

ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S QUÉBEC CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE

The *Concours d'art oratoire* is a public speaking contest organized by Canadian Parents for French for secondary students in French programs across Canada. Every spring, an estimated 80,000 students take part in this annual competition. The provincial finals took place on May 14 at the Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Montréal – Dorval in Dorval, Quebec. CPF was pleased to welcome 34 students from the Lester B. Pearson, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Western Quebec School Boards, as well as their parents and teachers. The students were divided into three groups based on their grade level, and then each group was further divided into five categories, based on their French speaking ability. Here are the winners of each category:

Secondary 1/2

Core - Lucas Graham (Rosemere High School, Rosemere)
Enriched - Quinn McCart (Philemon Wright High School, Gatineau)
Enriched plus - Aniesha Covey (Philemon Wright High School, Gatineau)
Immersion - Claire Driedger (Philemon Wright High School, Gatineau)
Francophone - Lukka Picklyk (Philemon Wright High School, Gatineau)

Secondary 3/4

Core - Elizabeth Hua (Rosemere High School, Rosemere)
Enriched - Julia-May Avon (Philemon Wright High School, Gatineau)
Francophone – Jade Le Pape (Philemon Wright High School, Gatineau)

Secondary 5

Core – Kirstyn Townsend (Philemon Wright High School, Gatineau)
Enriched – Sharina Frijja-Altarc (Beaconsfield High School, Beaconsfield)
Enriched plus – Valarie Empey (Philemon Wright High School, Gatineau)
Immersion - Rowan Tanguay (Philemon Wright High School, Gatineau)
Francophone - Victoria Blouin (Collège Saint-Joseph de Hull, Gatineau)

The Secondary 5 first place winners will now advance to the national finals of the *Concours d'art oratoire*, held in Ottawa, ON on May 28, where they will have the chance to win scholarships to the University of Ottawa, the University of Moncton, the University of Prince Edward Island, the Université de Saint-Boniface, the Université Sainte-Anne and La Cité Collégiale.

Better French language skills are a key aspiration for Quebec's non-Francophone youth. The *Concours* program helps fulfill that aspiration by giving youth a meaningful forum in which to practice and develop confidence in their French language skills.

We would also like to thank our sponsors, Canadian Heritage, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Global Montreal, LEARN Quebec and the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) for their generous support in helping us provide such a meaningful opportunity for the participants of the *Concours*.

Canadian Parents for French (www.cpf.ca) is the national network of volunteers which values French as an integral part of Canada and which is dedicated to the promotion and creation of French second language learning opportunities for young Canadians.