



**First Nations Language Keepers Gathering  
Workshop  
Violet Jumbo & Kristen Tanche**

**Title:** Dehcho First Nations Language Revitalization & On the Land Programming

**Presenter:** Violet Jumbo & Kristen Tanche

**Biography:** Violet Rose Jumbo is South Slavey Dene. Her family is from a tiny remote northern community called Samba K'e, Northwest Territories (NT). She currently resides and works in Fort Simpson, NT and is the Aboriginal Language Manager for Dehcho First Nation. Violet was raised by her parents where they only spoke Dene Zhatié and spent much of her life immersed in Dene culture and is fortunate to say Dene Zhatié is her first language. After working as a Language & Culture teacher for 12 years, language is her passion which includes teaching and passing on the language by revitalization, promotion and preservation of Dene zhatié.

**Biography:** Kristen Tanche is a member of Łíídlı́ Kúé First Nation. Raised across the North, Tanche returned to her mother's home community of Łíídlı́ Kúé (Fort Simpson) to re-connect with her family, community, and Dene culture 10 years ago. She continues to live in the community, where she is employed by Dehcho First Nation as the Regional on the Land Coordinator. In that capacity, she plans, coordinates, and delivers regional land-based programs guided by the values of the Dehcho First Nation and Dehcho K'éhodi Stewardship Program principals.

**Abstract:** There are several Dehcho First Nation programs and initiatives such as the Mentor-Apprentice Program and the Yundaa Gogha Canoe excursion. Their Elders have stressed that there is decline in the number of Dene Zhatié speakers. To preserve and promote the language Dehcho, they initiated the Mentor-Apprentice Program in 2018. The goal is to facilitate the development of fluent Dehcho Dene zhatié speakers where fluent speakers are partnered with committed learners in an immersion environment in a home or on the land. It is a one-on-one language immersion program where a 'mentor' (a fluent speaker) is paired with an 'apprentice' (learner). The mentor and apprentice spend time together doing everyday activities using Dene Zhatie at all times. By undertaking this program, the apprentices will improve fluency in Dene Zhatié and will encourage other Dene zhatié learners creating a ripple effect in the communities. Also, in the summer of 2018 Dehcho First Nations offered the regional Yundaa Gogha canoe excursion, from Fort Simpson, NT to Wrigley, NT, a traditional travel route of the Dehcho Dene. 20 people were on the trip which included staff and participants. While there was a focus on travel by canoe, there was also a large focus on language lessons, cultural teachings, and health and wellness.

**Learning Outcomes:** Participants will learn:

- Information about language, culture and land-based programming initiatives in the Dehcho region.