



**First Nations Language Keepers Gathering
Workshop
Simon Bird with guest Cameron Lozinski**

Title: #CreeSimonSays: Teaching & Learning Cree Using Social Media

Presenter: Simon Bird with guest Cameron Lozinski

Biography: Simon Bird B.Ed., M.ED. M.N.G.D comes from the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and was raised in the community of Southend, Reindeer Lake: home to the Rock Cree. He was raised to continue the northern traditional pursuits including fishing, hunting, trapping including running sled dogs. As Simon says, his language nest was in a boat and on the land. He is the proud father of two children; Sabriya and Kiyanaw with wife Naomi Bird. Simon currently holds a Bachelor of Education, a Master of Educational Administration and a Master of Northern Governance and Development degree. Simon is a very proud fluent Cree speaker and wakes up Monday to Friday at 6am to get ready to teach anyone that joins his Facebook Live classes. #CreeSimonSays has over 12,500 members and continues to steadily grow as more people use technology to connect, learn or simply laugh at posts that celebrate the social culture of the Cree nation. Simon's spare time he hosts a language initiative that is aimed at making learning fun through social media. He hopes that every user will not simply take what is being taught on the social media site, but will take the lessons learned and ask others to confirm; thus spreading the dialogue of one our largest First Nations language groups in Canada.

Biography: Cameron Lozinski, a 19 year old Indigenous Studies student from the University of Winnipeg, has been trying to learn his ancestral tongue of Swampy Cree for two years that his great-grandmother grew up speaking. He has made a strong relationship with the community he is from and has taught Cree in two school in Gimli. He also teaches a basic Cree class at the University of Winnipeg every Tuesday for an hour. He is also developing a language app with Swampy Cree Elder Margaret Osborne from Norway House. This app will be able to teach anyone their language in the palm of their hand.

Abstract: #CreeSimonSays will discuss a unique way of teaching the Cree Language. It is as phonetically simple as "May You Kiss A Cow"= Miyokīsikaw, which means 'It is a Nice/good Day' in the Y dialect. The posts will include Cree words, English words, common pictures and picture word games to be used as cues/aides to help you learn, remember and ask. Simon firmly believes that the language is like the skill of a hunter, fisherman, and trapper as the skills give confidence to make the best opportunity of what this life has to offer.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will:

- See that social media can be an effective tool.
- Be able to identify various levels of learning and find a common ground for learners of all levels.
- Be shown apps you can download to learn and teach.