



**First Nations Language Keepers Gathering
Workshop
Edie Venne & Minnie McKenzie**

Title: Cree Resources, Land, and Language Revitalization

Presenter: Edie Venne & Minnie McKenzie

Biography: Edie Venne is the Cree Language & Culture Coordinator in the Education Department for the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. In 2004, she took a leave from the University of Saskatchewan to coordinate the Gift of Language & Culture partnership project with the Prince Albert Grand Council, Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB), and Onion Lake Cree Nation. Edie worked at the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP), University of Saskatchewan teaching Cree, Educational Foundations, and ELA classes before moving back to her homeland to work on the revitalization and retention of the Cree language for the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. Edie loves taking photos of the beauty in northern Saskatchewan and working with teachers, students, and Elders. Edie holds a Bachelor of Education and Master of Education (Administration) from the University of Saskatchewan.

Biography: Minnie McKenzie is a Cree Language and Culture Consultant for Lac La Ronge Indian Band Education, Training and Employment Branch. She worked with the Gift of Language and Culture Project in partnership with LLRIB for 12 years. Her life-long goal is to help people become proficient speakers of an Indigenous language they want to maintain or recover. Her background is teaching Woodland Cree Language and Culture in Elementary Schools, off campus Cree 100 and Cree 102 for University of Regina and working closely with community members and Elders. During summer, she teaches Developing Teaching Materials in EDEL 462 and 595 for CILLDI (Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute) at University of Alberta.

Abstract: Cree language speakers in many northern communities have decreased and LLRIB is working to revitalize, rejuvenate, and promote the Cree language and culture in surrounding communities and schools. In this session, the presenters will provide an update of language and culture activities that are continuing and being revived in LLRIB schools and share the resources available from the Cree Resource Unit, Education Department. The accelerated second language acquisition method will be demonstrated using CRU resources and share a video on land-based activities available at Youth Haven.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will learn about:

- LLRIB resources, successes, and cultural activities available for Cree teachers; and,
- LLRIB resources will include catalogues and a display of Cree language resources will be available for Cree teachers and participants.