



**First Nations Language Keepers Gathering
Workshop
Juanita McArthur-BigEagle with Guests**

Title: Nakon I'a: Who? What? Where? When? Why?

Presenter: Juanita McArthur-BigEagle with Guests

Biography: Juanita McArthur-BigEagle is Nakoda from the Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation. She is a band councillor, dental therapist, youth advocate, residential school support advocate, Elders advocate. She works with Climate Change and Health Adaptations with Health Canada. She and her husband of 12 years have four children and two grandchildren.

Abstract: The Nakoda language is one of the most endangered languages in Saskatchewan. With that, there are a number of challenges to Nakoda language revitalization. Who should be involved? What should we concentrate on? Where do we start? When should various language revitalization activities occur? Why are we doing this? The Nakoda language is spread across varying First Nations across Saskatchewan and answering these questions becomes a balance act. But, for the sake of our current and future children, these questions must be answered. Over the past few years, the Nakoda language is in a stage of resurgence with language classes, language camps, language garden, language curriculum development, language methodology development and so many other activities. Becoming involved as an individual, family, learner and teacher are all ways to contribute to language revitalization. Panel members will share their personal and collective journeys: the support and time needed to dedicate to waking up the Nakoda language.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will understand that:

- Language revitalization requires much personal time; for future generations, it is worth it.