



Media Release

Scott dazzles, receives first place nod at National *Concours d'art oratoire*

Tuesday June 10, 2014 - Saskatchewan's own Jessica Scott is beaming with excitement after her recent first place win at the National Final of *Concours d'art oratoire*, Canadian Parents for French's speech contest for students enrolled in French-Second-Language (FSL) programs. The competition took place on May 24 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, the Birthplace of Confederation - a city that is currently celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference.

Miss Scott, a grade 11 student at Regina's Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School, was one of 31 students from across the country that placed first in their respective provinces and categories. She was in the Early French Immersion (EFI) category, for students enrolled in the program since kindergarten. She has been competing at the provincial level since grade 6, and has consistently placed in the top three each year.

Her speech - entitled *Les médecins sans frontières: L'humanité en action* (Doctors Without Borders: humanity in action) - won her a choice of scholarships at the University of Ottawa (\$32,000), University of Moncton (\$20,000) University of Prince Edward Island (\$5,360) or Université Sainte-Anne (\$2000).

"It was so exciting!" Miss Scott commented. "I think one of the best parts of the experience was meeting people from all across Canada with the same interests and the same passion for languages as me. I feel honoured to have competed and won because there were many others who were all so great and so prepared. *Concours* has opened up a lot of doors for me."

Eric Bolay, President of Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan (CPF-SK) Board of Directors said he was delighted to hear the news of the win. He witnessed Jessica performing her speech at the Saskatchewan Provincial Final on April 26 in Saskatoon. "To qualify and participate at the national level is an incredible accomplishment," Bolay noted. "To have a candidate from Saskatchewan win is absolutely fantastic! Jessica deserves it 150 percent; her speech took me on a voyage."

CPF-SK Executive Director Karen Pozniak was in attendance at the event in Charlottetown, and was present to hear the announcement of Miss Scott as a winner. "It filled me with a great deal of pride to see her on the National stage," said Pozniak. "She is an articulate, composed, polished and professional young woman. We can also be very proud of the high calibre of French that immersion students learn right here in Saskatchewan."

Miss Scott's parents, Mr. Jeff Scott and Dr. Barb Konstantynowicz, said they were both elated for their daughter and the opportunities *Concours d'art oratoire* has provided to her. "We are very appreciative that this program has been available to Jessica and so many others," said Mr. Scott. "It's multi-faceted, because it encourages public speaking skills and enhances French learning."

Dr. Konstantynowicz said that she is grateful to CPF for the opportunities it provides to the youth of Canada. "It's great for children to see an organization like CPF, as it is one that tries to be as fair and as supportive of children enrolled in FSL as possible."

For a full-length feature and pictures from the National *Concours d'art oratoire* Final, please head to sk.cpf.ca.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is the national network of volunteers who value French as an integral part of Canada and are dedicated to the promotion, creation and support of effective French-Second-Language (FSL) learning opportunities for youth in Canada.

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