

Félicitations aux gagnants et participants de la **33^{ième} Concours de français langue seconde de la région d'Ottawa-Carleton**. Franchement, vous êtes tous des gagnants car vous avez reconnu l'importance du bilinguisme. L'habileté de parler deux langues, surtout le français et l'anglais, au Canada est quelque chose qui ouvrira des portes dans nos seulement vos carrières, mais vos vies personnelles aussi.

Bilingualism encompasses not only the languages skills, but also an appreciation for two different cultures. As the Executive Director of Canadian Parents for French, I am blessed with many opportunities to travel across the country and share in the enthusiasm for the French and English cultures. CPF holds its own public speaking contests: the *Concours d'art oratoire*, which occur in communities everywhere in Canada. At the provincial and national levels, I see students who, not unlike those here today, understand that a language can be learned by living, not just speaking. In essence, going beyond the "nuts and bolts" of spelling and grammar and going about their lives, in French.

As a parent with 4 bilingual children, I understand why choosing to enrol your children in a French-second-language program can be a challenging process. I know that the parents with children participating in the Concours today have no regrets about their decision. You now know the many options your children have before them.

As a former schoolteacher, I understand the dedication of a French-second-language teacher in the classroom. Teaching in one language can have many obstacles, but teaching in two languages... well, now you have French and English obstacles! In all seriousness, FSL teachers are assets to any school board and Canadian Parents for French recognizes your importance. You introduce students to bilingualism; if you did not love your job, how many participants would be here today?

De la part de tout les membres de CPF, j'aimerais féliciter les participants, les parents et les enseignants. Sans vous, le message de bilinguisme ne serait pas partager de génération à génération. CPF travaille depuis 1977 pour que nos enfants puissent découvrir nos deux langues officielles. Merci pour vos efforts aujourd'hui; vous êtes les raisons pourquoi nous travaillons si fort.

James Shea

Executive Officer

Ottawa

Canadian Parents for French