



# REACH NEWS



## Director's Summary

The 2016-17 academic year has seen exciting 'Reach' play, with about 2000 students pressing buzzers across the country. This is the third year that the Reach for the Top Foundation presented award bursaries to the MVPs at the National Finals.

Check our website at [www.reachforthetop.com](http://www.reachforthetop.com) during the coming year for the announcement of Reach for the Top Alumni Events in the autumn. Also check for regular updates from provincial co-coordinators on the play schedules in each province and send photos, short video clips or text about your 'Reach' activities that we can post on our 'Reach' website and on Facebook.

Last November, students in the Events Degree Course at **Humber College** in Toronto held their second fund-raising silent auction for the Reach for the Top Foundation. Over \$4,000.00 was raised by this event. As the funds in the foundation grow, we will be offering more grants and awards.

Currently, besides the MVP Awards, the **Reach for the Top Foundation** offers 2 grants for Inter-Disciplinary Projects, the **Robert Jeffrey Grant** and the **Sandy Stewart Grant**, available to students and alumni of Canada's high schools.

Please see the application form attached to this Newsletter.

Our thanks to the teacher-coaches in every province who field teams, arrange play dates, ask questions, judge answers and generally make the Schoolreach Tournament System work from sea to sea.

Thanks also to the provincial co-coordinators (see their reports on the following pages) who organized and ran the provincial finals which resulted in the strong teams that made it to the Nationals; to the editorial board of 'Reach,' **Jeremy Willard**, **Patricia Beecham-Cooper** and **Ian Greig** and to the National Director **Daniel Hill**, and National Co-ordinator **Frank Russell**.

Congratulations to everyone involved in 'Reach' for a year of successful games and best wishes for a relaxing summer.

Paul G. Russell  
Executive Director, Reach for the Top

## Congratulations to the 2016-2017 National Champions Lisgar C.I.

Colin Veevers, Gareth Adamson, William Von Herff,  
Josh Iane, Sheena Li and Coach: Ruth Crabtree

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The colour edition of the Reach News  
is available on our website:  
[www.reachforthetop.com](http://www.reachforthetop.com)

# Nova Scotia Report

By Hans Budgey,  
Nova Scotia Provincial Co-ordinator

A successful 2016-2017 season of Reach for the Top-SCHOOLREACH, in Nova Scotia, culminated in the two-day Provincial Finals, held this year in Bible Hill, at the **Dalhousie University** Agricultural Campus, Haley Institute. Dalhousie University, NS Provincials sponsor, provided a \$1000 award to the winning team, as well as gift bags to all participants and coaches. On Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, the preliminary round-robin tournament ended with **Auburn Drive High School** in first place the round-robin

standings were as follows.

**Congratulations to the Champions from Auburn Drive High School:**

Rank	Team	W	L	PF	PA	Diff.
1	Auburn Drive High School	4	0	1060	680	+380
2	Cobequid Educational Centre	3	1	1180	580	+600
3	Horton High School	2	2	930	1020	-90
4	Hants East Rural High School	1	3	600	950	-350
5	Pugwash District High School	0	4	590	1130	-540

#1 Auburn Drive	
Bye into Semi-Finals	
#2 Cobequid Ed. Centre	430
#5 Pugwash District	140 (290)
#3 Horton High School	300
# Hants east Rural H.S.	200(100)

Semi-Finals

Auburn Drive	410
Hants East Rural	150
Cobequid Ed. Centre	280
Horton High School	330

Final

Auburn Drive H.S.	400 (1st)
Horton High School	200 (2nd)



Congratulations to the champions from **Auburn Drive High School** :Players **Armann Dhillion, Cameron Anderson, Ben Bouter, Colten Muise-Morris and Ethan Walker** .  
Coach **Marc Dalesandro**

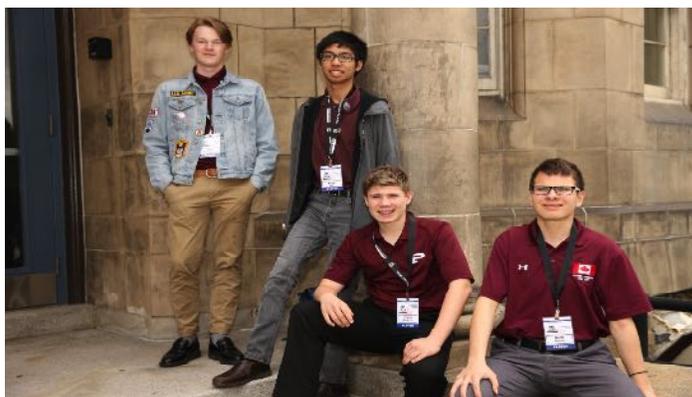
# Manitoba Report

By John Martens  
Manitoba Provincial Co-ordinator

This year 23 teams competed in Manitoba's Senior and Intermediate Reach For the Top leagues. Emerging as the Senior Reach Champions this year was a strong **St .Paul's** team coached by **Joanne Ramjug** and **Tyler Kelsch**. The team overcame **Kelvin High School** in a hard fought 330-270 victory with the "shootout" causing an 80 point swing in the champions favour. The two teams have frequently battled for the Manitoba crown, often deciding it by one question. **River East Collegiate** and **St. John's Ravenscourt** met in the third place game with SJR coming out ahead.

The Intermediate finals were held at SJR this year and the home team did not disappoint. The team coached by **Dan Simcoe** and **Stewart Smith** defeated **Kelvin**, largely on their strength in biology and anatomy. Serendipitously an e-mail came during the tournament requesting a third Manitoba team to attend the Nationals. A great day for the SJR community indeed.

The point totals in Manitoba were higher overall this year. In consulting with several coaches over the last few months, it has become apparent that more teams are engaging in daily practices. Those teams that once practiced sporadically are now weekly. While true parity may be hard to achieve, better balance makes the game more fun for all parties Congratulations to **Torbjorn T** on being named a National level MVP and I hope to see you all back on the buzzers next year.



Congratulations to the champions from **St. Paul's H.S.:**  
Players: **David Abad, Chris Karvelas, Duncan Lamont , Owen Swendrowski-Yerex** and Coach **Laurence Broadhurst**

# Quebec Report

By Cory McKay  
Quebec Provincial Co-ordinator

The Québec league was happy to have **Loyola High School** join the league, and also welcomed back **Royal West Academy** after a one year absence. Both teams were made up of excellent rookie players, and will certainly excel in coming years.

**Marianopolis College** won the 2017 Québec play-off final against a very strong Lower Canada College team in an exciting 420-300 game, and advanced on to Nationals Finals in Toronto.

The team from **Marianopolis College** comprised of Players, **Aaron Sossin, Zhou Yu Xie, Keyvan Mohammad-Ali, Liam Blout-Castonguay, Peter Stassinis, Vincent Guam and Yousef Yousef**

Coach **Cory McKay**



Congratulations to **Quebec Provincial Champions:**

# Ontario Report

By Pat Beecham-Cooper  
Ontario Finals Senior Judge

The Provincial Finals took place on May 13, 14, and 15 at **St. John Paul II High School** and the Scarborough Campus of the **University of Toronto**. 40 teams arrived from all across Ontario. These were the winners of their zone playoffs. There were several teams that had a long history at the Ontario Provincial Finals, but this year, we had several schools that were making a first appearance at the Finals. A warm welcome to all teams.

Saturday was a "get acquainted" day. Teams signed in to their residences on the Scarborough Campus, and after a short walk arrived at St.JPII. They received their game packages, got instructions, set up buzzer systems and played a practice game, to get used to the procedures of changing rooms, reporting to the judges' table with results, and getting used to playing without their coaches present as the coaches were off judging another game. The 40 teams were divided into 5 – 8 team divisions.

After the practice round, they returned to residence and enjoyed an excellent banquet and an exciting and fun game of "**Stoplight Trivia**", conducted by **Jay Misuk**, co-ordinator of the Hamilton league.

On Sunday, the tournament began for real. Each team played 7 games in a round robin tournament. The top two teams in each division advanced to the Championship rounds the next day. There were some very exciting matches and close scores, but in the end, we did not have to have any sudden death snappers to break a tie. Lunch was delicious pizza and salad.

On Monday, the Championships began. These took place in the Humanities Building on the U of T Scarborough campus with Quizmaster **Ryan Vickers**. There were five games played, with the winners of the games and the highest scoring non-winner advancing to the quarter finals and then the semi-finals. Then the two winners played for the Championship. The Ontario Championship title went to **University of Toronto Schools** from Toronto. **Lisgar Collegiate** from Ottawa placed second and the third place went to **Martingrove Collegiate** from Etobicoke (See photo p.7) All were invited to the National Finals to be held on May 26, to 29th at University of Toronto Schools on the downtown U of T. campus. It was a great tournament with many exciting games. Congratulations to all teams for great

sportsmanship and a very successful tournament.

Many thanks to **Mr. Hageman**, the coach from St.JPII and Girl Guides from the 1<sup>st</sup> **Belleville Rangers, Bonny Longstaff, Meghan Elliott, Lillian Laferty and Mikhaela Stone**. Appreciation also to **Sydney Wade** who ran quiz packs, helped guide students and helped out generally on the weekend. Thanks also to a wonderful production staff from the Reach Organization who dealt with logistic challenges with remarkable calm. Special kudos to **Daniel Hill** who spent most of Saturday trying to straighten out accommodation irregularities, and **Brenton Bentz**, the floor director who kept us moving and on time! Thanks also to my co-judge, **Ravi Lall**, whose probing lawyer mind is such an asset on hard-to-determine challenges.

As a footnote, this will be my last Provincial Report. After 30 years association with Reach for the Top, first as a coach, then as a quiz pack editor, and finally, for the last 15 years, as a judge, it is time to bid a fond farewell. I hope to keep my hand in proof-reading the quiz packs, but for the actual competitions, it's time to say goodbye. I've enjoyed every aspect of my involvement with Reach...**Paul Russell, Dan Hill**, the staff, my wonderful co-judge, **Ravi**, and my back up **Jay**, the coaches who support their teams so well, and most of all the students! You are all wonderful, and so smart! You could out-jeopardy Jeopardy any day of the week. Carry on and enjoy!



Congratulations to **University of Toronto Schools..** Players **Kanav Petkar, Alec Sampaleanu, A.J. Davidson, Ashley Yip, Gareth Thorlakson, Noah Merali Malhaar Moharir** and Coach **Jon Bitidis**

# Alberta Report

By David Rose,  
Alberta Provincial Co-ordinator

Alberta once again hosted a single tournament for their provincial competitions featuring 36 teams and 136 games over a 6-hour period on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at **Webber Academy** in Calgary, Alberta.

Congratulations to all teams for a great season and a very entertaining and exciting provincial tournament. The senior champion was once again **Old Scona Academic** (OSA) who defeated **Renert School**, while **Lillian Osborne** won the bronze in a tie breaker over **Rundle College** but were not able to attend. As a result **OSA**, **Renert** and **Rundle College** will be representing Alberta at the National tournament in Toronto.

Once again this year, the junior and intermediate tournaments were incredibly close as many of the playoff games were decided by a single question or two. **Renert school** claimed the intermediate title over **Old Scona** while **Webber Academy** defeated **Calgary French International School** (CFIS) for the junior championship.

Alberta would like to recognize **Isaac Renert** of **The Renert school** as the "Top Academic and Sportsmanlike Player" or the **Chris Zarski Award**.

I would like to congratulate all the teams on a great season and recognize the teachers and coaches who give up their time at lunch, afterschool and on weekends to make Reach for the Top such a success in Alberta. As provincial coordinator I have met some amazing students, teachers, coaches, parents and volunteers and I could not ask for a greater group of people to work with.



Congratulations to **Old Scona Academic High School** from Edmonton, Alberta. Players: **Wentao Cui**, **Mark Nie**, **Isaiah Joy**, **Uzair Chudhary**, **Christian Wigger** and **Rebecca Hicks**. Coaches **Dee Elder** and **Ahmed Yali**



**Marianopolis College** from Quebec (left) tied against **The Renert School** from Alberta (Right) in the Consolation round of the Nationals.



# New Brunswick Report

By Sean Newlands  
New Brunswick Provincial Coordinator

The 2016-2017 Reach for the Top season in New Brunswick was very exciting and successful with new schools continuing to become involved.

Six tournaments were held throughout the province during the season with at least one school from each Anglophone School District hosting an invitational event. From mid-November until April, tournaments were held at **Sugarloaf Senior High School** in Campbellton, **Kennebecasis Valley High School** in Quispamsis, **J.M.A. Armstrong High School** in Salisbury, **Bernice MacNaughton High School** in Moncton, and **St. Malachy's High School** in Saint John.

Each tournament included a senior division and open intermediate division, while four tournaments also included a Grade 9-10 only intermediate division. **Kennebecasis Valley High School** emerged as champions in the senior division at each tournament, with teams from **Oromocto High**, **Saint John High**, **Fredericton High** and **Bernice MacNaughton High** finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at various tournaments. The results in the Intermediate and Grade 9-10 divisions saw teams from **Kennebecasis Valley High**, **Sugarloaf Senior High**, **Bernice MacNaughton High School**, and **Fredericton High** finishing in first or second place at various tournaments.

The Provincial Championships, hosted by Fredericton High School, saw **Kennebecasis Valley High School** defeat **Saint John High School** in the final, with both schools qualifying for the National Championship Tournament in Toronto.

Thank-you to all coaches, tournament organizers, volunteer quizmasters, parents and especially to the players for another successful season of Reach for the Top in New Brunswick.

Congratulations to champions from **Kennebecasis Valley H.S.:** Players: **Andrew Hirtle, Ryan Queen, Andrew Thistle, Chris Ashe, Daniel Grogan, Josh DeJong, Jack Robertson, Sean Queen, Colin Mandeville** and Coach **Jason Thorne**



**Auburn Drive High School**  
(N.S.) faces off against  
**Saint John High School**  
(N.B.)

# British Columbia Report

By **Vincent Tze-Munn**  
British Columbia Provincial Co-ordinator

This year, Schoolreach in British Columbia continues to bring forth new challengers not only in the Provincial tournaments but also in the interschool league games. Among them were **Port Moody Secondary, Collingwood School** from West Vancouver and **Southpointe Academy** from Tsawwassen. Enthusiasm to participate was not bounded by distance. To these schools we say, "Welcome!"

We started the Schoolreach season last October with the friendly interschool league games played every other week until the end of February. Then we had the "Junior Provincial tournament" for the grade 8s to 10s in early March. Finally our game season culminated with the "Senior Provincial Finals" for the grade 11s and 12s in late March.

Our interschool league games are mainly played among schools within the Vancouver district catchment but this year we were pleased to include schools from farther away who were excited to carry their talents cross-boundary. These games give students a wonderful opportunity to meet other students in other schools in a very friendly yet competitive atmosphere. Talents are acknowledged and friendships are made

The Provincial tournaments invite schools from across the province. Each year we are delighted to include schools from as far away as Vancouver Island and the Okanagan. Our Junior Provincial tournament, which was held in **St. Georges School**, had nail biting moments which led to first, second and third place podium finishes to **Eric Hamber, Burnaby North** and **Robert McMath**, respectively. Our Senior Provincial tournament, which was held at **York House School** finished the evening with first, second and third place podium finishes to **Collingwood, Sir Winston Churchill** and **Templeton**, respectively. We were proud to be able to include these three senior teams as provincial representatives at this year's Reach For The top National Finals in Ontario.

We look forward to a new season of witty battle of wits after the summer holiday.

Congratulations to the B.C. Champions **Collingwood School** and team members: **Graeme Beck, Vishal Tijo, Armun Ghafari, Kevin Downey, Cullen Murphy, Krishna Vijayakumar** and Coaches: **Gloria Piovesan and Thomas C. Jacoby**



Provincial Silver went to **Sir Winston Churchill S.S.** (Below) and Provincial Bronze went to **Templeton S.S.** (Left)



# National Report

By Paul Russell,  
Executive Director, Reach

This year, 16 teams of Provincial Finalists travelled by plane, train and car from across Canada and converged in downtown Toronto at the Chestnut Residence of the **University of Toronto** on Friday May 26, 2017 for **the 51st Anniversary** of the **Reach for the Top National Finals**. They were greeted in the lobby of the residence by Reach National Co-ordinator **Frank Russell** and Production Assistant **Violetta Bailey**.

On Saturday morning, after breakfast, teams made their way up town by subway or on foot to **University of Toronto Schools** in the city's Annex district for a formal welcome and introductions in the auditorium. A full round-robin tournament was conducted in the UTS classrooms. A day of pressing buzzers and hurrying from room to room was punctuated at mid-day with a hot buffet lunch in the commons area of the school.

Tournament Coordinators **Ian Greig** and **Andy Saunders** supervised this day-long series of games. We were fortunate to have these articulate and patient readers and score keepers for the tournament: **Jennifer Beer, Mark Greig, Sarah Hirtle, Paul Kasinski, Zhenglin Liu, Jenny Mao, Carol Pierce, Aayush Rajasekaran, Aaron Dos Remedios, Fraser Simpson, Fox Slawnych, Joe Su, Nick Sunderland, Jonah Theissen, and Meghan Torchia**.

The production crew made up of RFTT Co-ordinator **Rachel Crossman** and Production Assistants **Meghan Elliot, Bonny Longstaff, Maggie Redmond, Daniel Salisbury, Tracey Stevens, Mikhaela Stone** and **Sydney Wade**, assured the smooth operation of the Tournament of 15 games played simultaneously in 8 classrooms as well as the set up of buzzer systems and auditorium staging under the supervision of Floor Director **Brenton Bentz**, 2<sup>nd</sup> AD **Chris Bentz** and Production Co-ordinator **Rob Fidler**.

On Sunday, the **National Finals** series got underway as well as a **Consolation Tournament**. After a light lunch in the school, this tournament continued in a classroom while the quarter finals took over the main stage. Every team had an opportunity to play on stage in the auditorium, answering rapid-fire questions from our tall and dark suited 'Reach' quizmaster, **Ryan Vickers**. All of the activity was duly covered by photographers **James Bailey** and **Costa Kamateros** while I.T./Tech Supervisor **Gmatt Stevens** kept our friends and followers on social media up to date by regularly posting that imagery and the results of every game.

Our thanks to our ever-alert judges for these games; **Patricia Beecham-Cooper** and **Ravi Lall** and to our reliable scorekeeper/ alternate judge **Jay Misuk**. They maintained a level-headed and calm focus through technological malfunctions and complicated challenges from the competing teams. Thanks also to U.T.S., our host school, and **Jonathan Bitidis**, the coach of the UTS team, for making us welcome.

The two Semi-Finals and the Championship game were played on Monday morning in the auditorium at UTS. **Ryan Vickers** was at the microphone, serving as our lively quizmaster for these intense games. The teams were evenly matched and every question was hotly contested. The final confrontation saw victory go to the team from **Lisgar Collegiate** in Ottawa over the players from **U.T.S.** Producer/Director **Daniel Hill**, Media Producer **Glen Gummerson**, gaffer **Gerry Mendoza**, Director of Photography, **Jorge Manzano** and camera operators **Goran Vla** and **Lilian Lafferty** recorded the final game for website release.



Following the final game, a **Gala Buffet Lunch** was held at the nearby **Faculty Club** on the University of Toronto campus and all shared in the feast.

Our Keynote Speaker was **Jay Misuk**, an Alumnus of Reach for the Top and Co-ordinator of Schoolreach in Hamilton, Ontario. He recounted personal Reach experiences that drew enthusiastic applause from his audience.

Jay followed his talk with an energetic endorsement of the new **Reach for the Top Foundation Awards** to be presented annually, **The Robert Jeffrey Grant** (\$500.00) and **the Sandy Stewart Grant** (\$1000.00), to be offered in support of High School or University inter-disciplinary projects.

# Nationals continued

**Ryan Vickers**, as Master of Ceremonies closed the event with awards and prizes for the two top teams and the **4 MVPs** as selected by a panel of Reach judges who considered the nominations made by participating Tournament players. The MVPs each receive a \$200.00 award from the **Reach for the Top Foundation**.

This year's 'Dream Team' consists of

**Isaac Renert** from **Renert School** in **Alberta**, **Francesca Crema** from **Templeton S.S.** in **British Columbia**, **Tobjourn Thomson** from **Kelvin High School** in **Manitoba** and **Colin Veevers** from **Lisgar C.I.** in **Ottawa**.

And finally, every participating team received a **National Finals Commemoration Plaque** for public display at the represented school.

Beaming, winning faces from across the country were caught by flashing cameras and found their way to social media everywhere. The final raffle saw more souvenirs, donated by invited teams, go out to thrilled players as Reach for the Top celebrated 51 years of cross-Canada student play.



**Ryan Vickers**, as  
Master of Ceremonies



**The 2017 National Finals MVP's**



All **National Finals** teams received a commemorative plaque.

Seen here **Old Scona Academic**

