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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Gordon Bell High School Crowned National Culinary Student Champions – Headed to International Finals in Montreal**

**Winnipeg, MB – June 11, 2025** — Winnipeg School Division is thrilled to announce that Gordon Bell High School's Kitchen Brigade team has been crowned National Champions at the [La Tablée des Chefs Canadian Culinary Competition](#) in Montreal.

Competing against top student chefs from across the country, the Gordon Bell team impressed judges with their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, earning the title of Canada's Best Brigade. This marks a historic achievement as they are the first team outside of Quebec to win the national title.

The winning team, made up of Grade 10 and 11 students Avery Van Solkema, Sebastian Salter, Cailyn Olshevski, Yevhen Zinchenco, and Matea Thiessen-Unger, rained under the guidance of local chef Patrick Royandoyan and Human Ecology Teacher Benita Luey Goertzen.

"We are beyond proud of our students," said Goertzen. "Their dedication, creativity, and teamwork have brought them this far, and we can't wait to see them represent Canada on the international stage."

Over the past 1-2 years, these students have developed their culinary skills through nearly 40 hours of hands-on training in the Kitchen Brigades program, learning not only how to cook but how to lead, collaborate, and innovate.

The national finals, hosted by celebrity chef Ricardo, challenged students to create a dish using a mystery bag of ingredients, including ground turkey, potatoes, and carrots. Gordon Bell's team rose to the occasion, delivering a standout dish that wowed the judges. But the journey doesn't end there. On June 21, the team will return to Montreal to represent Canada in an international showdown against a school from Paris, France.

*Winnipeg School Division is the largest and oldest school division in the Province of Manitoba with 32,000 students and nearly 6,000 employees at 78 schools. WSD nurtures a welcoming and inclusive culture of people committed to working together to inspire students to reach goals and academic success.*

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