

SICC FNLKC Abstract

Workshop Title: Sauleaux Anishnabe (Nakawe) Worldview & Importance of Language
Presenter: Peter Nippi

Peter Nippi, Maskote-pizikioh-kizikohwinin (Buffalo Sky Man) Nibinigwaneb (Summer Eagle Feather) aka (Peter Nippi) is from Kinistin Nakawe Nation called “Kip pah pee kang”. He has been involved as a “Oskabehos” since 1977, a ceremonial holder since 1987. His parents never went to residential school or church. They were both fluent in the Anishnabe (Nakawe) language and didn’t speak English. They were both actively involved in the ceremonies, customs, and traditions of the Anishnabe (Nakawe) people.

Peter has been on his healing journey for the past 30 years and has remained abstinent from unhealthy substances. He presently works for the Correctional Services of Canada as an Elder Advisor to the Aboriginal Initiatives program at the Prince Albert Penitentiary which entails Elder assessments, counselling, reviews, progress reporting and case conferencing. He designs and engages the clients to utilize the Aboriginal cultural programming and healing plans in a holistic manner in and out of the penitentiary.

Peter is fluent in the Anishnabe (Nakawe) language is able to speak Cree and is very involved in the Anishnabe (Nakawe) and Nehiyow ceremonies in Saskatchewan. Peter remains actively involved in his community in the areas of wellness, language and as a knowledge keeper. He continues to participate and conduct seasonal ceremonies for his people. He has four daughters and over a dozen grandchildren and many traditionally adopted children and siblings, this is one of his most prized accomplishments, in accordance with cultural teachings of the Anishnabe (Nakawe) people.

Abstract: Anishnabe (Nakawe) people were guarded in what they shared with the non-First Nations due to the respect they had with the natural and spiritual laws. Language was of utmost importance being an Anishnabe (Nakawe) person. The old people would encourage the use of our Anishnabe (Nakawe) spiritual names as a way to instill who they were as Anishnabe (Nakawe) people. Language was important as the old people would teach it and was spiritually given by Creator and has a powerful connection to Mother Earth, the land. This workshop will give people a better understanding of how the language is unique and is essential in articulating communication.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the workshop, delegates will be able to:

- Understand that wellness, holistic healing and a sure grounding of self-identity enables pride and hope to persevere and maintain the use of our language.
- Understand that it is essential that we must do whatever we need to do to encourage our young people to start using our language in our day to day activities.
- Understand that we need language immersion classes in our educational systems and to use of our language in written format to identify our distinct languages.