

Report from Canadian Association for Leisure Studies (CALs) board of directors, May 2024

Priorities for increasing member benefits



About CALS (why we exist, what we stand for and what we aspire to)

This is our fluid, emerging statement. It is an unfinished story:

The Canadian Association of Leisure Studies (CALs) is a community advancing and mobilizing leisure scholarship by engaging community members, scholars, activists, and other knowledge holders. CALs values diversity and is working to create more diverse representation across the organization through intentional, value-based collaboration and leadership. CALs works toward a culture of collegiality and support.

We envision that CALs will be a self-governing, sustainable, well-supported organization with cohesive, collective, and clear direction and strategic priorities. We are a growing, lively, and engaged community of scholars, practitioners, and knowledge holders that strives to meet a diverse range of needs in a variety of leisure contexts. The vibrancy of the CALs community is reflected in the association's journal, *Leisure/Loisir*, the tri-annual Canadian Congress of Leisure Research (CCLR) conference, and other activities.

We aim to unite all parts of Canada/Turtle Island in conversations about leisure that are politically active, anti-oppressive, culturally responsive, and grounded by the practices of former mentors and archived knowledge. Collectively, we cooperate to approach challenges with humility and openness.

CALS Board 2023-2026

Green light: implement as soon as possible

- Increase mentorship opportunities, online and in person
 - Mentorship pairing (between established and emerging scholars, students), consider EDI in the pairing system (choice of mentor) and the mentorship
 - Peer mentorship (graduate to graduate, graduate to undergraduate; provide an online space for student journal clubs, publication club)
- Build on CCLR
 - Create professional development opportunities for students
 - Highlight *Leisure/Loisir* publications that have a high number of downloads or views
 - Host pre-conferences
 - Emphasize connection and community
 - Create spaces for collaboration
 - Merchandise (theme oriented CCLR or feature artist, sold via website)
- Collaborate with other organizations
 - Hold quarterly collaborative virtual events with relevant leisure studies associations (e.g., webinars)
 - Discounted member fees for affiliated associations
 - Provide news, announcements and educational opportunities from leisure organizations worldwide
 - Joint conferences

Orange light: Infrastructure needed first, then implement

- Verify member emails
- Build a project plan for the website (for implementation in September)
- Website (focus on one-way communication to members)
 - Create a payment portal for annual membership fees
 - Create digital storage for CALS board members
 - Provide news, announcements and educational opportunities from leisure organizations worldwide
 - Political advocacy (make regular statements like similar academic associations are increasingly doing)
 - Share communications from LSA, ANZALS when relevant to members
 - More regular updates of CALS and BOD efforts via email and/or social media
 - Create public facing research/news
 - Highlight *Leisure/Loisir* publications that have a high number of downloads or views, share more info, abstracts and articles, archive open access, CCLR session sponsorship, post journal metrics
 - Interview established scholars and post on the web
 - Recognition, celebration, and archival of leisure scholarship awards, put awards forms on the web
 - Access events and benefits from other leisure organizations
 - Communication of special events, job postings (website and newsletter to inbox)
 - Bilingual, translation language (inclusive writing style), accessibility
- Video archives
 - Features

- Interview all award winners, post video or transcript on website
- Celebrate one another/share good news
- Provide a platform for KT for researchers to post videos, images, that are generated from research projects.
- Other media archives
 - Host hybrid gatherings beyond CCLR (professional, social, community driven)
 - Provide access to key articles from leisure journals for non-academic members to access, this could be accompanied by a profile of the researcher and a description of relevance of that article
- Discounts/swag
 - Perks (similar to work perks)
 - Discounts to book editors
 - Discounted fees for affiliated associations
 - Merchandise (Theme oriented CCLR or feature artist, sold via website)

Red light: For another time

- Awards
 - Create additional funding/award/grant opportunities for students like the Maureen Harrington Award at CCLR 17
 - Counter measures to austerity cutbacks (i.e., non-award-based bursary)
 - Legacy funds, annual awards (development, distribution, and adjudication)
- Leisure/Loisir
 - Hard copy subscription
 - Give members free subscription
 - Discount the journal
- Interactive live presentations
 - Host virtual writing retreats in non-CCLR years
 - Provide webinars once per term to bring members together virtually

- Host a workshop for students guiding them to find jobs and share their experiences
- Annual online webinars (research projects or professional development workshops, 3 or 4 events per year)
- Annual or semi-annual PD opportunities with an Anti-O focus
- KT presentations for researchers, live presentation or webinars that includes community partners
- Website: two-way communication
 - An interactive "board"/ blog space to display doctorate and post doctorate positions opportunities or call for papers
 - Space for collaboration through the website
 - Invite students to student-led activities/initiatives (SWG)
 - Connections through conference website for students
 - Ways to meet and collaborate with folx with like interests (via a membership contact list, or special interest groups)
 - Opportunities to activate/organize around important current events
#leisureispolitical
 - Hold quarterly collaborative virtual events with relevant leisure studies associations (e.g., webinars)
 - Provide online portal with virtual meeting space for members, on the website to connect with each other's academic sites and/or professional academic social feeds (e.g. instagram, x)
 - Provide opportunities for networking via communities of practice or other groups, to bring together academic and non-academic stakeholders (can a mechanism be created for leisure practitioners to reach out to academics?)