

THE 36TH CANADIAN NATIONAL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST

カナダ全国日本語弁論大会

Sunday, March 30, 2025

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (EDT)

Vari Hall A

York University

4700 Keele Street,

Toronto, ON M3J 1P3



THE 36th CANADIAN NATIONAL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST

Sunday, March 30, 2025
Vari Hall A, York University

9:30 OPENING CEREMONY

Opening Remarks	Noriko Yabuki-Soh, Chair, NJSC Organizing Committee
Greetings	Consul-General Takeshi Matsunaga, Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto Dr. Walter Davis, Interim Director, Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research

9:45 SPEECHES

9:45	Beginners (6 contestants)
10:10	Intermediate (8 contestants)
10:45	Intermission
11:00	Advanced (7 contestants)
11:40	Open (3 contestants)
12:00	Report on Mitsui & Co. Ltd. Award (Chloe Shek, 2024 award recipient) Report on Kakehashi Project (Ariel Upiter, 2025 participant) Cultural Presentations

12:50 CLOSING CEREMONY

Award Ceremony	
Closing Remarks	Noriko Yabuki-Soh, Chair, NJSC Organizing Committee

JUDGES (alphabetical order)

Dr. Atsuko Hashimoto, Graduate Program Director and Professor, Geography and Tourism Studies, Brock University (Chief Judge)
Mr. James Heron, Executive Director, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
Mr. Takeshi Matsunaga, Consul-General of Japan, Consulate General of Japan in Toronto
Mr. Takeshi Mitsui, President & CEO, Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd.
Ms. Noriko Yamamoto, Executive Director, The Japan Foundation, Toronto

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Risa Hatake
Marshall Ginsler-Viner

Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest (NJSC) was established in 1989 under the auspices of the Japanese Embassy in Ottawa in order to promote Japanese language education in Canada. The contest participants are from the seven regional contests: Atlantic, Quebec, Ottawa, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia.

ELIGIBILITY

BEGINNERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neither parent of the contestant is a native speaker of Japanese. • The contestant has studied Japanese for less than 130 hours or one year. • The contestant has not stayed in Japan for more than three months in total since the age of six.
INTERMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neither parent of the contestant is a native speaker of Japanese. • The contestant has studied Japanese for up to 260 hours. • The contestant has not stayed in Japan for more than six months in total since the age of six.
ADVANCED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neither parent of the contestant is a native speaker of Japanese. • There is no limit on the hours of study. • The contestant has not stayed in Japan for more than three years in total since the age of six.
OPEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both or either of the parents may be native speakers of Japanese language as long as the contestant is studying Japanese as a foreign language. • There is no limit on the hours of study. • There are no restrictions on length of stay in Japan.

*Exceptions can be made dependent on the contestants' level of Japanese language. The final decisions will be made by the organize committee.

BEGINNERS CATEGORY

1	Manseerat Gill マンシラタ・ギル	Message from a Poet 詩人からのメッセージ	University of Winnipeg
2	Julia Levesque ジュリア・レベック	Blooming Through Trust 信頼で咲く	John Abbott College
3	Lillian Liu リリアン・リュー	Spring Rain 春の雨	Queen's University
4	Alyssa MacKenzie アリサ・マッケンジー	My Name Is Alyssa “愛凜咲” 私の名前は「愛凜咲」です	Mount Allison University
5	May Pham メイ・ファム	My Recipe for Happiness 私のしあわせのレシピ	University of Calgary
6	Alex Sarkozi アレックス・サーコジ	The Study of Math, Music, and Mistakes 数学、音楽、失敗学	York University

INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY

1	Younseo Heo ユンサ・ハ	Shortcut to Success: Comparing Education of Two Countries 成功への近道～二つの国の教育の 違い～	McGill University
2	Kai Lee カイ・リー	The Dream Japan Gave Me 日本がくれた夢	University of British Columbia
3	Cheuk Yen (Cheryl) Leung シェリル・リョウ	Collecting Mania... Treasure or Waste? 宝物かゴミか...私の収集癖	York University
4	Xinyue Lu シンユエ・ルー	Friendship, Like the Changing Seasons 四季のような友情	Carleton University
5	Toluwalase Omoniyi トルワラセ・オモニイ	Fear Cuts Deeper Than the Sword 恐怖は剣よりも深く切り込む	University of Winnipeg

6	Deana Seo ディアナ・セオ	TCK (Third Culture Kids): Where Are You From? サードカルチャーキッズ: ねえ、どこからきたの?	Mount Allison University
7	Alice Shin アリス・シン	Can We Overcome Language Barriers? ことばのかべはのりこえられるか?	University of Saskatchewan
8	Josh Wong ジョシュ・ウォン	One Step for Justice 正義のための一歩	University of British Columbia

ADVANCED CATEGORY

1	Eric Amborsky エリック・アンボースキー	The Complexity of Autism 自閉症の複雑さ	University of Manitoba
2	Maweixing Chen マウェイシン・チェン	To You Who Are Walking on a Thorny Path いばらの道を歩いている君へ	University of Ottawa
3	Ava-karie Hislop エイヴァ・キャリー・ヒスロップ	What Is "Good Hair"? 髪は女の・・・	York University
4	Madison Hartop マディソン・ハートップ	Children Deserve Better 子どもたちはもっと良い待遇を受けるべきだ	Mount Allison University
5	Ezgi Ince エズギ・インジェ	A Healthy Escape: The Psychology Behind Our Attraction for Cute Things ほどよい現実逃避: 可愛い物の心理学	University of Calgary
6	Meira Sembrat ミラ・センブラット	Do You Know Me? 私のことを知っていますか?	University of Victoria
7	Sonda Yip ソング・イップ	Fall and Rise 七転び八起き	Université du Québec à Montréal

OPEN CATEGORY

1	Ailie Jutant アイリ・ジュタン	Freedom Has No Limits 自由には限界はない	McGill University
2	Koto Shi コト・シ	The Significance of Finding One's Place of Belonging 居場所探しの意義	University of British Columbia
3	Yuna Wong ユナ・ウォング	At the Crossroads of Cultures 文化のスクランブル交差点で	York University

Notes: BC's Beginners Category is equivalent to the Intermediate Category of the national contest in terms of the hours of studying Japanese. Therefore, there are two participants from BC in the Intermediate Category.

ORGANIZING MEMBERS IN TORONTO

(Ontario Japanese Speech Contest Organizing Committee Members)

Kumiko Inutsuka	York University
Eri Takahashi	York University
Noriko Yabuki-Soh	York University
Yukiko Yoshizumi	University of Toronto
Yanjun Zhang	Huron University

CANADAIAN NATIONAL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Noriko Yabuki-Soh, Chair	York University
Yoriko Aizu	Carleton University, University of Ottawa
Hiromi Aoki	University of British Columbia
Kumiko Inutsuka	York University
Akiko Yoshizawa	Mount Allison University
Yukiko Yoshizumi	University of Toronto
Yanjun Zhang	Huron University

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

<https://www.cajle.ca/activities/japanese-speech-contest/>

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