

Part II

0. **Institution Name:** Trent University

1. **What is your vision for the conference?**

Our vision for CUMC 2019 is to create an inclusive and supportive atmosphere for Canadian undergraduate students to share and pursue their love of Mathematics. We want to provide students with the opportunity to network with peers, professors, and industry connections from across the country. We hope that students will be able to create lifelong and meaningful connections with those in attendance, and that students will be inspired through the experiences they have at CUMC 2019 to continue their pursuits of Mathematics. This conference will be an excellent opportunity for students to not only share their own research and passions for Mathematics, but also to learn about some of the research opportunities that other Canadian students have had during their academic careers. We wish to provide ample resources for students who are beginning to think about graduate studies or careers in both academia and industry, as well as for undergraduate students who are seeking summer research opportunities. We want all students to feel supported and inspired on their academic journey, regardless of gender, race, or sexual orientation, and we feel that CUMC 2019 is a great way to achieve this. We plan to hold a Diversity in Mathematics discussion panel, to promote diversity and inclusivity in the Mathematical Sciences. Finally, we hope that by hosting CUMC 2019 at Trent University, students from smaller universities will be reminded that to be successful is not about the school that you attend, but about the passion that you have.

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

There are many aspects that make CUMC an invaluable experience, and we congratulate past organizing committees on such wonderful events. We hope to continue the tradition of successful conferences by combining many past ideas

along with new and exciting ideas.

One of the most important aspects of CUMC is helping foster meaningful friendships and connections, which we plan to do by having many social events, as is tradition. We plan on having “icebreakers” at the start of the conference to help attendees get to know one another (for example, “speed meeting” where students will be able to spend 1-2 minutes introducing themselves to others), as well as opening and closing banquets.

Additionally, we will provide conference packages which will contain the traditional name tags, notebooks, pens, stickers, buttons, and more. All events would be held in either the Trent Student Centre or Otonabee College, both of which are accessible and inclusive. Accommodations would be in Gzowski College, which is an accessible residence building. All students will be able to find their way around campus very easily, as we will provide announcements, signs, and programs in both official languages, and we will have volunteers wearing labelled t-shirts so that they are easily identifiable.

Furthermore, we would continue to have only three talks at a time, have talk “pre-requisites”, have a career/graduate studies fair, and having a poster session. We would also like to have a “Math skills” workshop, where the basics of LaTeX and R would be explained.

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?

There are many new ideas which we would like to bring to CUMC 2019 to enhance the conference and hopefully begin new traditions.

For social events, we would like to have a social night or “pub crawl” downtown. This will give attendees the chance to get to know each other in a more informal setting, and will also provide the opportunity to explore Peterborough’s vibrant downtown atmosphere. The Trent Society of Undergraduate Mathematics Students (SUMS) has many connections with local businesses and bars downtown, so we have some exciting locations in mind for this event. On the day of the “social night”, we would encourage attendees to eat dinner downtown together, and to check out the world-famous Peterborough

Music Fest, which is a free music concert headlined by internationally famous performers, which takes place in the beautiful Del Crary Park each Wednesday and Saturday in the summer.

We want to provide students with as many opportunities to enhance their CVs as possible. To do this, we plan on not only having student talks, but also having a poster session, as well as a “datathon” or “case study” competition. For the case study, students would be given a dataset ahead of time, and would have the opportunity to statistically analyze the dataset and present their findings on a poster, working in teams or individually. Case studies are a great way to support students interested in Statistics and Data Science, and also provide the chance for students to work together to solve a Mathematical problem.

We would like to improve the CUMC website for CUMC 2019. Many of our students are joint-majoring in Computing Systems and would love the opportunity to utilize their skills by making the CUMC website more interactive and informative. One improvement that we would make is to post the abstracts online ahead of time, along with information about each speaker.

Another idea we have is to host a graduate studies discussion panel. We would invite graduate students to attend the panel, and undergraduate students would be able to ask the graduate students about their experiences on their academic journeys. We feel that this is an invaluable resource for students who are deciding which school to attend for graduate studies, as well as which area of Mathematics to pursue.

In the conference packages, we would like to have items that Mathematics students would really appreciate, such as items with Math-related images or slogans, logic puzzles, or items that could be used in class. As our organizing committee has past experience with planning conferences and similar events, we are confident that we would be able to provide unique and exciting conference packages.

We would also like to encourage students to explore Trent’s beautiful campus. We would do this by providing time for students to swim or canoe in the Otonabee River, hike in the Lady Eaton College Drumlin, or just take in the views from the Faryon Bridge.

Additionally, we recognize that many students in attendance are beginning to think about graduate school or about applying for jobs. To help students in this process, we plan to have a portrait session, where students can have professional portraits taken of them that they can use on Linked-In, GitHub, or for other similar purposes.

Finally, we plan to add a new category of student talks, to allow younger undergraduate students or students who may not have had research opportunities to still be able to give a presentation if they would like to. In this new category of talks, students would be able to present a talk on any Mathematical topic that they wish. For example, a student could present a logic problem, some history of Mathematics, a funny Mathematics-related story, or whatever they please – as long as the topic is appropriate and related to Mathematics. We hope that this will allow for students to explore areas of Mathematics they may not otherwise have been exposed to, and that this will create a more laidback and comfortable atmosphere for students. We would have this category at the beginning of the conference, to help make students comfortable right off the bat.

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

Our proposed date for the conference is July 12th-16th, 2019. We propose these dates for CUMC 2019 because we have already confirmed availability of our campus' Gzowski College Residence during these days. Gzowski College is a modern student residence with wonderful amenities and has the feeling of a hotel rather than a student residence. Rooms in Gzowski College are single rooms, but washrooms are shared with next door neighbours. We feel that this setup will be a great way for attendees to maintain their privacy, while still being able to meet other students through the shared amenities. Although we feel that Gzowski College Residence is a great option for CUMC 2019 accommodations, we are also open to other options, such as other residence buildings on Trent's campus or hotels in downtown Peterborough.

Another reason why we have proposed these dates is because we wanted the conference to fall on a weekend, so that students who are working in the summer are able to attend the conference without missing too many days of

work. Since this date falls on a weekend, students would be able to attend the Peterborough Music Fest on the Saturday evening. Furthermore, these dates are far enough in the summer that students working on summer research projects will have some preliminary results that they could present at the conference if they wanted to. We have also double checked to ensure that these dates do not overlap with any similar conferences (the Statistical Society of Canada's Annual Meeting, the Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference which is expected to be held in August, and the PIMS Diversity in Mathematics Women's Undergraduate Summer School).

While the above dates are our proposed dates, we are open to other dates and would love to hear CMS Studc's input on this. We would be able to find alternative accommodations if Gzowski College is unavailable for other proposed dates.

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

We feel that Trent University will offer a truly unique conference experience. To begin with, Trent University is known for having one of the most beautiful campuses in Canada. The Otonabee River runs directly through our campus, splitting it into two sections with a bridge connecting the West Bank and the East Bank. At Trent, you can see the Otonabee from virtually every building, including the Trent Student Centre, which is where we would host the student talks and keynote speakers. Trent's campus is 1450 acres and offers over 30km of hiking trails, so students will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the Kawartha region while visiting Trent University. Our University is located approximately 15 minutes from downtown Peterborough, which offers live music, theatre, trendy cafes and pubs, and much more. The Peterborough area also has many activities for tourists, including the (free) Riverview Park and Zoo, the Canadian Canoe Museum, the Warsaw Caves and the (free) Peterborough Music Fest.

Trent University is centrally located in Canada, just 90 minutes from the GTA, and is easily accessible to students from all provinces, with bus routes from

many major cities travelling directly to Peterborough. CUMC has been hosted outside of Ontario for the past 4 years, so we hope that hosting CUMC 2019 in Ontario will allow for more students to attend the conference. One of our goals would be to have at least one student from each province in attendance!

Trent University is a smaller university, hosting just under 9000 students. We hope that by hosting CUMC 2019 at a smaller-sized university, students visiting from other smaller-sized universities will be reminded that the size of their school does not define their success - their passion does!

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

We would love to make this the biggest CUMC ever! We feel that there are a few ways that we can achieve this. Firstly, we would like to have an engaging and interactive website, as well as several social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter) dedicated to the event. We believe that by using these various media, we will be able to reach students from across Canada and encourage them to attend CUMC 2019!

Additionally, we plan on recruiting volunteers for our organizing committee from external universities, so that we can inform students at other universities about the event as much as possible. We already have a few students from other universities who have expressed interest in being a part of our organizing committee, so we feel that this will help ensure that we have adequate representation from universities across Canada.

We will be contacting departments at other universities directly, and we will do so early on in the year so that students have adequate time to make travel plans and prepare any presentation materials. Many of the students on our organizing committee have attended other Canada-wide conferences, so they will make sure to personally invite any students that they have met at these events, and will encourage them to pass the information on to others at their schools. We will also be inviting students studying related subject matters, such as physics, computer science, and engineering.

Another way that we plan on increasing attendance at CUMC 2019 is by

working extremely hard throughout the year to acquire as many sponsors as possible, so that we can help students attend CUMC 2019 through travel grants. This will make the conference much more accessible, especially for those who may live far away from Trent University. Members of our organizing committee have organized similar events before, so we plan to reach out to those who have sponsored previous events, as well as new sponsors. We hope that we will be able to assist many students in attending CUMC 2019, and we feel that this will help promote inclusivity and representation from across Canada at the conference.

Furthermore, we will ensure that we have at least one keynote speaker who speaks both official languages, who can provide slides in both English and French, and who can alternate between speaking the two languages during their presentation.

An additional way we can increase registration is by offering a reduced rate for early-bird registration, and by trying to negotiate student pricing/deals from travel companies to make it more affordable for students to attend the conference.

Lastly, we plan on asking students regularly for input on the planning of the conference, including activities, speakers, schedules, and food. We hope that by including students in this process, it will encourage them to attend CUMC 2019.