



Profiles of the National Finalists 2009

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Chris Chiavatti is 14 and a student at Burnaby North Secondary School in Burnaby. In his spare time, Chris enjoys reading, travelling, playing squash and going skiing and sailing. His favourite subjects at school include biology and math. He has travelled to the United States, Ecuador and several European countries, and says his future plans include studying to become a neurosurgeon.

David Eastman, age 15, says he enjoys geography because "The fact I know about the world and what is going on". A student at South Delta Secondary in Delta, David enjoys playing basketball, hanging out with friends and watching television in his spare time. Social studies, English and gym are his favourite subjects at school. David's future plans include studying at law school.

Jackie Liu, is a 15-year-old student at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary in North Vancouver who enjoys jogging and reading in his spare time. Social studies and math are his favourite subjects at school and Jackie lists the Eagles as his favourite rock band. Jackie has been to Alberta and China and says he hopes to one day become a doctor or go into business.

James Shih is a 14-year-old student at Sentinel Secondary School in West Vancouver. He finds all subjects at school interesting, especially the sciences. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to music, watching TV, reading "deep insightful books" and playing sports – especially Tae Kwon Do. James hopes to pursue a career in science or philosophy.

Alejandro Torres-Lopez has travelled to parts of Europe and South America, and has been to several Canadian provinces. A student at Handsworth Secondary School in North Vancouver, Alejandro lists social studies and physical education as his favourite subjects at school. In his spare time, this 14-year-old likes to play tennis, soccer, play on the computer and hang out with his friends.

ALBERTA

Jonathan Banks is 14 and a student at John Ware Junior High School in Calgary. Jonathan enjoys reading, watching the news and researching history in his spare time. His favourite subjects at school include social studies, math and language arts. Jonathan likes to concentrate on his studies and says his future career aspirations include becoming an architect, engineer, journalist or enter into politics.

Cody Holowaychuk, age 15, says his uncle, a successful neurologist is his role model because "he gives me good advice and encourages me to get a good education". A student at H.A. Kostash High School in Smokey Lake, Cody lists math, science, drama and social studies as favourite subjects at school. In his spare time he likes to play video games, golf and curl.

ALBERTA (cont'd)

Bob Klein is a 15-year-old student attending S. Bruce Smith High School in Edmonton. A hockey and rugby player, Jonathan enjoys reading books on aviation in his spare time and travelling. He's been to places all across Canada, Europe, the Caribbean and the United States. Jonathan's dad is his role model because "he is a self-made man".

Lucas Nanninga, 13, enjoys playing his Wii video game in his spare time, as well as reading and playing sports. A student at Neerlandia Public Christian School in Neerlandia, Lucas lists physical education and math as favourite subjects at school. He enjoys learning about the world and says a career in sports medicine may be a possibility.

SASKATCHEWAN

Archer Bell, age 14, is a student who says that language arts and social studies are his favourite subjects at Lakeridge School in Saskatoon. Reading, going on Facebook and hanging out with friends are among the things he likes to do in his spare time. Archer says Nelson Mandela is his role model because "he fought for what he believed in, even when he was punished for it".

Daniel Grebe is 12 and a student at Caronport Elementary School in Caronport. A competitive swimmer, Daniel also enjoys cycling and says that math, science and social studies are his favourite school subjects. In his spare time, Daniel likes read, watch the news, play chess, learn computer programming and play piano and trumpet.

Andrew Martin attends Greystone Heights High school in Saskatoon. This energetic 13-year-old loves to read, and plays competitive soccer and basketball. Andrew enjoys watching movies and playing his trumpet in his spare time. He says he would like to one day become a geological engineer.

MANITOBA

Peter Brandt, age 15, is a student at Steinbach Christian School in Steinbach. His favourite subjects at school are math, art and geography. In his spare time, he enjoys playing computer games and watching TV, and really likes to travel. He has been to the United States, Jamaica, Norway, Austria and the Turks and Caicos islands. Peter participates in several sports, including volleyball, badminton and curling.

Cody Hodge is a 14-year-old student at Grant Park High School in Winnipeg. In his spare time Cody likes to play board and video games and says that history, social studies and English are his favourite subjects at school. He enjoys badminton and mentions that he has travelled to several Canadian provinces and visited a number of US states, particularly in the west.

ONTARIO

Brendan Campisi is 14 and a student at South Secondary School in London. In his spare time, Brendan likes to read, watch television and play on the computer. His favourite subjects at school are English and geography. Brendan says he likes geography because it helps with his understanding of the world. As a future career, Brendan would like to be a journalist.

Daniel Carter, age 15, attends Centennial Collegiate VI in Guelph where he finds music and law his most interesting school subjects. In his spare time, Daniel enjoys playing the piano and the clarinet. He also enjoys debating and participating in leadership groups. He says politician Tommy Douglas is his role model because he was an “innovative man who used his knowledge for the betterment of society”.

Alexander Cohen is a 13-year-old student attending Ashbury College in Ottawa. He enjoys travelling and meeting people, and in his spare time likes to ski, bike, play baseball and collect things. Social studies, English and ethics are his favourite subjects at school and says what he likes about geography is “travelling, learning about new cultures, finding obscure places and basically everything about it”.

Jacob Fiorino, 13, likes to read maps, play video games, watch television and participate in various sports in his spare time. A student at St. Ignatius of Loyola Elementary School in Scarborough, Jacob lists geography, math, science and history as his favourite subjects at school. His future aspirations include something in the medical field.

Filip Geaman is 15 and a student at University of Toronto Schools in Toronto. Filip has travelled to Europe and the United States and says he likes geography because of “the weird facts you learn”. Future goals for Filip include making movies and becoming a writer.

Daniel Gutkin attends Graydon Memorial Secondary School in Mississauga where he enjoys math, science and geography the most. In his spare time, this 15-year-old likes to play tennis, ride his bike and be with his friends. His role model is Nobel Prize winning scientist Albert Einstein. Daniel hopes to go to university and eventually find a career in finance or accounting.

Michael Lemanski enjoys debating, public speaking, music and reading about scientific research. This 14-year-old student from Royal St. George’s College in Toronto also does Tae Kwon Do and likes to play tennis, golf and bicycle. He says he likes geography because “It is not only interesting but helps us better understand the world and the people around us”. David hopes to go to university and then a find a career in law or management.

David Marrello is a 15-year-old student at Bishop Allen Academy in Toronto. In his spare time he likes to play piano, read books and explore all things geographic. At school his favourite subjects are math, history, science and geography. Interested in a future career in engineering or business, David says what he likes about geography is “the spatial aspects of maps and their properties”.

ONTARIO (cont'd)

Jack Reeves is a student at White Oaks Secondary School in Oakville. This 15-year-old likes to read, listen to music, play sports and play his guitar in his spare time. At school, math and science are his favourite subjects. He is also on the school's debating team. Jack says his father is his role model because "he is smart, athletic, but most importantly a kind and good man".

Alexander Tigert is 15 and a student at Northern Secondary School in Toronto. A competitive swimmer, Alexander likes to read and spend time with his friends in his spare time. At school, science and math are among his favourite subjects and says what he likes about geography is "learning about the world and how the places where we live were formed". He's been to Europe and hopes to go into medicine or become a scientist when he finishes school.

QUÉBEC

Julien Desautels is a 15-year-old student at Collège Sainte-Anne de Lachine in Lachine. At school, history is his favourite subject and in his spare time he likes to collect toy soldiers, play video games and learn about history. Julien has travelled to Puerto Rico, California and to Germany and says what he likes about geography is "to learn about people and their cultures".

Yujia Zhu is 13 and attends Collège Jean-Eudes in Montréal where she lists math, history, geography and French as her favourite school subjects. In her spare time, Yujia enjoys reading and playing the clarinet and the piano. She also enjoys skating and swimming. Yujia calls her parents role models because "they taught me a lot, and have encouraged and supported me in everything I do".

NEW BRUNSWICK

Macaskill Oland attends Rothesay Netherwood School in Rothesay and lists science and history as his favourite subjects. This 14-year-old student enjoys reading and playing sports such as hockey, soccer and rugby in his spare time. Macaskill likes to travel and has been to every province in Canada except for Saskatchewan and has visited the United States, Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands.

Nicolas Poirier is 15 and a student at École aux Quatre Vents in Dalhousie. In his spare time, Nicolas likes to read, play soccer and hockey, as well as use maps and a GPS. His favourite subjects at school are geography and math. Nicolas has a strong interest in travel and hopes to one day become an engineer.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Brett Buote, age 13, is a student at M.E. Callaghan Intermediate School in Elmsdale. Brett likes to read watch television, play video games in his spare time. He also enjoys playing hockey, volleyball, golf and baseball. At school, social studies and language arts are his favourite subjects. Why does he like geography? "Because I'm good at it."

NOVA SCOTIA

Nicholas MacKinnon is a 15-year-old student at Dr. T.L. Sullivan Junior High School in Florence. In his spare time, Nicholas likes read, play piano and strategy games. Fencing is the sport he actively participates in. History, social studies and science are his preferred subjects at school and he says he likes geography because it helps him to better understand the history books he reads.

Lucas Tai-MacArthur, age 12, is a student at Sacred Heart Boys School in Halifax who says science is his favourite subject. In his spare time, he likes to sail and enjoys running, playing basketball and badminton. Lucas mentions that becoming a medical doctor as a possible career choice when he completes his schooling.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Alan Baikie is an avid reader who likes to go snowmobiling, skateboard and snowboard in his spare time. This XX year-old student from Meely Mountain Collegiate in Happy Valley-Goose Bay is also a midget-level hockey player. His favourite school subjects are Canadian history and biology. Alan likes geography because "It isn't just about maps and places, it's also about the world and what makes it what it is."

Christoph Pike is 14 and a student at Lakecrest Independent School in St. John's. He says what likes about geography is that "it shows me how varied but interconnected the world is". In his spare time, Christoph likes to read, play golf and tennis and he says that social studies is his favourite subject at school. Winston Churchill is Christoph's role model because he was great politician and orator.

NUNAVUT

Olivia Mallory is a student at École des Trois Soleils in Iqaluit.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

René O'Reilly, age 14, is a student at École Allain St-Cyr in Yellowknife who likes to read and play guitar in his spare time. He enjoys playing hockey and soccer and lists Physical Sciences and Computer Science among his favourite subjects at school. Hockey player Saku Koivu is his role model because "he survived cancer and is a professional hockey player."

YUKON TERRITORY

Luke Hunter, age 15, is a student at Robert Service School in Dawson City. In his spare time, Luke likes to read, play piano and maintain his tropical fish tank. He also enjoys soccer and volleyball and to go camping and fishing. Social studies and science are among Luke's favourite school subjects and he says likes geography because "it encompasses many places from around the world and helps me to understand them". He has been to most of the Canadian provinces and visited parts of United States and South America.