

How to Organize a *Concours d'art oratoire* in your School District

1. What is *Concours*?

CPF's *Concours d'art oratoire* is Canada's largest, annual French-language public-speaking competition, involving close to 10,000 students every year, and thousands of dollars worth of prizes.

The aim of this public speaking contest is to stimulate the interest of students learning French, to improve their speaking skills, and to give them experience presenting in public.

This event is organized by Canadian Parents for French (CPF), who has worked together with parents and school staff since 1983 to organize school, district and provincial-level competitions. *Concours* is open to French Second Language (FSL) and Francophone students from grades 6 through 12 who are studying Core (Basic) or Intensive French, French immersion (Early or Late), or studying in a BC Francophone school (*Conseil scolaire francophone*).

Thousands of students compete at the school and district levels, and last year, almost 300 winners traveled to the new Surrey campus of Simon Fraser University for the provincial finals where they competed in a one-day event in their specific category. First place winners in grade 12 then went on to compete at the national finals in Gatineau, Quebec, across from Ottawa. This year the national finals will again take place in Gatineau.

2. What are the benefits of *Concours*?

Beside the cultural and language benefits, *Concours* helps students develop their creative and public speaking abilities, as well as self-discipline. All participants have the opportunity to make new friends at the district, provincial, and national levels.

3. What are the prizes at the Provincial and National *Concours*?

Prizes vary from year to year. This year, first place winners in grade 12 in all categories have the opportunity to travel to the national *Concours* held in Ottawa-Gatineau where they will compete for a \$20,000 scholarship to the University of Ottawa, among other prizes.

Medals, gift certificates, books and cash prizes are also among the prizes offered in the different grades and categories. All first, second, and third-place winners in each category receive medals from the CPF-BC & Yukon Branch. All students who participate in the Provincial Finals of *Concours d'art oratoire* receive a certificate of participation.

4. When is Concours?

Schools begin holding classroom and school-wide competitions as early as February/March of each year.

Participating school districts hold local competitions in late March or early April. Winners from each category in each district then go on to the provincial competition.

This year, the provincial *Concours* will be held:

Saturday, May 6, 2017
at Simon Fraser University's Surrey campus.

5. How can my school or school district participate?

Your school and your school district may organize classroom, school and district-level competitions as an enrichment activity for the students taking French. If your school or school district wishes to send a winner of a local competition to the provincial finals, your **school** and **school district** must be an Associate Member Organization (AMO) of CPF. To find out more about CPF **membership**, and to **join** or **renew** online, go to our website at www.cpf.bc.ca and click on the "Join Us" tab in the top green bar on the right.

Please remember that schools and school districts with CPF memberships that expire before May 2, 2017 are responsible for and are expected to renew their memberships as part of the registration process for the provincial finals.

An AMO Membership is \$60 for one year, or \$150 for a 3-year membership. There are many advantages for a school to be a member; for example, they receive the National and Provincial quarterly print newsletters (up to 10 copies of each), monthly email bulletins, access to resources and information to support French instruction, and much more. As well, 80% of the membership fee comes right back to the local neighbourhood CPF chapter to provide extra resources and activities for your students!

6. Who competes at the provincial Concours?

French Immersion (Early and Late):	Grades 6 - 12
Francophone:	Grades 6 - 12
Intensive French:	Grades 6 - 8
Core French (Basic French):	Grades 8 - 12

Please go to <http://bc-yk.cpf.ca/activities/youth-activities/concours-dart-oratoire/faq/what-are-the-categories-at-the-provincial-level/> for the full details about the groupings and competitions in each of the grade categories.

The Francophone category is for students who speak and comprehend French with native fluency, and are from homes where one or two parents are speaking French regularly; or who have benefited linguistically from living for 1 year or more in the past 3 years, in a community where French is commonly spoken; or whose mother tongue is French and who have attended French-first-language schools for at least 1 year in the past 4 years; or who have attended French-first-language schools for more than three years.

Please note that the Grade 12 FSL/Core French winner who will be moving on to compete in PEI may be competing in a CORE EXTENDED (Enriched/ Advanced) category, if they meet the following criteria:

- Students who in this academic year are in a program where one subject, in addition to core or basic French, is taught in French;
- Students who are currently studying French as a second language in a core French program, and have 3 years or less of immersion experience;
- Students who are currently studying French as a second language in a core French program, and have additional educational experiences in a French milieu;
- Students whose first language is not French.

7. Are there Teacher Resources?

Yes! There are a series of teacher resources and lessons.

Click [here](#), or visit <http://bc-yk.cpf.ca/concours-resources-for-teachers/> on our website for the links to teacher resources.

8. Are there judging forms?

Yes! These have been developed for the Provincial level. You are not required to follow these at the school or district level, but they are available for those who would like to utilize them. Click [here](#) or visit <http://bc-yk.cpf.ca/judges-volunteers-concours-dart-oratoire/> for the links to judging resources.

9. What category should my student compete in?

Each school district is responsible for holding finals to determine who will represent them at the provincial Concours. All of the following categories will be competing at the provincial however CPF may choose to combine grades to ensure a sufficient number of students in each category.

There are four main sections:

- Core French
- Early French Immersion
- Late French Immersion
- Francophone

The BC & Yukon Concours d'art oratoire categories can be online found [here](#) or check out our FAQ page on our Concours website.

1. CPF may choose to combine grades to ensure a sufficient number of students in each category.
2. The following categories may be combined: 9/10 FSL; 9/10 and 11/12 Francophone may be combined depending on number of students registering.

10. Who is considered a Francophone?

A Francophone is a student whose mother tongue is French or who speaks French at home, **even if the student is in an Immersion program.**

A Francophone could also be a student who has spent time in a French milieu or who has changed programs, having previously attended a Francophone school. The intent is to have students compete against others whose language proficiency or hours of instruction in French are comparable. It is the District's responsibility to make the determination. Naturally, all students in Écoles du programme francophone de la Colombie-Britannique compete as Francophones. If the student has changed categories, either from Francophone to French Immersion, or from Immersion to FSL, they may be required to be assessed in a telephone interview by the Provincial Chief Judge of Concours prior to be accepted as registered for the Provincial Competition. The Chief Judge's decision is final.

To determine which students qualify to compete in the Francophone Category at Concours d'art oratoire the Catégorie Francophone Formulaire has been developed.

The form found [here](#) or on our FAQ page is recommended for District competitions.

11. How does a student register for the provincial *Concours*?

As soon as a student has won a regional competition, the student must register for the provincial finals and pay a nominal \$15 registration.

Online registration:

March 27th to April 13th

www.cpf.bc.ca > Activities > Youth Activities > *Concours d'art oratoire*

The registration deadline is strictly enforced and no late registrations will be accepted. The CPF office must be notified of any conflicts* prior to the competition.

NOTE: Districts- accuracy of names, titles and categories is extremely important. This information is copied directly to the schedule. Please make all possible efforts to ensure the information is correct.

(*Note: The "conflict" in this portion references school/district competition dates. It does not reference participant scheduling conflicts. In order to ensure fair access to the competition for *all* participants, unfortunately special scheduling requests for participants will not be received or processed. Any request for exception would mean another participant might not be able to attend the competition).

12. What if the first place student withdraws?

In the event a participant must withdraw, the second place winner may be sent instead, as long as the second place winner registers prior to the deadline.

Your primary source of information is our web site: www.cpf.bc.ca. Look under the section **Activities > Youth Activities > Concours d'art oratoire**.

13. How much does it cost to participate in the provincial *Concours*?

There are no fees for schools or districts, but students participating are responsible for their own travel, accommodation, and a nominal \$15 registration fee to cover administration costs.

A limited number of CPF BC & Yukon Chapters are eligible for up to \$250 to subsidize the costs for local winners traveling to Surrey for the provincial finals. Chapters can submit a **Concours Subsidy Form** to the CPF BC & Yukon Branch. Parents of participants must apply to their local chapter in order to receive a portion of the *Concours* Subsidy.

The form is posted on our website at www.cpf.bc.ca > **Activities > Youth Activities > Concours d'art oratoire > FAQ > Concours Subsidy**.

14. How do I organize a *Concours* in my School?

First, you need a volunteer to coordinate the event. Look on our website to find a chapter contact in your area: www.cpf.bc.ca > **Chapters > Find a Chapter** scroll down through the list or contact info@cpf.bc.ca. You might find a volunteer ready and waiting!

Next, you need to consult with the school's teachers and administrators to get their approval, pick a date, and familiarize yourself with the categories.

Then you need to know the **rules**: how long are the speeches, what kinds of topics are allowed, how are competitors evaluated, and more!

You need to find **judges**, organize a space, and then promote, promote, promote!

15. What are the official *Concours* rules?

While you can create your own rules and judging guidelines, it might help to use the ones that students will have to follow at the provincial and national championships.

The rules at the provincial competition are strictly enforced! You can view the rules on our web site at www.cpf.bc.ca > **Activities > Youth Activities > Concours d'art oratoire > FAQ > What are the official Concours rules?**

16. How do I find judges?

French teachers and members of the community are your best local resources. You may also contact one of your local Francophone associations to seek volunteers. Judging rules are available at www.cpf.bc.ca **Activities > Youth Activities > Concours d'art oratoire > FAQ > Where are the judging forms and judging information?**

17. How should I promote the *Concours* in my school/district?

The *Concours d'art oratoire* has become a very popular and much awaited event for students throughout BC schools. Here is what some schools do to promote the event:

- Ask for support from teachers and administration.
- Have students make posters and put them up around the school.
- Send notices home in students' backpacks or through an email network.
- Find some great prizes from businesses and organizations in your community.
- Publish details of the event in school and CPF chapter newsletters, and on the school's website.
- Invite the Superintendent, trustees and local media to the district finals, if appropriate.

18. What resources are available for educators or teachers?

A series of resources for teachers in the classroom are available online. Check out the many tips to engage students at <http://bc-yk.cpf.ca/concours-resources-for-teachers/>

19. Where can I go for additional information or help?

Contact your local CPF chapter or our office; there may be an experienced volunteer who has done this before who would love to help you. There is also lots of information on our web site at: www.cpf.bc.ca **> Activities > Youth Activities > Concours d'art oratoire > FAQ.**

Questions? Call the CPF-BC & Yukon office at 1-800-665-1222 or locally at 778-329-9115 or email the *Concours* Project Coordinator at projects@cpf.bc.ca

20. Planning calendar and checklist for CPF Chapters, schools, and districts.

Please see the next page.

21. How to Organize a Concours d'art oratoire in your School District

CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE PLANNING CALENDAR & CHECKLIST	
December / January	Check with CPF BC & Yukon to find out the date of the provincial <i>Concours</i> .
January / February	Meet with teachers and administrators to discuss logistics, timing, other events to coincide with the school and district competitions, etc. Show them all the information listed on the CPF-BC & Yukon website.
Jan/Feb	Book facilities if necessary (multipurpose room, auditorium, classroom) for interclass or district competitions. (Note: the earlier the better for venue bookings)
March	Identify volunteers to help solicit prizes and identify judges. Hold a fund-raising event, if desired, to support students traveling to Surrey. Identify rules, forms and teaching resources online here!
Feb/ March / (early) April	Teachers hold class competitions with all students participating, if desired. Many teachers make the <i>Concours</i> part of the curriculum. Online registration for students attending the provincial finals opens March 27, 2017 at http://bc-yk.cpf.ca/activities/youth-activities/concours-dart-oratoire/ .
March/April	Hold district competitions (must be completed before April 13, 2017). If there is any conflict with this date, CPF must be notified prior to opening registration. Advise winners they are eligible to attend provincial finals and have them register well before the deadline. If winners are unable to travel to Surrey for the provincial competition, an alternate may be sent as long as the registration is sent in before the deadline. Online registration for students attending the provincial finals closes April 13, 2017 .
May	Provincial <i>Concours d'art oratoire</i> takes place May 6, 2017 at Simon Fraser University – Surrey Campus. National <i>Concours d'art oratoire</i> takes place in Ottawa-Gatineau on June 3, 2017 .