



News Release

Alberta 4-H Members Speak Their Minds

Red Deer – They say speaking in front of an audience is one of the most terrifying things a person will have to endure during their lifetime – just do not include Alberta 4-H’s top public speakers in that category. On April 12, 14 senior 4-H members, representing seven regions, descended upon the Red Deer Lodge to partake in the Alberta Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Finals.

One of the more difficult things required of the participants is preparing a four to six minute speech on a topic they do not receive until two weeks before the event. This year’s subject dealt with “What Makes a Community?” Adding to the intensity of the event is a requirement for the speakers to prepare a two to three minute impromptu speech. Members choose randomly from one of three current event topics and are given just one minute to prepare their speaking notes.

“We really test the members’ ability to think outside the box when preparing their speech and impromptu,” commented Cameron Horner, 4-H Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. *“This competition is meant to be tough but fair and everyone did an outstanding job. All of these 4-Her’s have shown they have what it takes to be successful communicators.”*

After the results were tallied, Kayla Getzinger of Stony Plain and a member of the Lakemere 4-H Beef Club earned the title of 2008 Public Speaking Champion with her prepared speech *With Gifts*. Kayla was presented with the Grant Fletcher Memorial Award and will be Alberta’s representative at the Canadian Youth Speakers for Agriculture competition held in Toronto this November. Sydney Schnell (Ponoka) from the Falun East 4-H Beef Club was named runner-up with Zane Perreault (Rocky Mountain House) from the Leslieville Trail Trotters 4-H Club finishing in third place.

Other provincial participants were: Martine Anderson, Crossfield; Danielle Charron, Mannville; Ryan Davidson, Lougheed; Stacey Domolewski, Taber; Danielle Kakoschke, Okotoks; Jessica Kuester, Dixonville; Blake Lange, Grande Prairie; Lindsey Meredith, Claresholm; Brittany Miller, Calmar; Charley Switzer, Sibbald; and Aaron Wasserman-Bitzer, Hardisty.

A thank you goes out the sponsors of this event including our title sponsor, [AltaLink](#), along with the event’s co-sponsors, [Agrimium](#) and the [Calgary Stampede](#).

Building communities since 1917, Alberta 4-H has been mentoring the youth of this province in the ways of leadership and communication, all the while equipping them with confidence, life-applicable skills and a network of friends that spans the entire country. With 250,000 alumni, 4-H is proud to be the #1 youth organization in the province.

For more information on Provincial 4-H Public Speaking, please visit www.4h.ab.ca or call 780-427-0753



Rob Smith, 4-H Specialist presents Kayla Getzinger, Stony Plain with the Grant Fletcher Memorial Award



Congratulations to a great job by all the participants in the 2008 Provincial 4-H Public Speaking finals