

March 8, 2021

Dear Coaches,

We are pleased to invite you to the 2021 Canadian ESU National Public Speaking Competition to be held on Wednesday, March 31st, 2021 via Zoom. Eligible students must be **between the ages of 16 and 20** on May 10, 2021 and must be enrolled in full time education.

This public speaking tournament is open to any high school in Canada, and to first year CEGEP students. Please note we were only notified about hosting this event on Friday and the international deadline is fast approaching – apologies for the quick deadlines. Phase 1 Registration is due on Wednesday March 17th by end of day. For Phase 1, we are looking to see how many students are interested in participating. A school may send a maximum of 2 students. After Phase 1 numbers are in, we will determine if we will run the event live or have students submit their speeches via video, with only the finalists presenting live. Each school must provide one adult judge with prior experience coaching, judging or competing in public speaking. Please note that the tournament rules prohibit students from identifying their school while participating to ensure the anonymity of the competitors; this includes participating in school uniform or mentioning their school.

Students will deliver a five-minute prepared speech on the theme "**The best route to change engages all voices.**" Students may interpret the theme in a variety of ways, but should carefully review the ESU Guidance for Speakers and Guidance for Adjudicators for details on the ESU speech format (attached). These speeches are distinct from other types of speeches that students may have encountered at national and international public speaking tournaments, such as persuasive speaking. In the convention of ESU speeches, students are **expected to create a title for their speech**. The title should be inspired by their interpretation of the theme, but may not be a restatement of the theme itself. In choosing their title, speakers should not be afraid to be provocative, hard-hitting or humorous, as long as their intention is constructive, and the speech is not offensive to other parties. Speakers must avoid speeches that are likely to be perceived as doctrinal or political.

The top speaker of this event will represent Canada at the ESU International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) to be held online from May 10th to May 14th, 2021.

The event schedule will be sent after Phase 1 Registration has closed.

To register, please fill out this online form <https://forms.gle/To1YaP1RNGyQrqnWA> by Wednesday March 17th, 2021.

We look forward to hosting you.

Sincerely,

Frankie Cena

Canadian IPSC Qualifier Convenor