



**For Immediate Release:**

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**BEA's 2013 REP Provincial Spelling BEE  
7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Celebration Featuring Erik Cork & "Se7en" the Poet**

Izabelle Chase, a grade four student in the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) and two Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) students are the top winners in the 2013 REP Provincial Spelling BEE.

Truro Elementary School's spelling superstar, Izabelle Chase (age 10), captured first place in the event, hosted by the Black Educators Association (BEA). 13-year-old Maggie Andrew, a grade eight student at Georges P. Vanier Junior High School took home second place honours. And, Jaziah Sparks-Clyke (age 11), a grade six student at Harbourview Elementary School, came in third place.

The contest which drew 100 spellers from across the province was held Saturday, May 25, 2013 at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. The competition is held annually in May in recognition of the United States-based Scripps National Spelling Bee. Featured presenters Erik Cork and "Se7en" the Poet (both of Houston, Texas) were on hand to help celebrate the seventh anniversary year of the BEE beginning with an early morning 'Warm-up with Words' mentorship segment with this year's competitors.

The 2013 competition was tense, with a 300-plus audience (including HRSB acting superintendent Judy White, the Africentric Learning Institute Co-hort students; Nova Scotia Department of Education staff; BEA members; parents and families and other educational stakeholders) cheering through thirteen nail-biting rounds until Izabelle clinched a triumph with the word 'narcoleptic'. This was Izabelle's first win and third time in the BEE.

The annual competition is open to African-Nova Scotian students ages eight to 15 years in public and private schools and home-schoolers and any student enrolled in the BEA's Cultural Academic Enrichment Programs (CAEPs). The purpose of the *REP Provincial Spelling BEE* is 'to focus on English language basics; foster learning of African Nova Scotian students studying the English language and introduce and encourage students to compete in regional, national and international finals. Winners took home education awards of \$500, \$300 and \$200 along with trophies, gifts and prizes from local businesses. For more information on the Regional Educators Program and the *REP Provincial Spelling BEE*, please visit: [www.theblackeducators.ca](http://www.theblackeducators.ca).