



**First Nations Language Keepers Gathering  
Youth Panel  
Kaylene Waditaka, Davis Horse, Aandeg Muldrew & Cameron Lozinski  
Moderator: Milton Tootoosis**

**Title: Honouring Our Mother Tongue**

**Biography:** Kaylene Waditaka is 19 years old and from Wahpeton Dakota Nation, where she resides. She is currently in Grade 12 at Carlton Comprehensive Public High School. Next year, she plans to go to University for Indigenous Studies and Social Work. She started learning her Dakota language in Kindergarten and continues learning from the elders in her community, books, apps and ceremonies.

**Biography:** Davis Horse is a 15 year old youth from Thunderchild First Nation, a fluent Cree speaker and an avid hunter. He lives a traditional lifestyle and has presented in Plains Cree and English at many school in Saskatchewan and Alberta. He is proud to live in a Cree Only Zone home with his grandparents and his young Uncle George.

**Biography:** Aandeg Muldrew is a 19 year old from Obizhigokaang (Lac Seul ON) and the Crane clan. Born and raised in Winnipeg, he is now a student at the University of Winnipeg. He is also involved in language revitalization in Anishinaabewakiing, teaching Intro Anishinaabemowin at the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.

**Biography:** Cameron Lozinski is a 19 year old Indigenous Studies student from the University of Winnipeg, has been trying to learn his ancestral tongue of Swampy Cree for two years that his great-grandmother grew up speaking. He has made a strong relationship with the community he is from and has taught Cree in two schools in Gimli. He also teaches a basic Cree class at the University of Winnipeg. He is also developing a language app with Swampy Cree Elder Margaret Osborne from Norway House.

**Biography:** Milton was raised on the Poundmaker First Nation with nêhiyawêwin as his first language. He is part of the last generation of fluent Cree speakers in his community. As a nêhiyaw speaker, Tootoosis is very concerned about language retention and has become a strong advocate for Indigenous language and cultural revitalization. With 30 years' experience in Indigenous policy development at all government levels, Milton has served on numerous projects with a focused attention to skills development, attraction and recruitment of human beings, enhancing capacity building, effective leadership, governance and community economic development/cultural tourism within Indigenous communities. Tootoosis has been the Director of Livelihood for the Office of the Treaty Commissioner for the past decade and serves as an elected Headman for the Poundmaker Cree Nation. He resides in Saskatoon, SK.

**Abstract:** Each of these youth have a lifetime of language experience in their journeys so far. They each continue to learn language and to share their knowledge wherever and whenever they can. Each will share about language in their lives, at home, school, work and ceremonies.

**Learning Outcomes:** Participant will know:

- That it is empowering to teach your children language from birth;
- If you don't speak your language, then learn it with your children.

