



# REACH NEWS



## Director's Summary

The 2017-18 academic year has seen exciting 'Reach' play, with about 2000 students pressing buzzers across the country. This is the fourth 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.

Last April, coach and Schoolreach editor **Jay Misuk** invited the **Reach Alumni Association** to a day-long tournament at **McMaster University** with proceeds going to the **Reach for the Top Foundation**. \$600.00 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 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,' **Solomon Klein, Ian Greig, Fraser Simpson** and **Jeremy Willard**, 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 Inc.

## Congratulations to the 2017-2018 National Champions University of Toronto Schools

Players : Shuli Jones , Gareth Thorlakson, Noah Morali, Ernest Li  
Malharr Moharir, Oliver Weizel, Gabriel Beiner  
Coaches Jonathan Bitidis and Sean Hayto

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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 2017-2018 season of Reach for the Top-SCHOOLREACH, in Nova Scotia, culminated in the 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 28<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 Cobequid Education Centre

Rank	Team	W	L	PF	PA	Diff.
1	Auburn Drive High School	4	0	1310	570	+740
2	Cobequid Educational Centre	3	1	1080	530	+550
3	Dartmouth High School	2	2	630	840	-210
4	North Colchester High School	1	3	550	970	-420
5	Hants East Rural High School	0	4	360	1020	-660

#1 Auburn Drive  
Bye into Semi-Finals

#2 Cobequid Ed. Centre 570  
#5 Hants east Rural H.S. 40

#3 Dartmouth High School 170  
#4 North Colchester H.S. 190

### Semi-Finals

Auburn Drive 320  
North Colchester H.S. 130

### Final

Cobequid Ed. Centre 330 (1st)  
Auburn Drive H.S. 270 (2nd)



Congratulations to the champions from **Cobequid Educational Centre**: Players Myles Fox, Erica Moore, Rodion Marienko, Jason O'Brien-Fisher, Natalie Porter, Brett Spencer and their Coach/ Teacher advisor Hans Budgey and Assistant Coach Ryan Terry

# Manitoba Report

By John Martens  
Manitoba Provincial Co-ordinator

Reach For The Top in Manitoba is going strong with increased parity amongst the teams and new teams being added in the capital region. This year saw fewer teams go undefeated in their region and no clear cut favorite to win the Provincial title.

The intermediate Finals were held in Vita this year at **Shevchenko School**. Mr Klassen was an excellent host and the participating teams enjoyed their trip to this small community 90 minutes southeast of Winnipeg. Upstart **Miles Mac** came in as the 7th seed and defeated the number 1 seed **St. Pauls** in the opening game, but the boys from **St. Paul's** regained their composure and heartily defeated **Kelvin H.S.** 400-190 in the finals.

The Senior championship was held off campus site at the **University of Winnipeg, Merchants Corner**. Thanks to the continued patronage of city councillor **Brian Mayes**, we became the first event ever at the new facility one day ahead of it's official opening. Having provided us with special venues in 3 of the last 4 years, the participating teams voted to name the championship trophy after the good councillor.

The numbers indicated it was truly anybody's trophy to win. but in the end it was **Kelvin** defeating **SJR** by 100 points We all wish coach **Dan Simcoe** a speedy convalescence. We are looking forward to a year of trivia for the 2018-19 school year.

Congratulations to the champions from **Kelvin High School.**, Players : David Hultin, Spencer Kornelson, Paulina Hernandez-Sainz, Samuel Payne, Nicholas Litardi, Peter Bell-Scholtz and Coach John Martens



# Quebec Report

By Cory McKay  
Quebec Provincial Co-ordinator

The Québec league had another highly enjoyable year of competitive play between **Lower Canada College, Loyola High School, Marianopolis College** and **Royal West Academy**. A pair of very close semi-final playoff games were followed by a win by **Marianopolis College** in the Québec final against a young and strong **Royal West Academy** team."



Congratulations to **Quebec Provincial Champions: Marianopolis College**  
**Players: Patrick Bielawski, Fatma ElGenieidy, Hendrik Fortin, Camille Hamant**  
**Haley He, Ryan Pinchuk and Coach Cory McKay**

# Ontario Report

Frank Russell  
National Co-Ordinator

The **Ontario Provincial Finals** took place on May 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> at the Scarborough Campus of the **University of Toronto**. 38 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 making their first appearance at these games.

Saturday was a "get aquatinted" day. **Frank Russell** and **Violetta Bailey** registered the arriving teams as they checked in to their residences on the Scarborough Campus. Students then received their game packages, got instructions and set up buzzer systems. The afternoon ended with a practice game to allow players to get used to the procedures of changing rooms, reporting to the judges' table with results, and competing without their coaches present as the coaches were off judging other games. The 38 teams were divided into 5 – 8 team divisions organized by **Andy Saunders** and **Ian Greig** our Tournament Directors.

After the practice round, all returned to residence then re-appeared for the Gala Dinner to enjoy an excellent banquet followed by a lively and fun game of "**Spotlight Trivia**", conducted by **Fraser Simpson**.

On Sunday morning the tournament began in earnest. Each team would play 7 games in a round robin tournament with a mid-day pause for a lunch of pizza and salad. The 10 top teams then advanced to the Championship rounds the next day.

On Monday, the Championships took place in the Humanities Building on the U of T Scarborough campus with Quizmaster **Ryan Vickers**. There were five games played at 9am, with the winners of the games and the highest scoring non-winner advancing to the quarter finals and then the semi-finals. The game between **Royal St.George's College** and **Lisgar Collegiate**, last year's National Champions, ended in a tie and was eventually settled when it came down to the two Team Captains facing off. After box lunches enjoyed in the sunshine, the Ontario Championship title went to **University of Toronto Schools**. **Martingrove Collegiate** from Etobicoke placed second and the third place went to **London Central S.S.** All three were invited to the National Finals, just two weeks away. Congratulations to all teams for their gaming skills, knowledge base and powers of recall.

Many thanks to the Girl Guides from the 1<sup>st</sup> **Belleville Rangers, Bonny Longstaff, Meghan Elliott, Lillian Laferty and Victoria Kennedy** who ran quiz packs, guided students and helped out generally on the weekend. Thanks also to the fine production staff from the Reach Organization who dealt with logistic challenges with remarkable calm. Special thanks to Producer **Daniel Hill**, and **Brenton Bentz**, the floor director who kept us moving and on time! Thanks also to our Judges **Ravi Lall** and **Fraser Simpson** who dealt equitably with those hard-to-determine challenges.



Congratulations to **University of Toronto Schools..** Players **Shuli Jones**  
**Ernest Li, Gabriel Beiner, Oliver Weizel, Sean Hayto, Gareth Thorlakson,**  
**Noah Merali, Malhaar Moharir and Coach Jon Bitidis**



# Alberta Report

By David Rose,  
Alberta Provincial Co-ordinator

36 Alberta teams matched their skills once again to determine provincial rankings on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at **Ecole Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville (ESSMY)** in St. Albert, Alberta. The players completed 136 games over a 6-hour period to determine bragging rights for the province.

Congratulations to all teams for a great season and a very entertaining and exciting provincial tournament. The senior champion was new this year as The **Renert School** defeated **Old Scona Academic (OSA)** to claim their first ever provincial title. Meanwhile Webber Academy moved up from 8<sup>th</sup> place after the round robin to win the bronze. **Renert, OSA, and Webber Academy** represented 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. **OSA** claimed the intermediate title over **Strathcona Tweedsmuir School (STS)** while **Webber Academy** defeated the Renert School for the junior championship.

Alberta expanded their awards this to recognize the "Top Academic and Sportsmanlike Player" for each of the three levels of play. Congratulations goes out to **Johnathan Renert** of The Renert School (Senior), **Sam Barber** of **STS** (Intermediate), and **Jacob Rae** of **Webber Academy (Junior)** selected by the readers and judges as award recipients this year.

I would like to 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 great group of people to work with.

Dave Rose



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Congratulations to **The Renert School** from Edmonton, Alberta.

Players: **Jonathan Renert**, **Maya Ghai**, **Addison Lindemann**, **Benjamin Renert**, **Jonathan Brown**, **Adam Ursenbach**, **Benjamin Wolfman**, **Kaleb Jeung** and Coach **Lora Stead**



Webber Academy Team from Calgary



Old Scona Academic High School Team  
f from Edmonton

# New Brunswick Report

By Sean Newlands  
New Brunswick Provincial Coordinator

The 2017-2018 Reach for the Top season in New Brunswick was very exciting and successful with many tournaments and competitive play.

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, **Bernice MacNaughton High School** in Moncton, **Nackawic High School**, and first time host **Minto Memorial High School**. A tournament scheduled for **Oromocto High School** was cancelled due to poor road conditions.

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 **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**, **Sir James Dunn Academy**, **Fredericton High school** and **JMA Armstrong High School** finishing in first or second place at various tournaments.

The Provincial Championships, hosted by **Fredericton High School**, saw **Kennebecasis Valley High School** defeat **Fredericton 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, Sean Queen, Chris Ashe,  
Josh DeJong, Jack Robertson, Colin Mandeville  
and Coach Jason Thorne



**Auburn Drive High School (N.S.)** faces off against the  
team from **Fort Richmond C.I. (Manitoba)**



The Reach team from **Fredericton High School**

# British Columbia Report

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

This year, we enjoyed another friendly Vancouver league. The Vancouver league is made up of mainly schools in the city of Vancouver but this year it continues to grow and welcome clubs and teams from farther away such as the North Shore, Burnaby, Port Moody and even Tsawwassen. Currently the league comprises eighteen teams. Starting in early October and continuing until the end of February, we meet at the host school and play two packs from the interschool packs. The afternoons are often filled with laughter and friendly competition.

The league culminates in the Junior and Senior Provincial tournaments in March and April, respectively. This year the two schools which hosted these events were **Southridge School** and **Southpointe Academy**. The events were very well organized and we had schools coming from as far away as Vancouver Island. In the Junior tournament, after a close battle in the semi-finals, the top three schools were **Southridge** - champions, **University Transition** and **Sir Winston Churchill**. In the Senior tournament, after another exciting semi-finals, three schools stood out. They were **St. George's** - champions, **Eric Hamber** and **Sir Winston Churchill**.

**St. Georges school** and **Eric Hamber Secondary School** went on to represent British Columbia in the National Finals.

Congratulations to the B.C. Champions

**St. Georges School** Players : **Andrew Campbell, Qaasim, Karim , Timothy Kwan , Marcus Dee, Brennan Tse , Callum Sheppard , Louie Lu . Zehan Zhou**  
and Coaches: **Catherine Mori and Lynette Dian**



B.C. Provincial Silver went to **Eric Hamber S.S.**



Ontario Provincial Silver Medalist  
**Martingrove Collegiate**



# National Report

By Paul Russell,  
Executive Director, Reach

This year, 15 teams of Provincial Finalists converged in downtown Toronto at the Chestnut Residence of the **University of Toronto** on Friday May 25, 2018 for the **52nd 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 pizza and salad lunch at 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: **Rico Catibog**, **Milan Fernandez**, **Mark Greig**, **Paul Kasinski**, **Elisa Kuhn**, **Rein Otsason**, **Kanav Petkar**, **Aaron Dos Remedios**, **Isaac Renert**, **Fox Slawnych**, **Chris Sims**, **Joe Su**, **Nick Sunderland**, **Isaac 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-ordinators **Rob Fidler** and **Stefany Brown** and Assistant Production Manager **Gmatt Stevens**.

On Sunday, the **National Finals** series got underway as well as a **Consolation Tournament**. After a hot buffet lunch at the nearby Madison Eatery, 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 photographer **James Bailey** while Administrative Intern **Andrew Elliot** 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; **Fraser Simpson** and **Ravi Lall** and to our reliable MC and 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 and articulate 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 **UTS** over the players from **London Central**. Producer/Director **Daniel Hill**, Media Producer **Glen Gummerson**, gaffer **Nick Churchill**, Director of Photography, **Jorge Manzano** and camera operators **Goran Vla** and **Lilian Lafferty** recorded the final game for website release.



**2nd Place went to London Central S.S. seen here receiving prizes**

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

Our Quizmaster **Ryan Vickers** acknowledged our sponsors, particularly **Leslie Walcott** representing the **Reach for the Top Foundation**. He then presented awards and swag 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

**Gareth Thorlakson** from **University of Toronto Schools** in **Ontario**

**Wenyng Wu** from **Eric Hamber S.S.** in **British Columbia**

**Zhongtian Wang** from **London Central S.S.** in **Ontario**

**Andrew Hirtle** from **Kennebecasis Valley H. S.** in **New Brunswick**



**2018 National Finals MVP's**

# Nationals continued

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



Sunny winning faces from across the country were caught by flashing cellphone cameras and found their way to social media everywhere. **Jay Misuk** then co-ordinated two rounds of **Spotlight Trivia** before the first early departures due to flight timetables concluded the weekend as excited students headed home after joining with Reach for the Top to celebrate 52 years of cross-Canada student play.



**Jay Misuk, Master of Ceremonies**



**Ryan Vickers, as National Host**

Thank you to our sponsors





