

**Peel Students Win Awards at
 31st Annual French Public-Speaking Competition**

For Immediate Release

May 11, 2015

Mississauga – Four students from Peel Region won awards at the **31st Concours 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 9th, at York University's bilingual campus, Glendon College, in Toronto.

The winners are:

Name	Grade (Level)	FSL Category	School	Place	Cash Prize
Wadeed Irfan	11-12	Immersion	Streetsville Secondary School	3rd	\$125
Mohammed Odusanya	11-12	Core	Notre Dame Catholic S.S.	2nd	\$250
Stephani Ponniah	11-12	Francophone	Philip Pocock Catholic S.S.	3rd	\$125
Ritika Nair	9-10	Core	The Woodlands	2nd	\$250

Photos from the 31st annual Concours d'art oratoire will be posted on the CPF Ontario Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CPFontario>.

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CPF *Canadian Parents for French* Ontario

Backgrounder:

This year marked the 31st 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 299 students from across Ontario qualified for this year's event. The Ottawa Catholic School Board sent four students and the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board sent fourteen students to CPF Ontario's **Concours d'art oratoire**.

An estimated 20,000 students participated at the classroom, school, and school board level over the past four months. Of the **299 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 2015 **CPF National Concours d'art oratoire** on May 30th, 2015 in Ottawa.

At the **2015 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 \$8,000 and \$4,000 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. These finalists will also be entered in a draw to win a two-week summer French language and cultural class in France!

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 5.4% annually over the last eight-year period with more than 174,895 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