



MEDIA RELEASE

St. Alexander Student Wins James Bartleman Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Bay, ON – Grade six student at St. Alexander School, Ava Morin, is traveling to Queen’s Park this weekend to accept an award for her talents in creative writing. Morin is one of six recipients of the James Bartleman Award, which recognizes students under the age of 18 for excellence in Indigenous Youth Creative Writing.

“I wrote about having courage and finding faith in yourself,” says Morin, whose submission is written in the style of a journal-entry. “It just came to my mind and when I finished I thought, well I might as well submit it, maybe I’ll have a chance.”

An independent committee of individuals from Indigenous communities review each entry and make recommendations to select recipients. Each of the award-winners will also walk away with \$2,500 for their efforts.

“We are really proud of Ava,” says Native-as-a Second Language (NSL) teacher, Tory Fisher, who encouraged Morin to submit her work. “She is a very bright student and her writing is really powerful,” he says.

When asked about the experience, Morin says she was initially nervous but is now very excited. “I’ve never been on a plane before so I’m excited to fly to Toronto,” she says.

For more information about the NSL program at the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board, visit <http://www.npsc.ca/programs/indigenous-education/>

For more information about the James Barleman Award, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/honours-and-awards-arts-and-literature>

Photo: (left to right) Ava Morin, NSL teacher Tory Fisher.

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