

## Over \$200,000 in scholarships awarded to top essays!

*French for the Future's National Essay Contest winners show that Canadian youth are driven and committed to bilingualism*

**Toronto, 12 April 2010** – This year, for its annual National Essay Contest, *French for the Future* challenged high school students from across Canada to write a 1 000-word essay in French that answered the question “In your opinion, is competition useful?” The number and quality of submissions point to a generation of ambitious and successful competitors.

“The response this year was overwhelming,” said Helen Coltrinari, President of *French for the Future*. “Our contest winners demonstrated impressive energy through their essays as well as a positive commitment to continuing to live and learn in French.”

For the first time in the contest’s 5-year history, 56 scholarships are being awarded by 3 different universities. The scholarships, which range from \$2,000 to \$20,000 and total \$202,000, are being offered by the University of Ottawa, Université Sainte-Anne (Nova Scotia), and the University of Alberta’s Campus Saint-Jean in Edmonton. Contest winners in both categories — French First Language and French Second Language—will be required to complete their degree programs partially or completely in French.

The top prizes awarded from each university are as follows :

*\*\*Please note that scholarships were awarded according to each winner’s choice of university : the monetary value of the prize does not necessarily reflect their overall placement.*

### ***French First Language Category***

#### **University of Ottawa**

*\$20,000 scholarship*

**Catheryne Gagnon** (Ottawa, ON)

*\$5,000 scholarships*

**Michèle Duguay** (Ottawa, ON)

**Michèle-Renée Byham** (Hawkesbury, ON)

#### **Université Sainte-Anne**

*\$10,000 scholarships*

**Josée Rioux** (Dieppe, NB)

**Stéphanie Bouchard** (St. Paul, AB)

*\$5,000 scholarship*

**Stéphanie Murray** (Hawkesbury, ON)

#### **Campus Saint-Jean (University of Alberta)**

*\$3,000 scholarships*

**Mireille Boivin** (Edmonton, AB)

**Natasha Eddie** (Edmonton, AB)

### ***French Second Language Category***

#### **University of Ottawa**

*\$20,000 scholarship*

**Deanna Mirlycourtois** (Winnipeg, MB)

*\$5,000 scholarships*

**Eva Maxwell** (Mississauga, ON)

**Annie Peng** (Nepean, ON)

#### **Université Sainte-Anne**

*\$10,000 scholarships*

**Kerry Tian** (Mississauga, ON)

**Cameron DeViller** (Dartmouth, NS)

*\$5,000 scholarship*

**Devika Jain** (Mississauga, ON)

#### **Campus Saint-Jean (University of Alberta)**

*\$3,000 scholarships*

**Rebecca Matthew** (Edmonton, AB)

**Emily Lai** (Ottawa, ON)

40 additional finalists each won a \$2,000 scholarship to study at the University of Ottawa.

For more information, the complete list of winners, and to read the winning essays, log on to:

[www.french-future.org](http://www.french-future.org)

**To set up an interview with a winner, contact:** Élise Newman, Communications Coordinator  
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Press Release