Observership Roadmap

Overview

Over the next two years, you will become fully immersed in CASA. From attending conferences, to formal training opportunities, to lobby meetings with Members of Parliament, and more. This guide is your roadmap illustrating your two years as an Observer. Note: While the following example starts the Observer process in advance of the Foundations conference in May, you can become an Observer at any time throughout the year.

Date Of Approval

The date of approval is when the Board of Directors approves your application to become an Observer. This is an important date as this is when your two year timeline officially begins with CASA!

Foundations

Foundations is CASA’s first conference, which is held in Ottawa during the month of May. This conference educates new and returning student leaders about the role of CASA, and how the organization will work for the year. This is when the Board of Directors and committees are elected.

One On One Check-In

Following Foundations, the CASA Member Relations Officer would organize an informal one on one check in with you to debrief your experience at your first CASA conference, and answer any initial questions.
Policy And Strategy

Policy and Strategy is CASA’s second conference, held during the month of July. This is the conference where the Board of Directors and committees work on and approve their respective work plans for the year.

One On One Check-In

Following Policy and Strategy, the CASA Member Relations Officer would organize a one on one check in with you to debrief your experience at Policy and Strategy. Similar to in the Spring, this would be an informal way to meet and learn about your experiences thus far at CASA.

Advocacy Week

Advocacy Week is CASA’s third conference throughout the year held in Ottawa, historically during the month of November. Advocacy Week is when CASA’s membership travels to Ottawa to gather for a week to meet with Members of Parliament, Ministers, Senators, and stakeholders and advocate on behalf of students.

Presentation to Your Board / Council

The Executive Director, Member Relations Officer, and a member from the Board would organize a presentation on behalf of CASA to your board / council. The purpose of this presentation would be to educate your board / council on the work of CASA, and demonstrate the value of being an Observer and Member.
Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is CASA’s final conference of the year, held in March. This is where the current year is wrapped up and the following year is prepared for.

Transition Meeting With Incoming & Outgoings

The purpose of the transition meeting would be to have the outgoing representatives introduce the incoming representatives to CASA Home Office. This would be to ensure a smooth transition between the two teams within the two year timeline, and continue to build a strong relationship between your organization and CASA.

Repeat!

During your two-year term as an Observer, the aforementioned schedule would repeat.

Conclusion of Two-Year Period

Following the conclusion of your two-year period as an Observer you have a number of options to choose from. First, you could decide to join CASA! This decision would be made internal to your organization respecting your governance processes, such as a referendum. Second, you could decide not to join CASA, and this would simply mean your term as an Observer would expire. Finally, if your organization has concluded their term as an Observer you may also re-apply to the Board of Directors to become an Observer again, following one-year after your time as an Observer has expired.
Established in 1995, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit, student organization composed of 23 student associations representing 274,000 post-secondary students from coast to coast. Through its partnership with the Quebec Students Union (QSU), CASA presents a national student voice to the federal government. CASA advocates for a Canadian post-secondary education system that is accessible, affordable, innovative and of the highest quality.

The Quebec Student Union's mission is to defend the rights and interests of the student community, of its member associations, and of their members, by promoting, protecting, and improving the conditions of students and those of local and international communities.

Together, we represent 365,000 students across Canada.