



DanceSport BC

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DSBC PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CANADA DANCESPORT 2026 AGM

The Board of Directors

DanceSport BC's Association Year ended on May 31st, 2025. The following board members were elected at the 2025 Annual General Meeting for the year 2025-2026:

President	Pinky Wong
Vice-President	Sy Jung
Secretary	Sarah Au-Yeung
Directors	Ram Randhawa, Andrew Miller, Elliot Chong, Cole Munro

Membership

Our membership year is on a calendar year basis. As of the year ended December 31, 2025, DSBC had 212 members with 88 Adult/Senior Open, 62 Adult/Senior Syllabus, 10 Juv/Jr Open, 46 Juv/Jr Syllabus competitors and 6 Associate members.

Sanctioned Competitions Update

April 26 & 27, 2025 - Canadian Closed Championships

The hosting of the Canadian Closed Championships (CCC) rotates through the CDS Regions each year. 2025 was DSBC's turn to host the CCC. It was decided that DanceSport BC will join force with the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society's Island Fantasy Ball Committee to host the 2025 CCC in Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, BC.

The 2025 CCC (67th annual) was held on April 26 and 27 at the Beban Park Social Centre in Nanaimo. I served as the Chair of the 2025 CCC. It was great to work with two teams of experienced volunteers from the IFB Committee in Nanaimo and the SnowBall Committee in Vancouver. However, there were some logistical challenges stemming from operating in two different cities (Nanaimo and Vancouver).

Many of our CCC supplies were stored at the DSBC locker in North Vancouver. Nelson had to make a special trip with his vehicle to Vancouver so he and I could load up the CCC banners (large & small), podium, flags, poles, flag stands, Provincial placards, T-bars, CCC medals and the CCC Trophies onto his vehicle for the trip back to Nanaimo.

Because the large CCC banner (20' x 4') was quite big, a special wooden structure had to be built and painted in order that it could be hung on the stage in Nanaimo. Our decorating committee setup the small banner (8' x 2') at the selfie station.

We recruited both the Air and Sea Cadets in Nanaimo to serve as our flag bearers for the parade each evening. A French translator, Sonnet L'Abbé, was also recruited to assist with MC'ing the event. Both Jim Fraser and Sonnet presented us with their own amazing rendition of "O Canada" each evening.

It was disappointing to see the super low turnout in Champ level competitors from the other three Regions. There were only 2 Quebec couples, 3.5 Ontario couples (one male dancer with two different female partners = 1.5 couples), 5 couples and 1 solo dancer from Alberta. Fortunately, BC had a large contingent of 30 couples and 2 solo dancers. Of all the CCCs I had been to in the past, I believe this was the worst ever athletes participation I have seen from other Regions.

We ran two full days of competitions with Pro-Am, Adult/Senior Syllabus to Pre-Champ and Juvenile/Junior solo and couple events held during the daytime and all CCC events during the two evenings.

A gourmet buffet dinner was served each evening. There was a large sold out dinner crowd on Saturday evening but with a smaller number on Sunday evening. Both evenings were well attended by dinner patrons and non-dinner spectators.

To satisfy the desire of our Nanaimo audience who are used to watching showcases during the Island Fantasy Ball, we hired a Polish amateur 10-Dance couple and a local professional Latin couple to perform showcases during both evenings.

A reception was organized for all Championship athletes following the end of the Sunday evening session. All our sponsors, committee members, CDS Regional Board representatives, adjudicators, officials, and our senior volunteers were invited to the reception. It was enjoyed by all.

Ultimately we made the right call to run CCC in Nanaimo as the Government Grants we received from each of Tourism Nanaimo and the City of Nanaimo helped bolster a successful outcome.

It was heartwarming and uplifting to hear the many compliments during and after the event. Despite the low Champ athletes turnout from the other Regions, I believe we still had a very successful 2025 CCC. Thank you to the IFB Committee and SnowBall Committee members, our sponsors and volunteers who made the 2025 CCC possible.

November 8 & 9, 2025 - SnowBall Classic

The 2025 SnowBall Classic was our 34th annual event featuring the Adult International Open Standard and Latin Championships. We returned to the South Hall Banquet & Wedding venue in Vancouver to host the SnowBall. There were two evening sessions (both Saturday and Sunday) and one daytime session on Sunday. The spectator turnout was a bit lower than the year before. We also had a smaller number of kids entries during the Sunday day session.

SnowBall 2025 attracted couples from Spain, Sweden, Portugal, Norway and Czech Republic and our own fellow Canadians. The International couples performed special showcases each evening which delighted the audience.

A heartfelt thank you to the 2025 organizing committee for their dedication and effort. Their hard work behind the scenes was the key to our event's success.

March 13 & 14, 2026 – UBC Gala Ball

The UBC Gala Ball is hosted by the UBC Dance Club and the committee was made up of students from the Club. This was their 61st year and they have once again returned to the UBC Student Nest. The event was held over the Friday evening and a full day on Saturday. It featured the DSBC Qualifier events for the 2026 CCC.

Unfortunately, the UBC Gala Ball dates coincided with the dates for Spring break which resulted in lower number of entries for kids. In addition to the Qualifier events, some Club Closed and fun competitions were also held on both days. The Chairs, Danica Parker and Cole Munro, did an excellent job with the organization of this year's event. Many thanks to Danica, Cole and their organizing committee.

Upcoming competitions

May 16 & 17, 2026 – Island Fantasy Ball - BC Closed Championships

The organization of the 32nd annual Island Fantasy Ball (IFB) is in full swing. After running a successful CCC in 2025 with two evening sessions, the IFB Committee is proposing to experiment with a new two evening sessions format with dinner options for IFB this year. This event features the BC Closed Championships.

November 7 & 8, 2026 - SnowBall Classic

The planning of the 35th Annual SnowBall Classic is well underway. After over a decade of serving as the SnowBall Chair, I am happy to finally pass the torch this year to two new volunteers, Cole Munro and Elliot Chong.

Unsanctioned competitions

June 22, 2025 Sunday Funday // February 7 & 8, 2026 – Vancouver Challenge Cup

Both are CDF events and were organized by Michel Guimond, Clara Shih-Marasigan and David Marasigan. Of interest is that they had hired Roxana Samoila (spouse of Petre Samoila - our only CDS adjudicator in Alberta) to adjudicate for them. This seemed like the practice of most husband and wife teams with one partner joining CDF and the other, CDS.

In addition, it appears that they had the largest team of adjudicators at this event. The list consisted of: Pierre, Mireille, Martin (Chair), Diana, Benoit, Barb, Jane, Roxana, Roland, Kyryl and Angel.

November 15, 2025 - Vancouver Open Dance Classic

The Vancouver Open Dance Classic (VODC) is a brand new CDF event organized by Vlada Karaulov and Laura Xie. This event featured the Western Canadian Open Championships and was held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel. The temporal proximity of this event to SnowBall did affect our entries. Prior to Vlada and Laura hosting this event, their students would attend and compete at our events. But it is now apparent and I have also heard it through the grapevine that Vlada and Laura no longer allow their students to compete at any of our sanctioned events.

Their list of judges were Pierre (Chair), Mireille, Meryem, Martin, Barb, Michel, Kyryl, Ekaterina, Colin James (UK), Kora Stoyanova (USA).

Alexey and Vlada Karaulov are active CDF professional Latin competitors. They often travel to train and compete in the UK. I believe that's why Colin was invited to judge at VODC.

They are proposing a 2026 VODC on November 14 and it will be held at the Fairmont Hotel. I suspect the reason they chose to run their event in November is a deliberate, competitive strategy to disrupt our SnowBall entries and ticket sales. Quite obvious they have the backing and support of the major CDF players.

Other DanceSport Activity

Robson Square Summertime Dances

The summer dances were held over ten (10) Fridays from June 27 till August 29, 2025. Attendance has grown significantly this year as compared to last year. Venue rental is still very high but fortunately we were able to obtain a grant which did help out with our finance. Congratulations to Andrew and his team of volunteers.

Relationship with the BC Professionals

We have a very friendly group of CDS Professionals in BC. They elected Nelson Wong to be their BC representative on the CDS Professional Committee.

Nelson and I have recently recruited a new judge, Victor Golubkov, to join CDS. Victor has judging credentials from Russia. He currently resides in Victoria, Vancouver Island, BC.

Overall, we have a good relationship with the CDS professionals in BC including many of the professionals who are affiliated with CDF.

Summary

DanceSport BC would not have accomplished so much without the dedication of our volunteers. These people are the backbones of our association and their unselfish donation of time made a positive difference in the promotion of DanceSport in BC. I wish to also thank my board for their support this past year.

Respectfully yours,



Pinky Wong
President, DanceSport BC
April 1, 2026