

Simon Lono

Greetings, we are pleased to invite you to the first annual Simon Lono Invitational Debate Tournament hosted by the Newfoundland and Labrador Speech and Debate Union (NLSDU) May 15-17, 2020.

Simon Lono is the founder of the Newfoundland and Labrador Speech and Debate Union. He was an avid supporter of community development and advocated for orphan disease patient care across Canada. At the age of 49, Simon received a diagnosis of Primary Myelofibrosis, a rare disease with no known cure. On May 24, 2019, Simon passed away, leaving behind not only his lifelong partner and family to mourn but also a large debate community that misses him dearly.

Simon consistently donated his time to developing debate and coaching students at any time of the day. Because of Simon's hard work and generosity, many disadvantaged students attended tournaments, including nationals, worlds, and many other events. Simon fought for the underprivileged in all facets of his life. His deep-rooted belief in the self-sufficiency of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians guided many of his principles in debate.

In the spirit of Simon's legacy of accessibility, **this tournament will be offered entirely free of charge.** To ensure that students can compete from coast to coast to coast remotely, the tournament will run on Central Standard Time.

Friday May 15: 5:00pm - 8:00pm CST
Saturday May 16: 11:00am - 4:00pm CST
Sunday May 17: 11:00am - 4:00pm CST

The tournament will take place using Google Meets, and students will need access to a computer, internet connection, microphone, and headphones if possible. Students will have access to a central "hub" document where they will find links to their debate rooms, a streamed general assembly, as well as motion release and other important announcements. For more information and FAQs about online debate, [click here](#)

The tournament will be CNDF format, with five rounds of debate plus a semifinals and finals round. Speaking times will be seven minutes, first and last minute protected time, with three minute fully protected reply speeches at the end. For an introduction to CNDF debate format, [click here](#)

Interschool hybrids are permitted for this tournament, but interprovincial hybrids are not. Students currently in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete. This tournament will be capped at a maximum of 80 teams, registration is not allocated by province.

As we want to see students from across the country, we would also like judges from across the country. Students are encouraged to ask their coaches to register with them to help fulfill this goal.

To register as a debater, [click here](#)

To register as a judge, [click here](#)

We are asking all spectators to register so that we can ensure only people with authorized access are admitted to the tournament. The semi finals and finals rounds will be livestreamed, so only spectators registering to watch debaters in round robin rounds need to fill out the form. Due to logistics constraints, we will not be able to provide tech assistance to spectators.

To register as a spectator, [click here](#)

Student registration is due by midnight CST on May 11th. Registration should be submitted using the google forms linked above.

For general questions or concerns please contact our Tournament Director, Luke Battcock, by email at Chair@NLSDU.org or info@NLSDU.org

For judging inquiries please contact our Chief Adjudicator, Emily Bonia, by email at PastChair@NLSDU.org

Visit our website: <https://www.nlsdu.org/>