

2015 Canadian Chess Challenge

Team B.C. members have returned from the Canadian Chess Challenge which was held at Quebec City during the May long weekend. They won the 3rd place against the other provinces. Our team members are excited to share their experiences and their thoughts:





Canadian Chess Challenge May 17-18, 2015 Quebec City, Quebec – Laval University
TEAM BC Report By: Ron Hui May 20, 2015

What can beat being in beautiful Quebec City during spring and exploring the rich culture of this historical city? Carriage rides through the cobble stone streets of Old Quebec and visits to Chateau Frontenac and the Citadel of Quebec are all very wonderful but for the members Team BC, testing their chess skills against the best from other provinces and reacquainting with old friends and meeting and new ones from across the country are even better.

The 27th annual Canadian Chess Challenge, sponsored by the Chess & Math Association of Canada, was held this year in Quebec City. The venue for the Grades 1 to 12 competitors from all 10 provinces was a spacious and comfortable playing hall in the campus of Laval University.

A big congratulation to Team BC for representing the province of British Columbia so well this year. Despite not having a few of our top BC players at this year's competition is resilient B.C. team was able to maintain its top three position, behind only to the Ontario and Quebec teams.

2015 Canadian Chess Challenge - Team BC		
Grade	Name	Results
1	Ethan Su	
2	Jason Qjan	
3	Lucian Wu	
4	Patrick Huang	2 nd Place
5	Leo Qu	3 rd Place
6	Ethan Low	2 nd Place
7	Ryan Leong	
8	Matthew Geng	3 rd Place
9	Daniel Chen	
10	Tony Cheng	
11	Jeremy Hui	2 nd Place
12	Davaa - Ohir Nyamdorj	

Trophy winners include:

Grade 4 – Patrick Huang: 2nd Place, 8/9

Grade 5 – Leo Qu: 3rd Place, 6/9

Grade 6 – Ethan Low: 2nd Place, 8/9

Grade 8 – Matthew Geng: 3rd Place, 6/9

Grade 11 – Jeremy Hui: 2nd Place, 7/9

Memorable highlights include outstanding performances by Patrick Huang and Ethan Low from the grade 4 and 6 sections respectively, both with 8 wins out of 9 games. Matthew Geng from the grade 8 section and Jeremy Hui from Grade 11 secured a draw and a win respectively against Ontario opponents with much higher chess ratings of 2200 – 2300. It was exciting to see Leo Qu secure third place in the Grade 5 section by winning in a 3 person playoff. A nail biting playoff also took place in the Grade 11 section between Jeremy Hui and the Quebec player to determine second place; after a draw in the first playoff game, Jeremy was able to win the second game, a 5 minute blitz.

It was not just all chess competition. Besides visits to Old Quebec, there were of course blitz and bughouse games. The team dinner at Boston Pizza was also a great time for the older players to bond with the younger ones and for the parents to get to know each other.

Congratulations to the Trophy winners and to all members of the team. A special thanks to Vivian Lai for organizing Team BC and to Maxim Doroshenko for rallying the troops in between rounds. A big thanks also go to Larry Bevand and the Chess & Math Association for putting on another fine event. Finally, but not least, kudos also to the parents who took time out from their busy schedules to bring their kids across the country to participate in these events.



Ethan Su, Grade 1
(No journal submitted)



Jason Qian, Grade 2

(Journal by Angela)

May 15th

魁北克的第二天，到达魁北克已经是当地时间的晚上 12 点，兴奋的心情没有因为旅途的疲惫而有半丝影响，相比去年的比赛场地 Manitoba，今年的魁北克之旅让人充满了期待！

May 16th

魁北克的第二天，今天是整修日，目标是确保小朋友睡好，吃好，休息好！

May 17th 魁北克的第三天，8:45 开赛仪式，各省队列队进场，全体起立，唱国歌。毕竟是国家级别的赛事，和其它比赛不同，在现场能感觉到原来比赛所没有的庄严和肃穆。相比于去年的 BC Team，今年的 Team Players 是幸运的，由 Vivien 带队，Maxim 督阵，Gyan 挂帅的阵容就足以让人士气高涨啊：)

May 18th

魁北克的第四天，比赛结果--BC 第三，如同往年！

虽然今年的阵容没有去年强大，但是我们依然拿回了第三，每场比赛之前的 team meeting，让小选手们能够梳理一下自己的心情，重新投入下一场比赛，让我们看到了 Team work 的精髓所在，感受到团结就是力量！

个人心得：国际象棋的最大魅力就在于它的挫折教育。当孩子面对一次次失败的时候，心路历程的千变万化不仅是孩子，还有家长！孩子学棋的这几年，其实无数次想放弃的不是孩子，而是我自己（作为一名象棋家长真心不容易，一年之中长达半年的比赛季，没有周末可以休息，孩子在赛场内拼杀，家长们在赛场外长时间的守候），然而孩子乐在其中，渐渐的，我看到了孩子的不轻易去放弃，看到了孩子的坚韧和无所畏惧，看到了孩子为了得到他想要的而付出的种种努力。想想看，就算比赛结果不尽人意，就算是泪洒赛场又如何呢？孩子的人生之路五彩多姿，重要的是他不会气馁，毫无畏惧，坚定不移地走入下一个赛场！象棋如此，人生亦如此！！



Lucian Wu, Grade 3
Canadian Chess Challenge

I enjoyed the CCC a lot. I had a great time. I was happy that team B.C. got 3rd. But I was disappointed that I didn't get a trophy. The time I liked best was on Tuesday in Old Town. The time I liked the worst was the plane rides. It gave me a headache. I hope that all of us could qualify next year again! See you all there!!



Patrick Huang, Grade 4
May 25th 2015

I just came home from the annual "Canadian Chess Challenge". It was very fun, and I got 2nd place. I only lost to the Quebec player, and overall our team (British Columbia) got 3rd place after Ontario (1st), and Quebec (2nd).

My favorite parts during this event were:

- 1) At the opening ceremony, I liked when all of the players got to come in as a team (grade 1-12) and a bagpiper played the bagpipes,
- 2) During the games, when it was very exciting,
- 3) At the closing ceremony, where I got to see all the national champions and co-champions.
- 4) The best t-shirt contest (each province has a t-shirt with a logo/design on it to represent their province), I liked almost all the t-shirts, but this year, Manitoba won.

Again, it was very fun, and for other family members that aren't playing, they can tour around the city. If one of my friends get 1st in the provincial, I would tell them that they should come, and they will not regret it if they come.



Leo Qu, Grade 5
(No journal submitted)



Ethan Low, Grade 6

May 16th 2015

When I first got to Quebec City, I was astonished at how the City looked like, and the peaceful atmosphere it had. I was feeling sick when I got out of the plane, after 2 flights, from Vancouver to Toronto, then Toronto to Quebec City. It was a long flight, and after my mom checked us in at the Hotel Universal, we went and checked out parts of the hotel, like the swimming pool and the restaurants nearby. After that we went to the mall and got something to eat and that's when I started to get sleepy, so we went back to the hotel, as I couldn't eat, and we were all tired. After we all rested, we went and checked out the playing area, and met some team mates at the Blitz Tournament that was happening that day. The atmosphere in the university was amazing and very nice.

May 17th 2015

Early in the morning my mom and brother and I went to the university and met with lots of our team members, including Maxim Doroshenko, our B.C. Team Coordinator. We were supposed to take a team photo but not everyone was there, so we had to go inside and get ready for the opening ceremony. In the 1st round against PEI, I made an easy win against Cameron Macdonald, and then we faced Nova Scotia. For grade 6, there was Eric Loty. He gave me some trouble in the early middlegame but I managed to pull through with a win, after some nice tactics, having a few seconds on the clock. After that we played Saskatchewan, and I faced Daniel Wei. I also faced him 2 years ago in the 22nd annual Canadian Chess Challenge and wanted the same result as 2 years ago, and won the game quite easily with 25 seconds left on the clock. After that game, I really started to hate this short time control, but knew I couldn't do anything about it. The next round I faced Brett Russel, from Newfoundland & Labrador, who I also faced 2 years ago. It was a hard Sicilian game and he kept things closed but made a tiny error and I used his mistake to my advantage and won the game, again with 25 seconds on

the clock. Next we faced Manitoba and I won easily after he blundered a pawn in the middlegame. Next was the home team, Quebec. We had a short meeting like we always do after each round, and Maxim, was confident that we could beat this team. Quebec was one of the strongest teams there beside Ontario. I played against Gabriel Philip Tinica, who was 1756, but said he was only 1595. He had a 4.5/5 score, after drawing against New Brunswick on the first round. I had 5/5 so I was determined to keep my spot at first place. We played in a Sicilian game where I was doing most of the attacking and he was doing the defending. I was even more determined to beat him and earn a point for the team as I saw some zeros go up for B.C. for some of the grades. It was a tough battle and I had a winning position and with 7 seconds on the clock and I found a way to win, and then he spent almost all his time going down to 46 seconds, but then I checkmated him in one move and he was shocked and looked very upset. After the first day I was satisfied with my 6/6 winning streak, and the whole team also went to Boston Pizza for a team Dinner. Everyone enjoyed the food and the dinner, and started to forget what happened, and awaited the next and final 3 rounds, tomorrow. Some of my teammates were still upset that they lost some of the games but everyone cheered up to some bughouse in the main lobby, and started chatting with each other, and friends from the different teams.

May 18th 2015

It was the last 3 rounds of the 24th annual Canadian Chess Challenge and for the first round of the day we played the toughest team of all; Ontario. I played against Henry Zhang, and he had 5.5/6 drawing to Alberta on the 3rd round, and I had 6/6 and wanted to beat him very badly. It turned out, things did not go my way as I went into time trouble and had 5 seconds on the clock and made some mistakes and was losing after he made the final tactic which ended the game. I was very sad, but still hope lingered if I won my next 2 rounds and if he lost at least on game or drew 1 of the games I could tie for first. For round 2 of the day, we played against New Brunswick, and I faced Cynthia Cui. It was a weird-looking Scandinavian game but I managed to pull through with a win with a nice blow at the end. Next we faced Alberta. This was the deciding match as Ontario played Quebec. It was a tough game and I made an error thinking I could win a pawn, but he had another move that defended against that, and then I blundered a pawn, but he didn't see it, for some reason. After that crucial mistake I went into a winning endgame and won fairly. Sadly enough Gabriel was still very upset about his loss against me, and lost almost all his next rounds including Ontario. Our whole team got 3rd again this year, and I got second next to Henry Zhang and Cynthia and Gabriel who earned 3rd place. Overall this was an amazing tournament for the whole team although not everyone got a prize, but then everyone cheered up to a bughouse tournament at the end of the tournament that was organized by Chess 'n Math.



Ryan Leong, Grade 7

Quebec trip

My Quebec trip was an extraordinary experience. I played chess, had the opportunity to meet new friends, along with spending time with my mom. I didn't come here just to waste time and fool around, I came here to play in the nationals chess tournament. I trained very hard for this moment and in the end it was a great learning experience. I came 5th overall in the provinces but there is still room for improvement. I played in the blitz tournament which is an active paced chess game where you must think very fast. I did alright in the tournament but I just want to see what people play. After the tournament was over, I joined the bughouse tournament for fun. My partner was Leo Qu and we were a great partner. We laughed and we had great team work. How was I doing in Quebec? Well I definitely was not in the best shape; I had allergies and also bronchitis. I was coughing during the whole tournament but I seemed to have managed. Not only was I excited about the tournament, but also for the food and the team dinner. We ate at Boston pizza and had Greek food together and it tasted amazing. I also want to go eat poutine with my mom and surprisingly the gravy taste sweet but delicious. We also went down to old Quebec to check it out and it was absolutely amazing. The scenery was nice and the gelato was impressive. Overall, this trip was a great experience and it was intriguing.



Matthew Geng, Grade 8
(No journal submitted)



Daniel Chen, Grade 9

Saturday, May 16th

As I walked into Quebec City for the first time in my life, I was quite amazed by how much this region differed from Vancouver. Not to speak of the French-speaking environment, just the diverse styles of buildings make me feel as if I was in a completely different country.

Immediately after arrival, a blitz tournament is set up and I played ten rounds of quick games, getting my mind accustomed to chess playing. During the tournament, I met many other players of my grade and of other grades, and chatted together about how playing conditions are different in different provinces.

After checking into the rooms in University Laval, my mom and I quickly went to rest. After all, we have just gone through seven hours of flight time and are also affected by the three hour time zone difference. Also, two days of chess awaits in front of me, so a good rest is necessary.

Sunday, May 17th

After a quick breakfast, teams from all provinces gathered and marched into the playing area respectively. We started the games soon after. I won the first three rounds without too much trouble against PEI, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. Some difficulties came in the afternoon. In the game against Newfoundland and Labrador, I lost two pawns in the middle game and barely held a draw with my opponent low on time. In the game against Manitoba, similar things happened when I blundered a pawn in the opening but managed to hold a draw in a rook endgame. Against the strong opponent from Quebec, I lost three pawns in an opening I have never seen before and undoubtedly lost. I reflected upon my satisfactory results and prepared more carefully against the strong opponents tomorrow.

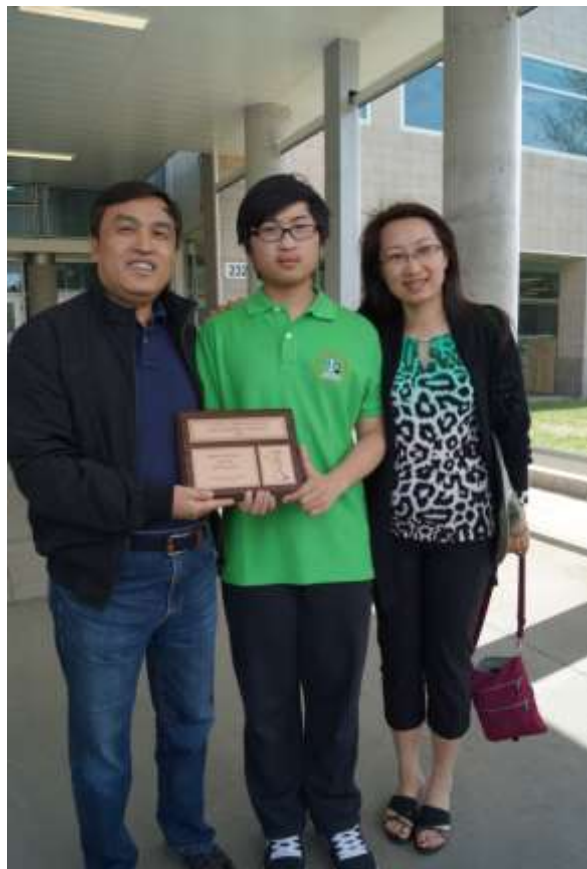
In the evening, team BC gathered for a team dinner at Boston Pizza. I started to realize how great this team was, as

everyone felt they belonged to the group and acted as a team. It was an honour to be part of this.

Monday, May 18th

We had almost the same schedule in the morning as yesterday, except today the opponents were much stronger. Playing against a 2200 from Ontario, I lost the exchange and the game to a surprising tactic. Against a 2100 from New Brunswick, we had equal chances until the middle game but I got my queen trapped under time pressure. I refreshed my mind and started a new game with the player from Alberta. In a very complex and somewhat weird-looking Sicilian, we both got in time trouble. I won the exchange, yet lost my rook after ten moves when I had 5 seconds left on the clock and my opponent had 40. Down a knight, I managed to regain it quickly and promote my pawns quickly after. With two seconds left on the clock, I claimed victory. When I heard applause as my game ended last in the entire room, I found relief and joy in myself.

Seeing the provincial flag of BC with my name on it right beside the chessboard, I felt proud to be a part of and contribute to team BC. Although it's my first time participating in the Canadian Chess Challenge, I truly think this is a great event. Not only does it provide chances of communication through the chessboard to all over Canada, but it is also a chance to experience the feeling of being in a team when most chess events are individual competitions nowadays. If there are chances to participate in this again in the future for me, I would certainly go.



Tony Cheng, Grade 10

Short Journal on My Experiences of the Canadian Chess Challenge:

I had one of the most exciting, memorable and arguably monumental experience in my life on the May long weekend, the Canadian Chess Challenge. The Chess n Math Association which held the event provided considerate services such as transportation between the airport and hotel/residence, which made 2 of the members, including Larry their president, sleep for only 4 hours. The blitz tournament and bughouse tournament held before and after the main event also drew attention. I had chance to participate in both; they are fun and educational.

This tournament, which consisted of 120 provincial champions from across Canada, was held in Quebec City and the battles fought there were excessively intense. However, team BC did not have the strongest possible team, half of our best players were unable to attend for various reasons. Nevertheless, we still managed to defeat Alberta 9.5 to 2.5, securing a third place. Maxim, our Junior Coordinator, should be thanked most, for he had a tremendous amount of contribution in our success: he was the one who cheered us on team meetings, who shared experience of past tournaments to ease our stress and nervousness, who organized a strategy that gave us our best chance against Quebec, also who came here on his own expense.

From my own point of view, many of our team members chose to stay at the hotel, which made easier our communication and the strengthening of our bonds as teammates. Frankly, everyone was motivated by the environment: whenever I walk pass the 1st floor lobby, there were always groups of people playing. Additionally, actually sitting in one the 120 chairs on the scene, with two provincial flags beside you, a provincial champion across from you, a sense of honor and responsibility quickly rises. This sudden burst of dignity and solemnity, is what I personally think qualifies this tournament for a national level event.

We know well that we are not the best team BC, but we did try our very best against QC and ON, without the support of Maxim, Vivien and local volunteers, this would not have happened. Thank you all!



Jeremy Hui, Grade 11

During the May Long weekend, I participated in the 27th annual Canadian Chess Challenge, held this year at Laval University in Quebec City. Every year, each province sends their top player from grades 1 to 12 to compete in a 9-round team tournament against opponents in their respective grade for the national title; I represented Team B.C for grade 11 along with eleven other talented junior chess players from British Columbia. This was my fourth time going to the Canadian Chess Challenge and my goal was to place in the top 3 finishers in my grade while helping Team B.C solidify a top spot in the standings.

The first day of the tournament didn't go as well as I had hoped. After winning my first game against John Smith from Prince Edward Island, I was up against my good friend and 7 time national champion Adam Dorrance from Nova Scotia in round 2. The battle was pretty even throughout but unfortunately I went astray during time trouble and Adam won the game. I managed to win my next 3 games in a straightforward manner, against Jimmy Bartha from Saskatchewan, Brody McKeown from Newfoundland and Labrador, and Alexander Iordina from Manitoba. In the last round of the day, I was up against Nicholas Johnson from Quebec. The game was very tense and pretty complicated throughout; we both got into time trouble near the end. Unfortunately, I wasn't paying close enough attention to my clock and I flagged in an unclear endgame. I finished Saturday with 4/6 and in a dejected mood. Fortunately, the team dinner after the 6 rounds helped lift my spirits as I got to connect with my teammates over food and bughouse.

I was tied for third with Tony Lin from Ontario going into the second day behind Adam and Nicholas, which meant I had to win all 3 of my games to guarantee a top 3 placement. The first round of the day was against Tony himself. I knew I had push for the win, so I played an aggressive gambit line in the French to create more chances. After a crazy game full of twists and turns, I ended up in a winning position (Queen and 3 pawns against 2 rooks), both of us with 3 seconds left on the clock. Fortunately for me, Tony made an illegal move and I was awarded an extra 2 minutes, eventually checkmating him. Winning the hardest game of the day, I felt a lot more confident going into the last 2 rounds and I managed to win both, against Isaac Lee from New Brunswick and Chenxi Zhao from Alberta. After my last game I was really happy with how I played and that I was guaranteed third, but it turned out that I was tied for second with Nicholas because he lost to Tony; we would have to play a playoff to determine the second and third place winners. In the first playoff game, Nicholas completely outplayed me and I barely managed to scrape away with a draw. I was white in the second game, and I decided to play the same gambit line I played against Tony, winning eventually after an attacking game. I finished in 2nd place behind Adam Dorrance with 7/9 after a playoff, a good end to the tournament.

Overall, I really enjoyed the event and I'm glad I was able to come this year. Filled with chess enthusiasts, the atmosphere of the event was very positive and it was great bonding with fellow team members, coaches, and players from other provinces. Playing in this tournament was very exciting and it was a great experience for me. I hope to be able to come to the next Canadian Chess Challenge in my final grade 12 year.



Davaa Nyamdorj, Grade 12

It was my first experience going to Chess tournament by myself, and of course it was nervous and at the same time it was exciting. As I visited the Quebec first time, the city was interesting having its own history; to me it seemed less populated. After settling successfully in residency I went to play my first game blitz tournament. In this game we played twice with each player. The first round I got tied with boy with low rating and next three rounds I played well and won. Last round I played on the first table, with IM Razvan Proteu. We played pretty equal and we drew our first game. In the second, we played equally and in the final period unfortunately I lost. The Blitz tournament was fun.

Next morning on May 17, 2015 at 7 in the morning the alarm went on and I stopped it, because of the time difference I was too sleepy, when I woke up again it was already 9:10 a.m. OMG, I did put the team shirt on and holding the flag ran fast to the tournament place. When I got there the tournament was already started, I was out of breath, and Vivian said, it is OK, calm down and play well. I had only 15 minutes, luckily I won.

For me there were two strong players, which were from Quebec and Ontario. In the beginning I was 4.5/5 points. The 6th round I played with player from Quebec. The game was pretty good, I had many different good moves had a chance to win, but as time got shorter I made mistake and he won.

On the second day morning I got up earlier, played three rounds. The first round I played with Christopher Knox from Ontario, who led the grade 12 by rating. The game was very competitive, we had 3 seconds each, and finally he won.

Overall, I am glad playing in the Canadian Chess Challenge it was great experience; it encouraged and inspired me to practice more. I really enjoyed spending time with team members through the city and the evening dinner. Thank you all.