

## Report from Region 1 – Victoria & District Caller Teachers Association

Welcome all BC Square & Round Dance Federation Delegates to our lovely area for the Board of Directors meeting. We are very pleased, along with the Dancer's Association, to be hosting the meeting this year.

This past year our Association has been working on establishing a closer working relationship with the Dancer's Association by holding regular meetings of the Joint Executive to address issues that of interest and / or concern to both Associations. These include the ongoing issues of new dancer recruitment and retention, as well as a perceived lowering of the standard of mainstream dancing.

In our attempts to recruit and retain new dancers, we need to be very careful that we don't alienate our more experienced dancers by diluting the dance levels to the point where they aren't being challenged. We also need to be aware that we are not doing our new dancers a disservice by allowing them to believe that they are capable of dancing everywhere if they are not. If we lead them to think that they would be comfortable dancing a full Mainstream program when in fact they are dancing at more of a Basic level, then they will be completely blindsided if they choose to attend a Festival or National, or even just a Mainstream dance in another area.

I know that the issues of recruitment and retention will be discussed at a special afternoon session at the Board of Directors meeting, but I believe that we need to be very careful if we are looking at using a diluted Mainstream program that will not allow our new dancers to be comfortable dancing outside our region.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Zeeman  
President, Victoria & District Caller Teachers Association