



**For immediate release: April 30th, 2025**

## **CANADA'S FRENCH PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST TAKES PLACE IN NOVA SCOTIA**

### **Students from across the province participate in French public speaking contest**

**Halifax. April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Over a hundred French second-language and first-language students in grades 5-12 competed in this year's provincial **Concours d'art oratoire**, Canada's French public speaking contest. The event took place at **Mount Saint-Vincent University**. This year marks the 41<sup>st</sup> year of the annual provincial French public speaking competition. The **Concours d'art oratoire** began in Nova Scotia in 1983. It has been an annual event ever since, missing only one year in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

**Canadian Parents for French (CPF), Nova Scotia** President Bailey Ross welcomed the participating students at the opening ceremony. Bailey Ross is a graduate of l'Université Sainte-Anne and Acadia University. He presently teaches French as a First Language with the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP). President of the CPF National Board, **Kate Ashley** also attended the Concours d'art oratoire as a volunteer.

After presenting their speeches, students, families and teachers enjoyed a live performance with **Yves Rossignol**, musician. **Yves Rossignol** and his band played a great selection of French songs influenced by Acadian, Cajun, Zydeco, Rock, and Blues Music. For the past 20 years, he has been sharing his music in many different schools across Canada.

The provincial **Concours d'art oratoire** requires the support of many volunteers each year. **CPF Nova Scotia** would like to thank this year's volunteers: Rima Maejess, Salma Khattab, Herve Kazungu, Lucie Taussig, Laetitia Richa Ghosn, Simgbe Pinguedinam, the N'da family Api, Nathan and Noah, Amazu Mawuli, Sophie Beaulé, Mark Mercer, Joan Dobbie, Guillaume Fleury, Julie Holland, Terry Leahey, Stephanie Burke, the Loo family Henry, Marie, Alicia and Sarah, Chinyere Coldwell, Tony Orlando, Paul Hollett, Isabelle Pedot, Isabelle Bilodeau, Laurine Tonnelé, Jodi Lawlor, and Alexanne Turbide. This event attracts bilingual volunteers from the Francophone community, local universities and high schools. The volunteers participate as judges, MCs, timekeepers

and registration staff. Some volunteers have supported the **Concours d'art oratoire** for many years.

Students from grades 5 to 12 received medals and prizes. The winners in grade 11/12 also receive renewable and entrance scholarships to **Université Sainte-Anne** and **Université de Moncton** valued at \$20,000. The grade 11/12 first place winners will be participating in the National Concours d'art oratoire. The winners of the **National Concours d'art oratoire** will be announced in June on the **Canadian Parents for French** website, [www.cpf.ca](http://www.cpf.ca)

The grade 11/12 1<sup>st</sup> place winners who will represent Nova Scotia are: Dar Berezovska (Citadel High School), Heather Clarke (Halifax Grammar School), Dorcas Olatunji (Charles P Allen High School), Grayer Parsons (Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy), and Miriam Souhi (École secondaire du Sommet).

Our grade 11/12 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners are: Harshita Chadha (Citadel High School), Kiara Zhang (Halifax Grammar School), Elizabeth Gorelik (Charles P Allen High School), Maxwell Boyd (Charles P Allen High School), Thomas Holder (Charles P Allen High School), Charlize Donat (Centre scolaire de la Rive-Sud) and Laurie Leys (École secondaire du Mosaïque).

The complete list of provincial **Concours d'art oratoire** winners can be found at ns.cpf.ca. Photos will be posted on the **CPF Nova Scotia** Facebook page as well as ns.cpf.ca.

Sponsorship for this event was received from: ACUFC, Nova Scotia Education and Early Childhood Development, Université Sainte-Anne, Université de Moncton, Mount Saint Vincent University and Canadian Heritage. With the continuing support of our sponsors and volunteers, **Canadian Parents for French, Nova Scotia** is able to organize and present the **provincial Concours d'art oratoire**.

***Félicitations à tous nos lauréats!***

~30~

**Canadian Parents for French, Nova Scotia**  
**2025 CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE MEDALLISTS**  
*French Public Speaking Contest*

5/6 Core French/Français de base

Gold Iris Popma of Falmouth, Windsor Forks District School, AVRCE

*Le hockey*

Silver Scarlett Leccess of Newtons Mills, Upper Stewiacke Elementary, CCRCE

*Mon rêve de devenir infirmière*

Gr. 6 Intensive French/Français intensif

Gold Ayokunmi Oladipo of Sydney, Whitney Pier Memorial Junior High, CBVRCE  
*Sois juste gentils*  
Silver Callie Munden of Glace Bay, Oceanview Education Centre, CBVRCE  
*Le crochet*

5/6 Middle Immersion/Immersion moyenne

Gold Emmalena Wade-Amoah of Bridgewater, Bridgewater Junior High School, SSRCE  
*L'histoire de basketball*

5/6 Early Immersion/Immersion précoce

Gold Jessie White of Halifax, LeMarchant – St. Thomas Elementary School, HRCE  
*Les sans-abris en Nouvelle-Écosse*  
Silver Wes Balasubramanian of Halifax, LeMarchant – St. Thomas Elementary School, HRCE  
*La casse du siècle: Le vol de Diamond d'Anvers*

5/6 Francophone

Gold Renée Naime of Middle Sackville, École du Grand-Portage, CSAP  
*Percy Jackson et les Olympiens*  
Silver Drew Widdis of Mineville, Ecole des Beaux Marais, CSAP  
*La poésie*

7/8 Core French/Français de base

Gold Manny Brennan of Dutch Settlement, Riverside Education Centre, CCRCE  
*Un petit garçon qui deviant héro*

7/8 Late Immersion/Immersion tardive

Gold Erin Buchan of Brookside, Brookside Junior High School, HRCE  
*Mon voyage au Honduras*  
Silver Nicolas Russell of Brookside, Brookside Junior High School, HRCE  
*La vie à Mars: Serait-il possible?*

7/8 Middle Immersion/Immersion moyenne

Gold Maria Saunders of Bridgewater, Bridgewater Junior High School, SSRCE  
*Terminer la pauvreté des règles*  
Silver Ciara MacDonald of Loch Broom, West Pictou Consolidated, CCRCE  
*La danse Écossaise*

7/8 Early Immersion/Immersion précoce

Gold Elliana Lee of Dartmouth, Dartmouth South Academy, HRCE  
*La rôle de la musique dans l'éducation publique*  
Silver Elyse Kennedy of Halifax, Armbrae Academy, ACIS  
*La Nouvelle-Écosse*

7/8 Francophone

Gold Julian Doucet of Montague Gold Mines, École du Carrefour, CSAP  
*Les microplastiques*

Silver Mylène Landry of Wellington, École du Carrefour, CSAP  
*Comment faire vivre la culture acadienne*

9/10 Core French/Français de base

Gold Zimo Liu of Halifax, Halifax Grammar School, ACIS  
*La comédie musicale*

Silver Jason Lee of Halifax, Halifax Grammar School, ACIS

9/10 Integrated French/Français intensif

Gold Zuraya Humayun of Halifax Grammar School, ACIS  
*L'importance de la langue Française*

Silver Griffin Young of Lawrencetown, Bridgetown Regional Community School, AVRCE  
*L'histoire des Reeses*

9/10 Late Immersion/Immersion tardive

Gold Sarah Shen of Bible Hill, Bible Hill Junior High, CCRCE  
*Les médias sociaux et nous*

Silver Hannah Kay of Brookside, Brookside Junior High School, HRCE  
*Les effets négatifs des téléphones cellulaires et le média sociaux*

Bronze Jordyn MacKinnon of Sydney, Sydney Academy, CBVCE  
*L'importance de l'exercice pour les élèves*

9/10 Early Immersion/Immersion précoce

Gold Kieran Donahoe of Cobequid Educational Centre, CCRCE  
*La technologie de futur*

9/10 Francophone

Gold Syrine Dinari of Lower Sackville, École secondaire du Sommet, CSAP  
*Les sans abris*

Silver Alex Woodward of Antigonish, École acadienne de Pomquet, CSAP  
*C'est quoi la neurodivergence?*

11/12 Core French/Français de base

Gold Dar Berezovska of Citadel High School, HRCE  
*Voyager et apprendre des langues*

Silver Harshita Chadha of Halifax, Citadel High School, HRCE  
*La domination de la Mode Française*

Bronze Kiara Zhang of Halifax, Halifax Grammar School, ACIS  
*Intelligence artificielle: Bénéfices, risques et impact sur notre vie quotidienne*

11/12 Integrated French/Français intensif

Gold Heather Clarke of Halifax, Halifax Grammar School, ACIS  
*Les impacts des Jeux Olympiques*

11/12 Late Immersion/Immersion tardive

Gold Dorcas Olatunji of Halifax, Charles P Allen High School, HRCE

*Anti-intellectualisme*

Silver Elizabeth Gorelik of Bedford, Charles P Allen High School, HRCE  
*Votre future en dix minutes*

11/12 Early Immersion/Immersion précoce

Gold Grayer Parsons of Inverness, Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre Academy, SRCE  
*Les joies d'être un remplaçant*

Silver Maxwell Boyd of Charles P Allen High School, HRCE  
*Chocolat: Une histoire de persévérance*

Bronze Thomas Holder of Bedford, Charles P Allen High School, HRCE  
*Les benefices du bilinguisme*

11/12 Francophone

Gold Miriam Souhi of Bedford, École secondaire du Sommet, CSAP  
*L'impacte des réseaux sociaux sur la santé mentale des jeunes*

Silver Charlize Donat of Conquerall Bank, Centre scolaire de la Rive-Sud, CSAP  
*Les voitures électriques*

Bronze Laurie Leys of Dartmouth, École secondaire du Mosaïque  
*Le plus grand mystère de l'histoire de l'alpinisme*

**Definitions:**

ACUFC	<i>Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne</i>
AVRCE	<i>Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education</i>
CBVRCE	<i>Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education</i>
CCRCE	<i>Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education</i>
CSAP	<i>Conseil Scolaire Acadien provincial</i>
HRCE	<i>Halifax Regional Centre for Education</i>
SRCE	<i>Strait Regional Centre for Education</i>
SSRCE	<i>South Shore Regional Centre for Education</i>
TCRCE	<i>Tri-County Regional Centre for Education</i>

For more information and photos, please contact Rebecca Lancaster, Executive Director at 902-453-2048 or toll free at 1-888-CPF-5233.

*Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is the national network of volunteers that values French as an integral part of Canada and is dedicated to the promotion and creation of French second language opportunities for young Canadians.*

Canadian Parents for French, Nova Scotia  
8 Flamingo Drive, Halifax, NS B3M 4N8

**Telephone:** (902) 453-2048

**Toll-free:** 1-877-CPF-5233

**Fax:** (902) 455-2789

**E-mail:** [cpfexec@ns.cpf.ca](mailto:cpfexec@ns.cpf.ca)

**Website:** [ns.cpf.ca](http://ns.cpf.ca)

**Photo credit:** *Canadian Parents for French, Nova Scotia*

Left to right back row: Grayer Parsons, Maxwell Boyd, Charlize Donat and Laurie Leys

Left to right front row: Miriam Souhi, Dorcas Olatunji, Elizabeth Gorelik, Kiara Zhang, Harshita Chadha, Dar Berezovska, and Heather Clarke

Missing: Thomas Holder

