



**dFirst Nations Language Keepers Gathering
Keynote Address
Onowa Mclvor**

Title: NEȪOLŅEW (one mind, one people): Building a National Network for Indigenous Language Revitalization & Maintenance in Canada

Biography: Onowa Mclvor is maskiko-nēhiyaw (Swampy Cree) and Scottish-Canadian. Her nēhiyaw family is from Norway House and Cross Lake in northern Manitoba. She currently resides in SENĆOŦEN and Lekwungen speaking territories on Southern Vancouver Island. Onowa is an Associate Professor in Indigenous Education at the University of Victoria and co-leads the NEȪOLŅEW Research Partnership, a six-year SSHRC project working to understand and enhance Indigenous adults' contributions to reviving Indigenous languages in Canada.

Abstract: NEȪOLŅEW (translated as 'one mind, one people' or 'doing things as one' in the Salish SENĆOŦEN language) is the central principle of this first ever national, Indigenous-led, community-university, language revitalization research partnership. Adults are increasingly identified as the “missing generation” of learners who hold great potential to contribute to the revival of Indigenous languages in Canada by acting as the middle ground between Elders, children and youth within their communities. Yet we know that language learning in Indigenous communities cannot be studied in isolation, so we have developed an approach that engages the spaces in which adult learners are both learning and teaching Indigenous languages. Together with nine Indigenous partners from across Canada, we are working to achieve bold language revitalization outcomes and develop a national network of those working at the core of Indigenous language revitalization and maintenance. This presentation will highlight the successes of these communities and explore ways we can all work together to maintain, revitalize and strengthen the Indigenous languages all across Canada.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will learn about how they can engage in the first national, Indigenous-led, community-university, language revitalization research partnership and expansion of that network.