

SICC FNLKC Abstract

Workshop Title: UnBQ Cree & Denesuline Language Programs

Name of Presenters: Wayne Jackson

Wayne Jackson (B.Ed./M.A. Indigenous Languages) is an instructor at the University of nuhelot'ine thayots'i nistamiyimâkanak Blue Quills Bachelor of Arts Cree Language Program. He has worked for many years as a Cree language instructor and teacher in secondary education, as well as a few years as a curriculum and resource developer for Alberta Education. Jackson eventually found his way back to Cree language instruction at UnBQ after a brief stint as an Adult Literacy instructor. Furthermore to teaching, he goes by the pseudonym W.T. Goodspirit and has performed across Canada recording his own brand of music including original compositions in the Cree language.

Abstract: The Blue Quills First Nations College was renamed University nuhelot'ine thayots'i nistamiyimâkanak Blue Quills (UnBQ) in winter 2015 in a move to assert Indigenous sovereignty of language programming, iyiniw pimâtiwisiwin êkwa iyiniw mâmitonêyicikan (indigenous life and thought) for and by the nations that comprise UnBQ. It was also a move to shift from a college to university, which led to UnBQ granting degrees in recognition of our own language and culture programming. UnBQ continues to pave the way not only university programming but also in the advancement of indigenous language and also by having a national and international presence in research and publications. Presently the Indigenous Language department at UnBQ offers a three-year Bachelor of Arts in Cree and Denesuline and a Masters in Indigenous Languages. The B.A. program in Cree offers two streams; one for non-fluent students who wish to achieve some level of fluency within the three years of programming and to fluent speakers, teachings that will enable them to become competent language advocates, instructors and experts after completion of their studies. This session will present how this institution is making a difference in by tailoring programming towards family, school and community language revitalization.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Learn about language revitalization
- Learn how technology helps reclaim language
- Learn about language programming for non-fluent and fluent speakers
- Learn about diversifying programming to meet learner needs in Indigenous language