” and it is being cosponsored by CMS and PIMS. It expects participation from members of many constituencies, schools, colleges and universities, Ministries of Education, parent groups and business and industry. Thirteen working groups (constructed from 40 applications), made up of teachers, grad students and university faculty from different parts of Canada, have been in operation for a year now and will assemble at the meeting to discuss and share their work with other groups, and to bring their work to a point at which some “product” (concrete resources) can be exhibited and disseminated. In addition we will have two plenary speakers, Steve Rasmussen of Key Curriculum Press and Hugh Burkhardt of the Shell Centre in Nottingham. In addition we will have a panel in which 8 teachers from across Canada, 4 elementary and 4 senior, will debate and discuss the questions: “What did I need then? What do I need now?” We predict that a fairly clear conclusion will emerge from this panel and an important objective of the Forum will be for the university and college teachers, and the coordinators and ministry folks to come together to provide the resources and support signaled by this panel. Indeed, the purpose of the plenaries and the panel is to support and enhance the atmosphere of inquiry and to provide ideas and impetus for working groups to form for the next Forum in 2013.

The bottom line is that this is not just another annual (or quadrennial) math ed meeting. Our plan is to make it a focused working meeting of existing working groups of teachers and university folks located in different parts of this wide country. Each meeting will centre around a theme and provide a venue for a number of teachers and university/college mathematicians and math educators to meet, to talk, and to work together. There is too little opportunity for this in the current system, but with all the recent attention, public and professional, on school mathematics education, such collaboration is badly needed.

Budget

Description	Revenue
PIMS	20000
SFU	6000
MITACS	5000
CRM	5000
Fields	5000
CAIMS	1000
SSC	1000
Prov. Ministries and school boards	7000
Registration (200 paying participants at \$220)	44000
CMS Endowment Grant requested	5000
Total Revenue \$	99000

	Expenses
Travel support for teachers	50000
Support for speakers	6000
Meeting rooms (to SFU)	10000
Equipment	2000
Translation	7000
Catering (reception, coffee breaks)	20000
Staff support (provided by PIMS and CMS)	0
Supplies (programme books etc.) (provided by CMS)	3000
Total Expenses \$	99000

Other

Funding, partners, revenue potential, information on applicants such as publications or awards, at most 20 lines.

CMS sponsorship has in the past and will continue to involve precious administrative help in organizing and setting up the meeting. The agreement is that we will reimburse the CMS for these valuable professional services but at the same time we feel that it is important to obtain support from the CMS Endowment Fund. Such “firm” support is much needed and greatly valued.

The big factor that can make a huge difference to the impact of this forum is travel support for the teachers, as they typically have no source of funding for both travel and provision of supply teaching. Of course we will do what we can (give them official letters, write to ministries) to help them get support from school boards and ministries, but past experience has shown that such support cannot be counted upon. And because of the location of the Forum on the western edge of the country, we can expect travel expenses to be higher than in past years. [Of course teacher attendance will be biased towards western provinces.]

The budget is extremely tentative. Many of the agencies to which we have applied for support (e.g. provincial ministries) have to be counted as uncertain. We are applying for a SSHRC conference grant but we have to regard that as extremely uncertain and we have not listed it. Should we get it, that will change the funding landscape.

Project start date: Jan 1 2009

Project finish date: July 1 2009