



FNLKC Conference Workshop Presenter

Workshop Title: Cree Learning Strategies for Second Language Learners

Name of Presenters: Neal McLeod

Biography: Neal McLeod is Plains Cree, from James Smith reserve in Saskatchewan, and Swedish. He studied at the Swedish Art Academy at Umeå. He has published several books including: Songs to Kill a Wíhtikow, Cree Narrative Memory, 100 Days of Cree, Indigenous Poetics, mitêwâcimowina: Indigenous Science Fiction, Speculative Storytelling and three books of poetry including the book of ayâs. In 2014, he was awarded the Gabrielle Roy Prize for literary theory and criticism. Neal was one of the founders of the legendary Crow Hop Café, and a founding member of the Fair-Skinned Indians and Bionic Bannock Boys. He is currently teaching his son Thor Gabriel Cree.

Abstract: ê-apisîsiyân, nikî-pêhtawâwak ninêhiyawî-wâhkomakanak ê-pakaskî-nêhiyawêcik. nêhiyawêmototawitowak mâna. ê-kî-apisîsiyân, nikî-wîcêwâw nimosômipan itê kêtê-ayak ê-kî-mamopicik. nimosômipan ocipitêw ôki. ispin ê-nokosiyân, nikî-nôhtê-nêhiyawân. ispin kayâsîs ê-âtoskâtamân ôma. nistam ê-âkaysimoyân, âta ê-kî-ati-nêhiyawêyân. ê-wî-mâmiskotamân tânisi isi ê-âti-nêhiyawâyân: ka-kiyokawakik kêtê-ayak, ka-âpahcitayân social media (tâpiskôc 100 days of Cree), ka-atoskatamân Plains Cree Texts, êkwa mâna ka-masinahamân nêhiyawî-nikamowina. mêtoni ninanâskamawâwak kahkiyaw nêhiyawak kâ-kanawêyihthakik kinêhiyawêwininaw ê-kî-ayimahk.

When I was little, I heard my Cree relatives speak high Cree. They spoke Cree to each other. When I was little, I would go with my late grandfather to where Elders met. My late mosôm would tape them. Since I was born, i have wanted to speak Cree. Since sometime, I have worked on this. I first spoke English. However, I began to speak Cree. I will explain how I started to speak Cree: by visiting Elders, by using social media (like 100 days of Cree), by working on Plains Cree Texts, and by writing Cree poetry. I am thankful for all of the Crees who kept the Cree language when things were difficult.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, delegates will:

- Obtain concrete ideas for learning Cree as second language learners
- Obtain examples of techniques for learning traditional vocabulary and also strategies for developing contemporary terminology