



**First Nations Language Keepers Gathering
Workshop
Brian Waskewitch**

Title: Language & Puppetry

Presenter: Brian Waskewitch

Biography: Brian Waskewitch is from the Onion Lake Cree Nation where he works at the immersion school along with his wife Delia. Brian's life is rooted in the Plains Cree language and over the years, found English schools to be a challenge. But, seeing his wife and kids excel in the school, he decided he would attend as well. His family was strong in music and culture and that helped Brian on his learning journey. He realizes the importance of the Plains Cree language and continue to teach in the school and with his puppetry.

Abstract: Through puppetry shows and humor, First Nations languages can be a fun way to teach and learn. Puppet shows provide a different energy with many laughs and smiles. It is enjoyable for both the show people and audience. The shows can be interactive to help the children learn and recite basic words and phrases. Children are more receptive to puppets rather than learning in a traditional classroom setting. Brian will talk about his life journey, his puppetry and using humor to teach language.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will:

- Understand that language learning can be a part of the arts; and,
- Understand that humor is a key element in his style of teaching Cree.