



As both educator and administrator, **Jennifer Orr** has inspired countless students and cultivated excellence in speech arts curriculum and program design, transforming and elevating the practice and experience of teachers and students across Canada.

Jennifer teaches speech students at all levels, from young beginners to advanced, in both private and group class settings. She is an examiner and adjudicator who works with students across Canada in festivals, examinations, and workshop sessions.

Jennifer has worked at Calgary's Mount Royal University Conservatory for more than three decades, where, as instructor and program facilitator, she has built a program that is a cornerstone of the Conservatory's offerings. Jennifer was honoured with the 2025 Teaching Excellence in Lifelong Learning Award in recognition of her exemplary efforts and commitment of MRU faculty to the art of teaching and learning.

Jennifer has a long-standing affiliation with the Royal Conservatory of Music, serving as Speech and Drama specialist and senior member of the College of Examiners, supporting and encouraging teachers and examiners across Canada. Jennifer has taken a leadership role in developing concurrent revisions of the Speech and Drama syllabus, including the upcoming version to be released in 2026. Jennifer was honoured to be named an RCM Teacher of Distinction in September 2025. RCM Teachers of Distinction are celebrated as inspirational leaders in their communities, and teachers who instill a lifelong love of the arts in their students.

Guided by her belief that speech arts is a vital art form, Jennifer has empowered generations of students – many of whom credit their speech arts training as *“the thing that made the difference”* in their road to success. She is passionate about the art of communication and delights in sharing poetry and stories with students, empowering them to explore their creativity and speak with confidence.