

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH  
**CONCOURS** d'art oratoire  
Canada's French Public Speaking Contest

**INFORMATION PACKAGE**

**Sponsored by Canadian Parents for French -  
Saskatchewan (CPF-SK)**

## INTRODUCTION

**Canadian Parents for French is a nationwide, research-informed, volunteer organization that champions the opportunity to learn and use French for all those who call Canada home.**

The objective of *Concours d'art oratoire* is to stimulate the interest of students in the learning of French. *Concours d'art oratoire* is an excellent way to improve oral French expression. It encourages students to use French in a meaningful way, which increases their self-esteem, confidence, and ability to communicate. Speech preparation can be integrated into the curriculum. Students are recognized for their efforts locally, at a provincial competition, and for those in grades 11 and 12, at a national event.

Once again, Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan will have the **Impromptu** Category for students in grades 9 to 12. This category encourages high school students who have outgrown their interest in speech competitions or who are looking for a different challenge in speech competition. Students require a significant level of mental preparedness to be able to draw on skills acquired in previous years of public speaking. Speech preparation time is limited and topics are pre-selected.

This package has been prepared as a guide for students, teachers and judges to provide consistency at all levels of *Concours d'art oratoire*.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan sincerely thanks the judges, timekeepers and masters of ceremonies for volunteering their time and expertise. We also appreciate the commitment of coordinators and volunteers, as well as all the teachers and consultants who have organized this year's *Concours d'art oratoire*.

*Concours d'art oratoire* is made possible through a grant from Canadian Heritage and the Student Achievement and Supports Branch of the Ministry of Education.



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# CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE

## CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH - SASKATCHEWAN

### RULES AND REGULATIONS 2019

#### RULES FOR STUDENTS

##### **Grades 1-3: All Categories**

Poetry selected by the teacher is presented. It is organized at the local level only and will not be part of the provincial contest.

##### **Grades 4-8: Core French**

School may determine their own requirements for presentations and speeches from core French students for these grades. There will be no Divisional/Provincial Final.

##### **Grades 4-8: French Immersion**

Grade 4 An imaginary story, prepared by the class or small groups as a co-operative effort, is coordinated by the teacher, but presented individually. Poems, songs or dramatic pieces are not appropriate after grade 3. It is organized at the school and/or school division level, and is not part of the provincial contest.

Grade 5 A composition of the student's own creation on a personal topic is presented. This category is organized at the school and/or school division level, and is not part of the provincial contest.

Grades 6-8 Students write their own speech on a topic of their choice. This category is part of the provincial contest.

##### **Grades 9-12: All categories**

Students write their own speech on a topic of their choice. This category is part of the provincial contest.

##### **Grades 9-12: Impromptu**

Students will receive a topic at the competition and have 15 minutes to write a two to four minute speech. This category is part of the provincial contest.

\*Please note: **Under no circumstance is it acceptable for a student to reuse a speech** from a previous year **or to copy one** (in whole or in part) from another source. **If this occurs, it will be grounds for disqualification.**

**Participants from grades 6 to 12 may be asked one or more questions from the judges' panel directly related to their speech.**

**Students participating in Impromptu will not be asked questions by the judges following their speech.**

### **TIME LIMITS:**

Grade 1-3	30 seconds to 2 minutes
Grade 4	1 to 3 minutes
Grade 5-6	2 to 4 minutes
Grade 7-12	3 to 5 minutes
<b>Grade 9-12 Impromptu</b>	<b>2 to 4 minutes</b>

Timing will commence as soon as the contestant starts to speak. An introductory sentence is permissible, i.e. "Bonjour mesdames et messieurs et les autres concurrents, le titre de ma présentation aujourd'hui est..."

Students will be penalized for being under or over the allotted time: one point for every 30 seconds.

### **MEMORIZATION:**

- Grades 1-3 - Must be committed to memory.
- Grades 4-12 - Must be committed to memory. Students presenting speeches of their own creation will be permitted to use cards with key points.
  - Students will be penalized for over dependency on cue cards.

### **DISQUALIFICATION:**

- Stating name, school or school division or identifying themselves in any way including wearing of clothing that includes a school logo or other identifying mark.
- Leaving the stage before completion of speech.
- Wearing costume/attire or using display materials related to their poem or speech.

### **PENALIZATION:**

- Poetry Recitation - Being under or over the allotted time.
  - Any deviation from poem.
  - Not stating title and author of poems.

- Speeches
  - Being overly dependent on cue cards.
  - Being under or over the allotted time.
  - Not stating title of speech.
  - Any large or rapid movement.

Gestures must be kept to a minimum. It is not necessary for the head and hands to remain completely motionless, but gestures must be natural and spontaneous as

opposed to dramatic. Examples of unacceptable gesturing: wild arm movements, pirouettes, kneeling, and turning one's back to the audience.

Please see judges' and/or timekeepers' forms for specific deductions.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS**

1. To ensure that all rules and regulations are followed.
2. To distribute materials to teachers, students and parents.
3. To coordinate all aspects of *Concours d'art oratoire* within their jurisdiction.
4. To complete and send enclosed forms to CPF-SK according to deadlines set by CPF-SK.
5. To submit the names of school winners to CPF-SK.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>FOR SCHOOLS</b>	
January 25, 2019	<b>Form #1 should be returned to CPF-SK.</b>
March 6, 2019	All School Finals should be complete. Names of school winners to be sent to CPF-SK ( <i>Form #2</i> ) and Divisional Coordinators where a Divisional Final is to be held.
<b>April 13, 2019</b>	Provincial Final for grades 6-12 in Saskatoon. The Provincial Final is being held earlier in April compared to previous years because the Easter Break is at the end of April 2019.
<b>June 1, 2019</b>	<b>National Final for grades 11-12 in the National Capital Region.</b>

<b>FOR SCHOOL DIVISIONS</b>	
March 6, 2019	All School Finals should be complete. Names of school winners to be sent to CPF-SK ( <i>Form #2</i> ) and Divisional Coordinator. Divisional Coordinator should send <i>Form #3</i> to CPF-SK.
March 27, 2019	All Divisional Finals should be complete. Names of Divisional winners to be sent to CPF-SK ( <i>Form #4</i> ).
<b>April 13, 2019</b>	<b>Provincial Final for grades 6-12 in Saskatoon.</b> The Provincial Final is being held earlier in April than previous years because the Easter Break is at the end of April 2019.
<b>June 1, 2019</b>	National Final for grades 11-12 in the National Capital Region.

# **GRADES 1-8**

## **DESCRIPTION OF CATEGORIES**

<b>French Immersion</b>		<b>Core French</b>	
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Competition Level</b>	<b>Grades</b>	<b>Competition Level</b>
Grades 1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School only</li></ul>	Grades 1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School only</li></ul>
Grades 6 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School</li><li>• Division*</li><li>• Province</li></ul>	Grades 6 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School only</li></ul>

**\*Divisional Finals for French immersion students will only be held if there are sufficient participants.** Otherwise, grade 6-8 winners at the school level will progress directly to the Provincial Final.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **FRENCH IMMERSION:**

Students who are attending immersion classes are to participate in the Immersion Category.

\*Students who have studied in the French Immersion Program for longer than one year and have transferred to a Core French Program also compete in this category.

### **CORE FRENCH:**

Students who are studying French in the Core French Program participate in this category.

\*This category is for students who have had ONLY core French study. Former immersion students are not eligible to compete in this category.

**If you have questions regarding which category to place a student in, please contact Brooklyn Barré at CPF-SK at 306.244.6151 in Saskatoon, toll-free in Saskatchewan at 1.800.561.6151 or by email at [cpfsask@sasktel.net](mailto:cpfsask@sasktel.net).**

## GRADES 9-12

### DESCRIPTION OF CATEGORIES

In order to make *Concours d'art oratoire* an event that is fair to all participating, we have established categories that reflect the French language background and experience of the contestants. These categories have been designed to harmonize with CPF-National groupings.

French Immersion		Enriched French Immersion	
Grade	Competition Level	Grades	Competition Level
Grades 9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Division*</li> <li>• Province</li> </ul>	Grades 9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Division*</li> <li>• Province</li> </ul>
Grades 11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Division*</li> <li>• Province</li> <li>• National</li> </ul>	Grades 11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Division*</li> <li>• Province</li> <li>• National</li> </ul>

Core French		Enriched Core French	
Grade	Competition Level	Grades	Competition Level
Grades 9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Division*</li> <li>• Province</li> </ul>	Grades 9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Division*</li> <li>• Province</li> </ul>
Grades 11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Division*</li> <li>• Province</li> <li>• National</li> </ul>	Grades 11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Division*</li> <li>• Province</li> <li>• National</li> </ul>

Impromptu	
Grade	Competition Level
Grades 9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Division*</li> <li>• Province</li> </ul>
Grades 11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School</li> <li>• Division*</li> <li>• Province</li> </ul>

**\*Divisional Finals will only be held at the grade 9 to 12 levels if there are sufficient participants.** Otherwise, winners at the school level will progress directly to the Provincial Final. CPF-SK reserves the right to cancel categories of competition if there are insufficient participants.

Once again, Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan will have the **Impromptu** Category competition for grade 9 to 12 students. This category is being offered for students who wish to put their writing and oratory skills to the test. In Impromptu, students select a pre-determined topic for which they have 15 minutes to prepare and write a two to four minute speech to be presented before a panel of judges. Students will still be evaluated based on their voice, quality of language, structure,

oratory, and presentation the same as the traditional model of *Concours d'art oratoire*. Students can participate in both Impromptu and traditional *Concours d'art oratoire* from the school level through to the Provincial Final. **Depending on the number of participants in Impromptu, CPF-SK reserves the right to combine students from grades 9 and 10, and grades 11 and 12 for the Provincial Final.**

## ELIGIBILITY

### FRENCH IMMERSION

Students who are attending immersion classes are to participate in the French Immersion Category unless they have extensive French background or come from French-speaking families (see Enriched French Immersion Category below).

### CORE FRENCH

Students who are studying or have studied French in the Core French Program participate in this category. This category is for students who have had ONLY core French study. Former immersion students, those who speak French at home, or who have additional experience in French, such as *Explore* or other exchange programs, are not eligible to compete in this category.

### ENRICHED CORE FRENCH

This category is only for students who are currently studying French as a second language in a Core French Program BUT who have additional educational experiences in a French milieu (*Explore*, exchange program, travel, French immersion classes in elementary school, participation in an Intensive/Post-Intensive French Program).

### ENRICHED FRENCH IMMERSION

If a student is from a home where at least one parent/guardian has **the ability to communicate in French in any capacity, regardless of how often** it is used at home, he/she will be placed in this category. Students will also be placed in this category if they have benefited linguistically from living, for one year or more in the past three years, in a community where French is commonly spoken or whose main language is French. In addition, if a student has attended a French-first-language school for at least one year in the past four years, he/she will be placed in this category.

Please note: **If any of the above criteria apply to a student, he/she will fall into the Enriched French Immersion Category.**

Notes: The responsibility for placing students in the correct category for School, Divisional, and Provincial *Concours d'art oratoire* Finals rests with the teacher. If you have questions regarding categories, please contact Brooklyn Barré, Admin & Communications Officer at 306.244.6151 in Saskatoon, or toll free from outside Saskatoon at 1.800.561.6151, or by e-mail: [cpfsask@sasktel.net](mailto:cpfsask@sasktel.net).

**However, please note that CPF-SK reserves the right to ensure the students are placed in the appropriate category.**

**Because we are offering a broad range of categories, CPF-SK reserves the right to combine students from grades 9 and 10, and grades 11 and 12 for the Provincial Final.** Judges will determine who will represent Saskatchewan at the National Final based on standings in the Provincial Final, grade, and experience.



## LEVELS & AWARDS

### School Level (Complete forms #1 and #2)

At the school level it is suggested that participants from grades 1 to 8 have the opportunity to present their poems, stories, and/or speeches to all French immersion and core French students in the school. All students who participate at the school level will receive a certificate from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education/Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan. It is the responsibility of each school representative to forward a request for the number of certificates required for the school to CPF-SK using *Form #1*. Please use *Form #2* to indicate your winners.

### School Division Level (Complete forms #3 and #4)

Participants at this level will receive a certificate from CPF-SK. Students who place first, second and third will be awarded a ribbon. We ask that the Divisional Coordinators please complete and send in *Form #3* before the event to request ribbons and *Form #4* afterwards to indicate the winners.

### Provincial Level

All participants at this level will receive a certificate from CPF-SK. Medals will be awarded to first, second and third place winners at all levels and in all categories. Note that grades 9 and 10 may compete together, as will grades 11 and 12.

Each first place winner from grade 9 and 10 as well as grade 11 and 12 will receive a *Concours d'art oratoire* plaque to be placed in the winner's school for the next school year. The first place winners from grades 9 to 12 will also receive a monetary award of \$150. Second place winners in grades 9 to 12 will receive a monetary award of \$75. In the case of a tie for second place, the award will be divided equally. Should there be a first place tie, each winner will receive \$150 and no second place will be awarded.

### National Level

The first place winner from each grade 11-12 category (French Immersion, Core French, Enriched Core French, and Enriched French Immersion) will receive an expense paid trip to the National Capital Region to compete at the National Final of *Concours d'art oratoire*.

## GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZERS

- Facilities should have a stage of some sort for the students if available.
- No microphones and/or podium are permitted.
- Three impartial judges and a timekeeper are required for all competitions.
- All judges and timekeepers are to be briefed before each competition.

## GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING

- Do not judge accent. Pronunciation must, however, be French. For example, use of English forms for proper names is not acceptable.
- Note that public speaking is not a dramatic presentation. Any gestures that are used should be natural – not exaggerated.
- Movement across the stage or jumping up and down are not acceptable and will be penalized.
- Remember to be objective.
- Content, format, originality, and presentation must prevail over subject choice.
- Correct use of French language (syntax and vocabulary) is important.
- Participants should deliver their message fluently without dependency on cue cards.
- Judges should have an understanding of the criteria for each level as listed in the Judges' Handbook.
- To ensure consistency, judges should confer briefly prior to reaching a final decision.
- Constructive criticism and/or positive comments should be made on the comment's sheet. Where applicable try to refer to specific aspects of the student's speech.
- A tie may **ONLY** be awarded at the school level. We ask divisional judges to decide between first and second place so that each school division **sends only TWO representatives per grade per category to the Provincial Final.**

**Confidentiality:** The judging forms remain the property of Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan. The judges' comments may be made available to participants only.