



# REACH NEWS



## Director's Summary

The 2014-15 academic year has seen exciting 'Reach' play, with about 2000 students pressing buzzers across the country. We have also launched the **Reach for the Top Foundation** which presented its first award bursaries to this year's MVP's at the National Finals.

Check our website at [www.reachforthetop.com](http://www.reachforthetop.com) during the coming year for the announcement of a planned **Reach for the Top Alumni Reception** in the autumn. Also check for regular updates from provincial co-coordinators on the play schedules in each province and send photos or information on your 'Reach' activities that we can post on our 'Reach' site.

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 and produced uniformly strong teams to represent each province at the Nationals; to the editorial board of 'Reach,' **Jeremy Willard, Patricia Beecham-Cooper, Stephen Finlay and Ian Greig** and to the National Director **Daniel Hill**, and National Co-ordinators **Eric Novakovics**, and **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 2014-2015 National Champions Lisgar C.I.

Aidan Ryan, Nick Sunderland, Alex Roeder, Colin Veevers  
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 2014-2015 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 25th, the preliminary round-robin tournament ended with **Dartmouth High School** in first place overall. The round-robin standings were as follows:

Rank	Team	W	L	PF	PA	Diff.
1	Dartmouth High School	5	0	1670	760	+910
2	Cobequid Educational Centre	4	1	1390	790	+600
3	Auburn Drive High School	3	2	1060	800	+260
4	Sackville High School	2	3	700	930	-230
5	Pugwash District High School	1	4	520	1170	-650
6	North Colchester High School	0	5	450	1340	-890

On Sunday, April 26th, the finals were held; using the seeding results from Day 1 of the competition, the following playoff schedule took place:

#1 Dartmouth HS	400
#6 North Colchester HS	90 (-310)
#2 Cobequid Ed. Centre	340
#5 Pugwash District	90 (250)
#3 Auburn Drive	310
#4 Sackville High School	220 (90)

## Semi-Finals

Dartmouth HS	370
Sackville High School	190
Cobequid Ed. Centre	320
Auburn Drive	240

## Final

Dartmouth HS	390
Cobequid Ed. Centre	360



Congratulations to the champions from **Dartmouth High School**: **Ethan Gysbertsen**, **Josh Kean**, **Adam Lavergne**, **Kayla Levandosky** and **Meaghan Wilson** and their Coach/Teacher Advisors: **Santhi Welch** and **Lynne Wordsworth**.

Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted in making this year's program a success.

# Manitoba Report

By John Martens  
Manitoba Provincial Co-ordinator

Manitoba crowned a new provincial champion this year in exciting fashion. **St.Paul's** defeated **Kelvin** in a second tie-breaker question after going back and forth through three rounds and the final snappers. St.Paul's is a perennial favourite to reach the finals and played a strong team game to end Kelvin's streak of 41 consecutive wins within the province. The final game was read by Winnipeg's new mayor, **Brian Bowman**. Reach alumnus, City Councillor **Brian Mayes**, was instrumental in organizing the event, as well as an exhibition match featuring other members of council and an MP.

The intermediate championship was done as a round-robin this year with Kelvin coming out on top. This is their second straight year winning that title. Many schools such as **SJR**, **Shevchenko** and **Beaver Brae** featured strong young players and one would expect these teams to challenge for the crown in the near future.

On a personal note, I would like to congratulate long-time St.Paul's coach **John Pundyk** on his forthcoming retirement. It is also my pleasure to share that former provincial co-ordinator and Carberry coach **Murray Karlicki** appears to be fully recovered from a fall he had suffered a few years back. **Beaver Brae** from Kenora also competed in the province for a second consecutive year.



Congratulations to the champions from **St. Paul's H.S.:**  
Players: **Heath Chalmers**, **Sean Jackson**, **Brett Ingram**, **Daniel Stokes**, **Nathan Wilson** and Coach **Tyler Kelsch**



# Quebec Report

By Emille Richer,  
Quebec Provincial Co-ordinator

The Quebec League had one of its most closely-matched seasons in recent league history with several games ending in tie-breakers. It wasn't until the very last game of regular season play that the standings were established, with **Marianopolis College** finishing in first position going into the playoff rounds. It was however the **Dawson College** team that took home the provincial championship, defeating **Lower Canada College** in the final game.

At the National Championships, the **Dawson** team was eliminated in the quarter-final round of the National Championship but were pleased with their round-robin performance which included a victory over the 2015 Reach champions **Lisgar Collegiate Institute**.

All members of **Dawson College's** team, **Andrew Hamilton**, **Zachary Dionisopoulos**, **Alex Karasick**, **Julia Peterson** and **Jake McKinnell** are off to University next year. The team will be heavily recruiting in order to compete with rising young stars from Lower Canada College and Royal West College who have already shown their promise with several years of eligible play ahead of them.



Congratulations to Quebec Provincial Champions: Dawson College

# Ontario Report

By Pat Beecham-Cooper  
Ontario Finals Senior Judge

The Provincial Finals took place on May 9, 10, and 11 at **St. John Paul II C.S.S.** and the Scarborough Campus of the **University of Toronto**. 39 teams arrived from all across Ontario. These were the top teams from the 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 their 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. JP II. 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 39 teams were divided into 5 divisions of 8 teams with one team getting a by every game.

After the practice round, they returned to residence and enjoyed an excellent banquet and an exciting and fun game of "True or False", conducted by **Fraser Simpson**, the coach of **University of Toronto Schools**.

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. 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 winner, **Martingrove Collegiate** from Toronto and the second place team **Lisgar Collegiate** from Ottawa; and the third place team, **University of Toronto Schools**

were all invited to the National Finals to be held on May 23 - 25 at **UTS** and **U of T**. It was a great tournament with many exciting games. Congratulations to all teams for great sportsmanship and a very successful tournament.

Many thanks to the Staff and volunteers from PJPII who ran quiz packs, helped guide students and helped out generally on Saturday: Coaches **Anthony Hageman**, **Chris Premdas**, and student volunteers **Nicole Baret**, **Clarisse Garcia**, **Czarina Padiernos** and **Mark Menea**. Thanks also to a wonderful Reach for the Top production staff whose organization was remarkable. Special kudos to **Eric Novakovics** whose mind operates in wonderful ways to figure out amazing schemes to get everything to work. Thanks also to my co-judge, **Ravi Lal**, whose probing lawyer mind is such an asset on hard to determine challenges.



Congratulations to Martingrove C.I. Players: **Bennet**, **Montgomery**, **Gavrilo Randjelovic**, **Fox Slawnych**, **Igor Perepelytsya**, **Isaac Thiessen**, **Jonah Thiessen**, **Elisa Khun**, **Samantha**, **Ling**, and Coach: **Michael Goldberg**

# Alberta Report

By David Rose,  
Alberta Provincial Co-ordinator

In an entertaining twist, Alberta returned to the format of a single SUPER tournament for their provincial competitions. A total 36 teams from across Alberta, 12 junior level (grade 7, 8), 12 intermediate level (grade 9, 10) and 12 senior level (grade 11-12) teams squared off on Saturday, April 18th at **Hunting Hills High School** in Red Deer, Alberta. **Randy MacKay** and the staff at Hunting Hills did a fantastic job of hosting the event and in a wonderfully warm spring, weather was not an issue; ie. no blizzards like a couple of years ago.

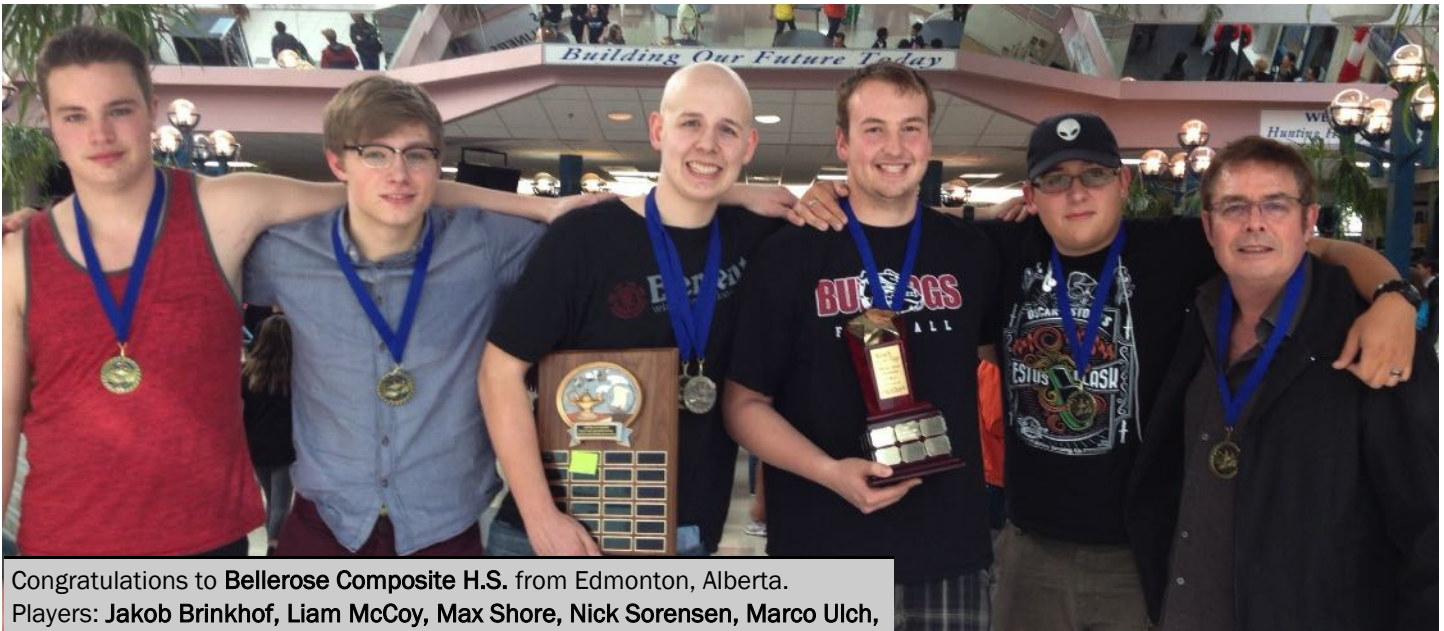
The 2015 tournament featured 132 games over a 6 hour period with some teams having played as many as 7 games at the event. The eventual senior champion was **Bellerose Composite High** who defeated both **Webber Academy** (silver) and **Old Scona** (bronze) on their way to victory; **Strathcona-Tweedsmuir** finished in fourth place.

Congratulations to all senior teams for a great season and a very entertaining and exciting provincial final.

Once again this year, the junior and intermediate tournaments were incredibly close. Many of the playoff games were decided by a single question or two with several in sudden death overtime! **Calmar School** claimed both the junior and intermediate titles over **Webber Academy** with **Old Scona** and **Webber Academy** claiming bronze in the intermediate and the junior levels respectively.

Alberta would like to recognize the senior player at the provincial tournament who was awarded the "**Chris Zarski Award - Top Academic and Sportsmanlike Player**". The year's recipient was **Liam McCoy** of **Bellerose Composite High**.

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, after-school and on weekends to make Reach For The Top such a success in Alberta. As provincial coordinator, I again learned a great deal and met some amazing students, teachers, coaches, parents and volunteers and I could not ask for a great group of people to work with.



Congratulations to **Bellerose Composite H.S.** from Edmonton, Alberta.  
Players: **Jakob Brinkhof**, **Liam McCoy**, **Max Shore**, **Nick Sorensen**, **Marco Ulch**,  
**Spencer Unrau** and Coach: **Brian Joseph Grant**



**Webber Academy** from Alberta (right) faces off against **Sir Winston Churchill** from BC (left) in the Consolation round of the Nationals.



# New Brunswick Report

By Sean Newlands  
New Brunswick Provincial Coordinators

The 2014-2015 season demonstrated that Reach for the Top is exciting, competitive and ever-growing in New Brunswick.

Seven tournaments were held throughout the province during the season. For the first time, a tournament was held in every region of the province, as at least one school from each Anglophone School District hosted an invitational event. From mid-November until April, tournaments were held at **St. Malachy's High School** in Saint John, **Nackawic High School**, **Oromocto High School**, **Bernice MacNaughton High School** in Moncton, **Kennebecasis Valley High School** in Quispamsis, **Sugarloaf Senior High School** in Campbellton, culminating with Provincials at **Fredericton High School**.

It was also exciting to welcome four new participating schools to NB Reach for the Top. **Sugarloaf Senior High School** and **Rothsay Netherwood School** returned to play for the first time in many years, and we welcomed brand new teams from **Hartland Community School** and **Campobello Island Consolidated School**.

Most tournaments this year included three divisions of play: Senior, Grade 11-12 Intermediate and Grade 9-10 Intermediate. It was clear from day one, that there would be a battle for top spot in the province between two teams at the senior level. At each of the seven tournaments, **Kennebecasis Valley High School** defeated **Bernice MacNaughton High School** in the final.

The results in the Intermediate Divisions were much more varied with teams from **Kennebecasis Valley High School**, **Bernice MacNaughton High School**, **Campobello Island Consolidated School**, **Nackawic High School**, **Rothsay Netherwood School** and **Sir James Dunn Academy** finishing in first or second place at various tournaments.

Congratulations to **Kennebecasis Valley High School** on their second place finish at the National Championships in May, and congratulations to both **KVHS** and **Bernice MacNaughton High School** for being such fantastic representatives of New Brunswick at Nationals.

Thank-you to all the coaches, tournament organizers, volunteer quizmasters, parents and especially to the players for another successful season of Reach for the Top in New Brunswick. We are all looking forward to another exciting season next year. Have a wonderful summer vacation. See you in the fall.

Congratulations to champions from **Kennebecasis Valley H.S.:** Players: **Andrew Hirtle, Ryan Queen, Andrew Thistle, Sam Cookson, Chris Huddleston, Keegan Reynolds** and Coach **Jason Thorne**



The team from **Bernice MacNaughton High School** cheering on their fellow Provincial team at the National Finals.

# British Columbia Report

By Donna Choo  
British Columbia Provincial Co-ordinator

The 2014-2015 season of B.C. Reach for the Top involved 32 to 36 schools from the Lower Mainland, Victoria, and the Okanagan playing at the Senior and/or Junior/Intermediate level in interschool games and/or in the annual provincial tournaments.

On February 27th, the 2015 Junior/Intermediate Provincial Tournament was held at **Eric Hamber Secondary** (Vancouver), where twenty school teams competed for the championship. Many thanks go to **Christina Koblbauer**, her student volunteers, and the Hamber staff for hosting and organizing this well-run event.

The 2015 B.C. Intermediate Reach for the Top Champion is **Templeton Secondary** (Vancouver) who was awarded the school trophy and gold medal. Second place and silver medal went to **Burnaby North Secondary** (Burnaby), and third place and bronze medal to **VSB/University Transition** (Vancouver). Congratulations to all the teams and to their coaches!

The 2015 B.C. Reach for the Top Provincial Championship (Senior level) was held on April 10th at **St. George's School** (Vancouver). Thank you to **Catherine Mori** and **Rob Lovell**, their student volunteers, and the St. George's staff for all of their hard work during the competition.

This smoothly-run event was enjoyed by the thirty schools who attended the tournament. All school teams play an initial round of five games to rank the schools. Then the sixteen highest scoring teams continue to the championship rounds. The enthusiasm and the talent of the students was evident throughout the tournament as they competed. It was exciting to watch the players demonstrate their depth of knowledge and quickness of recall.

The 2015 B.C. Reach for the Top Provincial Champion is **Eric Hamber Secondary** (Vancouver), who received the school trophy and the gold medal. The silver medal went to **Sir Winston Churchill Secondary** (Vancouver) and the bronze medal to **R.A. McMath Secondary** (Richmond). Congratulations to all the players on the winning teams and to their coaches/sponsors!

For the first time, three school teams from British Columbia, **Eric Hamber**, **Sir Winston Churchill**, and **R.A. McMath**, represented B.C. at the 2015 Reach for the Top National Championship in Toronto. It was a memorable experience for all our players as they competed and socialized with other RFTT students from across Canada.

Although our school year began late, it has been a successful and enjoyable year for Reach for the Top in B.C. Thank you to all of the students, their parents, and the team coaches/sponsors for their continued commitment and interest in RFTT. We have had a lot of fun playing School Reach! See you next season when Reach for the Top celebrates its 50th year.



Congratulations to the B.C. Champions **Eric Hamber S.S.** and team members: **Zak Vescera, Christopher Sims, Hector Rathburn, Jared Pattison, Ben Moir, and Emmanuel Sales**, and Coach: **Christina Koblbauer**.



Provincial Silver went to Sir Winston Churchill S.S. and Provincial Bronze went to R. A. McMath S.S.





# National Report

By Paul Russell,  
Executive Director, Reach

This year, 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 22, 2015 for the **49th year of the Reach for the Top National Finals**.

On Saturday morning, after breakfast at the residence, teams made their way up town by subway or on foot to **University of Toronto Schools** in the city's Annex district. After a formal welcome and introductions in the Auditorium, a full round-robin tournament of 15 games was conducted in the UTS classrooms. A day of pressing buzzers and hurrying from room to room was punctuated at mid-day with a full hot buffet lunch catered by **Rancho Relaxo** in the Commons area of the school.

We were fortunate to have these articulate and patient readers and judges for the tournament: **Britney Castleman, Alden Fong, Chris Isherwood, Paul Kasinski, Rory O'Laughlin, Aaron dos Remedies, Daniel Salisbury, Andy Saunders, Mary Savage, Luke Stark, and Meaghan Torchia**. The production crew, including **Chris Bentz, Jason Cooper, Rachel Crossman** and **Frank Russell** set up buzzer systems and auditorium staging under the supervision of Floor Director **Brenton Bentz**.

On Sunday, the National Finals series got underway. We also played a Consolation Tournament, first on the auditorium stage, then after lunch, in a classroom while the quarter finals for the top eight finalists from the previous day's Round Robin 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 photographer **James Bailey**.

Our thanks to our ever-alert judges for these games, **Patricia Beecham-Cooper** and **Jay Misuk** and to our reliable scorekeeper, **Violetta Bailey**. Thanks also to U.T.S., our host school, and **Fraser Simpson**, 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. **Brenton Bentz** served as our level-headed quizmaster for these tense games. The teams were evenly matched and every question was hotly contested. The final confrontation saw the victory go to the team from **Lisgar Collegiate** over **Kennebecasis Valley High School**. Media Producer **Glen Gummerson**, Director of Photography, **Jorge Manzano**, with camera operators **Zach Arison** and **Alex Blom**, 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. The Reach students were thrilled by the visit of **The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario**. Her Honour circulated among the teams and exchanged comments and

observations with most of the attendees. The Lieutenant Governor then offered congratulations and good wishes to all participants before departing for out of town engagements that afternoon. After the vice-regal visit, a buffet luncheon was presented and all shared in the feast. **Brenton Bentz** continued as Master of Ceremonies as medals and prizes were presented to the two top teams and the 4 MVP's.

The announcement of the four **MVP's**, as selected by a panel of Reach teachers & judges, received enthusiastic applause. This year's 'Dream Team' consists of (pictured, left to right)

**Nick Sunderland** from **Lisgar Collegiate**

**Zack Vescera** from **Eric Hamber S.S.**

**Liam McCoy** from **Bellerose Composite High School**.

**Sam Cookson** from **Kennebecasis Valley High School**.

Zack Vescera felt strongly that another member of his team was more deserving and,

in the spirit of good sportsmanship, personally transferred the award to **Christopher Sims** (pictured far right) and asked us to acknowledge Christopher as the 4th MVP (replacing Zack).

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

Medals and prizes and beaming winning faces from across the country were captured by flashing cameras and a final raffle saw more souvenirs go out to players.





# Nationals continued



*"I want to thank the Reach organization for inviting me here today and I commend the organization as it looks forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary season. Reach for the Top is a venerable Canadian institution, and I extend my best wishes for continued success."*

**The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, at the Reach for the Top National Finals Gala Luncheon, May 25, 2015**



**Dawson College (QC) and Kelvin H.S. (MB) hanging out at UTS.**

All participating **National Finals** team captains pose with their team plaques

