



NEWS RELEASE

Penticton student claim first place award in the Mathieu Da Costa Challenge

Richmond, B.C. (April 23, 2009) A Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B. (CSF) (BC Francophone School District – SD No 93) student from Penticton earned top honours in a national contest. Solenn Madevon, grade 9 student in the Francophone program at Penticton Secondary, took first prize in the Mathieu Da Costa 2009 Challenge in the category: Best Writing in French. Solenn, who came first in the 13-15 age category, also claimed top honours in this contest in 2008.

The Mathieu Da Costa Challenge is an annual nation-wide contest sponsored by Heritage Canada. It invites Canadian youth aged 9 to 18 to celebrate, with a drawing or text in English or French, an Aboriginal or other ethnocultural Canadian who has made a significant contribution to the development of Canada.

Solenn Madevon's poem featured Harriet Tubman, an African-American abolitionist. After escaping from slavery, she was active in the campaign against slavery and racism. Harriet Tubman was an antislavery activist and guided countless slaves to freedom in Upper Canada through the Underground Railroad. She lived in the St. Catharines area in Ontario from 1851 to 1858.

This Penticton student received her award from Honourable Jason Kenney, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity) in a ceremony in Winnipeg on Monday, April 20.

This is the fifth consecutive year that a Francophone student from the Penticton area is a first-prize winner of the Mathieu Da Costa Challenge! Previously Solenn Madevon (2008), Shana Girard (2007) and Gaëlle Madevon (2006) from École Entre Lacs as well as Natasha Perry Fagant (2008) and Roman Blomme (2005) from the Francophone program at Summerland Secondary School also received first prize in the Best Writing in French category.

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 contact École Entre Lacs in Penticton, at 250 770-7691.

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