

**Waterloo Students Win Awards at
30th Annual French Public Speaking Competition**

For Immediate Release

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Mississauga – Two students from the Waterloo Region District School Board won awards at the **30th Annual Concours et festival d'art oratoire**, the annual French public speaking event organized by Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) and the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association. This event took place on Saturday, May 10th, at York University's bilingual campus, Glendon College, in Toronto.

The winners are:

Name	Grade (Level)	FSL Category	School	Place	Cash Prize
Kimia Raahemifar	9-10	Extended	Waterloo Collegiate Institute	3rd	\$125
Arjun Pandey	9-10	Immersion	Waterloo Collegiate Institute	3rd	\$125

Photos from the 30th annual Concours et festival d'art oratoire are posted on the [CPF Ontario Facebook page](http://on.fb.me/1jWSzUU) at: <http://on.fb.me/1jWSzUU>

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Media Contact:

Lucia Castillo

Communications Officer (Bilingual) | Canadian Parents for French (Ontario)

T: 905.366.1012 x 6 | C: 647-889-2798

communications@cpfont.on.ca | on.cpf.ca | [facebook](#) | [@cpfontario](#)

CPF *Canadian Parents for French* *Ontario*

Backgrounder:

This year marked the 30th anniversary of CPF Ontario's **Concours et festival d'art oratoire**, the largest annual French public speaking event for students in Grades 4 to 12 who are enrolled in French Second Language (FSL) programs in Ontario schools.

An estimated 20,000 students participated at the classroom, school, and school board level over the past four months. Of the **289 provincial finalists**, those in Grades 4-8 presented their winning speeches at the public speaking festival, and the secondary school finalists competed for cash prizes. The first-place winners of the Grades 11-12 level also won a \$1,000 entrance scholarship to York University or \$2,000 to La Cité collégiale. These four finalists (one per FSL Category) will go on to represent Ontario at the **CPF National Concours d'art oratoire** on May 24, 2014 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

At the **2014 CPF National Concours d'art oratoire**, finalists from across Canada compete for scholarships to the University of Ottawa (valued up to \$32,000) or the University of Moncton (valued up to \$20,000.) Second- and third- place winners receive scholarships to the University of Ottawa in the amounts of \$8,000 and \$4,000 respectively; and the rest of the participants receive a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Ottawa. In addition, all participants at the **CPF National Concours d'art oratoire** receive a \$1,000 scholarship to La Cité Collégiale.

There are close to **980,000** students enrolled in French Immersion, Extended French or Core French in Ontario's English school system. French Immersion enrolment has increased 37% over the last seven-year period with more than 164,500 students currently enrolled. (Latest statistics from the Ontario Ministry of Education.)

According to the 2011 Federal Census, of the 13.4 million people living in Ontario, 11 percent or 1,470,260 self-identify as having knowledge of both French and English¹.

Sources: ¹ Statistics Canada. *Population by knowledge of official languages, Ontario, 2011.*

Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) is the Ontario branch of a national network of volunteers who value French as an integral part of Canada and who are dedicated to promoting opportunities for youth in Canada to learn French