

# CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH CONCOURS d'art oratoire



Canada's French Public Speaking Contest

## Over 270 students demonstrated their French-speaking skills at CPF Ontario's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual French Public-Speaking Event held in Toronto

Media Advisory

*For Immediate Release*

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Mississauga** – Students from grades 4 to 12 participated at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual provincial French public-speaking event, **Concours et festival d'art oratoire**, organized by Canadian Parents for French (Ontario).

On **Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, CPF Ontario welcomed over 270 students from 24 school boards and 8 independent schools across Ontario to the provincial event at York University's Glendon College in Toronto. Students recited their original speech on a topic of their choice before a panel of officials recruited by the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association (OMLTA).

Students in grades 4 to 8 took part in a non-competitive festival at the event showcasing their French-language, creative writing and public-speaking skills. Students in grades 9 to 12 participated in a competitive Concours with ambitions to win cash prizes.

The following students from grades 11-12 will represent Ontario at the **2016 CPF National Concours d'art oratoire** on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ottawa, competing for scholarships to various Canadian universities valued at over \$150,000.

**Kieran Kreidié-Akazaki** from University of Toronto Schools, Toronto

**Amna Majeed** from Richview Collegiate Institute, Toronto District School Board

**Mubeena Mistry** from Leaside High School, Toronto District School Board

**Luka Subotincic** from Bishop Allen Academy, Toronto Catholic District School Board



"Our **Concours et festival d'art oratoire** provides Ontario students with the opportunity to develop and use their oral French skills, the key component on their journey to bilingualism in both official languages," said Mary Cruden, President of Canadian Parents for French (Ontario). "The students give their speeches effectively and with passion—in a way that inspires us all and reminds us to celebrate their accomplishments and their commitment to learning and using French," concluded Cruden.

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*Canadian Parents for French is a 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.*



*Backgrounder:*

For a complete list of winners from the event held on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 visit [on.cpf.ca](http://on.cpf.ca) (follow [link](#) to be redirected)

This year marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of CPF Ontario's **Concours 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.

A total of 275 students from across Ontario qualified for this year's event. An estimated 20,000 students participated at the classroom, school, and school board level over the past four months. Of the **275 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. These four finalists (one per FSL Category) will move on to represent Ontario at the 2016 **CPF National Concours d'art oratoire** on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ottawa.

At the **2016 CPF National Concours d'art oratoire**, finalists from across Canada compete for scholarships to the University of Ottawa (valued up to \$32,000), the University of Moncton (valued up to \$20,000), the Université de Saint-Boniface (valued up to \$20,000), the Université Sainte-Anne (valued up to \$2,000), and the University of Prince Edward Island (valued up to \$3,000). Second- and third- place winners receive scholarships to the University of Ottawa (valued up to \$28,000 and \$24,000 respectively), the Université de Saint-Boniface (valued up to \$12,000 and \$8,000 respectively), or the University of Prince Edward Island (\$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively). In addition, other national finalists who compete will be awarded a \$1,000 entrance scholarship to the University of Ottawa.

There are close to **985,000** students enrolled in French Immersion, Extended French or Core French in Ontario's English school system. French Immersion enrolment has increased 5.6 percent annually over the last nine-year period with more than 187,741 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 English<sup>1</sup>.

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