



# REACH NEWS



## Director's Summary

The 2018-19 academic year has seen exciting 'Reach' play, with about 2000 students pressing buzzers across the country. This is the fifth year that the **Reach for the Top Foundation** has 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 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**. \$750.00 was raised by this event. As the funds in the foundation grow, we will be offering more bursaries, grants and awards.

Currently, besides the **MVP Awards**, the **Reach for the Top Foundation** offers 2 bursaries for Inter-Disciplinary Projects, the **Robert Jeffrey Bursary** and the **Sandy Stewart Bursary**, available to students and alumni of Canada's high schools. This year, a **Sandy Stewart Bursary** for \$1000.00 was presented to **Elisa Kuhn** for her project in Human Factors systems at Trinity College's Graham Library, in the University of Toronto. **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,' **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 2018-2019 National Champions Westmount Secondary School From Hamilton

Players : Marcell Maitinsky,, Amy Wang, Talia Fan, Samir Mechel  
Phillip Darley . Neil Lin Nicholas Alizadeh  
Coaches Jay Misuk and Tara Rosebery

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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 2018-2019 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 27<sup>th</sup>, the preliminary round-robin tournament ended with **Cobequid Educational Centre** in first place the round-robin standings

Rank	Team	W	L	PF	PA	Diff.
1	Cobequid Educational Centre	3	0	1210	590	+620
2	Auburn Drive High School	2	1	1010	800	+210
3	Hants East Rural High School	1	2	600	980	-380
4	Dartmouth High School	0	3	550	1000	-450

were as follows.

## Congratulations to the Champions from Cobequid Educational Centre

#1 Cobequid Ed.Centre	540
#4 Dartmouth High School	160

#2 Auburn Drive H.S.	360
#5 Hants east Rural H.S.	240

### Consolation Round

Dartmouth High School	240
Hants East Rural H.S.	160

### Final

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



Congratulations to the champions from **Cobequid Educational Centre** :Players ,  
**Ryan Spencer, Rodion Marienko , Jason O'Brien-Fisher, Natalie Porter, Brett Spencer**  
**Mary –Emma Barns , Erin Hughes , Myles Fox**  
Coaches : **Hans Budgey and Ryan Terry**

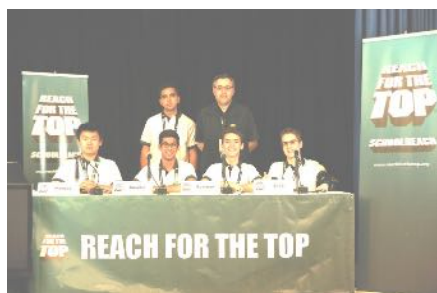
Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted in making this year's program a success.

# Manitoba Report

John Martens  
Manitoba Provincial Co-ordinator

This year the Manitoba Provincial Finals were held in Winnipeg at the **Gray Academy** on May 1st.

A newcomer to the Tournament was **River East Collegiate**, their run to the provincial championship fell short with a loss of only two questions to **St. John's-Ravenscourt** in the final. But their second-place finish earned them an invitation to the National Finals competition in Toronto.



Congratulations to the Champions from **St, Johns Ravencourt**,  
Players **Spencer Bubis, Sascha Modha , Jack Lindner, Marcus Guan , Sebastian Sanchez Figueroa** and Coach **Dan Simcoe**



Silver went to **River East Collegiate** Players:  
**Matthew Kwiatkowski , Lucas Sawatsky, Libby Hildebrandt , Katherine Wright , Owen Rempel, William Kendrick** Coaches: **Catherine Ramsay and Cherylene Kentner**

# Quebec Report

By **Cory McKay**  
Quebec Provincial Co-ordinator

The Québec league was delighted to welcome back Westmount High School, after an absence of several years. Westmount High joined Lower Canada College, Loyola High School, Marianopolis College and Royal West Academy in another highly enjoyable year of competitive play. Marianopolis College ended up winning the Québec playoff final against a very strong rookie Westmount team."



Congratulations to **Quebec Provincial Champions: Marianopolis College**  
**Players: Matthew Bergeron, Fatma ElGenieidy, James Lafigliola**  
**Ryan Pinchuk, Philippe Voger-Nguyen and Coach Cory McKay**

# Ontario Report

**Frank Russell**  
National Co-Ordinator

The **Ontario Provincial Finals** took place on May 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> at the Scarborough Campus of the **University of Toronto**. 36 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 pace of the games and the procedures of changing rooms. The 36 teams were divided into 6-6 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 "**Stoplight 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

After box lunches enjoyed in the sunshine, the Ontario Championship title went to **University of Toronto Schools**. **Westmount S.S.** from **Hamilton** placed second and the third place went to **Lisgar Collegiate** from **Ottawa**. 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**, **Sophie Jennings** 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 Lal** and **Fraser Simpson** who dealt equitably with those hard-to-determine challenges.



Ontario Champions **University of Toronto Schools..** Players  
**Taaha Hassan, Gabriel Beiner, Oliver Weizel, Arif Aulakh, Jerry Wang,**  
**Malhaar Moharir, Matthew Davidson and Coaches Jon Bitidis and Sean Hayto**



# Alberta Report

By David Rose,  
Alberta Provincial Co-ordinator

.Greetings from Alberta.

36 Alberta teams matched their skills once again to determine provincial rankings on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Renert School in Calgary, Alberta. The players completed 144 games over a 7-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 defending senior champion, Renert, held on once again this year as they defeated Strathcona Tweedsmuis School (STS) to claim their back to back provincial title. Meanwhile Webber Academy defeated Old Scona Academic (OSA) to win the bronze. Renert, STS, and Webber Academy will represent Alberta at the national tournament in Toronto.

As always the junior and intermediate tournaments were incredibly close as many of the playoff games were decided by a single question or two. Webber claimed the intermediate title over Old Scona while it was an all Renert School final in the junior championship.

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 greater group of people to work with.



Congratulations to **The Renert School** from Calgary Alberta. Players: Jonathan Renert , Maya Ghai , Danielle Renert, Ben Renert , Jonathan Brown , Adam Ursenbach, Anika Kehrig , Liam Kusalik and Coaches Lora Stead and Jesse



**Webber Academy Team** from Calgary  
Players : Asher Nyhoff , Kevin Lin , Evin Chin , Jacob Rae , Shayan Siddiqui , Ryan Dion and Coach David Rose



**Strathscona Tweedsmuis School** from Okotoks AB  
Players: Cole Shaigec , Sam Barber , Ben Coleman  
Kyle Mullen, Max Christie and Coach Frank Kores

# New Brunswick Report

By Sean Newlands  
New Brunswick Provincial Coordinator

The 2018-2019 Reach for the Top season in New Brunswick was very exciting and successful with many tournaments and competitive play.

Five 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, **Fredericton High School** and **Nackawic High School**.

Each tournament included a senior division and an intermediate division. **Kennebecasis Valley High School** emerged as champions in the senior division at each tournament, with **Bernice MacNaughton High** finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at all but one, where **Kennebecasis Valley #2** finished as runners-up. The results in the very competitive Intermediate division saw teams from **Kennebecasis Valley High**, **Fredericton High** and **Sir James Dunn Academy** emerge with tournament wins, while teams from **Kennebecasis Valley High**, **Nackawic High** and **JMA Armstrong High** finished in second place at various tournaments.

The Provincial Championships, hosted at Nackawic High School, saw **Kennebecasis Valley High School** defeat **Bernice MacNaughton High School** in a very closely contested final day of action, 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.

Sincerely

Sean Newlands

Provincial Coordinator

New Brunswick Champions from **Kennebecasis Valley H.S.:**  
Players: **Sean Queen** , **Josh DeJong**, **Jack Robertson**,  
**Colin Mandeville** , **Andrew Bachynsky**, **Josh Eldridge** ,  
**Alex Cui** , **Jackson McElman** and Coach **Jason Thorne**



**Bernice MacNaughton H.S.** from Moncton N.B.

Players : **Abigail Hackett** , **James Cogswell** ,

**Frank Qiao** . **Quang Nguyen**

Coach : **Natasha LeBlanc**

# British Columbia Report

By **Vincent Tang**  
British Columbia Provincial Co-ordinator

Schoolreach play continued to be filled with exciting moments during this school year.

We started in October. Sixteen schools took part in the Vancouver league. A couple of these joined a little later in the season. Many schools were represented in both the intermediate and senior divisions.

The league culminated with the Intermediate and Senior Provincial tournaments in March and April, respectively.

The intermediate tournament was once again hosted by **Catherine Mori** and her team of enthusiastic helpers from **St. George's School**. The event went smoothly and the final game ended with a nail biting finish where **St. George's** managed to creep ahead of the **Southridge School** team in the last few questions to win the coveted Intermediate Trophy. The team from **J.N. Burnett S.S.** beat **University Transition** to win the School bronze medal.

The senior tournament was hosted by **Darren Birch** of **Port Moody S.S.** and his team of dedicated volunteers. The final result saw **Eric Hamber S.S.** win the gold medal, **University Hill S.S.** win the silver medal and **Sir Winston Churchill S.S.** earned the bronze medal. These three teams were invited to represent British Columbia at the Nationals in Toronto in May.

I think this may be the first time that we had six different medal winners across the intermediate and senior tournaments.

Have a great summer and see you again in September.

B.C. Champions ;**Eric Hamber S.S.** From Vancouver Players : **Alexander Wodzicki , Benjamin Li , Ethan Lo, Daniel Frydman, Ega Chung , Wen Ying Wu , Andy Liang , Alexander Sun** and Coach: **Matthew Vatta**



B.C. Provincial Silver went to **University Hill S.S.**  
Players : **Gordon Cheung , Gabriel (Gabo) Cameron Bazo, Max Gedajlovic, Federico Knautd** and Coach: **Vincent Tang**



# National Report

By Paul Russell,  
Executive Director, Reach

This year, 14 teams of Provincial Finalists converged in downtown Toronto at the Chestnut Residence of the **University of Toronto** on Friday May 24, 2019 for the **53rd 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 **Violetta Bailey** for registration.

On Saturday morning, after breakfast, teams made their way crosstown by Queen Streetcar or on foot to **University of Toronto Schools** campus on Humbert Street in the city's Ossington District for a formal welcome and introductions in the gymnasium. 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 grand buffet lunch.

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: **Gareth Thorlakson**, **Milan Fernandez**, **Mark Greig**, **Paul Kasinski**, **Elisa Kuhn**, **Rein Otsason**, **Kanav Petkar**, **Zhongtian Wang**, **Isaac Renert**, **Gareth Adamson**, **Chris Sims**, **Joe Su**, **Andrew Hirtle**, **Isaac Theissen**, **Jenny Mao**, **Sean Thompson** and **Meghan Torchia**.

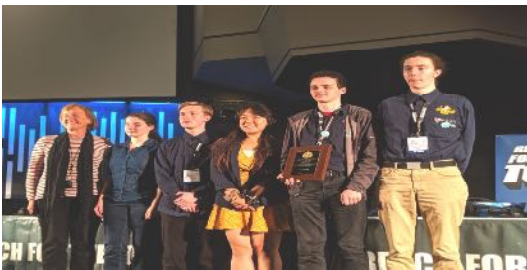
The production crew made up of RFTT Production Co-ordinator **Stefany Brown** and Production Assistants **Meghan Elliot**, **Bonny Longstaff**, **Sophie Jennings**, **Daniel Salisbury**, **Victoria Kennedy**, assured the smooth operation of the Tournament of 13 games played simultaneously in 7 classrooms 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** and Audio Manager **Neil Walters**.

On Sunday, the **National Finals** series got underway as well as a **Consolation Tournament**. Every team had an opportunity to play on stage, answering rapid-fire questions from our tall and dark suited 'Reach' quizmaster, **Ryan Vickers**. All of the activity was covered by photographer **James Bailey**.

Our thanks to our ever-alert judges for these games; **Fraser Simpson** and **Ravi Lall** and to our reliable MC **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 at **Stonechurch** Assembly Hall on Davenport Road in the city's Yorkville District. **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 was back and forth until the final buzzer saw victory go to the team from **Hamilton's Westmount Sec. School** over the players from **Lisgar Collegiate in Ottawa**. Producer/Director **Daniel Hill**, Director of Photography **Nick Churchill** and camera operators **Gmatt Stevens** and **Vatsal (Vats) Kochalia** recorded the final game for website release.

Following the final game, a **Gala Buffet Lunch** was held in an adjoining hall at **Stonechurch**. Then everyone returned to the auditorium for a keynote address by **Brent Barron** of **CIFAR** on "Our AI Future: Canada and the World." After thanking Brent, **Ryan Vickers** presided as plaques, medals and trophies were awarded. He then acknowledged our sponsors, particularly the **Reach for the Top Foundation** which presented bursaries to each of the **4 MVPs** as selected by the votes of all participants and the Reach staff.



**2nd Place went Lisgar Collegiate from Ottawa**  
**Players : Thomas Mennill , Matthew McGoey,**  
**Gabriel Clark , Amy Zhang , Marlin Netterfield**  
**Coach : Ruth Crabtree**



**2019 National Finals MVP's**  
**Max Gedajlovic- Univrsity Hill B.C.**  
**Jonathan Renert The Renert School AB**  
**Amy Zhang Lisgar Collegiate ON**  
**James Cogswell Bernice McNaughton N.B.**

# Nationals continued

Sunny, winning faces from across the country were caught by flashing cellphone cameras and found their way to social media everywhere. **Jay Misuk** then encouraged all students leaving high school to get involved in the Reach for the Top Alumnae for get togethers and tournaments. **Ryan Vickers** wound things up with the much-loved raffle of mementoes donated by participating schools. By 3pm as some teams were leaving for early flight departures, Ryan thanked all participants and concluded the weekend as excited students headed home after joining with Reach for the Top to celebrate 53 years of cross-Canada student play.



**Ryan Vickers**, as National Host



Keynote address by **Brent Barron** of CIFAR on "Our AI Future: Canada and the World"



**Elisa Kuhn** receiving the Sandy Stewart Bursary from Exec. Producer **Paul Russell**

**Jay Misuk**, Master of Ceremonies



## Elementary School Report

In February 2019, A tournament was held with the support of Schoolreach as a pilot project in a school board just north of Toronto. Nine schools participated and each played five round robin games as well as top teams playing for a championship trophy. Packs were designed specifically for the grade six, seven and eight level. Students, educators and parents were very excited to be introduced to SchoolReach.

As a result of the success of this tournament, SchoolReach is launching an elementary school subscription package nationwide. Schools will be able to purchase a set of 12 packs so that not only they can play in-school but will be put in touch with other schools in the area if they want to play inter-school matches. Current Reach subscribers are encouraged to contact "feeder schools" in their area to see if there is interest, which will not only allow them to develop a "farm" system so that high school players are already familiar with the game but perhaps could run tournaments and even write questions to use at those tournaments. This is a great opportunity to get high school students to influence younger Reach players!

Thank you to our sponsors

