



PRESS RELEASE

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May 30, 2019

Students demonstrate excellence in public speaking at Speech Contest

A total of 10 students from seven schools participated in the Rainy River District School Board Speech Contest on May 29, 2019 hosted at Robert Moore School in Fort Frances. Students delivered outstanding speeches on a wide variety of topics to educators, family, peers, and community members.

Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program student, Presley McQuaker, achieved first place for her speech entitled "Taming the Wild," while Fort Frances High School students, Piper Lidkea and Jenna Bailey, took second and third place, respectively, for their speeches about "Scoliosis" and "Women and Equality."

The judges were Rhian MacIver (retired vice principal), Caitlin Hartlen (Host, 93.1 The Border); and Nick Donaldson (Emo Agricultural Research Station). Douglas Judson (Fort Frances Town Councillor) and Tracy Morrish (retired teacher) were the questioners, asking each contestant a question following their speech. Tracey Idle (Mental Health Leader) was the timer.

Public speaking can be a powerful tool to use for purposes such as motivation, influence, persuasion, or simply entertainment. Rainy River District School Board Reading Recovery Leader, Alison Simpson, recognized all participating students for their demonstrated skills in public speaking, and the evening was a celebration of all the student talent that there is within the School Board.

"It isn't easy to get up in front of an audience and speak, but all of the contestants did an excellent job presenting their speeches," said Alison Simpson. "The public speaking skills these students demonstrated are remarkable and will certainly serve them well in the future, whatever career paths they may choose."

All contestants received certificates for their participation, and awards were presented to the top three achievers.

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Mission: *"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."*

Vision: *"The Rainy River District School Board is an innovative community, nurturing hearts and minds, to build a foundation for tomorrow, today."*

This publication is available in accessible formats upon request.