

Francis Blondin's bio
November 18, 2018

Dear IAM members and organizers,

My name is Francis Blondin and I am a 36-years-old French-Canadian living in Montreal. I earn a living working as a substitute teacher and, sometimes, giving conferences and workshops about the art of memory and about all kinds of learning related subjects. At the bottom of this letter you'll find links to some of the free instructional resources I've been working on. If at some point in the future IAM wants to make a new website to help beginners, I would be happy to contribute to this project.

When it comes to memory competitions, I've been involved with the independent Canadian Memory Championship (CMC) from 2015 until mid-2018, taking part in 3 national championships (and winning two) and 3 provincial championships and helping organize 5 of those 6 competitions. I took part in the first two seasons of the Online Memory League Championships and I'm hoping that the 3-digit and 2-card systems I'm working on will be ready in time for season 5. And last year I travelled to Alberta to take part in the first ever IAM Open Canadian Memory Championship organized by teacher and author Darren Michalczuk.

More recently me and my friends Braden Adams, Valérie Grenon and Jean Béland started a new organization called the Canadian Mind Sports Association (CMSA). The CMSA is an independent but IAM-friendly non-profit organization dedicated to helping as many people as possible discover the joy of the art of memory, of mental math and of speed cubing. Last September we organized three different competitions around those three disciplines simultaneously in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. We're planning to continue growing this project for years to come. I'm currently busy organizing a Quebec Memory Championship in collaboration with Quebec City's Université Laval. The event is planned for February 9. I don't think there's any possible conflict of interest between IAM and the CMSA and I don't think there ever will be. However if I'm wrong about this, I won't mind letting others take the lead on any possibly contentious matter.

Sincerely,
Francis Blondin

- My free mostly French-language instructional website is www.artdelamemoire.org
- The CMSA website is www.canadianmindsports.com
- The Facebook group "Apprendre à apprendre - Memory training and other fun and useful subjects" can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/247796952253411/>
- My personal Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/francis.blondin.7>
- My personal email is blondinos@hotmail.com



P.-S. You may have been forced to memorize my face under different names while practicing with Memory League. Sorry about that :)