

University of Manitoba

1. What is your vision for the conference?

The CUMC is an event with a unique capacity to bring together young mathematicians from across the country in an open, friendly, and educational environment. We aim to maintain the camaraderie and high standard of mathematical excellence that this conference promotes, while further developing its capacity for uniting people and creating a community of engaged and passionate students of mathematics. We envision a slate of inspiring keynote speakers covering a wider range of mathematical disciplines, a welcoming environment in which to present high-quality student talks to an engaged audience, a series of activities emphasizing the unique charm and spirit of Manitoba and the prairies, and exciting new events focusing on networking and future paths in mathematics.

2. Which aspects of the CUMC do you think work particularly well and would continue to be included in your iteration of the conference?

The soul of the CUMC is in its wide variety of insightful student talks, which we will continue to promote. We will look into offering longer time slots for talks and provide more opportunities for participants to workshop their abstracts with experienced mathematicians before presenting. We will also present a variety of keynote speakers with a diversity of backgrounds, subject areas, and languages. The “Women in Mathematics” event, which we found effective and engaging at the 2017 CUMC, is an event worth continuing through future conferences. We will bring in a dynamic group of speakers and panelists to engage with thought-provoking ideas about how mathematicians can promote equality and social justice.

3. Which aspects of the CUMC would you improve upon and how? Are there any new ideas that you would like to bring to the conference?

One aspect which could be improved is the socialization of conference attendees. While optional social activities have been very fun and successful, we would like to see more mixing of conference attendees across school and province lines, especially in the early days of the event. We aim to introduce fun and engaging icebreaker events at the opening banquet that connect students while also respecting their boundaries, such as a “bingo” game based around meeting participants from different institutions and disciplines. Additionally, we would like to see the introduction of productive conversations around futures in mathematics. We would introduce an event with this goal in mind. Students would have a chance to confer with each other about grad school and work opportunities while also interacting with representatives from academia, education, and industry.

4. What are your proposed dates for the conference and why?

Our proposed dates are July 18-22nd. These line up closely with last year’s dates, which marked a successful and very highly attended conference. Additionally, it is important to us to showcase the exciting events and activities taking place during Winnipeg’s summers. As such, we want to host the event during the Winnipeg Fringe Festival, a celebration of art and theatre with a nearly 30-year history that ranks as one of the two largest such events in

North America. During this time, downtown Winnipeg bustles with activity, and the historic Exchange District is filled with patrons, music, food trucks, and excitement!

5. What are the unique aspects of your proposed conference location (institution, city, etc), that would add to the conference experience and why?

It has been over 20 years since the CUMC was last held in Winnipeg back in 1995. Since that time, Winnipeg has flourished as one of the major cultural hubs of the prairie provinces, and has cemented a place for itself as a leader in academics, the arts, and human rights. Firstly and most notably, the opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) has put Winnipeg on the map as a world leader in promoting justice and equality. An optional social event travelling to the CMHR would be a thought provoking and engaging activity for attendees. Secondly, Winnipeg has an excellent artistic scene, notable since the Winnipeg Fringe Festival will occur concurrently with our proposed conference dates. Winnipeg also has a significant French-speaking population, mostly concentrated in the Francophone district St. Boniface located within walking distance of the downtown Exchange district, the Forks historic site, and CMHR. Finally, Winnipeg is a strong academic environment, home to three main institutions of higher learning – the University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg, and Université de St. Boniface - and with a fourth, Brandon University, only a few hours' drive away. We aim to collaborate closely with these other institutions, which will give us a large group of potential keynote speakers, attendees, and volunteers, including strong French-language speakers.

6. How will you do your best to ensure the conference attracts as many attendees as in the past or more?

The most important factor for strong recruitment is starting early. We will reach out to previous conference attendees, as well as professors and support staff at universities across Canada, well in advance of the conference to ensure that students know about the event with plenty of prior notice. This notice, coupled with our planned innovations for exciting new and improved conference activities, should prove an excellent tool for attracting participants. Additionally, as seen during CUMC 2017, the middle to end of July is a good time for event recruitment, neither too close to the middle nor the end of summer. Finally, we believe that Winnipeg is ideally suited to recruit large numbers of attendees. Since it lies in the very geographic centre of Canada, Winnipeg is easy to travel to no matter which part of the country you live in, from the west coast to the maritimes.