First Nations Language Keepers Gathering
Workshop
Sylvia Weenie

Title: Measuring Success in Language Revitalization
Presenter: Sylvia Weenie

Biography: Sylvia Weenie is from Sweetgrass First Nation and is an educator, administrator, coordinator, kohkom, parent, and a life-long learner. She is currently employed at the Treaty Six Education Council (TSEC) in North Battleford as the Treaty Language Culture Coordinator. For over 40 years in education, Sylvia has witnessed our children spiraling from full fluency in Cree to the current state of extreme language loss in our schools. First Nations languages are presently at a critical state of extinction. Without our Indigenous languages and culture, our sense of identity vanishes. Traditional knowledge gained from Elders coupled with experience and insight of the western education system inspires Sylvia's work. She actively promotes and encourages the traditional teachings to stimulate the language spirit in a good way that will benefit all learners.

Abstract: This workshop will discuss the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre's Teaching Sacred Language Curriculum and will focus on the pre and post online language assessments. Through the use of this method, it ensures the success in our efforts for language revitalization in Treaty Six Education Council schools. This method assists teachers to identify areas of concentration when delivering language instruction. It supports and reinforces teachers' confidence to recognize the language growth from the assessment data. In the active collaboration to develop a structure for language acquisition which includes Total Physical Response (TPR) and Accelerated Second Language Acquisition (ASLA) ensures the success for our language survival. This success is measured on a monthly basis using the pre and post assessment tool which was developed by the Treaty Six Education Council team to align with the SICC Teaching Sacred Language Curriculum.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will learn:

- A method for language revitalization;
- Measuring success for language acquisition; and,
- Technology in language delivery and process.