

2025 Canadian Open and Canadian Youth Chess Championships Proposal for Surrey, BC

As of 2025, it will be 26 years since the last Canadian Open Chess Championship was held in the Greater Vancouver Area, and 13 years since the championship was held in beautiful British Columbia. In more recent years, chess in Vancouver has grown substantially, with many new players, organizers, and tournaments entering the scene, and often seeing record numbers attending tournaments.

We (Vancity Chess & Juniors to Masters Chess Academy) are confident that our organizing committee has the skills and experience to host an extraordinary event. We would be honoured to invite chess players of all skill levels and backgrounds to Surrey, BC to compete, socialize, and enjoy the game of chess we all love so much.

CITY OF SURREY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 9, 2023

2025 Canadian Open and Canadian Youth Chess Championships
The Chess Federation of Canada
PO Box 85015, Brant Plaza
Burlington, ON
L7R 4K3

Re: 2025 Canadian Open and Canadian Youth Chess Championship – Bid Application



BRENDA LOCKE
MAYOR

MAYOR@SURREY.CA

604.591.4126

Dear CFC President Vlad Drkulec, Executive Director Robert Gillanders, CFC Executives, and CFC Voting Members:

On behalf of Surrey City Council, I am pleased to support Vancity Chess and Juniors to Masters Chess Academy's bid to host the 2025 Canadian Open and Canadian Youth Chess Championships here in Surrey. As British Columbia's fastest growing city, Surrey is the premier place for hosting sporting events and is the Tournament Capital of the Lower Mainland.

The City of Surrey adopted a Sport Tourism Strategy that advances the City as a leader in the sport tourism industry, maximizing both economic benefits and sport development opportunities. Hosting International Championships such as the Canadian Open and Canadian Youth Chess Championship is well aligned with the City's Sport Tourism Strategy.

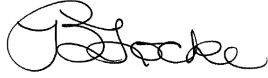
I am confident that Vancity Chess and Juniors to Masters Chess Academy team has the skills and ability to host this internationally renowned event. Further, as hosts for this bid, the City of Surrey will make available its considerable expertise and resources in the development of plans to host the games. The City will also ensure that the ancillary facilities will meet the highest standards required for the tournament.

The City of Surrey has the facilities, civic pride, and community spirit to ensure that Vancity Chess and Juniors to Masters Chess Academy Tournament is a resounding success. As British Columbia's second largest city, we welcome the opportunity to host this dynamic sport event and players from more than a dozen countries on five continents.



I would like to thank you for your consideration of this bid and look forward to learning of your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Locke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized capital 'B'.

Brenda Locke
Mayor





Introduction & Surrey Hotel and Motel Association Commitment

On behalf of the Hotels and Motels of Surrey B.C, I am pleased to submit this proposal to host the 2025 Canadian Open and Canadian Youth Chess Championships.

Nestled in the beautiful Fraser Valley, Surrey is the beating heart of Greater Vancouver. An exciting tapestry of diverse culinary and outdoor adventures, spread across 6 distinct neighborhoods each with their own unique stories to ignite your sense of excitement.

We are very proud of our long history of hosting successful events and tournaments that consistently surpass expectations and leave visitors wanting to come back for more. We would be honored to add the Canadian Open and Canadian Youth Chess Championship to the long list of remarkable events that have called Surrey their host and home.

Our team is committed to working with the Vancity Chess and Juniors to Masters Chess Academy to ensure that the event is as seamless as can be. Saurabh Gambhir, the new Surrey Hotels and Motels Association business development director, is available to answer any questions you may have and can be reached at Saurabh@surreyhotelsassociation.com or 604-861-9519.

Additionally, we will look to offer the following:

- Development of Welcome Kit
- Potential direct sponsorship through the recently launched Cultural Celebrations Program Sponsorship (up to \$10,000)

We look forward to the opportunity of showcasing all that Surrey has to offer should you select us as your host for the 2025 Canadian Open and Canadian Youth Chess Championship.

Sincerely,

John Kearns

John Kearns

Chair

Surrey Hotel and Motel Association

Organizing Committee

Tyler Sanderson

Co-Chair | BCCF Vice President | Vancity Chess CEO

Tyler has been heavily involved in organizing rated chess events in the Greater Vancouver area for the past two years through his non-profit organization Vancity Chess, and through the BCCF. He hopes to use his experience, skills, and ambition to make the 2025 Canadian Open and CYCC truly unforgettable events.

Victoria Doknjas, MBA

Co-Chair | Juniors to Masters Chess Academy Co-Founder

Victoria has over a decade of experience when it comes to organizing chess events, and has built deep connections with the Greater Vancouver chess community through the Juniors to Masters Chess Academy. Her immense expertise in not only chess, but also marketing, photography, and business, will be valuable to ensure we host world class championships.

Murray Chu

Treasurer | BCCF Treasurer | Vancity Chess Director

Murray has been a main event organizer in the Greater Vancouver area for the past two years through Vancity Chess and the BCCF. His experience as an organizer, as well as BCCF treasurer, will be essential to running successful and profitable tournaments.

Paul Leblanc

Advisor | BCCF President

Paul has been a staple chess organizer in the Victoria and Greater Vancouver chess community for decades. He has many years of experience including as the current BCCF President, former BCCF treasurer, and former CFC ratings auditor. Having him as an advisor will ensure we provide the best possible experience for all participants.

GM Gergely Szabo

**Team Canada Head Coach | Juniors to Masters Chess
Academy Co-Founder**

GM Gergely is a FIDE Trainer from Romania and has coached Canadian teams at the World stage. He will provide value by running and organizing side events such as Master lectures and game analysis.

Mats Philipzig

Vancity Chess Director

Mats has been a main event organizer in the Greater Vancouver area for the past two years through Vancity Chess. His experience and business knowledge will be very valuable to hosting great tournaments.

Venue

The 2025 CYCC and Canadian Open Chess Championship will be held at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel, located at 15269 104 Ave, Surrey, BC. Notably, the 2012 CYCC was held at this wonderful venue.

Event Details

The Canadian Open will take place in the Guildford Ballroom, which is 5329 square feet. We also have access to the Guildford Ballroom Lobby, which is 2000 square feet. We will be able to comfortably accommodate 300 Canadian Open players in the ballroom alone, and will be able to accommodate 100 extra players in the attached enclosed lobby space.

For the CYCC, we have also secured the Barnston A + B meeting rooms, which give us an additional 2100 square feet. Based on the record breaking numbers of the 2023 CYCC, we can expect over 500 juniors to participate in the 2025 CYCC. In total, we will comfortably be able to accommodate 500 players (more with a tighter floor plan).

Finally, we have secured the Green Timbers meeting room as an analysis and side event space. It is 900 square feet and will be able to accommodate any players wishing to analyze their games and participate in our various side events.



Getting There & Parking

The Sheraton Vancouver Guildford hotel is about 36 km away from the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) and about 40 km away from the Abbotsford International Airport (YXX). It will be about a 35-45 minute drive for any players arriving from out of town. Secured underground parking will be available for all players for \$7 a day.

Accommodations

Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel for \$189/night. Rooms are a mix of:

- Single king bed with a queen sized pull out bed
- Double queen beds

Additionally, there are several hotels that are a 5-10 minute walk away players can stay at if needed:

- Sandman Suites Surrey Guildford
- Four Points by Sheraton Surrey
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites Surrey

Nearby Things to Do & Eat

The Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel is one of the top Surrey hotels, and has the best of British Columbia at its doorstep. The hotel is only 30 minutes away from most of greater Vancouver's attractions, including:

- Stanley Park
- Grouse Mountain
- Beaches of White Rock



It's also adjacent to the Guildford Town Centre shopping mall, which recently underwent a \$280 million expansion and now boasts more than 200 stores and a 700-seat food court. Alongside the shopping mall, many other nearby restaurants are within walking distance.

Tournament Outlines

CYCC

Sections (by age)

- Under 18 Open
- Under 18 Girls
- Under 16 Open
- Under 16 Girls
- Under 14 Open
- Under 14 Girls
- Under 12 Open
- Under 12 Girls
- Under 10 Open
- Under 10 Girls
- Under 8 Open
- Under 8 Girls

Time Control

7 rounds of 90 mins + 30 sec/move increment, Swiss format

Entry Fees

- \$225 Super Early Bird before May 1
- \$275 Early Bird before June 1
- \$300 Regular

Prizes

- Trophy for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd of each section

The CYCC qualifies players to international corresponding events:

1) 2025 World Cadet Chess Championships / 2025 World Youth Chess Championships (tentative since FIDE hasn't announced these yet)

2) 2025 Pan-American Youth Chess Championships (tentative)

3) 2025 North American Youth Chess Championships (tentative)

The top 3 finishers in the CYCC in each category qualify to participate in the above 3 events.

Schedule

| Details | Date | Time |
|-------------------------------|---------|------|
| Welcome Ceremony | July 8 | 9am |
| Round 1 | July 8 | 10am |
| Round 2 | July 8 | 4pm |
| Round 3 | July 9 | 10am |
| Round 4 | July 9 | 4pm |
| Round 5 | July 10 | 10am |
| Round 6 | July 10 | 4pm |
| Round 7 | July 11 | 10am |
| Awards ceremony | July 11 | ASAP |
| CYCC Bughouse Championship | July 11 | 5pm |

Canadian Open

Sections

- Open
- U2000
- U1600

Time Control

9 rounds of 90 mins + 30 sec/move increment, Swiss format

Entry Fees

- \$225 Super Early Bird before May 1
- \$275 Early Bird before June 1
- \$325 Regular

Prizes

- \$25 000+ prize fund
- Trophies

Schedule

| Details | Date | Time |
|-------------------------------------|---------|------|
| Round 1 | July 12 | 12pm |
| Round 2 | July 12 | 6pm |
| Round 3 | July 13 | 12pm |
| Round 4 | July 13 | 6pm |
| Round 5 | July 14 | 6pm |
| Canadian Open Blitz Championship | July 15 | 12pm |
| Round 6 | July 15 | 6pm |
| Round 7 | July 16 | 6pm |
| Round 8 | July 17 | 6pm |
| Round 9 | July 18 | 6pm |
| Awards ceremony | July 18 | ASAP |

Side Events & Activities

Along with a special opening and closing ceremony for both events, we have several special side events & activities planned:

- Chess lectures
- Game analysis by chess masters
- Evening open blitz tournament after Round 5 of Canadian Open
- Bughouse tournament evening after CYCC

Budget

CYCC

The last few years, chess has seen substantial growth among juniors not just across BC, but all of Canada. BC chess tournaments in 2022 & 2023 have been getting record breaking numbers of players compared to before COVID-19.

For example, the 2019 BCYCC had 130 players while the 2023 BCYCC had 231 players. Also, the 2019 CYCC had 186 players while 2023 has a whopping 456 players registered (with potential for 500+ if registration stayed open).

| REVENUE | | 400 players | 450 players |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|------------------|
| Entry Fees | \$225 | \$90,000 | \$101,250 |
| Sponsorship (City of Surrey) | | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Additional Sponsorship | | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | | \$98,000 | \$109,250 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Playing Hall Rent | | \$17,010 | \$17,010 |
| Tables and Chairs (included) | | \$0 | \$0 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------|-----------|
| Equipment Rental (none needed) | | \$0 | \$0 |
| Awards | | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| Arbiters | | \$2,000 | \$2,500 |
| Volunteers | | \$3,000 | \$4,000 |
| Hospitality | | \$1,500 | \$2,000 |
| Advertising | | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| Insurance | | \$500 | \$500 |
| Rating fees - CFC | 0.5 | \$200 | \$225 |
| Rating fees - FIDE | 2.2 | \$880 | \$990 |
| Finance Costs | 3% | \$2,940 | \$3277 |
| Contribution to the CFC Youth Fund | 150 | \$60,000 | \$67,500 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | \$93,030 | \$103,002 |
| SURPLUS / DEFICIT | | \$4,970 | \$6,248 |

Canadian Open

| REVENUE | | 225 players | 250 players |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Entry Fees | \$225 | \$50,635 | \$56,250 |
| Sponsorship (City of Surrey) | | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Additional Sponsorship | | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | | \$58,635 | \$64,250 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Playing Hall Rent | | \$18,390 | \$18,390 |
| Tables and Chairs (included) | | \$0 | \$0 |
| Equipment Rental (none needed) | | \$0 | \$0 |
| Awards | | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| Marquee Players | | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Arbiters | | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| Volunteers | | \$1,500 | \$2,000 |
| Hospitality | | \$1,500 | \$1,500 |
| Advertising | | \$500 | \$500 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|----------|----------|
| Insurance | | \$500 | \$500 |
| Rating fees - CFC | 3 | \$675 | \$750 |
| Rating fees - FIDE | 2.2 | \$495 | \$550 |
| Finance Costs | 3% | \$1,688 | \$1,875 |
| Contingencies | | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | \$63,248 | \$64,065 |
| SURPLUS / DEFICIT | | -\$4,613 | \$185 |

Policies

Refunds

- A full refund will be given if requested before July 1
- After July 1, a 50% refund will be given
- No refunds after July 5

Byes

- Max of 2 byes in CYCC
- Max of 3 byes in Canadian Open
- No byes on final round of either tournament

Withdrawals

- Players must notify any organizer if they wish to withdraw from the tournament *before* the start of the next round
- Players who fail to notify an organizer will receive a loss in their next round, then will be withdrawn from the tournament

Forfeit Time

- If a player arrives at the chessboard 60 minutes or more after the round has begun, they forfeit their game automatically
- Unless players notify an organizer that they are still participating in future rounds, they will automatically be withdrawn from the tournament

Conclusion

Vancity Chess and Juniors to Masters Chess Academy are determined to organize a successful 2025 Canadian Open and 2025 CYCC in July 2025 in Surrey, British Columbia. We are confident that we have the experience and resources to hold an incredible tournament worthy of world attention.

Surrey is a very suitable location for both these events, and many players would be happy to travel there not just for chess, but to explore the Greater Vancouver area as a whole. We hope the CFC Voting Members agree with us and reward us by accepting our bid for the 2025 Canadian Open and CYCC.