

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 thousands of 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 B.C. Francophone school (*Conseil scolaire francophone*).

Thousands of students compete at the school and district levels, and in 2023, over 150 district winners traveled to the Surrey campus of Simon Fraser University for the provincial finals. ***In 2024, provincials will be held at the Surrey campus of Simon Fraser University on May 4th. DEADLINE for registration is APRIL 12, 2024.*** First place winners from Grades 11 and 12 will be invited to the *National finals which will consist of a video recording of their presentation with a registration and submission deadline of June 1, 2024.*

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. All students who participate in the 2024 provincial *Concours d'art oratoire* will receive a certificate of participation. Medals, gift certificates, and cash prizes are offered to all first, second, and third place winners in each category.

This year, first place winners in grades 11 & 12 in all categories have the opportunity to compete in the national *Concours* by sending a video of their speeches and registering, no later than June 1, 2024. At nationals, they will compete for scholarships, among other prizes.

4. When is Concours?

Schools begin holding classroom and school-wide competitions as early as February/March of each year. Participating school districts and/or Chapters 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 4, 2024 at Simon Fraser University, 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, visit cpf.ca/join-cpf.

Please remember that schools and school districts with CPF memberships that expire before May 4, 2024 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. There are many advantages for a school to be a member; for example, they receive the National and Provincial quarterly print magazines (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 community CPF chapter to provide extra resources and activities for your students!

6. Who competes at the provincial Concours?

Please click [here](#) to view details about categories - levels for Concours d'art oratoire.

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 11 and 12 FSL/Core French winner who will be moving on to compete in Nationals may be competing in a CORE EXTENDED (Enriched/ Advanced) category. More details are available on the [National Concours d'art oratoire page](#).

7. Are there judging forms?

Yes! These have been developed for the Provincial level. Although you are not required to follow these at the school or district level, it is highly recommended as it creates consistency in evaluation of the student and prepares them for provincial. Click [here](#) to access the judging forms or student evaluations.

8. 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 categories will be competing at the provincials, however CPF may choose to combine grades to ensure a sufficient number of students in each category.

To access the The BC & Yukon Concours d'art oratoire categories and other important documents check out our [Concours website page](#).

9. 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.

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

As soon as a student has won a regional or district competition, the student must register for the provincial finals and pay a \$25 registration fee.

**Online registration 2024 Concours d'art oratoire will be open:
March 14th to April 12th**

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).

11. 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.

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

There are no fees for schools or districts apart from the required CPF membership, but students participating are responsible for their own travel, accommodations, and a nominal \$25 registration fee to cover the administration costs.

Students living outside the Lower Mainland are eligible for a travel subsidy to cover the costs for local winners traveling to Surrey for the provincial finals. More details on the travel subsidy will be available soon. A travel subsidy form will be distributed to eligible students once the provincial *Concours d'art oratoire* is done.

13. How do I organize *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 - 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!

14. What are the official *Concours* rules?

We strongly encourage the use of the official *Concours d'art oratoire* rules and judging rubric as students will need to follow these at the provincial and national championships.

The rules at the provincial competition are strictly enforced! You can view the [rules here](#).

15. 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. Local chapters are also great resources for Concours judges.

16. 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.

17. 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 website - click [here](#) to access the Concours d'art oratoire page.

Questions? Contact our Concours d'art oratoire coordinator at concours@cpf.bc.ca