

CPF *Canadian Parents for French*

For Immediate Release

May 30, 2011

Announcing the Winners of the CPF National *Concours d'art oratoire* 2011

OTTAWA—Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is pleased to announce the winners of the CPF National *Concours d'art oratoire* 2011, held on Saturday May 28 at the University of Ottawa.

The *Concours d'art oratoire* program draws students from across Canada in the competition that offers over \$175,000 in scholarships to the University of Ottawa. This year, 36 national finalists in five different categories were welcomed to Ottawa after winning their provincial or territorial championships. The five categories that students compete in are based on linguistic ability, and range from Level 1 (Core French) to Level 5 (Francophone).

“This year’s edition was, as always, filled to the brim with talent and enthusiasm,” says CPF president Lisa Marie Perkins. “It is heartening to see so many young people who care about official bilingualism. These are youth who work hard at their French, whether they come from Francophone homes or have learned the language through classes at school. Every one of these students deserves utmost praise for their outstanding efforts here today.”

First place winners in each category were awarded with an offer for a \$20,000 scholarship to the University of Ottawa, generously donated by the school itself. In addition to the five grand prizes, the University also offers \$5,000 scholarships to the first runner-up in each category, and \$2,000 entrance bursaries to every national competitor.

The winners of the 2011 edition of the CPF National *Concours d'art oratoire* are:

Level 1 [Core French]

- 1st Place: Camille Pabalan (Winnipeg, Manitoba)
- 2nd Place: Sophie Starke-Hellwig (Bathurst, New Brunswick)
- 3rd Place: Christian Norton (Annandale, Prince Edward Island)

Level 2 [Core French Extended]

- 1st Place: Julia Romanski (Toronto, Ontario)
- 2nd Place: Megan Freimann (Sainte Agathe, Quebec)
- 3rd Place: Nicola Jones (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

Level 3 [Late French Immersion]

- 1st Place: Aislin Flynn (Halifax, Nova Scotia)
- 2nd Place: Tanya Bagai (Delta, British Columbia)
- 3rd Place: Raquel Albert (Gatineau, Quebec)

Level 4 [Early French Immersion]

- 1st Place: Sean Leonard (Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador)
2nd Place: Maria Debly (Quispamsis, New Brunswick)
3rd Place: Avnee Paranjape (Regina, Saskatchewan)

Level 5 [Francophone]

- 1st Place: Alice Brun-Newhook (St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador)
2nd Place: Julien Jefferson (Waterloo, Ontario)
3rd Place: Nastasya Hénault (Wakefield, Quebec)

Participants spent two nights at the University of Ottawa dorms and were taken by CPF staff and volunteers on several excursions to some of the city's most popular tourist landmarks. These included a tour of Parliament, shopping at the Rideau Centre, dinner in the ByWard Market and a viewing of Herman Kolgen's interactive art film *Dust* at the Dai-Mon gallery in Gatineau, Quebec.

CPF thanks Canadian Heritage, the University of Ottawa, Rideau Travel, the Rideau Centre, Park-Ex Pictures, and individual donors for their assistance with this event.

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Canadian Parents for French is the 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. There are currently 26,000 members across Canada.

Information/Renseignements:

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