

# CityFile

What's going on  
in Winnipeg  
and who's  
making it  
happen

## WATCH THE VIDEO

■ There's no debating that the 4th annual Asper Cup International High School Debate was a crowd-pleaser yesterday.



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# 'Toba 'centre of worldwide debate'

**SIMON FULLER**  
Sun Media

One subject apparently not up for discussion at the Gray Academy of Jewish Education yesterday was Manitoba's pedigree in world debating circles.

That's according to Adam Yan, joint winner of the 4th annual Asper Cup International High School Debate, who spoke to the *Winnipeg Sun* at the climax of the two-day event showcasing 41 teams from across Canada and one from Israel.

"When we think of extra-curricular activities that Manitoba does consistently well, obviously hockey jumps to the top of our list," said Yan. "But most people don't recognize that Winnipeg is really the centre of worldwide debate."

His claim seemed justified yesterday when Yan and Aidan Fishman from St. John's-Ravenscourt School beat Iqbal Kassam and Jonny

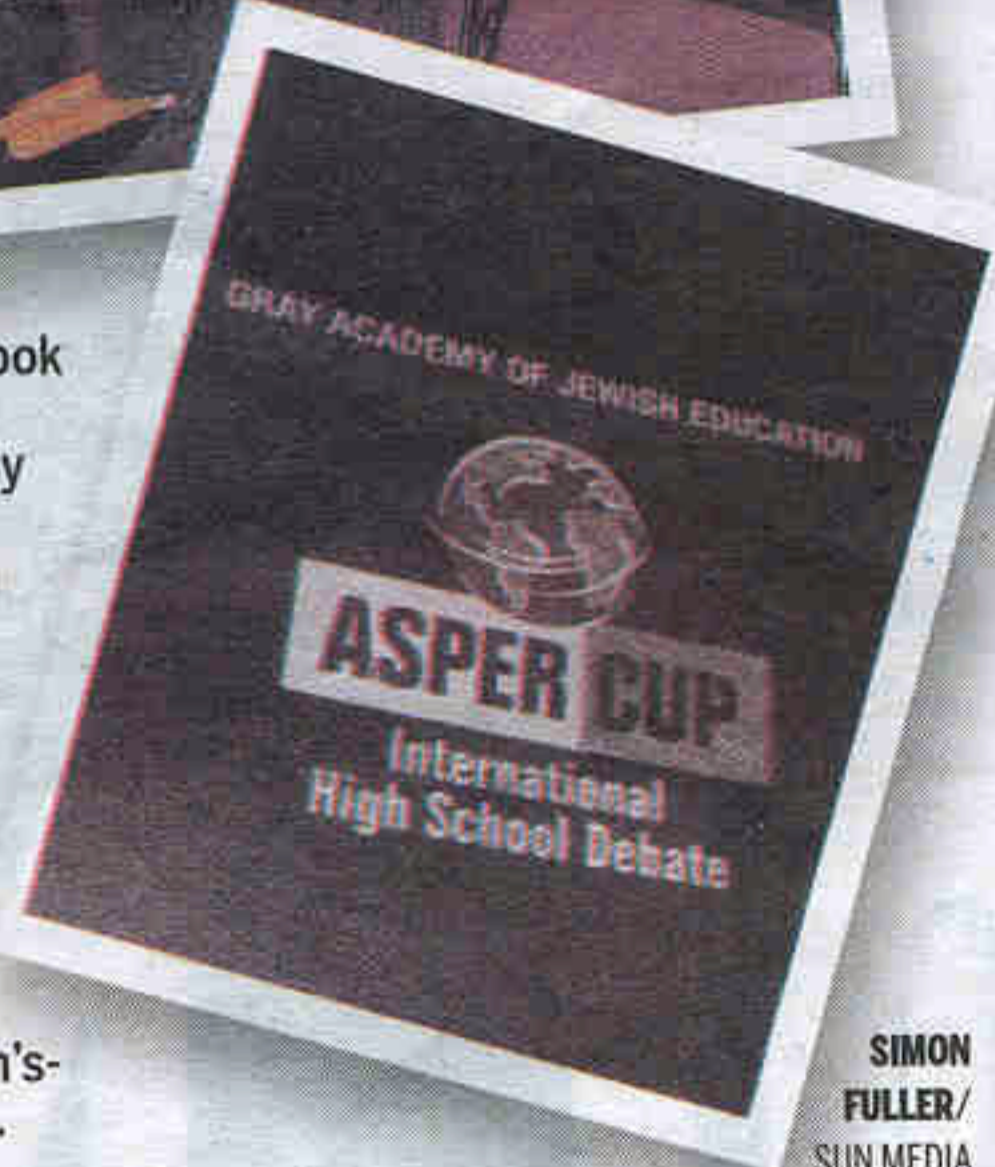
Carson from West Point Grey Academy in Vancouver for the coveted title.

The timely subject of coalitions was the hotly debated topic. "The best governments tend to be, in our view, democracies, and coalition governments are the best example of democracies," said Fishman, noting Lebanon was once an effective democratic state despite religious fragmentation.

"On a practical basis, we think coalition governments are a lot less efficient, a lot less effective and a lot less representative," countered Kassam.

Linda Martin, Gray Academy's debating teacher and coach, said she was delighted with the competition. "The Asper Cup was founded four years ago and each year it gets better," she said. "We've doubled the amount of competitors from last year and have students competing from B.C. to Newfoundland."

The debate took place at the Gray Academy of Jewish Education on Sunday and Monday. Pictured are winners Aidan Fishman (left) and Adam Yan from St. John's-Ravenscourt.



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## Got an idea for CityFile?

If you know a person who deserves a spotlight or a place everyone should know about, let us know so we can share it with Sun readers. Send your ideas to [wpgsun.cityfile@sunmedia.ca](mailto:wpgsun.cityfile@sunmedia.ca).

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