What is CAMT?

H. J. Promhouse
President, CAMT

CAMT is an *association of associations*. Any individual who is a member of a provincial mathematics society is automatically a member of CAMT (Canadian Association of Mathematics Teachers), providing that the provincial society is itself a member of the national association.

HISTORY

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF - all provincial associations are members) at its General Meeting (GM) in 1966 passed the following resolution:

> Be it resolved that the Canadian Teachers' Federation sponsor a Canadian council of teachers of mathematics.

As a result of this motion, a CTF mathematics teachers conference was held in Ottawa March 16-18, 1967. At this conference, the following resolution was passed:

> Be it resolved that this mathematics teachers' conference establish a Canadian Association of Mathematics Teachers as provided by the Canadian Teachers' Federation GM resolution of 1966 and in accordance with the guidelines established by the CTF.

A planning committee of four was elected and given the following duties:

1. to prepare a constitution
2. to carry out all organization affairs
3. to arrange or approve a national conference in 1968
4. to issue at least one newsletter before June 30, 1968.

By December, 1967, the planning committee had achieved all its objectives: the proposed constitution was completed in June, 1967; the first newsletter was distributed in December, 1967, and a national conference was organized and held in Ottawa on December 8-9, 1967.

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the CAMT are:

1. to provide a means of communication among provincial mathematics teachers' organizations such as the Saskatchewan Mathematics Teachers' Society (SMTS) and the Mathematics Council, ATA.

2. to coordinate common activities

3. to provide effective liaison with the Canadian Mathematics Congress (CMC - this organization is concerned chiefly with international conferences on education)

4. to provide effective liaison and contact with international organizations.

To facilitate these functions, a national newsletter is issued, provincial journals are exchanged, correspondence is carried on with the councillors from each province, annual meetings and conventions are planned, and representatives from CTF, CMC and NCTM are invited to executive and annual meetings.

CAMT has developed a close relationship with several other organizations, such as CTF, NCTM and CMC. At present CTF provides CAMT with secretarial aid and makes provision for a member of its executive staff to be an ex-officio member of the CAMT executive. (Dr. George Richert is presently the ex-officio member.) CTF works through our executive to get mathematics teachers to represent Canada at international conferences. In August 1969, *two Canadian representatives attended the first International Congress on Mathematical Education* in Lyons, France. In 1972, a second international conference will be held in England.

NCTM is kind enough to pay the expenses of a representative (Dr. Joan Kirkpatrick) as a liaison officer at all CAMT general meetings and conferences.

The CMC has maintained a very close liaison with CAMT. Dr. Dulmage, chairman of the CMC educational committee has taken a continued interest in our association from its initial organization, to the present. He has been present at all CAMT meetings, including executive meetings, and has proven to be a tower of strength to the executive.

The CMC through Dr. Dulmage asked CAMT to nominate a member for each of the three committees set up by CMC. The names of the committees and CAMT's representatives on them are:

National Mathematics Contest Committee
Summer Institutes for Teachers Committee ⟩ - Rev. J. Egsgard, Toronto
Pre-Calculus Mathematics Committee   - Doug Polvin,   Montreal

It is also CAMT's purpose to provide a means of communication among mathematics teachers' organizations in the provinces and to coordinate any common activities. Heretofore, most communication has been north-south through the NCTM. Now, a means of east-west communication exists through our newsletter which goes out to every member of a provincial mathematics organization. Our first conference, held at the time of our founding meeting in December, 1967, brought together for the first time representatives from the provincial Departments of Education and from provincial teacher organizations. The New Mathematics Curricula for the provinces were described and common problems were discussed. Our second conference was held in Toronto April 17-18, 1970 and representatives of the provinces described their use of Educational Television (ETV) in the mathematics classroom. This conference gave those committed to the use of ETV the opportunity to learn of new developments. Those undecided about ETV were able to gain knowledge which will be useful in making decisions about the future use of ETV as a method of instruction. The conference, attended by 150 mathematics educators from across Canada, was a decided success.

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CAMT's only financial support now comes from its individual provincial mathematics organizations. We are presently exploring the possibilities of other means of obtaining financial assistance.

CAMT, though still in its infancy, has proved itself a necessary and worthwhile national organization. The support of the provincial organizations is required for it to continue to grow and provide much greater service and leadership in the field of mathematics to all Canadian teachers of mathematics.

From the Editor's Desk

* Here is one answer to the oft-heard question, *"What is Math Council doing?"*:

> At the regular meeting of the MCATA Executive on February 27, 1971, a decision was made to submit the following recommendations to the Executive Council of the ATA:

> (a) That the High School and University Matriculation Examinations Board be requested to provide for Mathematics 31 an "open book" examination of the kind provided for the 30 level science examinations.

> (b) That the committee on Articulation of High School and University Programs be requested to seek acceptance by the University of Calgary of Mathematics 33 in lieu of Math 30 as an entrance requirement to the Faculty of Arts and Science for students entering a non-mathematics science area of study.

> Each recommendation was accompanied by a supporting statement which elaborated on the recommendation, and the reasons for which that recommendation was being made.

* Thanks to L. R. Adler of Fort MacLeod and G. Hanson of Edmonton for their letters. Mr. Hanson answered the questions raised in the last issue of *Delta-K* about the "numbers" i^i and i^{-i}: both are real, and $i^{-i} > i^i$. (The Editor will mail a copy of Mr. Hanson's proofs to any reader requesting them.)

* If you have not already done so, you should request a copy of *An Active Learning Unit on Real Numbers* by Dale N. Fisher: FREE to members, $1 to non-members. Write to

> T. F. Reiger
> The Alberta Teachers' Association
> 11010 - 142 Street
> Edmonton 50.