



Media Release | Communiqué de presse

West Vancouver Students Win Top Awards at Provincial French Public Speaking Competition

Vancouver -- 10,000 students from across British Columbia competed, 235 made the provincial finals, including six from West Vancouver in this year's pan-provincial French public speaking competition, *[Concours d'art oratoire](#)*.

"Concours is a fabulous celebration of excellence in French language education. Through participation in Concours, students develop confidence in French as well as develop their public speaking skills. These are the kind of skills needed in [today's](#) global society and ultimately these students will gain greater employability as a result. As effective communicators, they will become the leaders of [tomorrow](#)," said Diane Tijman, President of Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon.

"We are so proud of all our Concours participants. Bravo à vous tous et toutes pour votre belle participation!"

This year marked the 35th anniversary of the Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon sponsored *Concours d'art oratoire*. **The provincial finals were hosted Saturday, May 5th at SFU Surrey.**

We thank all the local volunteers and teachers, as well as the BC Ministry of Education, Canadian Heritage, and le Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique for their financial support.

Provincial Winners from West Vancouver



Claire Zhong

1st Place

Grade 6 Early Immersion
"Le réchauffement climatique"

Cedardale Elementary

President of the Fédération
Francophone de la Colombie-
Britannique Padminée
Chundunsing (right)



Maneli Safiee

1st Place

Grade 6 Late Immersion
"L'immigration"

Pauline Johnson Elementary

President of the Fédération
Francophone de la Colombie-
Britannique Padminée
Chundunsing (Right)



Anastasia Lutsenko

1st Place

Grade 7 Early Immersion
*"Les bénéfices de parler
plusieurs langues"*

Pauline Johnson Elementary

President of the Fédération
Francophone de la Colombie-
Britannique Padminée
Chundunsing (Right)



Iris Sun

2nd Place

Grade 8/9 Core French
"Le féminisme"

Sentinel Secondary

CPF BC-YK President Diane
Tijman (right)



Parvaneh Roboubi

2nd Place

Grade 12 Late Immersion
"L'importance d'un
enseignement inspirant"

Sentinel Secondary

CPF BC-YK President Diane
Tijman (right)

Nairi Garakanian

(No photo available)

3rd Place

Grade 7 Late Immersion
"On ne devrait pas vouloir
gagner la loterie"

Pauline Johnson Elementary

Background

***Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon** is a parent-lead registered non-profit dedicated to creating quality and accessible French second language opportunities for all youth.

****Concours d'art oratoire*** is a pan-Canadian French public speaking competition -- an estimated 85,000 students participate annually across Canada.

*Student participants choose, develop, and present a 3 - 5 minute speech, *en français*. Students are free to select a subject/theme that interests them.

*The provincial competition is open to all students, grades 6 through 12, who are learning French through programs such as: French Immersion, Core French, and the native Francophone School Board (SD93). For each grade there are the three categories.

*The competition typically progresses through the following stages: 1) Students participate in their local classroom 2) Top students move on to the school district competition 3) Top students move on to the provincial competition 4) Top students in grade 12 move on to the national competition.

*Concours is judged by French speaking volunteers, i.e. University/College professors, teachers, native Francophones, and French immersion graduates. [For the official rules of Concours d'art oratoire click here.](#)

French immersion enrolment in British Columbia has increased every year for the past 16 years. As of 2015/2016 there were 52,545 students, or 9.5% of the entire study body, in French immersion.

*There are 180,000 students in BC in the Core French program. There are over 5,000 in the native Francophone school board. [For the latest French student enrolment trends in BC & YK click here.](#)