The Third Canadian Math Kangaroo Contest (CMKC) workshop event was generously supported by BIRS and CMKC. BIRS provided the venue for the workshop, CMKC supported the workshop with $5000 for travel and meals of participants. Contest representatives and volunteers from the Calgary AB, Edmonton AB, London ON, Montreal QC, and Ottawa ON attended the workshop. In total, the number of participants was seven (7).

1 Overview of the Field

Math Kangaroo is an annual international math competition for school students. This is the world’s largest math competition, with more than six million participants worldwide. The main purpose of Math Kangaroo is to introduce participants to math challenges in an enjoyable way, thus, inspiring their further interest and advancement in mathematics. It provides participating students with great and valuable experience in competitive math.

Math Kangaroo contest is unique to Canada. Students can participate in Math Kangaroo independently of their home school’s involvement. Math Kangaroo Centres in Canada typically are universities. Almost all other competitions run through schools. It is still one of the very few math contests available for Canadian elementary students.

While the reputation, the merit, and the quality of inspired learning are at a very high level, the atmosphere on the contest day is unique compared to most of the other contests. The Canadian Math Kangaroo program contributes to the science, engineering and education communities through its activities that revolve around the contest but go far beyond its organization.

In 2015, Math Kangaroo was offered in 33 location. We had 4197 contestants (26% increase compared to 2014), 7 new centres have been opened to administer the contests. Hundreds of students were involved in various training and learning activities prior to the contest day.

Organization of such event requires well planned preparation that includes problems selection and verification with Canadian math curriculum, development of training materials and legal regulations for the centres, and much more.

2 Recent Developments and Open Problems

The workshop was intended for mathematicians and mathematics educators involved with the Canadian Math Kangaroo Contest, the organization administering Math Kangaroo in Canada.

The main objective of the workshop was to efficiently finalize the packages of English version problem sets for all levels of the 2016 contest.
Additional objectives were:

1. Verification of problems with Canadian math curriculum.
2. Completing solutions to the problems.
3. Decisions on matters relating to pre-contest activities, contest day, post-contest activities;
4. Dealing with the recent growth of the competition locally and nationally.

3 Discussion Highlights

The workshop consisted of several discussion sessions on topics of interest to the organization and the workshop participants.

- Friday, December 4: the evening session was devoted to the organizational problems. We discussed and analyzed the 2015 contest issues at the national and regional levels.
- Saturday, December 5: the morning and afternoon session were devoted to problems selection, solution and verification process for all levels. During the evening session, the participants discussed some legal issues in connection with the administration of regional centres.
- Sunday, December 6: the morning and afternoon sessions were used for finalizing the problems selection.

4 Meeting Progress Made

The two-days BIRS workshop facilitated discussions and decisions on how to further improve the organization of the Math Kangaroo contest and accompanying programs.

5 Outcome of the Meeting

The workshop is another significant milestone for the Canadian Math Kangaroo Contest organization. Representatives from various cities and provinces exchanged ideas and discussed issues. The major meeting outcomes include:

- Improving the quality of the mathematical content offered by the Math Kangaroo contest.
- Increasing the visibility of the contest and its accompanying activities.
- Connecting volunteers to work together towards inspiring K-12 students about mathematics.

Sharing information and ideas is crucial for maintaining a program of such scope, diversity, quality and continuity. The BIRS workshop facilitated efficient collaboration, coordination, and knowledge transfer among Math Kangaroo coordinators.