



Building Bridges Youth Contest

Deadline January 15, 2020

The *Building Bridges Youth Contest* encourages Montreal area youth to showcase their artistic and writing talents by sharing their thoughts/experiences on how our community looks when we are working and living in harmony. This year's theme is:

All of us can promote and defend human rights

Students are invited to review the [Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedom](#), the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom](#), and the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). Students are encouraged to use the United Nations Human Rights Pledge as inspiration for their submission:

“I will respect your rights regardless of who you are. I will uphold your rights even when I disagree with you. When anyone's human rights are denied, everyone's rights are undermined, so I will STAND UP. I will raise my voice. I will take action. I will use my rights to stand up for your rights.”

The contest is in memory of the late [Dr. Victor Goldbloom](#), one of Montreal's finest statesmen, a great leader in intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and a citizen passionate about building bridges. His autobiography, [Building Bridges](#), lays the foundation for this contest. His call was “**Be present. Be engaged. Be constructive.**”

The *Building Bridges* contest is open to students from age 9 to 17, divided into three categories according to their grade (Elementary 4-6; Secondary I-III; Secondary IV-V). Prizes from \$100 to \$500 will be awarded to the winners (see rules).

Contestants may submit works in the form of creative writing, (poetry, story, prose, essay) or artwork (drawing, painting, music, photography, film, or multimedia). See contest rules for more details. The contest is open until January 15, 2020

The top submissions will be selected by a panel of local judges and will be honoured at an event held in February 2020. The date of this awards ceremony will be announced shortly. Winning submissions will be shared via social media.



***Building Bridges* Official Contest Rules & Regulations**

1. The Contest Period

Contest entries will be accepted online from December 1, 2019 to January 15, 2020 at 11:59:59 PM.

2. How to Enter

The *Building Bridges* contest is open to students age 9 to 17, divided into three categories according to their current grade in school: (a) Grades 4-6; (b) Secondary I-III; (c) Secondary IV-V.

Entries should be submitted by email to: buildingbridgescontest@gmail.com and include the following information in the body of the email and on the submission: participant's full name, age, contact information (phone number and email address), school grade, and name of the school. The writing or artwork must be submitted as an attached document.

3. Entries Accepted

Submissions are accepted in two categories: creative writing and artwork.

Creative writing entries may include but are not limited to poetry, story, prose or essay formats. Written submissions should be a maximum of 5 pages (1500 words) and submitted as a pdf file attachment.

Artwork entries can use a variety of media, including but not limited to painting, sketching, charcoal, photography, music or video. Music or video submissions should be a maximum of 5 minutes in length. A digital copy or photograph of the work of art should be submitted in one of the following formats:

- *Art/Photography*: A high-resolution photograph of the work in pdf or jpeg format.
- *Music*: recording in MP3 format —192 kbps
- *Videos*: recording in H.264 Mp4s format.

4. Selection of Winners, Prizes, Dissemination

A community jury will review submissions. One Emerging Artist and one Emerging Writer will be selected in category (a), and these winners will receive a prize of \$100. In categories (b) and (c), in both creative writing and artwork, first place winners will receive a \$500 prize, those in second place \$250, and those in third place \$100.

Winners will be notified in early February 2020 and an awards ceremony will take place later the same month. Winners must agree that a copy of their prize-winning work may be published on the [Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal](#) Facebook page (CJDM) and [The Centre for Civic Religious Literacy \(CCRL\)](#) website where it may be used for promotional purposes.