

FNLKC Conference Community Showcase

Workshop Title: nastow anehiyoweyak

Name of Presenters: Ira Horse

Ira Horse is originally from Sweetgrass First Nation but married into the Thunderchild First Nation which she now calls home. Ira and her husband, Maxwell have raised many children, some of our own, others they have adopted or have chosen to raise. They highlight raising their grandson Davis and adopting their son George in 2011. They live a traditional lifestyle and their home is a Cree Only Zone.

Abstract: The workshop title translated to Plains Cree is, "We only speak Cree." In their house, Ira, her husband, their 13 year old grandson Davis and their adopted five year old son, George only speak Cree. Her husband will not respond to the boys or acknowledge them if they speak English. Delegates will understand that we can and are still able to pass down our languages. Davis is a fluent Cree speaker. In many communities he is recognized and people often acknowledge him and his language fluency. Through video clips and a powerpoint, Ira will show Davis speaking and visiting with his mosom in Cree only. She also has videos of Davis teaching George Cree words and how at his young age, that he too is a Cree teacher. Davis is no stranger to SICC, he was acknowledged at age five in 2015 when he won the annual book writing contest.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Know that our languages is only sleeping, they are still alive
- Know that speaking in our homes is vital to keeping our languages alive
- Be introduced to the Language Toolkit for Parents to assist in language revitalization