



FNLKC Conference Panel Presenters

Panel Title: Emphasizing the importance of language as a vessel through which we understand protocols, customs, rituals, the land and each other

Panel Members: Elder William Ratfoot, Elder Hartland Goodtrack, Elder Melvina Eagle, Elder Freda O'Watch, Elder Peter Nippi, Elder Margaret Reynolds

Moderator: Eric Tootoosis

Biography: Elder Eric Tootoosis is Plains Cree from the Poundmaker Cree Nation. He has spent number of years working with various learning institutions and has contributed to cultural education by developing bi-cultural approach to re-learning traditional knowledge.

Biography: Elder William Ratfoot is Plains Cree from Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation.

Biography: Elder Hartland Goodtrack is Lakota from the Wood Mountain First Nation.

Biography: Elder Melvina Eagle is Dakota from the Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

Biography: Elder Freda O'Watch is Nakoda from Carry the Kettle First Nation.

Biography: Elder Peter Nippi is Saulteaux from the Kinistin Saulteaux Nation.

Biography: Elder Margaret Reynolds is Dene from the English River First Nation.

Abstract: First Nations Elders have always shared that in order to fully understand our First Nations cultures; we need to understand our First Nations languages. There are no proper English translations for some of the words and phrases in our First Nations languages. The Elders will discuss how First Nations languages are tied to culture and our ways of life.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this panel, participants will:

- Begin to understand that language is the foundation to understanding culture