



NEWS RELEASE

Comox student to take part in international French spelling contest

Richmond, B.C. (April 20, 2009) Maxime Charest, a grade 12 student registered in the Francophone program in Courtenay-Comox, will find himself among some 120 finalists taking part in the 16th *Dictée des Amériques* (French spelling and grammar competition of the Americas). This activity will take place on Saturday, April 25, in Québec's National Assembly. The final of the *Dictée des Amériques*, which follows a host of regional competitions, will be broadcast by Télé-Québec and TV5.

Maxime Charest will represent British Columbia in the junior division (15 to 18 years of age) in this prestigious competition that will unite participants from some 50 countries distributed in the four following continents: Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe. They were selected from some 70 000 people around the world who, every year, take part in the world's largest French-language spelling and grammar competition.

This Comox student has been a regular participant in the *Dictée des Amériques* contest. In 2007 and 2008, he placed second in the junior division in Nova Scotia prior to moving this year in British Columbia. In his third try, Maxime Charest succeeded in finishing first and qualifying for the final of this prestigious competition. The Francophone program offered at Highland Secondary is managed by the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (BC's Francophone School District – SD No 93).

Created in 1995, the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique offers educational programs and services aimed at fostering the growth and cultural identity of the province's Francophone learners. An active partner in the development of British Columbia's Francophone community, the Conseil has presently in its system, and distributed across 78 communities in the province, over 4,200 students and 40 schools, of which 23 are homogeneous schools.

For more information, please call École Au cœur de l'île, at (250) 339-1848.

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