



# **The 37th** **Canadian National** **Japanese Speech Contest**

## 第三十七回カナダ全国日本語弁論大会



**Sunday, March 29, 2026**  
8:45 am – 1:30 pm (MDT)

**University of Alberta**  
TELUS Centre 150

Prince Takamado Japan Centre  
for Teaching and Research



# Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest

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The Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest (NJSC) was established in 1989 under the auspices of the Embassy of Japan in Canada 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.

## Schedule

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- 8:45      **Opening Ceremony**
- Opening Remarks: Mr. Takehiko Wajima, Consul-General of Japan in Calgary
  - Greetings: Dr. Walter Davis, Interim Director, Prince Takamado Japan Centre
  - Introduction of Judges and sponsors
  - Explanation of Contest Rules
- 9:00      **Beginner Category (6 Contestants)**
- 9:27      **Intermediate Category (7 Contestants)**
- 10:06     **Break**
- 10:16     **Advanced Category (7 Contestants)**
- 11:02     **Open Category (5 Contestants)**
- 11:35     **Break**
- Final Deliberation by Judges
  - Short Film Screening
- 12:10     **Award and Closing Ceremony**
- Comments: Dr. Shintaro Kono, Associate Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation, U of A
  - Announcement of Winners
  - Closing Remarks: Dr. Olenka Bilash, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Edmonton and Professor Emerita, Faculty of Education, U of A
- 12:40     **Closing/ Photo Session**

## Masters of Ceremonies

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Shelby Ebens

Arthur Taylor



## Judges

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Mr. Takehiko Wajima	Consul-General of Japan in Calgary
Mr. Takeshi Enowaki	General Manager, Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd.
Ms. Tamaki Ikeda	Japanese Language Instructor, Edmonton Japanese Speaking Class
Dr. Shintaro Kono	Associate Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation, U of A
Mr. Hajime Sakaguchi	Principal, Metro Edmonton Japanese Community School

## Eligibility

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<b>Beginner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neither parent of the contestant is a native speaker of Japanese.</li> <li>• The contestant has studied Japanese for less than 130 hours or one year.</li> <li>• The contestant has not stayed in Japan for more than three months in total since the age of six.</li> </ul>
<b>Intermediate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neither parent of the contestant is a native speaker of Japanese.</li> <li>• The contestant has studied Japanese for up to 260 hours.</li> <li>• The contestant has not stayed in Japan for more than six months in total since the age of six.</li> </ul>
<b>Advanced</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neither parent of the contestant is a native speaker of Japanese.</li> <li>• There is no limit on hours of study.</li> <li>• The contestant has not stayed in Japan for more than three years in total since the age of six.</li> </ul>
<b>Open</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• There is no limit on the hours of study.</li> <li>• There are no restrictions on length of stay in Japan.</li> </ul>

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

## Beginner Category



1	Noémie Benoit ノエミ・ブノワ	That alone is enough それだけでいい	Université du Québec à Montréal
2	Eshionamhe Dania エシオナムヘ・ダニア	From 'Edo' to 'Edo' 「エド」から「えど」へ	-
3	Jinnie Lee ジニー・リー	The Two Hearts of The Body 体の中の二つのハート	University of Toronto
4	Kencho Namgyel ケンチョ・ナムゲル	The First Step はじめのいっぽ	University of New Brunswick
5	Elham Sajedi エルハム・サジェディー	My Name 私の名前	University of Alberta
6	Lucy Wang ルーシー・ワン	Want to be a Person who can say "It's okay" to others 「だいじょうぶ」と言える人になりたい	Queen's University

## Intermediate Category

1	Kelly Deng ケリー・デン	What Is By Your Side? そばに、何がある？	University of British Columbia
2	Sami El-Agha サミ・エラガ	Catharsis Of The Colorful Robot 多彩なロボットのカタルシス	Université du Québec à Montréal
3	Kanwarpreet Gill コナ・ギル	To the person I want to be なりたい自分へ	University of Ottawa
4	Jeff ジェフ	Foreign Carrot Regime 外国人参政権	-
5	Alyssa MacKenzie アリサ・マッケンジー	One Not-So-Tiny, Tiny Little Bug ちっぽけだけど、ちっぽけじゃない虫	Mount Allison University
6	Isaac Munro アイザック・ムンロ	The Chains of Talent 優秀という鎖	-
7	Ilia Parunashvili イリア・パルナシュビリ	Why do we learn languages? どうして言語を学ぶのでしょうか	-

\* BC's Beginner Category is equivalent to the Intermediate Category of the national contest in terms of the hours of studying Japanese.



## Advanced Category

1	Lawrence Barss ローレンス・バース	Takehashi: Let's build international bridges 「カケハシ」：国際的な橋を架けましょう	Carleton University
2	Theodore Blumrich テオドール・ブルームリッチ	The Journey Into Japanese 日本語への旅	University of Winnipeg
3	Louris Cai ルリス・カイ	My regrets 後悔したこと	Université de Montréal
4	Janice Lee ジャニス・リー	Looking Deeper into Winning and Losing 経験から学んだ勝負の二面性	University of Calgary
5	Hyerim Song ヘリム・ソン	My Wandering Diary 彷徨いで広がる私の地	University of Toronto
6	Syrus Weinberg サイラス・ワインバーグ	Onigiri おにぎり	University of British Columbia
7	Rivka Zickler リブカ・ジックラー	Kindness in Matsugasaki Station 松ヶ崎駅でのやさしさ	Mount Allison University

## Open Category

1	Shi Cheng シー・チェン	The failure 失敗作	-
2	Hinata Derouin ヒナタ・ダーウィン	Learning People, Learning Language: The Significance of Studying Translation in the AI Era 人を学ぶ・言葉を学ぶ：AI時代に翻訳を学ぶ意義	Carleton University
3	Ezgi Ince エズギ・インジェ	The Value of Quiet People 静かな人の価値	-
4	Dylan Kim ディラン・キム	Shortage of Thoughts 思考のまずしさ	-
5	Nina Tadano 唯野 新菜	Am I Japanese too? 私は日本人？	-

# Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest Organizing Committee

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Walter Davis (Chair)	University of Alberta
Hiromi Aoki	University of British Columbia
Keiko Aoki	Queen's University
Ihhwa Kim	University of British Columbia
Rei Kondo	University of Alberta
Kerry Sluchinski	University of Alberta
Noriko Yabuki-Soh	York University
Akiko Yoshizawa	Mount Allison University
Yukiko Yoshizumi	University of Toronto
YanJun Zhang	Huron University College

## Organizing Committee in Edmonton

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### University of Alberta

Walter Davis  
Rei Kondo  
Aya Kymson  
Kerry Sluchinski

## Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education

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

## Flight Arrangements by

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IACE Travel Canada Inc.

# Contributors



The 37th Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest would not be possible without generous support from the following organizations (listed in alphabetical order):

- Blue Tree Books
- Canon Canada Inc.
- Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary
- IACE Travel Canada Inc.
- Japan Communications Ltd.
- Mitsui Canada Foundation
- MYNDS Inc.
- Panasonic Canada Inc.
- The Japan Foundation, Toronto
- The Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund
- ShowFlex International Inc.
- Toyota Canada Inc.
- Yamaha Canada Music Ltd.

