

To: The Whedon Studies Association

From: Kristopher Woofter and Potential Local Arrangements Co-Chairs

Date: 3 November, 2018

Re: Conference Proposal for SCW9 in July at Dawson College in Montréal, QC

Dear President Lorna Jowett, Members of the WSA Executive, and Board Members:

It is our pleasure to propose Dawson College in Montréal as the hosting site for the 9th *Slayage* Conference on the Whedonverses (SCW9) in 2020. Please find below a list of key details necessary for your consideration, based upon the recent “checklist for hosting the *Slayage* conference” circulated by the WSA.

This proposal comes with a parallel [website](#), that is designed as 1) a “Pitch” for hosting SCW9 at Dawson in Montréal, and 2) a potential resource website for conferees should Dawson be selected. The website covers much of the information that any conferee would need to make the decision, and thus can be shared with the association members for their consideration of the site.

The website is referenced throughout the proposal checklist below. The only information not covered by the website are the specific costs necessary for the WSA to make its site decision. These are all covered in the checklist below.

Please note that all estimated costs below are in Canadian dollars (CD\$)—usually a good thing for travellers coming from the US and Europe. The current rate at the time of writing is CD\$1 = .76 cents US, .67€, and .60£. Provincial sales tax in Québec is 9.975%, and federal sales tax is 5%.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the best,

Kristopher Woofter and the SCW9 Team of Potentials

Attachments:

“Invitation to Host” Letter from Dawson College

The WSA Checklist for Hosting the *Slayage* Conference ... in Montréal !

- 1. The name of the host institution, if applicable, and clear indication if this is planned as a campus-based conference or a hotel-based (or other venue) conference.**

Dawson College will host the conference. [Click [here](#) for more information on Dawson.]

- 2. The name(s) of the WSA members who would serve as local arrangements chair(s) for the conference. (Note that the WSA recommends but does not require two or more local arrangements chairs.) If this is an academic institution, are there any other collaborative partners for the conference?**

Kristopher Woofter will act as local arrangements chair, with a confirmed support team including Casey McCormack (a WSA member) and Steven Greenwood (McGill University), Cory Legassic (a WSA member) (Dawson College), and with collaboration from Alanna Thain (McGill University). [Click [here](#) for bios.]

- 3. Provide details about the host institution and its willingness to support the conference by offering rooms and facilities. Is there a cost attached to the use of these rooms and facilities? If so, estimates should be provided.**

Dawson College will host the conference at no cost for rooms and facilities, aside from any food/catering services provided by the college. On the weekend days, the cost of a technical support person and a small security presence is typically required at the rates listed below; however, Dawson's Donna Varrica has intimated to me that she thinks Dawson's communications department might be able to cover these fees. I list them here in the event that the WSA has to pay all or part of them. On the chart below, "regular hours" refer to daytime-weekday, and "overtime hours" refer to evenings and weekends. Only one technician and one security person would be required on site.

STAFFING	REGULAR HOURS	OVERTIME HOURS
TECHNICIAN	\$40/HOUR	\$60/HOUR
SECURITY	\$35/HOUR	\$35/HOUR

4. Provide details of the audio-visual and computing facilities and support available during the conference.

Presentation rooms are all equipped for visual and/or audio presentations. Computers are PC-based, but dongles (adapters) for Macs are available. We would likely be hosted in a group of Dawson's newest classrooms, with state-of-the-art technology.

5. Provide details about the choice and range of restaurants and cafés (including for vegetarians, vegans, and those with gluten allergies) within walking distance (10-15 minutes at a slow pace) of the campus or location of the conference.

Many, many restaurants (vegan and gluten-free options included) are in walking distance of Dawson's downtown campus. There is also a large IGA supermarket directly across the street in the Alexis-Nihon shopping mall, which itself includes a large food court with many varieties of cuisine. Dawson also has its own Métro [subway] entrance, so the rest of downtown is easily accessible within fifteen minutes as well. [Click [here](#) for more.]

6. Provide details for on-site catering available, particularly during the summer months if hosting on a college/university campus

Dawson's catering service operates year-round. Estimated costs for typical events follow:

- a) Thursday evening (6-8pm) cocktail reception with light snacks (nuts, etc.) for approx.. 100 individuals in attendance: {3.50\$-4.50\$ per head }*
- b) Friday (or Saturday) evening, 8pm, Banquet full dinner with appetizer, main course and dessert for around 120 persons (per-person cost) (food only): {19.50\$ per head ~}*
- c) Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning coffee/tea, muffins for approx. 100 people: {Coffee 1.40\$, tea 1.50\$ per head, muffins 7.45\$ per 2 persons }*
- d) Friday and Saturday afternoon refreshments (coffee/tea, cookies for approx. 100 people: {Coffee 1.40\$ tea 1.50\$ per head Cookies 2.50\$ per head }*

NOTE: The prices listed above do not include alcohol, which would be purchased separately. The prices listed above also do not include combined taxes (14.975% total for Canada/QC) and are subject to change by 2020. The cost to have service staff on hand is an additional charge of roughly 20-22\$/hr, again subject to change by 2020.

7. Details of conference facilities, including rooms available for standard panels, keynotes, reception, and banquet. By what month can the host venue give room reservations for rooms for panels?

Room reservations can be made well in advance, and will be secured immediately should the WSA select Dawson as the preferred site. Dawson has rooms that can hold up to 300 for keynotes and/or receptions. Classrooms typically accommodate 30 comfortably, with a capacity of 40. All rooms would be concentrated in one area of the college, with the hope of using primarily a bank of brand-new, state-of-the-art classrooms. [Click [here](#) for more.]

*A note on **accessibility and inclusivity** for all: With the full support of Dawson College and its resources, the SCW9 team is particularly committed to an atmosphere of inclusivity based upon race, gender, sexuality, and accessibility. In keeping with the WSA's suggested **Guidelines for Inclusivity**, we pledge to provide:*

- a quiet room for rest and reflection;
- childcare support for conferees during presentations;
- and a conference ombudsperson to handle requests and concerns.

Preferred gender pronouns for all conferees would be solicited at the time of registration, and name tags would be designed to indicate these preferences.

8. Travel arrangements to and from host city, in terms of airports (number and location of airports as well as distance from host venue), and between conference venue and airport (i.e., car rental facilities, taxis [include estimated cost], shuttle services [include estimated cost], public transport [include cost]).

Typical round-trip costs for the US flights are between CD\$350 and CD\$550, depending on season/deals; typical round-trip costs to Europe are between CD\$750 and CD\$950, again depending on season/deals. There are many options for travellers to get from the airport to downtown, including taxi or Lyft (like Uber) (approx. \$45), and an affordable airport shuttle bus (only \$11) that takes travellers directly to two different Métro stations. Depending on rush-hour traffic, the trip from airport to downtown is between 25 and 45 minutes. Montreal's taxis have a flat rate of \$40 to downtown. [Click [here](#) for more.]

NOTE: Should we be selected as host site for SCW9, I would propose including the cost of a 10-trip Métro pass (\$28.50) for all conferees in the conference fees. This would ensure that conferees could get around the city easily for any events (such as the banquet) that might be hosted off-site of the Dawson campus.

9. Lodging available (on-site as well as off-site [include estimated cost]).

There are many hotels within walking distance and by Métro to Dawson. For those who prefer dormitory options, Kristopher will make a reservation with the recently opened [Grey Nuns Residence](#), Concordia University's dormitory facilities. Dormitory rates vary depending on size of group and length of stay, but typical summer rates for a single room are \$49 per weekday night, \$54 for Fri/Sat nights. There are also “duo twin” (two twin beds) rooms at \$79/\$84 per night, “duo double” (double bed) rooms at \$69/\$74 per night, and other room arrangements. Click [here](#) for more info on the Grey Nuns Residence dorms. The Grey Nuns Residence is located just one Métro stop from Dawson, or about a 10-minute walk.

10. Wireless connectivity available at venue.

Dawson's wireless is easily accessible to guests.

11. Do you have a commitment from the host institution to support the conference? Written confirmation of this support, in the form of a letter, in the case of an academic institution, showing support for the event and a commitment to support the local arrangements chair(s), would be recommended.

See the attached invitation to host (below) from Dawson College's director of communications, Donna Varrica. Donna represents the office of the Director General of Dawson.

12. Provide general details about the location of the host venue—e.g., tourist attractions, features of local interest or Whedon/Cult TV-related interest.

The [SCW9 in Montréal – 2020](#) website has all sorts of information for tourists, and an option to send [queries to Kristopher](#) for further information. The Home Page also includes a “pitch” for WSA members. Again, in the event that Dawson is selected as the host for SCW9, this website would be repurposed to serve as the resource site for conferees.

Additional questions that might be useful to know at this stage, if the host venue is an academic institution:

1. Does the host institution have a bookshop or facilities to sell books?

Dawson's bookstore would be closed during the likely month of hosting: July. (It's also not conveniently located, or very aesthetically pleasing.) A book table could be arranged on-site in the conference common area for sales. Additionally, WSA and other Whedon-related

books could be ordered and sold at nearby [Argo Bookshop](#), a locally owned and operated independent bookstore just ten minutes' walk away from Dawson. The store caters to college and university sales.

2. Does the host institution have facilities for the banquet or would that event need to take place in another venue?

Dawson does have facilities for hosting the banquet, and a room (with a grand piano) large enough to seat around 250 for dinner. This space could serve very well as the meeting space for the opening reception / cocktail party as well. The local arrangements chair would prefer to have the banquet at a restaurant, but Dawson could easily host in the case that the preferred option not be available.

3. Does the host institution have a press and marketing department which could help promote the conference?

Yes.

4. Would students at the host institution be willing and able to provide volunteer support for the conference?

This kind of support is likely, either from Dawson students, McGill students, Concordia students, or from students of co-sponsor, [Montréal Monstrum Society](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact Kristopher at hauntologist@gmail.com with questions or concerns, or for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristopher Woofter for the Montréal Team

<http://www.scw9.ca/>



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July 10, 2018

ATT: Whedon Studies Association
Subject: Conference Hosting in July of 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Dawson College would be very pleased to host the 2020 edition of the Whedon Studies Association Conference in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in July 2020.

The date of the conference can vary between the week comprising Thursday, 9 July through Sunday, 12 July; alternately, the week prior or after would also work fairly well.

The individuals locally who have stepped forward to organize the event are scholars of the genre in their own right. The College is located on a sprawling 12-acre campus, an oasis in the downtown core of Montreal, an urban centre with all the amenities and facilities necessary for hosting an event of this amplitude, including hotels, entertainment, restaurants, public transportation, shopping and parking.

The invitation to host forfeits any rental fees on our part, and any costs incurred are incidental and minimal. Overall, we believe Dawson College and Montreal are ideal locations to host the 2020 Whedon Studies Association Conference.

Trusting that we will have the opportunity to work together, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Varrica". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Varrica
Director, Communications
Office of the Director General
Dawson College

About Dawson College: Founded in 1968, it was the first English-language CEGEP in the newly created post-secondary level of education in Quebec. It is today the largest college in the network with some 8,000 full-time students and 2,500 part-time students enrolled in more than 25 programs of study, and more than 1,000 employees, representing every ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic background. This diversity reflects the multicultural character of Montreal itself and greatly enriches the lives and educational experience of all the members of the College community.