



FNLKC Conference Workshop Presenter

Workshop Title: Cree Learning Strategies kiyām style

Name of Presenters: Simon Bird B.Ed, M.Ed.

Biography: Simon Bird comes from the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and was raised in the community of Southend, Reindeer Lake: home of the Rock Cree. He is the proud father of two children and has been married for 17 years to Naomi. Simon is proud of the fact that his first language is Cree as it was taught to him as a child and continues to surround himself with fluent speakers to ensure the language is retained. Currently, Simon is the Principal/Education Director for the Senator Allan Bird Memorial School located in the Montreal Lake Cree Nation. It is here where he is able to once again return to Northern Saskatchewan, but also focus more on his second passion; Cree language revitalization and retention. 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 of our largest First Nations language groups in Canada.

Abstract: Simon has brought First Nations language teaching via social media, the platform of Facebook. He will introduce #CreeSimonSays (social media page) and find various ways of reaching champions of language and network with other teachers to share successes. He will share how he uses the same techniques found in main stream pop culture. Simon will share what has worked and what hasn't. He will show that engaging learners helps keep the fire alive for our Indigenous languages.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, delegates 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.
- Share apps you can download to learn and teach will be shared.
- Walk away a changed person and forever better.