



The Grand Ballroom Company Ltd.

12200 Riverside Way
Richmond, B.C. Canada
V6W 1K5

To: Mr. Glen Brennan, BC Representative - Canadian Dance & Dance Sport Council (CDDSC)
Mr. Alain Millette, President - CDDSC
CC: Ann Harding-Trafford, Roger Picard, Steve Nikleva, Lawrence Ardern, Tanya Cardinal, Henrio Labrie,
Jane Edgett
From: Andy Wong, Director – The Grand Ballroom, Richmond, B.C.
Date: April 7, 2003
Re: CDDSC Policy Announcement dated March 31, 2006

Effective September 1, 2006 CDDSC Rules and Regulations state:

“Adjudicators, scrutineers and professional competitors who choose to register with the CDDSC Professional Registry are not permitted to officiate or compete at any Championship or competition that is not sanctioned or recognized by CDDSC.”

Dear Glen and Alain:

I wish to express my sincere thoughts on the new CDDSC policy announced to the members in attendance at the Sunday meeting at the Nikleva residence in Richmond, BC. As I stated at the meeting, the matter of CDDSC registration of amateurs and sanctioning of amateur competitions was first implemented three years ago. I wrote a three-page letter on April 3, 2003 addressed to the then Chairman of CDTA-BC Branch, Mr. Michel Guimond stating my opposition to this policy and listing my reasons in detail. I even read the letter in its entirety out loud during one of the CDTA meetings. Due to the time limitation of Sunday's meeting and as a courtesy to you and to the members in attendance, I did not elaborate extensively on the contents of my letter. However, given the widespread implications of the above policy, I feel it is absolutely necessary to tell you how I feel.

I am vehemently opposed to the policy as stated above and I shall list the reasons clearly to you.

1. ***CDDSC is unilaterally forcing organizers to run competitions under CDDSC rules.*** In the policy announcement, it states “CDDSC has no objection to CADA members dancing in CDDSC events as long as they are also registered with CDDSC. We believe freedom of choice is a right.” But where is my right as an event organizer to choose which organization, CADA or CDDSC, to sanction my competition? Where is my right to choose the best qualified judges in Canada to officiate at my event? Where is my right to do what I feel is best for the amateurs and for my profession? Where is my right as a Canadian adjudicator to judge at any event held in my own country? Where is my right to compete anywhere with my students in Pro-Am competitions? Where is my right of protest on a policy that affects the reputation and livelihood of every organizer and professional in Canada? All of this has been taken away from me by this policy.
2. ***CDDSC by way of this policy will severely limit my freedom to earn income as a dance professional.*** If this policy is enforced ...
 - I cannot compete as a Professional with my Pro-Am students in any event not sanctioned by CDDSC, not even in my own events, The Grand Ball and The Pro-Am Fiesta. On average I dance over 300 dances each year in Pro-Am comps. This means a direct income loss of \$15,000 in dance fees and an indirect income loss of another \$50,000 from lessons with students. I cannot replace such income by going to out-of-town comps with my students because of the enormous obligations at my studio.
 - I will not be able to judge at any competition in Canada sanctioned by CADA, not even the Canadian Closed Amateur Championships of which I have adjudicated three times.
 - All Canadian professionals who would otherwise danced in my Pro-Am competitions will be barred from dancing in them in the future, including even our own teachers in my studios. This means a

PHONE (604) 273-3130 FAX (604) 273-3733

E-mail: andy@grandballroom.com

website: www.grandballroom.com

potential loss of \$30,000 in entry fees. And I can't even begin to guess the income loss from each teacher at our studio. I will have to hire all international judges for my competitions which are sanctioned by Dancesport BC. This means a dramatic increase in judging panel expenses.

- Essentially, CDDSC has placed a gun to my head and threatened my livelihood if I don't comply. What is going to be next, cancel my CDTA medal test program? Take away my professional qualifications? So why don't I buckle under and change to CDDSC sanction and save myself all this trouble? I implore you to read on.
- By implementing a policy which forces professionals to dance at only CDDSC sanctioned comps, CDDSC has now illegally monopolized the Pro and Pro-Am market. I think Mr. Jim Fraser would have a field day with this. Did anyone on the CDDSC board of directors thought about this? Of course not, who cares about little Andy Wong and The Grand Ballroom in the far corner of Canada!

2. ***CDDSC has an ongoing feud with CADA regarding matters pertaining to dancesport and therefore we should flex our muscles and control amateur competitions.*** First, if anyone thinks that such a retaliatory policy will help CDDSC gain control of amateur dancesport they better think again. What do you think CADA is going to do, bow down to CDDSC and stop running or sanctioning competitions? Of course not. So what will happen in Canada now is we will have two sanctioning bodies, two rating systems, two separate national championships, two of everything. Does anyone out there, amateur or professional, think that this is in the best interest of amateurs, of our profession, and of dancesport? Believe me this has been tried before in B.C. in the 1970s and 80s and it just suffocated dancing.

Did someone stood up at your CDDSC meeting and said, "Hey, before the amateurs take over the pros and everything else, why not take over the amateurs first." Ladies and gentlemen of CADA and CDDSC, is this the way to solve our problems? And please do not tell me that this is the only way because we have tried to compromise and the other side is unwilling to give in. There is always a solution if you take away all the egos and attitudes in your conference room.

Second, I have no feud with Dancesport BC. In fact, I have always had an excellent working relationship with them. It is a relationship based on mutual respect and a common goal to always do what is best for amateurs and for our dance community. I do not agree with everything that Dancesport BC has done in the past and I have been very vocal about it on many occasions. However, I must state that they do an excellent job in the sanctioning of competitions and in the administration of the rules of competitions. I've rarely had a problem in my twelve years of running competitions. Now should I just throw away my 12 years of goodwill with Dancesport BC and tell them their system is not good enough for me any more just because somebody in the upper hierarchy of CDDSC feels threatened? Is widening the void between amateurs and professionals the way to solve our mutual problems?

4. ***There are many competitions in Eastern Canada that run under CDDSC rules and therefore it should work here in BC as well.*** Perhaps that is true. For the past ten years, I was the only professional who run a competition here in BC. I asked CDTA 3 years ago what support system do we have here in BC for event organizers to administer the CDDSC rules of competitions. I never received a satisfactory reply. ***Who will be responsible for all the pre-comp and post-comp work that will be necessary for each competition if an event is run under CDDSC rules?*** I have first hand knowledge that for an event such as our Grand Ball, the ratings secretary for DSBC has to spend hours each day for 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after the comp looking after the amateur entries and competition results and the necessary follow up. Who in CDDSC-BC is going to do that voluntarily? Who will design the computer program necessary to maintain the amateur ranking system? How will we transfer the existing DSBC rankings for each competitor to the new CDDSC ranking system (if there is one)? I raised these questions at past CDTA meetings and nobody has even comes close to giving me an answer.

Glen, you have stated (and I believe your sincerity) that you will do everything in your power to ensure that my event will run smoothly under CDDSC rules. You also mention the plan for CDDSC to hold a number of competitions for amateurs to provide incentive for them to register with CDDSC. But Glen, we as a professional body in BC have tried and failed to run the Bal de Prestige two years in a row. At this point in time, I am not confident at all that CDDSC-BC can sanction my events and back me up in the process. So why should I switch to an untried and untested system when everything has been fine for me for the last 12 years?

If things are going well for CDDSC in eastern Canada and they run many successful events, then I congratulate them. I hope things are going well between the amateurs and pros there. Things are just fine between the amateurs and myself here in BC and I run a successful event as well. So please stop using me as a pawn in your power struggle with CADA to control dancesport.

5. ***CDDSC wishes to convince members that the new policy is good for professionals because it protects us from the intrusions of IDSF into our profession. It also wants to convince members that we should support it because we should be willing to do something for the greater good.*** I am sorry, but that is just a very good selling and scare tactic of which I am in total disagreement. Are we hurting CADA and IDSF by this policy? No, we are hurting our own professional organizers, our own judges, our own reputation, and our own students ***who are our customers!*** Glen, your own 'show of hands' survey at the end of the Sunday meeting is a case in point. Of the 12 or 15 members in attendance, how many of them operated a studio, organized a competition, competed in a Pro or Pro-Am competition, or judged an amateur competition in the past 12 months? Very few because majority of them are new pros **or** simply not active in dancesport. This means this policy doesn't affect them. So if you ask if they would support a policy that protects them from outside threat to our profession, of course they would say yes! Why would they say no? Would they still say yes if it affects them the way it affects me?

6. ***CDDSC will only grant the 2006 Canadian Closed Professional Championships to Andy Wong if The Grand Ball will be sanctioned by CDDSC and not by Dancesport BC.*** It is my full intention to apply to Dancesport BC for the sanctioning of Grand Ball 2006 because I am philosophically opposed to the reasons, rules, and ramifications of the new CDDSC policy. If the above remains as a condition for the granting of the Canadian Closed Professional Championships, then I shall respectfully withdraw my application. Ladies and Gentlemen, I only wanted to hold the Canadian Pro because I wanted to support CDTA and the professional competitors. CDTA-BC had to cancel out on its obligation in February and I offered to save the Championship for BC. I do not need this event to have a successful Grand Ball. It is now apparent to me that my support is no longer welcomed due to my refusal to distant myself from Dancesport BC. It saddens me greatly. It also saddens me to hear from some of my fellow professional colleagues that if "Andy is not with us, then he is against us". My contributions to CDTA and to CADA in the last 12 years speak for itself. I certainly do not need to defend myself on that point.

7. ***I have always believe that the only way to solve our problems is for both amateur and professionals to recognize that first and foremost we need each other.*** If one organization thinks that it can ignore, control, or intimidate the other, then the members of that organization will be the ones who suffer from such narrow minded thinking. Ever since turning professional 13 years ago, I have continuously supported both DSBC and CDTA. My support is not a blank cheque meaning that I do have disagreements with both organizations and I am not shy about vocalizing my objections. However, I've never felt that my professional career has been threatened by the actions of Dancesport BC. Strong disagreements, yes. But threatened, no. We have a strong mutual respect for each other and have always solved our differences.

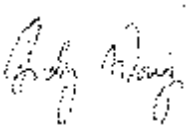
So why can the directors of CADA and CDDSC do the same?

I will not support anything that is a discredit to my profession, harmful to my career and to my colleagues and to my students, and detriment to the art of ballroom dancing.

This policy is such a case.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,



Andy Wong
Director
The Grand Ballroom