



## FNLKC Conference Keynote

**Workshop Title:** Dágu Țchábikt “What Will We Be”

**Name of Presenters:** Roger White Jr. and Michael Turcotte

**Biography:** Michael Turcotte (Fort Peck Assiniboine, Turtle Mountain Ojibwe) is a full-time faculty member at Fort Peck Community College in Wolf Point, Montana on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. As a youth hearing the Assiniboine language sporadically sparked an interest with Michael. He was fortunate to have received help from Robert Fourstar and Kenneth Ryan as his mentors along with many others. With his brother Roger White Jr., they have been teaching the language in the communities of Wolf Point and Frazer.

**Biography:** Roger White Jr. (Fort Peck Assiniboine, Sioux) is an Assiniboine language instructor at Frazer School on the Fort Peck Reservation. He is also employed part-time by the Native Nations Trauma Center based out of the University of Montana in Missoula. Roger was fortunate to spend much time with many Elders who have since passed on, those who shared language and many other aspects of the Assiniboine customs. He and his brother Michael Turcotte have been teaching the language in the communities of Wolf Point and Frazer for the past seven years.

**Abstract:** Our First Nations languages have survived despite the attempts to eradicate them. There is no single approach to ensure language continuation. We may have limited speakers in our communities, but it is with their guidance and past and present resources that have survived - language continuation is possible. Additionally, with the guidance of our families and successful language innovators, we will continue to strive to influence our younger relatives the way we’ve been influenced.

### Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, delegates will:

- Understand that our languages have spirits
- Learn about several approaches to ensure language continuation