



*The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre*

# **First Nations LANGUAGE KEEPERS CONFERENCE**



*December 8 & 9, 2009 - Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK. Canada*

## **Conference Summary Report**

*Prepared December 2009*

## Introduction

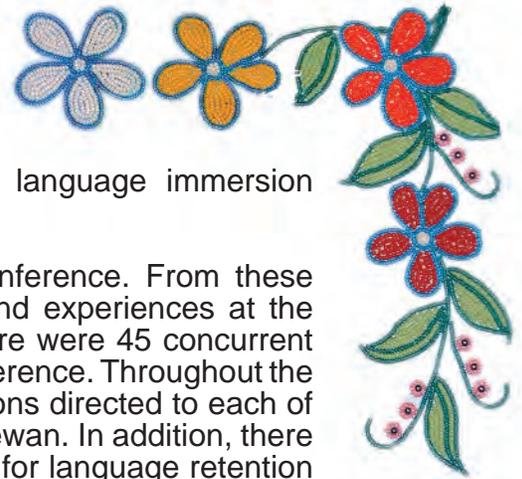
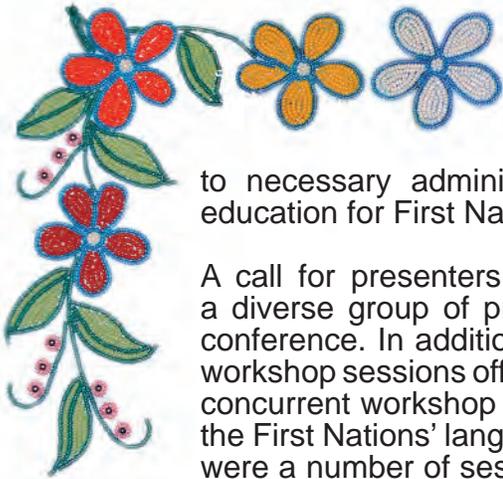
This report is an overview of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre's (SICC) 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference. The conference took place December 7-9, 2009 at the Saskatoon Inn. The First Nations Language Keepers Conference is held annually in Saskatoon. The conference theme for 2009 was Supporting Language Education. The workshop sessions and plenary speakers focused on strategies for retaining First Nations' languages, First Nations' writing systems, cultural teachings, youth presentations and technology for language and cultural education. Primarily this conference is focused on the eight First Nations languages of Saskatchewan: Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakawē, Nakota, Plains Cree, Swampy Cree and Woodland Cree.



*Conference participants enjoying the welcoming remarks*

Supporting Language Education means helping the teachers, administrators, leaders and Elders in attendance strengthen their languages in order to maintain our cultures, societies and governments. The current statistics on First Nations' language speakers suggest that fluent speakers are decreasing with each generation. The process of reversing this decline begins with community action and advocacy to ensure that the funding levels for First Nations' language and culture programs are adequate to ensure success.

An important aspect of the conference has always been a focus on teaching methods and resources for First Nations' language educators. As well, for this year's conference there were sessions on practical administrative steps to enable First Nations' language education. In particular, the workshop on Assessing Indigenous Language Proficiency drew significant interest from the delegates. This workshop focused on testing methodologies for First Nations' language immersion programs. The interest this workshop drew demonstrates the evolution of the conference from teaching methodologies



to necessary administrative procedures to enable language immersion education for First Nations.

A call for presenters was issued for this year's conference. From these a diverse group of presenters shared their views and experiences at the conference. In addition to the plenary addresses there were 45 concurrent workshop sessions offered over the course of the conference. Throughout the concurrent workshop sessions there were presentations directed to each of the First Nations' language communities of Saskatchewan. In addition, there were a number of sessions on the use of technology for language retention and education. As well there were sessions developed and conducted for the youth in attendance.

Over 500 First Nations Language Keepers from all over Canada and the United States came together to help one another build strong language and cultural programs. The hope of the Conference Organizing Committee is that the delegates were assisted in succeeding in their important work through the workshops and plenary sessions offered.

### **First Nations Language Keepers Conference Objectives**

1. To bring together First Nation educators, leaders, Elders, parents and students to share ideas and experiences on how to effectively teach First Nations languages and cultures, in and out of the classroom;
2. To assist communities in developing strategies for revitalizing their language and culture;
3. To provide participants with First Nations' worldviews, traditional practices, customs and oral traditions to revitalize and invigorate First Nations' traditional ways; and
4. To discuss strategies relating to the policy development, community advocacy, and administrative, technical and management support for First Nations' language and culture programming.





tānisi, Anīn Šikwa, Edlanet'e, Hau Kona, Hau Kola,  
Hau Koda

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) I would like to extend my thanks to the staff, volunteers and presenters who made the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference a success. This conference has quickly become an essential part of the process to revitalize, preserve and protect our First Nations' languages. This gathering provides a great opportunity for all Language Keepers to come together to exchange ideas and share best case practices in language preservation, protection and promotion.



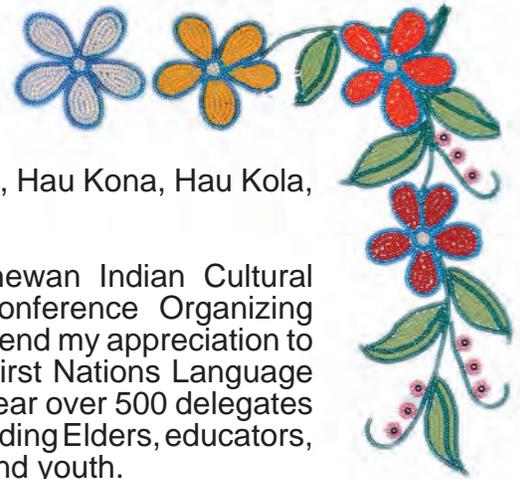
A special greeting is extended to the Elders, our knowledge holders and language keepers who came together to share their stories and teachings at the conference. This conference is largely focused on supporting First Nations' language educators but a significant and central aspect is the participation by our Elders. Their presence and voices are the most uplifting part of the First Nations Language Keepers Conference.

Over five hundred delegates attended this year's conference. The SICC hosted delegates from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, from the Yukon to the United States. The many workshops and plenary sessions offered this year covered a great range of topics. As in past years, Elders from the eight cultural groups of Saskatchewan played a leading role in the open workshops on Cultural Teachings. With the breadth of these speakers' knowledge and experience, the delegates to our conference were able to develop an appreciation of the strengths and value of First Nations' language education.

Our Elders have spoken to us about the importance of our languages to our cultures and well being as peoples. The SICC's Elders Advisory Council were in attendance and have spoken about the importance of our languages time and again. That is a message from our Elders that we cannot ignore and do not ignore. That is why the SICC hosts this annual conference. The First Nations Language Keepers Conference is a realization of the importance our Elders place on our languages.

I welcome all those who strive to support First Nations' languages to the 2010 First Nations Language Keepers Conference. Based on the comments and feedback from this year's delegates we know many of you will be with us at next year's conference.

Vice Chief Delbert Wapass  
Chairman, SICC Board of Governors



tānisi, Anīn Šikwa, Edlanet'e, Hau Kona, Hau Kola, Hau Koda

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) and the Conference Organizing Committee I would like to extend my appreciation to the delegates to the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference. This year over 500 delegates came to our conference, including Elders, educators, administrators, leadership and youth.

Our First Nations Language Keepers Conference has in a few short years become the premier celebration of Saskatchewan First Nations' languages and cultures. The conference has become well known across Canada, the United States and internationally. The success of the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference is in large part due to the efforts of the staff of the SICC, our partners, sponsors and volunteers. In addition, the many First Nations' Elders in attendance played an essential and central role.

Above all, this event was held to support the efforts of First Nations Language Keepers among the Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakawē, Nakota, Plains Cree, Swampy Cree and Wood Cree communities. The growing success of this conference is a reflection of the importance placed upon our First Nations' languages by our First Nations' communities.

The SICC issued a call for presenters for this year's conference. From the many fine submissions received an outstanding array of presenters shared their views and experiences at the conference. In addition to the plenary addresses there were 45 concurrent workshop sessions offered over the course of the conference. Throughout the concurrent workshop sessions there were presentations directed to each of the First Nations' language communities of Saskatchewan. In addition, there were a number of sessions on the use of technology for language retention and education. As well there were sessions that First Nations' youth would find stimulating and interesting.

At this conference the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre released a number of new publications. Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols and Methodologies is an introductory book on First Nations' ceremonial etiquette and protocols. It is intended to impart general understanding of the respectful and appropriate behaviour expected at First Nations' ceremonies and gatherings. As well, new editions of our children's books, What I do in the Morning and I Walk in the Forest, were released in all eight Saskatchewan First Nations' languages.

As in past years, delegates attending the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference expressed their appreciation for the insight and direction they gained at this conference. The management and staff of the SICC will work





to ensure that the attendees of the 2010 First Nations Language Keepers Conference will have the same positive and uplifting experience.

The SICC management and staff wish to extend our sincere gratitude to all the First Nation Language Keepers amongst the Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakawē, Nakota, Plains Cree, Swampy Cree and Wood Cree communities who made our conference such a success. Your efforts and contributions are always appreciated. The SICC wishes to acknowledge the generous support of all our conference sponsors in making our annual First Nations Language Keepers Conference possible.

Sincerely,

Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

Dorothy Myo, President



In 1972, the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) was established as the first cultural institution of the First Nations of Saskatchewan. The SICC was a realization of the vision that arose among our Elders to take concrete measures for the continuation of First Nations' languages and cultures. Our Elders were deeply motivated by the residential school experience. Today the SICC maintains its leading role on cultural and language matters for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN).

The SICC is a member of the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres (FNCCEC). The FNCCEC is the national not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of eighty-seven First Nations' cultural centres and programs across Canada. As the cultural centre of the seventy-four First Nations of Saskatchewan the SICC plays a leading role in the FNCCEC.

The SICC delivers a wide range of services in support of Saskatchewan First Nations, the FSIN and other institutions. The Cultural Resource Management department oversees the collections of the SICC. This department works closely with SICC Elders Advisory Council, conducts seasonal feasts and ceremonies and has responsibility for the Birds of Prey Program. This program distributes feathers and associated birds of prey parts to individuals and organizations for traditional spiritual, ceremonial and healing purposes. A recent notable achievement of the Cultural Resource Management department was the assistance they provided in repatriating the Gouldtown Petroglyph. This important First Nations artifact was returned to its original location after being taken some 50 years ago.

Throughout the year, the SICC Languages department continued to produce new language resource material and supported First Nations' language teachers throughout Saskatchewan. In addition, this department provides language translation and interpretation for many important First Nations' events. The showcase of this department and the SICC is the Annual First Nations Language Keepers Conference. Once again, the 2009 conference was a success with over 500 delegates participating.



*Elder Dolly Neapetung*

The SICC Library was one of the first departments of the Centre and continues to provide essential resources to Saskatchewan First Nations' people. Throughout the year the SICC Library continued its main mission of providing library services and access to knowledge for the First Nations of Saskatchewan. All of the holdings of the SICC Library have an Indigenous focus. Every February, the SICC Library hosts Storytelling Month. This year's events included tipi teachings, traditional singing and dancing, author readings and games and hand-drumming sessions.

Throughout the year, the Audio/Visual Technical department of the SICC provided professional audio and video services for numerous Saskatchewan First Nations' governmental, cultural, social, and community events. The SICC produces audio and video resources from recordings of these events. In the past year the Audio/Visual Technical department renovated and put into operation a recording studio. With this facility the SICC is able to cost-effectively produce audio recordings of traditional First Nations' music and other audio projects. This department produces an average of one professional CD release each month. In addition to the Cultural Centre's retail outlet, these resources are also distributed through trade shows, Pow wows and other community events.



*Conference participants shaking hands with SICC Staff and Conference Committee members*

The staff, management and Board of Governors are pleased that the SICC has continued to advance its mandate despite limited resources. The management and staff of the SICC are dedicated to improving the essential services and programming the Cultural Centre offers. This discipline and dedication will ensure that the SICC continues to be a central institution of the FSIN and a unique resource for the First Nations of Saskatchewan.

## Book Launch Report Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols and Methodologies

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre's (SICC) First Nations Language Keepers Conference hosted a book launch on December 7, 2009 to introduce a new book – Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols and Methodologies. This book is the first of its kind. It was written in the hope that current and future generations of young people would benefit in learning these cultural teachings. This hope is in keeping with the First Nations' protocol of passing on the knowledge and teachings of Elders.

The book launch was held at the Saskatoon Inn and despite the cold weather the event was well attended. The evening began with a prayer by Jacob Sanderson, a noted and respected Elder from the James Smith Cree Nation. The program featured notable speakers including Chief Arvol Looking Horse, the nineteenth generation White Buffalo Calf Pipe Bundle Keeper. Arvol, who is from the Lakota Nation, is a respected and internationally known spiritual leader of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota people. His sharing of First Nations' teachings was inspirational and memorable. Other speakers included Dorothy Myo, president of the SICC and Senator Margaret Keewatin, representative of the SICC Board of Governors.

There were performances by Ivan Dreaver and Brian McDonald. Ivan is a respected singer and drummer from the Big River First Nation. Brian McDonald is a Cree language advocate, songwriter and entertainer from Onion Lake First Nation. Ivan's performance featured First Nations' hand-drumming. Brian performed a number of Cree children's songs.

The evening concluded with a presentation by the principal author Sylvia McAdam describing the impetus and process that lead to the publication of Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols and Methodologies. In addition, Sylvia read selected excerpts from the book.



*Author Sylvia McAdam signing books at the Book Launch*

As well, the SICC unveiled two previously released books that had been translated into all eight First Nations' languages of Saskatchewan. These books, *I Walk in the Forest* and *What I do in the Morning*, were originally released in Plains Cree and Nakawē. Both of these books are now available in Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, Dene, Swampy Cree and Woodland Cree.

Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre



# Cultural Teachings:

## First Nations Protocols and Methodologies.

This uplifting book is intended to provide the reader with an overview of First Nations' ceremonial etiquette and protocols. It is not intended to provide spiritual teachings that may compromise the integrity of First Nations' knowledge and practices. Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols and Methodologies imparts general understanding and awareness necessary to attain respectful and appropriate behaviour at First Nations' ceremonies and gatherings.

**NOW  
AVAILABLE**

from the  
**Saskatchewan Indian  
Cultural Centre**

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## First Nation Language Keepers Conference – Day One Highlights Tuesday, December 8, 2009

An integral part of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre's (SICC) First Nation Language Keepers Conference was the traditional First Nations' ceremonies held as part of the proceedings. These included a pipe ceremony held each morning in a conference room set aside for these purposes. As well on Day One there was a Morning Song by Dene Elder David Noltcho, Buffalo River First Nation and an Opening Prayer by Cree Elder Harry Blackbird, Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation. These ceremonies are not separate from the conference and are intended for the benefit and well being of the conference delegates.

On Day One of the conference there were twenty-two workshop sessions held the six theme areas of:

- Early Learning
- Language Preservation and Retention
- Language and Cultural Group Teachings
- Teaching Strategies, Methodology and Assessment
- Language Learning and Technology
- Community Language Developments



*Dr. Donna Goodleaf*

Chief Peter Nippi, Kinistin First Nation, made the Welcoming Address to the conference participants and presenters. This address was on behalf of the Saskatoon Tribal Council as the representative First Nations' organization of the region. Chief Olive McArthur welcomed the delegates on behalf of the SICC Board of Governors. President Dorothy Myo, SICC provided context for the conference and provided a preview. Chief Arvol Lookinghorse, Cheyenne River Reservation, Wyoming, USA gave the conference an address on sovereignty and the linkage to language. Arvol is the nineteenth generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe. Third Vice-Chief E. Dutch Lerat, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, provided welcoming remarks on behalf of the Federation. The morning plenary session address was given by Dr. Donna Kaherakwas Goodleaf, President, First Nations Confederacy Cultural Education Centres.



*Chief Peter Nippi*

The first set of concurrent workshop sessions for Day One were on Cultural Teachings presented by Elders of the Dene, Nakawē, Cree, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota nations.

The Luncheon Keynote address was given by Andrea Bear Nicholas, Chair of Studies in Aboriginal Cultures of Atlantic Canada,

First Nations  
**LANGUAGE  
KEEPERS  
CONFERENCE**



Department of Native Studies, St. Thomas University. Her address focused on the state of First Nations' languages and the need to employ more effective practices to achieve language proficiency. She emphasized that not enough classroom time is currently being devoted to language education.

The afternoon workshop presentations covered an array of areas ranging from Culture, home and school, assessing the learner, methods of teaching language in early learning programs, elementary grades and high school. Many of the delegates in attendance at these sessions were not language teachers but taught other subjects and were there to gain knowledge and insight to utilize in their classes.

*Dr. Andrea Bear-Nicholas*

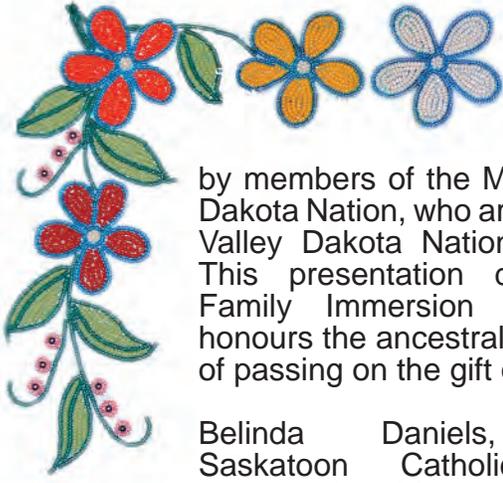
Day One afternoon sessions included a presentation on Early Learning by the Nehiyawinwin Cree Language and Culture Program, Saskatoon Public Schools. This session described the growth and development of the program from a pilot project to expansion into the Grade 4 and 5 years of elementary education.

Dr. Jack Miller, Dean of Education, Thompson Rivers University presented a workshop on Assessing Indigenous Language Proficiency. Dr. Miller's presentation was based upon a dissertation that studied the findings of assessing language learning in Kindergarten and Grade One using storytelling undertaken at the Chief Ahtam School, Chase, British Columbia.

Where was a group presentation on Honouring our Mothers and Grandmothers Teachings: A Dakota Language Family Immersion Model, Canku Kaga Dakota School, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Manitoba This was conducted



*Language Keepers Conference participants*



by members of the McKay family, Dakota Nation, who are from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Manitoba. This presentation described a Family Immersion Model that honours the ancestral Dakota way of passing on the gift of language.

Belinda Daniels, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools presented on Ideas about Second Language Methods and Models and making them your own! This presentation was about second language initiatives undertaken by the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division.

Dr. Heather Blair, University of Alberta and post-doctoral student Martin Zeidler presented on Planning for Indigenous Language Retention and Revitalization. This presentation emphasized that every project and classroom lesson is an important part of a teacher's plan for language retention and revitalization.

This is an overview of the very interesting, enlightening, educational and thought provoking presentations that occurred on Day One of the conference. One of the common threads among the sessions was that First Nations' cultures are a key or foundation for language learning. Culture and language are intertwined.

Day One proceedings concluded with a feast and Round Dance that took place at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge in downtown Saskatoon.



*Claudette Commanda & Dr. Donna Goodleaf*



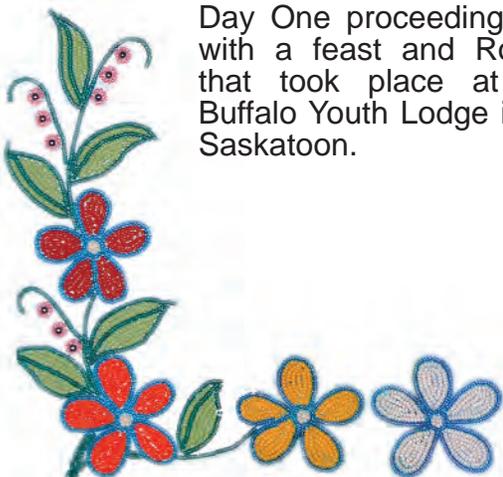
*Margaret Reynolds*



*Val Galley & Perry Bellegarde*



*Language Keepers Conference participants*



## First Nation Language Keepers Conference – Day Two Highlights Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Day Two of the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference started with the Morning Song by Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Cheyenne River Reservation, Wyoming, USA and Opening Prayer by Cree Elder Harry Blackbird, Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation. The opening plenary address was given by Claudette Commanda, CEO of the First Nation Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres (FNCCEC). Claudette reiterated the importance of keeping our languages alive and continuing the work of educating the young in learning our languages. Then Iris O'Watch, Director of the SICC Languages department, provided a summary of the previous day's plenary and workshop sessions.

Day Two of the conference had twenty-three workshop and plenary sessions. The six general themes for the conference were:

- Early Learning
- Language Preservation and Retention
- Language and Cultural Group Teachings
- Teaching Strategies, Methodology and Assessment
- Language Learning and Technology
- Community Language Developments

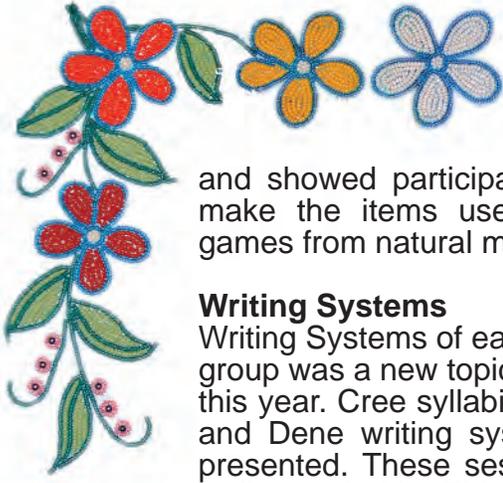
### Luncheon Keynote Address

In his luncheon keynote address on Day Two, Gordon Martell, Superintendent of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division spoke on his experiences from working in the education field. He emphasized the importance of language education in the schools. He discussed how curriculum and program development work leads to the establishment of courses and programs in the schools. He also mentioned that this conference is recognized nationally and that attending the conference gives some insight as to what needs to occur and could occur from a policy and planning perspective. He discussed how the conference has also presented what is occurring at the community level, across the province and across the country in language education. He also urged greater participation by the province and other organizations.

The workshop sessions of the second day built upon the sessions of the first day. As on the first day, many of the delegates in attendance at these sessions were not language teachers but taught other subjects and were there to gain knowledge and insight to utilize in their classes.

### Early Learning

The Early Learning sessions received a great response from participants at both the Traditional Games and the Dance and Songs workshops. Both these sessions were well attended by Head Start program staff, primary grade teachers and teacher associates. These sessions had hands-on activities that the participants enjoyed. The Dance and Songs session utilized the Total Physical Response (TPR) method in learning and teaching activities. The Traditional Games session feature authentic traditional First Nations' games



and showed participants how to make the items used in these games from natural materials.

### Writing Systems

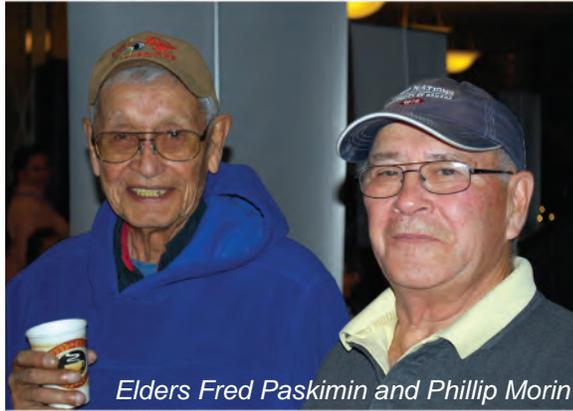
Writing Systems of each linguistic group was a new topic introduced this year. Cree syllabics, Nakawē and Dene writing systems were presented. These sessions were well attended by Elders, students and teaching professionals. In the Cree syllabics session featured a contest to see who could recognize Cree syllabic text that was generally won by the oldest people in the room. The Nakawē session demonstrated the Standard Roman Orthography system. The Dene session demonstrated a syllabic writing system.



*Language Keepers Conference participants*

### Language and Culture Group Teachings

The Language and Culture Group Teachings sessions were well received. These sessions are culturally important and present First Nations' world-views. As well, these sessions demonstrated how the knowledge of the Elders, along with language and culture, are the foundation for our collective past, present and future. Some of these workshops were about the Historical Worldview and how it relates to First Nations Culture, Indigenous Laws: Re-vitalizing and Reintegrating Nehiyaw Laws and Teaching Treaties in the Classroom.



*Elders Fred Paskimin and Phillip Morin*

### Teaching Strategies, Methodology and Assessment

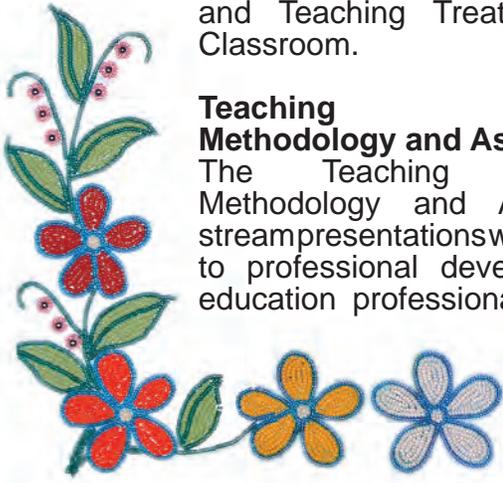
The Teaching Strategies, Methodology and Assessment stream presentations were relevant to professional development of education professionals, teacher



*Cort Dogniez*



*Gift of Language & Culture Tradeshow Booth*



certification in teaching first nation language, program and curriculum development at the post secondary level. The topic presentations covered were Development and Methods, School Program Materials, Demonstration Lessons and Community Programs from Yukon College, Developing and Implementing an Indigenous Language Program for Language Teacher Certification, Elders Voices: Curriculum Development in First Nations Governance and Bachelor of Education program of Cree (Th) Dialect Immersion.

### **Community Language Developments**

In the Community Language Developments stream, Chief Peter Nippi, Kinistin First Nation made a presentation entitled A Leadership Perspective. The overall theme of his session was that leadership must implement language education and that First Nations cannot duplicate the European ways. He emphasized that language learning starts in the home. He discussed the fact school resources are dependent on funding and with limited resources there is only so much that can be done. But we have to remember our Elders and utilize them at home and in the community. His very powerful message was well received by the delegates in attendance.

The Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre gave a presentation on the process and developments they have made in Manitoba in developing a Language Strategy. The Language Developers of the SICC also made a presentation on the Language Strategy development work underway at the Centre.

### **Technology Stream**

In the Technology Stream presentations were made on what software and equipment can be utilized in the classroom to assist the teacher in getting the student fully engaged in learning languages.

To close off the final day a group of students for the Sakewew High School in North Battleford, sang an Honour Song for the SICC Staff and Presenters.



*Sakewew High School presentation*

## Ceremonies & Round Dance Report

As a part of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre's (SICC's) 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference a Sweat Lodge, morning Pipe ceremonies, Feasts, Round Dance and Give-Away ceremony were held. These ceremonies are an integral part of the First Nations Language Keepers Conference proceedings.

The opening event of the conference was a Sweat Lodge ceremony and Feast held at the Brightwater Cultural Site south of Saskatoon on December 7, 2009. This event was held in partnership with the Saskatoon Public Schools. A member of the SICC's Elder Advisory Council conducted the Sweat Lodge ceremony and Feast. The Elder's helper for these ceremonies is with Saskatoon Public Schools. Saskatoon Public Schools provided the wood and rocks for the Sweat Lodge. SICC staff provided the food for the feast.

At 7:00 am each morning of the conference, Pipe ceremonies were held at the Saskatoon Inn and were well attended by Elders and delegates. Elders from the Cree, Nakawē, Dene, Lakota, Dakota and Nakota language groups were in attendance with their Pipes. The Pipe ceremonies were held in a room set-aside for these events. There was also representation at the Pipe ceremonies by female Elders from the language groups of Saskatchewan. Their participation showed the importance and respect the women play in ceremonial life.

As a part of the protocol, cloth and tobacco were presented to the Elders in attendance. There were many positive comments made by the Elders in regards to the ceremonial activities. The SICC Elders Advisory Council was invited to the conference and their presence was appreciated.

The First Nations Language Keepers Conference Round Dance and Feast was held on December 8, 2009 and was a great success. This event increases the profile of the First Nation Language Keepers Conference in the local community and is held in partnership with Saskatoon Public Schools. Months prior to the conference proper protocol was conducted to invite communities from across Saskatchewan and Alberta to this event.

The Round Dance was held at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge with many participants from Saskatoon. The SICC provided a shuttle service to bring conference delegates from the Saskatoon Inn to the Round Dance. The evening's proceedings began with a traditional Feast and Pipe ceremony lead by an Elder. The Elders helpers for these ceremonies were from Saskatoon Public Schools and the SICC. Overall there were more than four hundred participants. There were over a dozen lead singers who kept the singing going and the dancers moving. Many participants expressed the sentiment that this Round Dance was well organized and a joyous occasion.

The SICC Elders Advisory Council offered prayers prior to the Give-Away ceremony held as part of the evening. The SICC wishes to express great appreciation to the Saskatoon Public Schools for their partnership in hosting this event. The SICC conducted the necessary protocols for these ceremonies, in particular offerings to the Elders who participated. These traditional protocols are held to ensure the conference went well and is beneficial for the delegates.

## Media Coverage

The following are excerpts from the Eagle Feather news regarding the First Nations Language Keepers Conference and the Book Launch. The media attention was quite extensive and promoted the conference throughout the period before the conference and during the conference. Missinippi Broadcasting maintained an onsite broadcast booth with day-to-day coverage and interviews of delegates and presenters.

Eagle Feather News had the following articles:

### **SICC Plays Integral Role in Keeping Languages Alive** **By Andrea Ledding for Eagle Feather News**

Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) has been in business for 35 years, and it has become a tradition to hold a gathering every fall. This year's First Nations Language Keeper's Conference takes place Dec. 8 and 9 at the Saskatoon Inn.

"SICC is really the heartbeat of language and culture for Saskatchewan," observed Iris O'Watch, SICC's director.

"Many universities are now collaborating with First Nations to create certified language learning programs."

Administrators, chiefs and councillors, students, Elders, language instructors, early learning education instructors, and teachers are just some of the four to six hundred people who attend the conference. The majority are educators working with youth in schools and cultural programming.

"In previous years we've been trying to have an array of different language culture groups in presentation workshops themselves," she noted, adding they've been busy promoting the conference locally, provincially, and nationally.

"All First Nations languages in the province have been represented in previous workshops."

This includes Cree, Dene, Dakota/Nakota(Assiniboine)/Lakota and Nakawe (Saulteaux).

They still have a call out for presenters, with a deadline of mid-October to get abstracts in. The focus is on language methodologies and assessments, language and cultural group teachings, learning through technology, and cultural arts.

Registrants pay only \$200 if they sign up before Nov. 6 and after that the fee goes to \$300. Tradeshow booths are also available for \$300. The event begins with a sweat and a pipe ceremony at Wanuskewin on Dec. 7. There will also be an Elders room provided.

Another exciting event will be held a Dec. 7 evening book-launch – during registration – of an SICC developed book on Language and Cultural materials. SICC will also be unveiling a general and youth-specific language and cultural strategy and looking for feedback from the public.

They hope to book entertainment, and are asking for sponsorship as well as community volunteers to help support the language conference.

On Dec. 8 all are welcome to attend a round dance at White Buffalo Youth Lodge. A free shuttle service is provided from the Saskatoon Inn.

“We are still awaiting confirmation from keynotes but we have been saying to keep posted for more info on our website,” said O’Watch.

“This conference is to promote the languages – to strengthen, support, preserve, protect promote, and revitalize them. People who work in language presentation enjoy this time – there are many old friends and participants who come year after year.

“We’ve managed to create a family atmosphere – it’s really a celebration of our languages.”

### **New Book Passes Along First Nation Protocols By Sheena Findlay for Eagle Feather News**

A first-of-its kind book about First Nation traditional protocols is now available. Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols & Methodologies was launched by the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) in Saskatoon in early December.

The book provides information about protocols for First Nations ceremonies and traditional gatherings- like how one should approach an Elder, and the importance of offering tobacco to an Elder.

Sylvia McAdam is the primary author and researcher of the book. She stresses that the book attempts to answer questions surrounding proper protocol in a general matter, taking into account all First Nations in Saskatchewan.

“All First Nations share a lot of the general protocol, like tobacco- which is almost a universal protocol. That is what this book will speak to...it tells the reader the proper protocols of how to go into a ceremony or a feast.” Said McAdam who specialized in Indigenous Law at the University of Saskatchewan.

McAdam say, Elders have requested that this information be passed down to younger generations. She said the book will preserve their teachings and knowledge.

“This is a hope and dream of many of the Elders that are in this book. They hope that this knowledge will carry on to the future,” she said.

Dorothy Myo, president of SICC, is the driving force behind the book. She said the idea came after she noticed the lack of resources available on the subject.

This book has risen out of a need to have a resource for First Nations youth to learn about their culture. It will help them have a pathway to access this knowledge about their culture; about things relating to their identity as First Nations people.”

Myo thanks the book addresses this need and leaves people wanting to know more.” I hope it piques their knowledge to learn more. To really get onto learning more about their heritage, backgrounds, the significance of these ceremonies. When they learn about their ceremonies, they have to learn their language in order to access some of this knowledge. That is the key behind all this”, said Myo.

The book will be making its way into the hands of students this winter.

Shannon Avison is the department head of the Indian Communications Arts (INCA) Program at the First Nations University in Regina. She said the book will be a useful tool for her Intercultural Leadership Course- Cultural and Leadership Camp- offered this winter.

“Its what our students need so they’re not afraid to go to ceremonies and so they can feel they can access Elders, and know how to bring tobacco and what that really means. The book will help them feel they can participate in the traditional aspects of their culture, she said.

Avison said the book is a resource unlike any that’s been available to students before.

“The whole idea is that people will receive a formal instruction that will allow them to pursue traditional instruction. Before when we taught this class we didn’t have that. Before, we never had a proper selection,” said Avison. And getting students and young people to read the book is what McAdam is hoping for.

“Colonization and residential schools have impacted how we transmit and transfer our knowledge. This book will recognize this knowledge. This book will recognize this knowledge. I hope that the youth and the generations to come will benefit from this knowledge on paper form,” said McAdam.

The book is available at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre and will soon be available online at [www.sicc.sk.ca](http://www.sicc.sk.ca).

**First Nation Language Keepers Conference Final Report  
 Summary of Delegates Responses to the Conference Evaluation**

1. Topics were relevant to their needs?

Yes	66	93%
No	3	4%
No answer	2	3%

2. Were the facilities adequate?

Yes	69	97%
No	2	3%

3. Sessions were:

Too short	20	28%
Too Long	1	1%
Just Right	51	71%

4. Comments:

Selected Comments:

- Some sessions had not time for Q & A Co.mments.
- Some sessions need more time
- Needs to start on time.
- Need to stay on time.
- Some sessions could have been longer.

5. Were the Session Themes selected appropriate and informative for your needs?

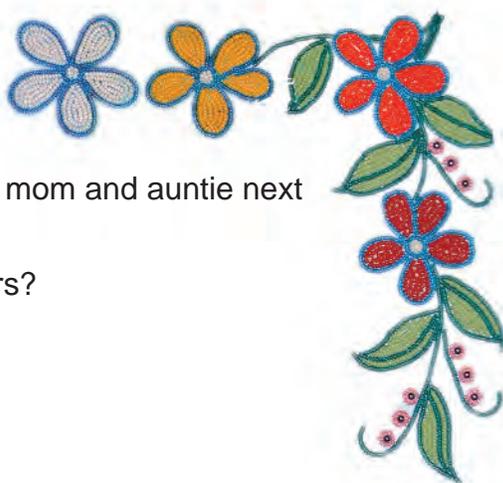
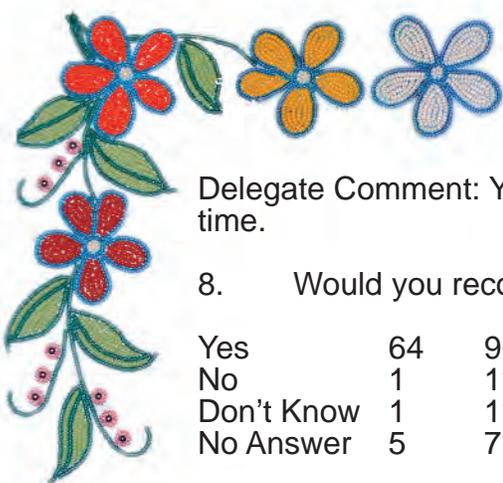
Yes	62	87%
No	2	3%
Don't Know	5	7%
Some	2	3%

6. Did you attend the conference in other years?

Yes	8	39%
No	41	58%
No Answer	2	3%

7. Would you attend next years conference?

Yes	65	91%
No	1	1%
Don't Know	2	3%
No Answer	3	4%



Delegate Comment: Yes, Absolutely, I am bringing my mom and auntie next time.

8. Would you recommend this conference to others?

Yes	64	90%
No	1	1%
Don't Know	1	1%
No Answer	5	7%

9. Time of Year best to have conference

Spring	30	42%
Summer	11	15%
Fall	25	35%
Winter	9	13%

Total Surveys: 71.



## Conference Summary

It was another successful year for the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre's (SICC) First Nations Language Keepers Conference! This wonderful and unique gathering of language speakers, language keepers and knowledge keepers brought together people from all over Canada and parts of the United States. Well over 500 delegates attended exceeding last year's numbers!

First Nations' people always begin events, ceremonies and gatherings with morning songs and prayers which is an important spiritual component of First Nations way of life. In keeping with this tradition, each day of the conference began with a song and a prayer. The SICC held a Sweat Lodge ceremony and feast in conjunction with the Saskatoon Public Schools division on December 7, 2009 just prior to the conference. The conference was well attended by Elders including the SICC Elders Advisory Council and five First Nations' community Elder delegations.

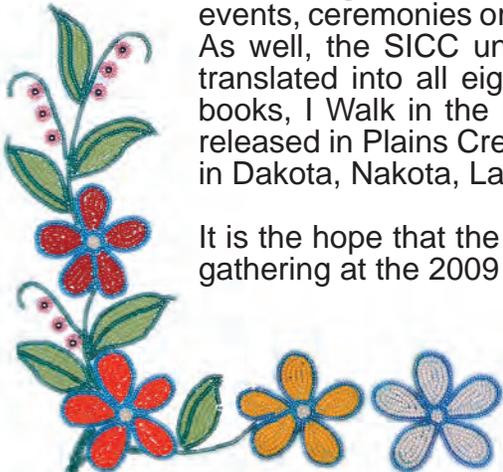
On the first day, a number of delegates expressed their happiness and gratitude that such an event was occurring and in being able to attend such a conference. A delegate commented that, "It was great to be participating in such an event and good for the spirit."

Another delegate commented, "It was a time when family members could be at the same place and share and learn something together that is so important to them now and for the future." Such comments continued on to the other days respectively. The cultural component was the one of the many highlights delegates thoroughly enjoyed.

The presentations and sessions offered discussed topics such as Dene Medicine Wheel, Indigenous Laws, Decolonization, Tipi Teachings, Nakota Language teachings and many others. An interesting session on Assessing Indigenous Language Proficiency drew significant interest from the delegates. This workshop focused on testing methodologies for First Nations' language immersion programs. In addition, there were a number of sessions on the use of technology for language retention and education.

A book was launched on the evening of December 7, 2009 as a kick-off for the conference. This informative and instructive book is called Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols and Methodologies. This is a first of its kind book geared towards individuals who are wanting to attend First Nations events, ceremonies or activities but are unsure of the etiquettes and conduct. As well, the SICC unveiled two previously released books that had been translated into all eight First Nations' languages of Saskatchewan. These books, *I Walk in the Forest* and *What I do in the Morning*, were originally released in Plains Cree and Nakawē. Both of these books are now available in Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, Dene, Swampy Cree and Woodland Cree.

It is the hope that the generations to come will benefit from the sharing and gathering at the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference.





# Appendix 1

## *Conference Poster*



The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre presents:

# First Nations LANGUAGE KEEPERS CONFERENCE



December 8 and 9, 2009 - Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK, Canada  
"Supporting Language Education"

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre announces the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference. This event celebrates and supports language education for First Nation people.

The 2009 conference is organized to build upon the advances in knowledge pertaining to language revitalization and retention, teaching and new advances in technology and community language developments.

We invite you all to bring your enthusiasm and quest for knowledge, contribution and network with like minded educators, administrators, parents, linguists, community cultural advocates.

Information pertaining to Session topics will be in the areas of:

- Language Methodologies and Assessment
- Language / Cultural Group teachings
- Learning through Technology
- Cultural Arts

Who should attend this conference:

- Elders
- Teachers
- Leadership
- School Administrators
- Community Advocates
- Students
- Linguists
- Parents

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT

EARLY REGISTRATION: **\$200**  
Post Marked by November 6, 2009

REGISTRATION: **\$300**  
after November 6, 2009

TRADE SHOW BOOTHS  
(Limited Space - First Come First Serve)

REGISTRATION: **\$300**  
Post Marked by November 6, 2009

Space will be allocated by  
Conference Committee

Registrations Payable to:  
**Saskatchewan Indian  
Cultural Centre**

by Certified Cheque or Money Order

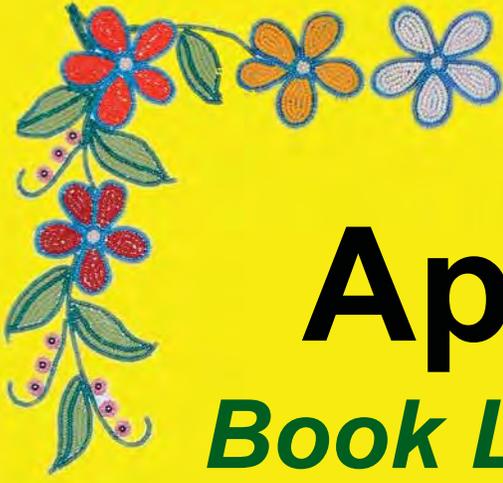


For more information contact:  
Eva Lerat at (306) 244-1146 or [conference@sicc.sk.ca](mailto:conference@sicc.sk.ca)  
<http://www.sicc.sk.ca>



Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
canadien



# Appendix 2

## *Book Launch Invitation*



**Front**



*On December 7, 2009 at 6:00pm a very important event will take place in honour of First Nations Languages. The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) will be hosting the launch of a new book, as part of the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference.*

**“Cultural Teachings;  
First Nations Protocols & Methodologies”**

*Will be officially launched by the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre.*

*The SICC would be very pleased if you and a guest were able to join us for this very special event to commemorate the launch and release of a exciting new resource.*

*Please RSVP to Brenda Manitoken at (306) 373-9901 or [brenda.manitoken@sicc.sk.ca](mailto:brenda.manitoken@sicc.sk.ca) no later than Tuesday, December 1, 2009.*

*(Please note: media will be in attendance)*

*Sincerely,*

*Dorothy Myo*

*President*

*Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre*

*6:00pm - Reception      7:00pm - Book Launch  
Monday, December 7, 2009  
Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre - Canadian Room*

**Back**





# Appendix 3

## *Round Dance Poster*



First Nations  
**LANGUAGE  
KEEPERS**  
CONFERENCE



# Round Dance

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009**

**White Buffalo Youth Lodge  
602 - 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK.**

**Feast at 5:00pm Round Dance to follow**

**Drummers will be paid Security on premises**

**Late night lunch Giveaways 50/50's**

**Mc's:** Howard Walker

**Stickman:** Marc Longjohn

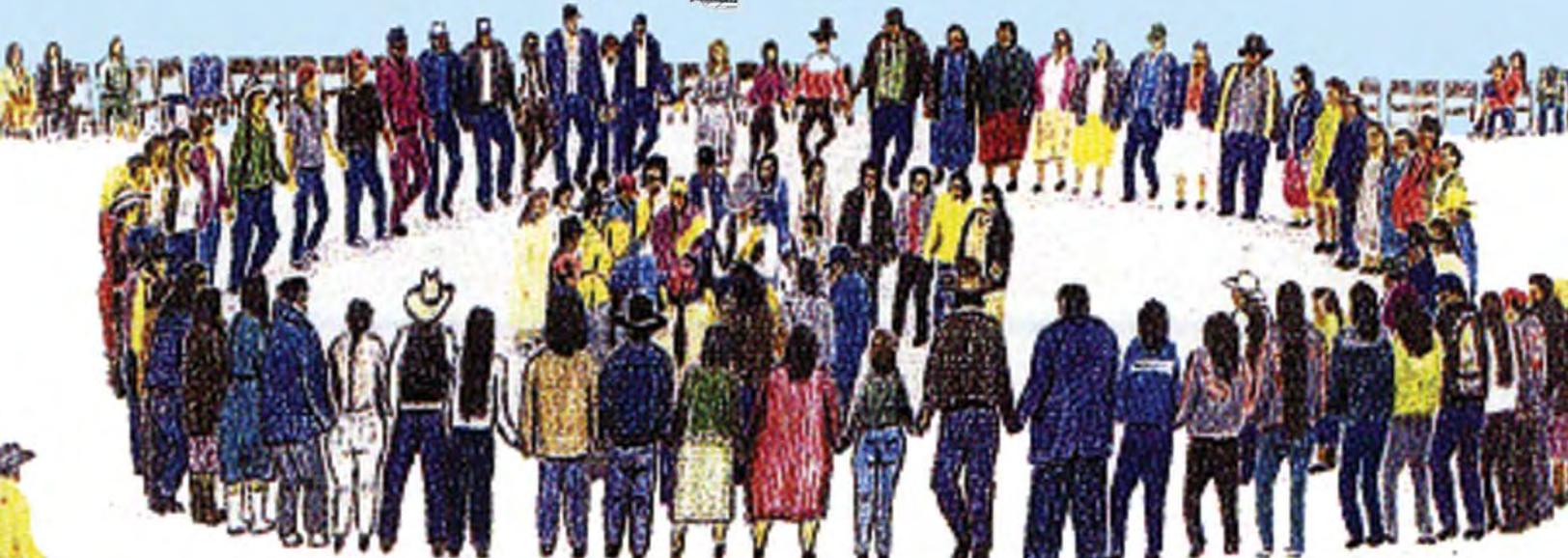
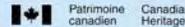
**Whipman:** Brad Crain

**For more info contact:**

**Ross Gardypie**

**(306) 373-9901**

**[ross.gardypie@sicc.sk.ca](mailto:ross.gardypie@sicc.sk.ca)**



**Artwork by Edmund Bull**

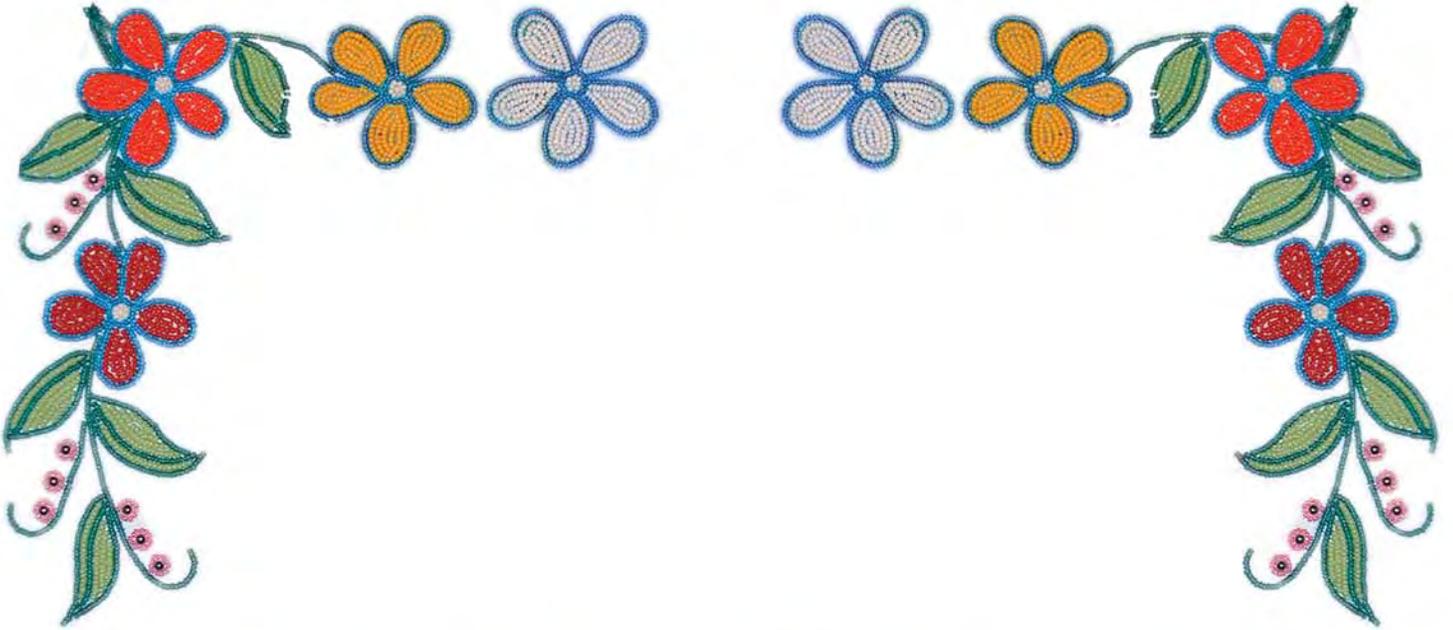
*Edmund Bull*



# Appendix 4

## *Conference Package*





# First Nations LANGUAGE KEEPERS CONFERENCE



*December 8 & 9, 2009 - Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK. Canada*



# Thank you to the Sponsors of the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference

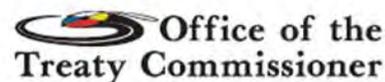


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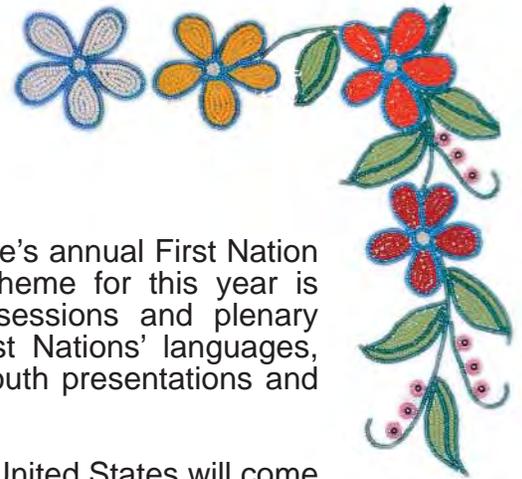
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## Introduction

Welcome to the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre's annual First Nation Language Keepers Conference. The conference theme for this year is Supporting Language Education. The workshop sessions and plenary speakers will focus on strategies for retaining First Nations' languages, First Nations' writing systems, cultural teachings, youth presentations and technology for language and cultural education.

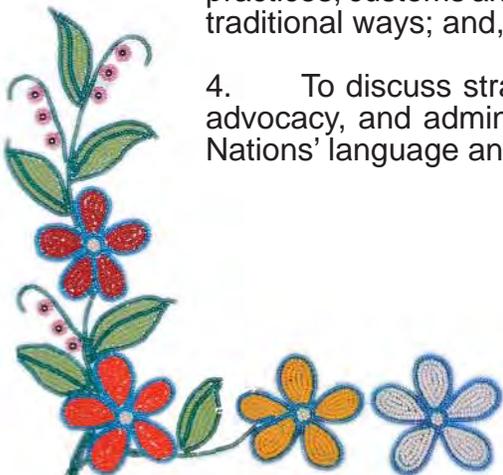
First Nations' peoples from all over Canada and the United States will come together to help one another build strong language and cultural programs to ensure our continued survival as a nation. We are pleased to have you join us in this conference dedicated to supporting First Nations' language retention, revitalization and preservation.

Supporting Language Education means helping the teachers, administrators, leaders and Elders in attendance strengthen our languages in order to maintain our cultures, societies and governments. The current statistics on First Nations' language speakers suggest that fluent speakers are decreasing with each generation. The process of reversing this decline begins with community action and advocacy to ensure that the funding levels for First Nations' language and culture programs are adequate to ensure success. In this process, our Elders and cultural resource people must play a central role.

The hope of the Conference Organizing Committee is that the delegates are assisted in succeeding in their important work through the workshops and plenary sessions offered.

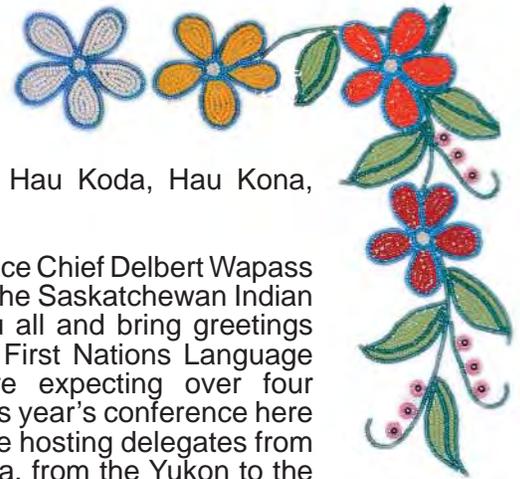
## Conference Objectives

1. To bring together First Nations' educators, leaders, Elders, parents and students to share ideas and experiences on how to effectively teach First Nations' languages and cultures, in and out of the classroom;
2. To assist communities in developing strategies for revitalizing their language and culture;
3. To provide participants with First Nations' worldviews, traditional practices, customs and oral traditions to revitalize and invigorate First Nations' traditional ways; and,
4. To discuss strategies relating to the policy development, community advocacy, and administrative, technical and management support for First Nations' language and culture programming.





**First Nations  
LANGUAGE  
KEEPERS  
CONFERENCE**



tānisi, Anīn Šikwa, Edlanet'e, Hau Koda, Hau Kona, Hau Kola

On behalf of the Chairperson, Vice Chief Delbert Wapass and the Board of Governors of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre I welcome you all and bring greetings to all participants to the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference. We are expecting over four hundred delegates to attend this year's conference here at the Saskatoon Inn. We will be hosting delegates from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, from the Yukon to the United States.

More than forty workshops and plenary sessions will offered this year. The SICCC issued a call for presenters for this year's conference. From the many fine submissions received an outstanding array of presenters will be here to share their views and experiences with you. As well, the conference organizers invited a number of plenary speakers and workshop presenters. With the breadth of these speakers' knowledge and experience, the delegates to our conference will be able to develop an appreciation of the strengths and value of First Nations' language education. We are very proud of the agenda we have assembled for the delegates this year.

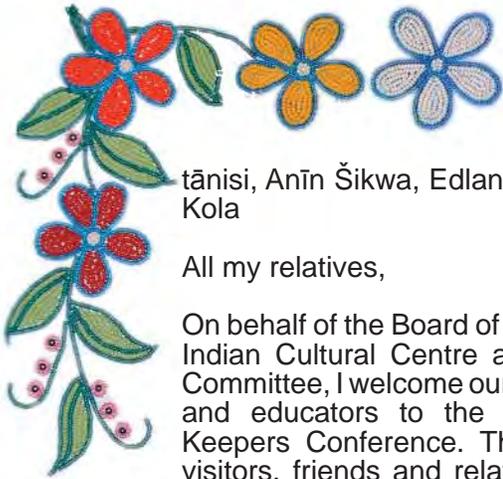
A special greeting is extended to the Elders, our knowledge holders and language keepers that have come together to share their stories and legends with all of us. This gathering provides a great opportunity for all Language Keepers to come together to exchange ideas and share best case practices in language preservation, protection and promotion.

In past years, delegates to this conference have expressed their appreciation for insight and learning they have gained at this conference. The management and staff of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre have worked to ensure that the attendees to this conference will enjoy the same experience as past years.

In closing, I would like thank the management and staff of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre for organizing this important annual conference in support of First Nations' languages.

Chief Marie Anne Day-Walker Pelletier, Okanese First Nation  
Co-Chair, Board of Governors – Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre





tānisi, Anīn Šikwa, Edlanet'e, Hau Koda, Hau Kona, Hau Kola

All my relatives,

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre and the Conference Organizing Committee, I welcome our First Nations' Elders, leadership and educators to the 2009 First Nations Language Keepers Conference. This year we will be welcoming visitors, friends and relatives from across Canada from Atlantic to the Pacific and up to the Yukon, as well as the United States and of course from our own territory of Saskatchewan.



I want to thank the Languages Keepers among our delegates for their important work in First Nations' language education and revitalization. The Language Keepers play an essential role in maintaining and strengthening our First Nations' cultures, heritages and sovereignty. Without our First Nations' languages we would lose so much.

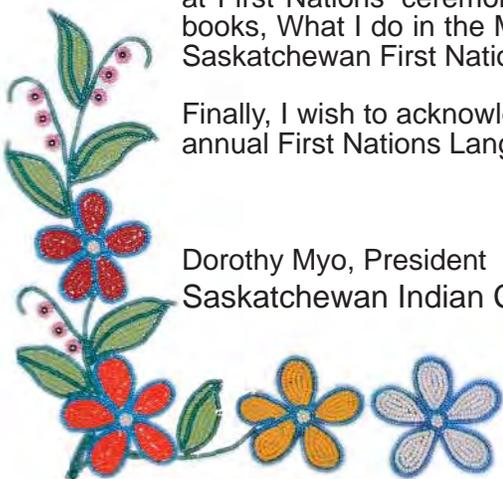
Our Elders have taught us the vital importance and sacredness of our First Nations' languages. A key feature of this conference is the central role played by the many First Nations' Elders who will be in attendance. The Elders are from the eight First Nations' cultural groups of Saskatchewan: Dene, Nakawē (Saulteaux), Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, Woodlands Cree, Swampy Cree and Plains Cree. In addition to conducting workshop sessions, the Elders will be leading our ceremonial activities including the Pipe Ceremonies, Morning Song and Opening Prayers each morning, as well as, the Closing Prayer, the Round Dance and the Sweat Lodge Ceremony. These ceremonies and prayers are intended to ensure our conference goes well and the delegates have a positive experience and safe travels.

The Conference Organizing Committee has devoted significant planning and effort for this year's conference. We have been focused on providing a range of plenary and workshop sessions that will provide all delegates with learning opportunities. As well, this conference provides a great forum for all our First Nations Language Keepers to come together to exchange ideas and share best case practices in language preservation, protection and promotion.

At this conference the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre will be releasing a number of new books. Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols and Methodologies is an introductory book on First Nations' ceremonial etiquette and protocols. It is intended impart general understanding of the respectful and appropriate behaviour expected at First Nations' ceremonies and gatherings. As well, new editions of our children's books, What I do in the Morning and I Walk in the Forest, will be released in all eight Saskatchewan First Nations' languages.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the generous support of all our sponsors in making our annual First Nations Language Keepers Conference possible.

Dorothy Myo, President  
Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre





# AGENDA

## Tuesday, December 8, 2009

- 7:00am **Pipe Ceremony - BC Room**
- 8:00am-12:00pm **Registration**
- 9:00am-10:00am **Morning Song** - Alfredo Noltcho  
**Opening Prayer** - Harry Blackbird  
**Master of Ceremonies** - Howard Walker  
**Welcoming Address:**
- Tribal Chief Felix Thomas - Saskatoon Tribal Council
  - Chief Marie Anne Day Walker Pelletier - Co-Chair SICC Board of Governors
  - Dorothy Myo - President of SICC
  - Chief Arvol Looking Horse - Nineteenth Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe
- Ballroom A,B,C*
- 10:00am-10:30am **Plenary Session:**
- Dr. Donna Kaherakwas Goodleaf - President of First Nations Confederacy Cultural Education Centres
- Ballroom A,B,C*
- 10:30am-10:45am **Health Break**
- 10:45am-12:00pm **Breakout Sessions:**
- **Cultural Teachings (Nakawē)** - *Ballroom A*  
Chief Peter Nippi
  - **Cultural Teachings (Cree)** - *Ballroom B*  
Barry Ahenakew
  - **Cultural Teachings (Dakota, Lakota)** - *Ballroom C*  
Oswald McKay, Donald McKay
  - **Cultural Teachings (Dene)** - *Saskatoon Room*  
Mary Rose Cook, Anne Tousaint-Gordon
  - **Cultural Teachings (Nakota)** - *Manitoba Room*  
Clyde O'Watch
- 12:00pm-1:00pm **Lunch Break** - *Ballroom A,B,C*
- **Keynote Speaker: Dr. Andrea Bear-Nicholas** - *St. Thomas University*
- 1:15pm-2:15pm **Breakout Sessions:**
- **Early Learning Cree Immersion - The Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program** - *Ballroom A*  
Cort Dogniez
  - **Assessing Indigenous Language Proficiency - Chief Ahtam School** - *Ballroom B*  
Dr. J. Miller
  - **"Honouring our Mothers and Grandmothers Teachings: A Dakota Language Family Immersion Model"** - *Ballroom C*  
The McKay Family
  - **Sustainable Development and how it relates to Language Preservation** - *Saskatoon Room*  
Lynn Cote



# AGENDA

## Tuesday, December 8, 2009

- 1:15pm-2:15pm **Breakout Sessions continued:**
- **Planning for Indigenous Language Retention and Revitalization: Every project and classroom is an important part of your plan** - *Mantioba Room*  
Dr. Heather Blair
  - **White Board & Digital Learning Resources** - *BC Room*  
Scott Parker
- 2:15pm-2:30pm **Health Break**
- 2:30pm-3:30pm **Breakout Sessions:**
- **Using songs, rhymes and games to teach language to Children** - *Ballroom A*  
Margarte Cote
  - **Sakewew Youth Group** - *Ballroom B*  
Celeste Tootoosis
  - **Dene Medicine Wheel Teachings** - *Ballroom C*  
Margaret Reynolds
  - **Second Language Methods & Models** - *Saskatoon Room*  
Belinda Daniels
  - **Dealing with H1N1 Community Planning and the School** - *Manotba Room*  
Alyssa Lerat
  - **Gift of Language and Culture - Curricula** - *BC Room*  
Irene Carter, Brian MacDonald
- 3:45pm-4:30pm
- **Treaty Four Student Success** - *Ballroom A*  
Lori Whiteman
  - **Dene Writing System** - *Ballroom B*  
Anne Toutsaint-Gordon, Mary Rose Cook
  - **Teepee Teachings** - *Ballroom C*  
Juliette McAdam
  - **Cultural Responsive Schools** - *Saskatoon Room*  
Saskatoon Public Schools
  - **Learning Culture through Arts** - *Manitoba Room*  
John Spyglass
- 5:00pm-12:00am **Feast & Round Dance**  
White Buffalo Youth Lodge (602 20th Street West)
- Shuttle will be provided to & from Saskatoon Inn (on the hour)



# AGENDA

## Wednesday, December 9, 2009

- 7:00am **Pipe Ceremony - BC Room**
- 8:00am-12:00pm **Registration**
- 8:30am-9:15am **Morning Song** - Alfredo Noltcho  
**Opening Prayer** - Harry Blackbird  
**Master of Ceremonies** - Howard Walker  
**Welcoming Address:**
- Claudette Commanda - First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centre
  - Iris O'Watch - Director of Languages, SICC  
*Ballroom A,B,C*
- 9:15am-10:30am **Breakout Sessions:**
- **Traditional Games** - *Ballroom A*  
Lamar Oksasikewiyin
  - **Manitoba First Nation Language Strategy** - *Ballroom B*  
Ruth Norton
  - **Teaching Treaties in the Classroom** - *Ballroom C*  
Alma Kytwayhat, Harry Lafond
  - **Leadership and Advocacy in developing and implementing an Indigenous Language Program** - *Alberta Room*  
Esther Sanderson
  - **Assessing Indigenous Language Profeciency - Chief Atahm School** - *Manitoba Room*  
Dr. J Miller
  - **Community Language Developments - A Leadership Perspective** - *Saskatoon Room*  
Chief Peter Nippi
- 10:30am-10:45am **Health Break**
- 10:45am-12:00pm **Breakout Sessions:**
- **Dance and Songs** - *Ballroom A*  
Don Speidel
  - **Treaty Four Student Success** - *Ballroom B*  
Lori Whiteman
  - **Historical Worldview and how it relates to First Nations Culture** - *Ballroom C*  
Judy Bear
  - **Cree (Th) Dialect Immersion Program** - *Alberta Room*  
Ida Swan
  - **Developments & Methods and Materials School Programs, Demonstration Lessons and Community Programs** - *Manitoba Room*  
Yukon Native Language Centre, Yukon College
  - **SICC Language Strategy** - *Saskatoon Room*  
Darryl Chamakese, Jessie Sylvestre, Regina Shingoose - SICC  
Language Developers, Q & A



# AGENDA

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

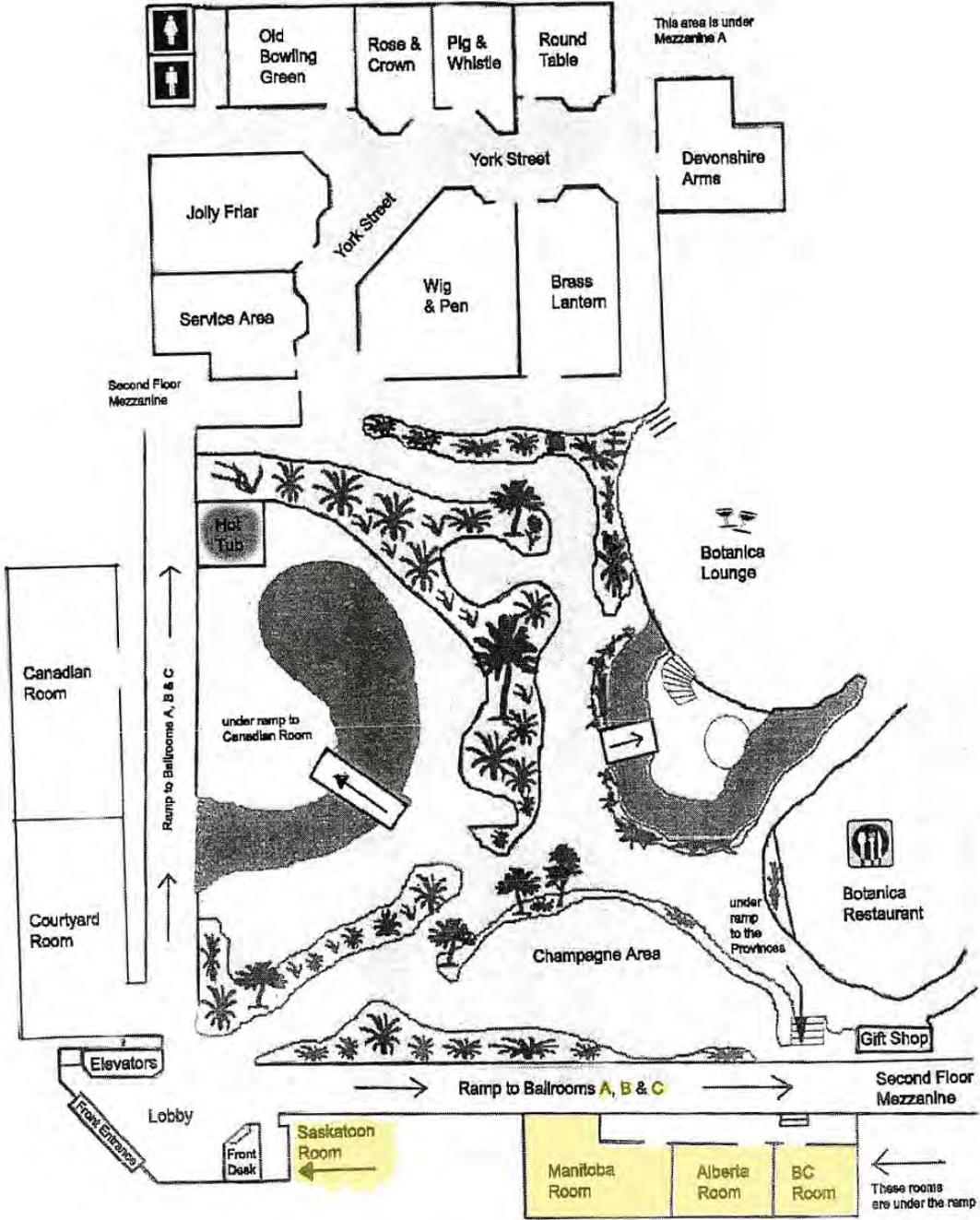
- 12:00pm-1:00pm **Lunch Break - Ballroom A,B,C**
- **Keynote Speaker: Mr. Gordon Martell - Superintendent for Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division**
- 1:00pm-2:00pm **Breakout Sessions:**
- **Nakota Writing System - Ballroom A**  
Tom Shawl
  - **Cree Syllabics - Ballroom B**  
Darryl Chamakese
  - **Nakawé Writing System - Ballroom C**  
Margaret Cote, Lynn Cote
  - **White Board & Digital Learning Resources - Alberta Room**  
Scott Parker
  - **Indigenous Laws: Revitalizing and Reintegrating Nehiyaw Laws - Manitoba Room**  
Sylvia McAdam
- 2:00pm-3:00pm **Breakout Sessions:**
- **Nakota Writing System - Ballroom A**  
Tom Shawl
  - **Decolonization in Our Treaty Territories: Moving Forward - Ballroom B**  
Tamara Starblanket
  - **Planning for Indigenous Language Retention and Revitalization: Every project and classroom is an important part of your plan - Ballroom C**  
Dr. Heather Blair
  - **Elders Voices: Curriculum Development in First Nations Governance - Manitoba Room**  
Richard Missens
  - **Action Plan on Education in the Context of Treaty - Saskatoon Room**  
Murray Long, Harry Lafond
- 3:00pm **Closing Remarks**

**First Nations  
LANGUAGE  
KEEPERS  
CONFERENCE**



The First Nations Language Keepers Conference will be utilizing the following rooms for conference sessions:

- |            |             |               |                |
|------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Ballroom A | Ballroom B  | Ballroom C    | Saskatoon Room |
| BC Room    | Albeta Room | Manitoba Room |                |



Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre



# Cultural Teachings:

## First Nations Protocols and Methodologies.

This uplifting book is intended to provide the reader with an overview of First Nations' ceremonial etiquette and protocols. It is not intended to provide spiritual teachings that may compromise the integrity of First Nations' knowledge and practices. Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols and Methodologies imparts general understanding and awareness necessary to attain respectful and appropriate behaviour at First Nations' ceremonies and gatherings.

**NOW  
AVAILABLE**

from the  
**Saskatchewan Indian  
Cultural Centre**

120 33rd Street E.  
Saskatoon, SK. S7K 0S2  
Phone: (306) 244-1146  
Fax: (306) 665-6520  
E-mail: [info@sicc.sk.ca](mailto:info@sicc.sk.ca)

# I Walk in the Forest



I Walk in the Forest describes the day of a young and inquisitive girl, as she ventures into the forest. Iskwēsis comes across different creatures; animals, birds and insects, that make their home in the forest and names them. At the end her adventuresome day she dreams about the creatures she saw and their names.

This book was first released in Plains Cree as nipapāmohtan sakāhk. It is now available in Nakawē, Woods Cree, Swampy Cree, Dene, Nakota, Dakota and Lakota.



**NOW AVAILABLE**

from the  
**Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre**  
120 33rd Street E.  
Saskatoon, SK. S7K 0S2  
Phone: (306) 244-1146  
Fax: (306) 665-6520  
E-mail: [info@sicc.sk.ca](mailto:info@sicc.sk.ca)



An easy-to-read storybook, this colourfully illustrated work depicts a young, energetic First Nations boy going about his daily routine. This book demonstrates the boy's natural curiosity about personal hygiene and getting ready for school. First Nations language is introduced to the young learner through the young boy's daily activities.

This book was first released in Nakawē as Anin Entotaman Kikisep. It is now available in Plains Cree, Woods Cree, Swampy Cree, Dene, Nakota, Dakota and Lakota.

# What I do in the Morning

# PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHIES

## **Barry Ahenakew - Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre**

My knowledge is varied and unique, depending on the ages of the people I work with. For the youngest I will tell them stories that they can relate to with a question and answer. Time at the end so that they can understand whatever it is they are interested in. For every age grouping my technique changes so that I can relate to them in a manner suitable to their age. I know lots of old stories as well as sacred stories, history, geography as it pertains to our First Nation people.

I am fluent in my first language, Cree and have knowledge of the “old” Cree. I was raised by my grandparents. I never associated with people my own age groups as I grew up. I was made to sit with my grandfather and his fellow old-timers when they would get together which to me was all the time. But because I could speak Cree fluently I understood them as they told stories depending on the occasion.

I have run Sweat Lodges for a wide assortment of people as well as with other tribes in the United States and here in Canada. I myself hold the Prairie Chicken dance ceremony that includes pipe singing and dancing honouring all the winged that fly our skies.

I sing at Sun Dances, Smoking Lodges, Prairie Chicken Lodges and also at Horse Dance and Ghost Dance Ceremonies.

## **Judy A. Bear - Sweetgrass First Nation**

Judy is an experienced First Nations Culture and Language Educator Consultant; Plains Cree Language Curriculum Developer, Plains Cree Translator, Cree Language Teacher N/K Grades 1 – 12 and Post Secondary. It has been reported by education researchers that “a child begins to learn in early childhood”. This seems to describe the early childhood of Kisikaw – Judy A. Bear from Sweetgrass First Nation. Her Plains Cree language fluency and retention of Plains Cree beliefs, values, customs and traditions instilled within her keeps her grounded and she continues to strive, advocate and work in First Nations Cree Language and Culture area. Her first teachers in early childhood in the fifties were elder storytellers, her Plains Cree parents, grand parents and the extended community elders of Sweetgrass and Little Pine. The 1950’s dwelling was the log/mud plastered cabin in winter, the canvas tent or tipi in the summer. The teaching way of the time is “a child is taught to watch and listen”. Observing at sundances, traditional feasts, round dances, and to other custom and traditional events of that time brings memories of life that is much different today. Year 2009, the effects of First Nations Language Loss affects cultural loss. First Nations values and customs changing. In the past, the First Nations elders used to tell their listeners the origin of their knowledge as they spoke of their teachings. Ms Bear will attempt to retell what her mosom talked to her about regarding beliefs of his grand fathers great grand fathers time.

**Dr. Andrea Bear-Nicholas - St. Thomas University**

Andrea Bear-Nicholas is a Maliseet from Tobique, New Brunswick and Chair in Native Studies at St. Thomas University, Fredericton, New Brunswick. She has published on various topics including treaties, language, education, women's issues, and history. Since becoming Chair in 1993 she has developed the first university based Native Language Immersion Teacher Training Program in North America, and has become involved nationally in the struggle for Indigenous language rights. As well, she is working with a committee of her people to develop and research ethics protocol, and she frequently serves as an expert witness in court cases involving her people.

**Dr. Heather Blair - University of Alberta**

Dr. Heather Blair is one of the co-founders of the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) at the University of Alberta. Dr Blair teaches language and literacy education and has published the following in the area of Indigenous languages retention and education; Blair, H and Fredeen, S. (2009) *Putting Knowledge Into Practice: Creating Spaces for Cree Immersion*, Canadian Journal of Native Education, Blair, H., Paskemin, D., & Laderoute, B. (2003). *Preparing indigenous language advocates, teachers, and researchers in western Canada*. In J. Reyhner, O.V. Trujillo, R. L. Carrasco, & L. Lockard (Eds.), *Nurturing Native languages*. Flagstaff, AZ: Northern Arizona University., Blair, H., & Laboucan B. J. (2006). *The Alberta Language Initiative and the implications for Indigenous languages*. Canadian Journal of Native Education, 29(2), Blair, H (1997) *Indian languages policy and planning in Saskatchewan: A research report*. Regina: Government of Saskatchewan. and Blair, H., & Fredeen, S. (1995). *Do not go gently into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light (The case of obsolescing languages in Canada)*. Anthropology and Education Quarterly, 26(1), 1-23.

**Claudette Commanda - First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres (FNCCEC)** Executive Director, National Office

Ms Commanda (Kitigan Zibi Algonquin Anishinabeg) is the Executive Director of the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres' National Office located in Ottawa. She is also a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa – Institute of Women's Studies specializing in Aboriginal Women's Issues and History.

**Irene Carter and Gift of Language Team - Onion Lake Gift of Language Site**

The Gift of Language Team has developed Curricula and accompany resources to be used in First Nations language Programs. The team's work experiences range from Administrative assistants, Computer Techs, Teacher Associates, Cree language instructors, Classroom teachers and language consultants; with the majority being Cree language speakers.

Irene Carter, Site Coordinator, Andy Carter, Computer Tech. Beatrice MacDonald, Word Collector/Translator, Rhoda Dufrense & Suzette Waskewitch, Classroom/Library/Resource development and Rosa Whitstone, Ordering/Resource Development.

**Darryl Chamakese - Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre**

Darryl Chamakeses is from the Pelican Lake First Nation. He is currently the Cree Language Developer at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre. He completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in Political Studies. Following the words of the Elders, he has sought to maintain a balance between western education and First Nations teachings.

**Mary Rose Cook - Black Lake First Nation**

Mary Rose Cook is a traditional knowledge keeper of the Dene culture.

**Lynn Cote - First Nation University of Canada**

Lorena Lynn Cote is a member of the Cote First Nation. She is a Lecturer of Nakawe Language Studies, Department of Indian Languages, Literatures and Linguistics at the First Nations University of Canada. Lynn has taught Nakawe Linguistics and Literature classes for 7 years at the University. She is a mother and grandmother.

**Margaret Cote - First Nations University of Canada**

Margaret is a member of the Cote First Nation in Saskatchewan. She is employed as Assistant Professor and Co-ordinator of the Saulteaux Language Program, Department of Indian Languages, Literatures and Linguistics at The First Nations University of Canada, Margaret has been teaching Saulteaux (Plains Ojibway) her First Nations Language for the past 30 years (2 years in Kamsack and 28 years at the university). She is the author of several books, mainly a text entitled Nahkawewin - Saulteaux (Ojibway dialect of the Plains), A Saulteaux Verb Book, and presently she is working on a collection of Nenapohs Legends and Funny Saulteaux Stories which should be published soon. Margaret is also working on a Saulteaux Dictionary. Margaret is mother to 3 (ages 41, 40 & 32), she is a grandmother to 15 (ages 22 to baby) and a great-grandmother of 2 boys.

**Belinda Daniels - Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools**

Belinda Daniels, B.Ed., P.G.D., M.Ed. is the Saskatoon Catholic Schools-Consultant for nêhiyaw Bilingual education and Core Cree programming. Belinda hails from the Sturgeon Lake First Nation. She has been teaching for 10 years specializing in decolonizing Aboriginal education and second indigenous languages. Belinda has had numerous opportunities to facilitate and travel throughout Indigenous schools in the area of language development. Belinda is a second adult language learner in her seventh year of speaking and understanding Cree.

**Chief Marie Anne Day Walker Pelletier - Okanese First Nation**

Co-Chair, Board of Governors, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre  
Chief Marie Day Walker-Pelletier has been Chief of Okanese First Nation since 1981. For over 28 years, Chief Day Walker-Pelletier has worked hard to improve the overall standard of living in her community. She is the longest serving female Chief in Saskatchewan. She serves as the co-chairperson for the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre – Board of Governors and Chairperson for the Women’s Commission – Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. The Okanese Band Government aspires to: “The Okanese Band Government is a democratic government. It rests on the will of the people. It exists to serve the Okanese people; to provide them with a better quality of life. It is a government of the people; the satisfaction of their needs is the purpose for which the Okanese Band Government was created...”

**Cort Dogniez - Saskatoon Public Schools**

Cort Dogniez (BEd'79, PGD'92) has served Saskatoon Public Schools for over 30 years as a teacher, administrator, and now coordinator of First Nations, Inuit and Métis education. Cort has long been an advocate to integrate knowledge of aboriginal culture into school curriculum. He has successfully initiated Cree language programs in several neighbourhood schools. As a founding member of the Okiciyapi Partnership-a unique strategic alliance among the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc., the Saskatoon Tribal Council and Saskatoon Public Schools-Dogniez has won awards for contribution to innovative learning and presented at an Indigenous Peoples conference in Melbourne, Australia. Cort Dogniez's efforts have helped move aboriginal education beyond an awareness level to a level of

cultural responsiveness, where staff and students experience the rich culture and heritage of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

**Dr. Donna Kaherakwas Goodleaf - President, First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres**

Kaherakwas Donna Goodleaf of Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Quebec, earned a masters degree and a doctorate degree in multicultural education from the University of Massachusetts. She is the author of a book titled, *Entering The War Zone: A Mohawk Perspective on Resisting Invasions*, published in 1995. She also served as former associate director for the First Nations and Inuit teacher training program at McGill University, and has taught at various colleges and universities in Canada and the United States. She is the executive director of the Kanien'kehaka Onkwane:na Raotitiohkwa Language and Cultural Centre.

**Alma Kytwayhat - Office of the Treaty Commissioner**

Elder Almay Kytwayhat is from the Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation in Treaty 6 near Loon Lake, Saskatchewan. She is a member of the Speakers Bureau at the Office of The Treaty Commissioner. She has spoken nationally and internationally. She recently became the recipient of Saskatchewan's highest honour, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. Elder Kytwayhat is also a member of the FSIN Senate and a member of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre – Elders Advisory Council.

**Harry Lafond - Office of the Treaty Commissioner**

I am a member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. Germaine and I have four grown up children and Damien who is 13 years old. I trained as a teacher and have taught at all levels with some years as Director of Education. From 1990 to 2000, I was chief of my community. Family is very important for me and I spend a lot of time with my children and grandchildren teaching them about their Cree heritage. I work very closely with the Catholic Church trying to build bridges of understanding between the Cree perspective and the Catholic perspective. Currently, I am the Executive Director for the Office of the Treaty Commissioner in Saskatchewan.

**Alyssa Lerat - Cowessess First Nation**

Alyssa works in the Cowessess Health Department and is the Community Health Educator.

**Murray Long - Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations**

Murray Long is the Director, Treaty Relations, Office of Treaty Governance. Murray began working with the FSIN on the Common Table self-governance processes in March 1998. He originally was responsible for coordinating the Fiscal Relations Table, and sits at the negotiations sessions of both the Fiscal Relations Table and Governance Table, as well as at the FSIN-Canada Treaty Table. He has worked with the FSIN Chief's Office on economic development initiatives and on intergovernmental issues such as the Aboriginal Round Table, First Ministers Meetings. In addition to working the FSIN, Murray is a sessional lecturer with the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

Murray obtained a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Victoria in 1992, following his B.A. from the University of Saskatchewan. He has worked in the past with the provincial (British Columbia) and federal levels of government. He is originally from a farm south of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. He now enjoys life on an acreage near Saskatoon with his wife, Donna, his two awesome kids, a couple of cats and whole bunch of mosquitoes.

### **Chief Arvol Lookinghorse - 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe**

Chief Arvol Looking Horse was only 12 years old when he was given the great responsibility of becoming the 19th generation keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe. Since then he has dedicated his life to working for peace, freedom and healing not only for his own People (the Lakota, Nakota and Dakota) but for all people through sharing Native Prophecies. In 1993, Chief Looking Horse traveled to New York with Elders of many Nations for the United Nations "Cry of the Earth" Conference where he presented the opening prayer. When the prophesized White Buffalo was born in Wisconsin in 1994, Chief Looking Horse took on the commitment to organize World Peace Day on June 21st, a day of uniting all Nations upon Grandmother Earth to pray for her healing, to respect all life and to vow to make all decisions with respect for 7 generations yet to come. He has traveled all around the world sharing a message of peace for all nations, meeting with other spiritual leaders dedicated to this vision, like the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. In 1996 he received the prestigious Canadian Wolf Award which is given to a person who has dedicated his life to working for peace, and that same year was invited to President Clinton's inauguration to speak about peace and unity. He has been on the Board of the World Peace Prayer Society since the early 1990s, helping to fulfill their mission of planting Peace Poles that share the universal prayer, 'May Peace Prevail On Earth' in nearly every language on the planet. In 2006 Chief Looking Horse received the Temple of Understanding's Juliet Hollister Award for his work in helping to unite all Nations in the name of Peace.

### **Richard Missens - First Nations University of Canada**

Richard is a member of the Pasqua First Nation. He is an Assistant Professor with the School of Business and Public Administration at the First Nations University of Canada. Prof. Missens does research and teaching in the areas of First Nations governance and Management. He is also very involved with the First Nations communities working in the area of economic development and venture management. He is currently the Governance Coordinator for the Business School and the president of the 32nd Annual Pow-wow Committee for the University. He is currently doing research in First Nations governance and steering the "Elder's Voices" curriculum development project for the governance program at the Business School

### **Chief Peter Nippi - Kinistin Saulteaux Nation**

Chief Peter Nippi is a fluent Saulteaux speaker. Under the leadership of Chief Nippi, Elders have played a vital role in providing advisory support for Chief and Council and all committees of Kinistin. Kinistin is very proud of our Elders and acknowledges the advice and wisdom in every initiative of Kinistin.

### **Ruth Norton - Manitoba First Nations Education Research Centre**

Ruth Norton is a First Nations Language Specialist for the Manitoba First Nations Education Research Centre. The MFNERC is actively involved in promoting community development by providing training and coordinating opportunities for families and other community members. Professional development training is also provided for school board members, administrators, teachers and teaching assistants.

### **Gordon A. Martell - Superintendent, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools**

Gordon has extensive experience in First Nations and Métis education including serving on the First Nations and Métis Education Provincial Advisory Committee, the Canadian Teachers' Federation's Committee for Aboriginal Voice, on the

Awasis Special Subject Council and numerous provincial committees dealing with education, governance and community development. In 2002, Gordon served on the Minister's National Working Group on Education, a national Aboriginal group convened by the Federal Minister of Indian Affairs. During 2005-2006, Gordon was a member of the expert panel on student achievement and large-scale assessment in Saskatchewan.

Gordon is a Ph. D. candidate in the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Saskatchewan. Gordon's interests are in the responsibility of governments to consult with Indigenous peoples in policy development. His research focus is on the experiences of Indigenous educators and their contributions to decolonizing education through indigenizing processes that shape public education.

### **Juliette McAdam - Big River First Nation**

Juliette McAdam (Saysewahum) is from the Big River Reserve and is a direct descendant of a Treaty 6 signatory. Juliette is of Cree and Saulteaux ancestry and is a fluent Cree speaker. Juliette is an accomplished beader, birch bark basket maker, knowledgeable in the culture and traditions of Cree and Saulteaux.

### **Sylvia McAdam - Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre**

Sylvia McAdam (Saysewahum) is an Indigenous lawyer from the Big River Reserve. She is currently employed at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre as a researcher and writer. Sylvia is a fluent Cree speaker and is a direct descendant of a Treaty 6 signatory.

### **McKay Family - Sioux Valley Dakota Nation**

The McKay family from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation will present a Family Immersion Model which honors their Ancestral Dakota way of passing on the gift of Language. This presentation will include: Sheila McKay, Barbara Turenne, Arlene McKay, Oswald McKay, Donald McKay.

### **Dr. Jack Miller - Thompson Rivers University**

Dr. Jack Miller has been a faculty member of the School of Education, since 2001. As an instructor in the Bachelor of Education program, he has taught Assessment and Evaluation in the Classroom, Principles of Effective Teaching, Aboriginal Pedagogy, Physical Education Methods, and has supervised student teachers in their practica. His research interests include assessment and evaluation, Aboriginal language curriculum development, and Aboriginal language revitalization. The title of his doctoral dissertation, completed in 2004, is Assessing First Nations Language Proficiency. Over the past 5 years, Jack has actively shared the results of his research, making presentations at numerous Native language conferences as well as conducting workshops in Native Language Curriculum Development and Aboriginal Language Assessment. For the past 2 years he has been collaborating with Interior Salish language groups to establish a Developmental Standard Teaching Certificate program for Native Language teachers. Jack is currently the Dean of the School of Education.

### **Lamarr Oksasikewiyin**

Lamarr Oksasikewiyin is originally from Sweetgrass First Nation. He learned some games from home and from the Traditional Games Society based out of East Glacier Montana. Lamarr is a teacher in Lac La Ronge.

### **Clyde O'Watch - Carry the Kettle First Nation**

Clyde O'Watch is a traditional knowledge keeper of the Nakota Oyate.

**Scott Parker - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

Scott Parker from Professional Audio Visual Ltd (Pro AV). Scott specializes in products for the education market in Saskatchewan.

**Margaret Reynolds**

Margaret Reynolds is a Denesuline from English River First Nation, Patuanak, Saskatchewan. I speak, understand, write and teach the Denesuline language. Margaret is an author, mother, grandmother, designer, a motivated speaker and an advocate for Native language and culture. I have spent a number of years as a Sessional Instructor, teaching Dene language at First Nations University of Canada in Saskatoon.

The books I have written include, Dene Stories, Dene Language (Syllabics), Dene Arts and Crafts and Johnny Goes Hunting. All can be found at the SICCC. On May 22, 2009, I was honored by the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network (S.A.L.N.) for the above-mentioned books that I have written.

**Sakewew Substance Awareness and Empowerment for Youth (SSAEY) Group - Celeste Tootoosis Coordinator**

The SSAEY group is for the Whole school. There are planning committees and a core group of students including the Jr. Chief and Council. This group organizes Substance Awareness in the school by holding special activities in the school. They also trained to facilitate youth groups. The students are empowering themselves and other youth by organizing youth gatherings, and attending various events that are important to them including culture and language in all the activities that they do. Their goal is to learn more about their culture, language and leadership.

**Esther Sanderson - University College of the North**

Esther Sanderson is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation (The Pas) in northern Manitoba and belongs to the Beaver Clan. She is 3rd degree Midewin of the Western Doorway, Three Fires Society. Her western academic credentials include a Bachelor of Education degree from Brandon University and graduate degree from University of Manitoba. Esther has been a classroom teacher, a university instructor, post secondary administrator, curriculum developer with more than a keen interest in Aboriginal languages. She is currently employed by the University College of the North in The Pas to develop the Center for Aboriginal Languages.

**Tom Shawl - Fort Belknap, Montana**

Tom Shawl is a Nakota Language Instructor with the Fort Belknap Community College. He is currently working on translating Nakota archival texts housed in Bloomington, Indiana, Indiana University.

**Regina Shingoose - Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre**

Regina Shingoose is a teacher, curriculum developer of her Nakawe language. Regina spent many years as an elementary school and language teacher. Regina is the Nakawe Language Developer at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre.

**Don Speidel - Saskatoon Public Schools**

Don Speidel (aka Tatonka Hokshila), a Hunkpapa Lakota, is an advocate for the preservation and revitalization of the First Nations language, cultures, and traditional arts. Throughout his life he has been actively involved in Lakota/Dakota ceremonial and cultural activities. First Nations song and dance has always been of special interest to him. He is a Educator ,dancer, singer, song composer, drum keeper, manager of a singing group, costume designer, dance instructor, dance troupe manager, organizer and choreographer of dance performances, pow wow

organizer, arena director, pow wow and round dance announcer, a pow wow video producer and has produced numerous recording of First Nations music.

Don has done a fair bit of work with youth and is presently a Cultural Resource person for Kilburn Youth Detention Centre, Yarrow Youth Farm in Saskatoon and currently serves as a Waokiye (Traditional Helper) for Saskatoon Public Schools.

### **John Spyglass - Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre**

John was born on the Mosquito Grizzly Bears Head Lean Man Assiniboine First Nation into a family of three sisters and seven brothers, his parents William Starchief and Mary Jane Spyglass. John is fluent in the Plains Cree Language, understanding the Nakota Language, and currently learning the Nakawe and Dene Language.

John grew up with the traditional teaching methods of his parents and grandparents, he is a direct descendant of Chief Gilbert Mosquito, the teachings included the languages, learning about the medicines of Mother Earth, history of First Nations People, Arts, Crafts, and the sacred songs and stories.

John is a Beadwork Artist, Quillwork Artist, a Teacher in the Elementary, High School and University level, Cultural History Teacher, as well a Specialist in Museumology. He is currently working at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre as a Tour Guide and managing the SICC Art Collection, as a researcher and developing Curriculum Guides in the Cultural Language and Arts.

### **Tamara Starblanket - Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation**

Tamara Starblanket is from the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation in Treaty Six Territory. Tamara is presently writing her masters of law on genocide and land theft. She has acquired a B.A. with a major in political science from Simon Fraser University in 2001. She graduated from the University of British Columbia in 2004 with a law degree and obtained her call to the Saskatchewan Bar in 2005.

Her interests are in studying the effects that genocide has had on the peoples, cultures and way of life of Indigenous Peoples in Indigenous North America. Rather than focus on the implementation of colonial law Tamara has an interest in developing Indigenous legal systems and helping to assert the Inherent authority that Indigenous possess over our Mother Earth.

### **Ida Swan - First Nations University of Canada**

My name is Ida Swan and I am faculty in the Dept. of Indigenous Education First Nations University of Canada at the Northern Campus. I was born in Sandy Narrows, Saskatchewan, grew up in Pelican Narrows and a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. Currently I live in Prince Albert with my husband Edward Swan. Our four children are all grown up. I am a fluent /th/Cree speaker as are my family. I have been interested in the preservation of the Cree Language for many years which led to my Thesis on Language Shift within my family.

I received my schooling in a Day School, a year at Gordon's Residential School, and two years at All Saints Residential School. I graduated from Riverside Collegiate. I received a B.Ed, Post Graduate Diploma and Masters of Education from the University of Saskatchewan. I began the development of the Bachelor of Education-Cree Immersion Program in the Spring of 2009. Angelina Weenie, Department Head have assisted me in the overall development of the program. The Cree aspect was my responsibility.

**Jessie Sylvestre - Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre**

Jessie is from the Buffalo River Dene Nation. Jessie has been involved in education for her entire career. She has been an educator, administrator and Band Councillor. Presently, Jessie is the Dene Language Developer at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre.

**Tribal Chief Felix Thomas - Saskatoon Tribal Council**

Chief Felix Thomas is from the Kinistin Saulteaux Nation. Prior to being elected Tribal Chief of the Saskatoon Tribal Council, he served six terms as Chief and one term as a Councillor for his community. Chief Thomas holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Saskatchewan.

**Anne Toutsaint-Gordon - Prince Albert Grand Council**

Anne Toutsaint-Gordon is a Dene Language Consultant with the Prince Albert Grand Council. She is originally from Black Lake Dene Nation.

**Vera Tourangeau - Treaty Four Education Centre**

Vera is from Peepeekisis First Nation and is Cree/ Nakawe. A mother of three and a grandmother of five. Currently working at the Treaty 4 Student Success Program in Fort Qu'Appelle at the Treaty 4 Governance Centre as a Program Community Coordinator. She is a motivational speaker, educator and author of "Miss, It Hurts." Vera is in the process of producing two more books. Vera is a strong believer of literacy and advocate for children.

**Lori Whiteman - Treaty Four Education Centre**

Lori is currently the Program Director for the Treaty 4 Student Success Program in Fort Qu'Appelle. Prior to this, she was a Superintendent with the First Nations, Metis and Community Education Branch at the Ministry of Education. As a First Nations Educator, Lori is committed to creating an education system for future generations that supports strong identity development, healthy and balanced lifestyles, and enables First Nations children to flourish and succeed. Lori is a Dakota/Nakawe member of Standing Buffalo Dakota First Nation. She has two daughters.

**Anne Ranigler - Archivist, Translator, and Northern Tutchone Specialist, Yukon Native Language Centre**

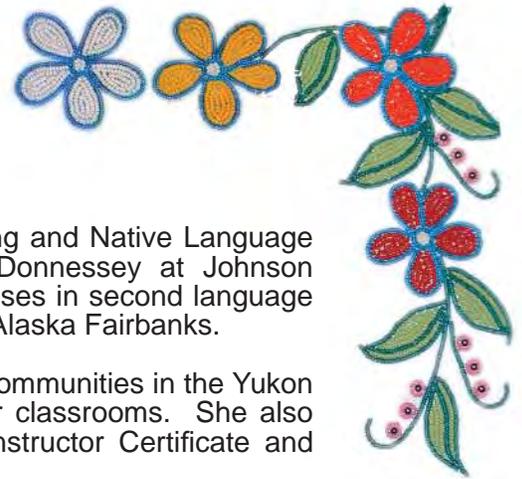
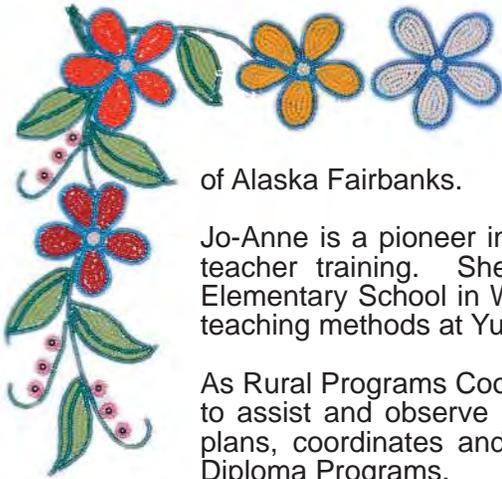
Anne is Northern Tutchone and member of the Crow (Hanjit) clan. She was given the native name Enkhume, after her aunt Annie Wickstrom. She is an elder and fluent speaker of the Northern Tutchone Language. She is able to read and write in her language and is the author of a Listening Exercise booklet made for classroom teaching.

In 1991 she started with Yukon Territorial Government's Aboriginal Language Services as a Northern Tutchone Language Interpreter in Carmacks, Yukon. In 2002 she retired from that position and in September of 2004 she began work as Archivist and Northern Tutchone Specialist at the Yukon Native Language Centre.

Annie also teaches Northern Tutchone at the Kwanlin Dun First Nation as an adult community language teacher along with her mother and sisters.

**Jo-Anne Johnson - Rural Programs Coordinator, Yukon Native Language Centre**

Jo-Anne is a member of the Crow clan and her native name is Tilsma. She possesses a Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Alberta and has completed additional courses in education and linguistics at Yukon College, University of British Columbia, University of California-Los Angeles, University of Hawaii, and University



of Alaska Fairbanks.

Jo-Anne is a pioneer in the development of team-teaching and Native Language teacher training. She team-taught with Elder Clara Donnessey at Johnson Elementary School in Watson Lake. She has taught classes in second language teaching methods at Yukon College and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

As Rural Programs Coordinator Jo-Anne travels to most communities in the Yukon to assist and observe Native Language teachers in their classrooms. She also plans, coordinates and teaches the Native Language Instructor Certificate and Diploma Programs.

### **Linda Harvey, Kwak'etlelma - Urban Programs Coordinator, Yukon Native Language Centre**

Kwak'etlelma - Linda - is a member of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. She is from the Wolf clan, Agunda and Dakhl'aw Sha. She began her teaching career learning to speak and teach by using the methodology learned at the Yukon Native Language Centre, Yukon College, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her mother Irene Smith is her main mentor along with other fluent speakers.

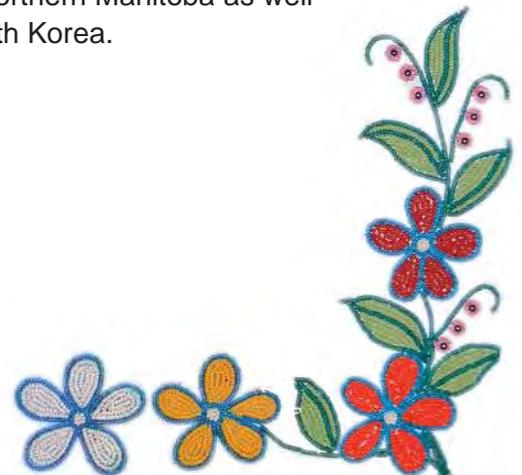
Kwak'etlelma (Linda) loves to drum and sing traditional and spiritual songs. In 1999 Linda began her teaching career in Southern Tutchone as a student/language teacher at the Takhini Elementary School and later at the Hidden Valley Elementary School. Linda has taught traditional dancing to students of her first nation, helped teach language songs in the daycare, and is also an adult language teacher in her community.

Linda has completed her AAS Degree and is now working towards her BA in Native Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She completed her Certificate and Diploma as a Native Language Teacher and received her Cultural Teaching Certificate from the Yukon Territorial Government.

In 2004 Linda was hired as the Urban Programs Coordinator at YNLC where she plans, coordinates and teaches the Native Language Instructor Certificate and Diploma Programs in Whitehorse along with her colleagues.

### **Martin Zeidler - University of Alberta**

Martin Zeidler is a doctoral student at the University of Alberta in the Department of Elementary Education whose research lies in the area of indigenous language preservation and decolonization. He works in the area of the ontology of language and how it binds native speakers to their culture and identity. He has a Masters of Education from the University of Alberta in Second Language Acquisition and pedagogy. Professional experience includes teaching in northern Manitoba as well as English/French and teacher training in Taiwan and South Korea.





# CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

## **Action Plan on Education in the Context of Treaty**

*Murray Long, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Harry Lafond, Office of the Treaty Commissioner*

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations is currently under taking a review of Indian Control of Indian Education policy. Ongoing consultations are being undertaken. The presenters will update the delegates on this process.

## **Assessing Indigenous Language Proficiency - Chief Atahm School**

*Dr. Jack Miller, Thompson Rivers University*

This program is to develop tools to assess and evaluate students' ability to speak Secwepemctsin through storytelling at the Chief Atahm School in British Columbia. This program is to establish a "user friendly" means of determining speaking proficiency in Secwepemctsin for K to 3 through storytelling. By developing a standard line of questioning or stimuli (a picture or a series of pictures) from which a story can be told.

## **Community Language Developments - A Leadership Perspective**

*Chief Peter Nippi, Kinistin First Nation*

## **Cree Syllabics**

*Darryl Chamakese, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre*

## **Cree (Th) Dialect Immersion Program - Bachelor of Education**

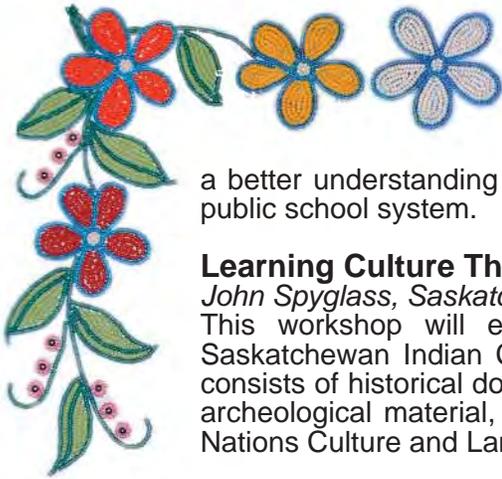
*Ida Swan, First Nations University of Canada*

The Bachelor of Education – Cree (th) dialect immersion program has been developed by the Department of Indigenous Education, in cooperation with the Department of Languages, Literature, Linguistics, in response to the need for more qualified First Nations Language teachers, and to support current Cree immersion programs in Saskatchewan schools.

The Faculty of Indigenous Education involved in developing the program are Angelina Weenie, Department Head; Ida Swan, Faculty, Northern Campus; and Doreen Oakes, Faculty, Department of Indian Languages, Literature and Linguistics. The Lac La Ronge Indian Band initiated the request for this program. However, other First Nations communities and provincial schools have expressed a need for First Nation Language teachers.

## **Cultural Responsive School - Saskatoon Public School First Nation, Inuit and Metis Education Unit**

Cultural responsiveness is a term that has been widely accepted and used by Saskatoon Public Schools. We believe in becoming and being culturally responsive because it affirms students with the intent of improving learning and develops cultural competencies and a sense of social responsibility in all students. In the 2007-2008 school year Saskatoon Public Schools engaged in research to gain



a better understanding of cultural responsiveness and its implications for a large public school system.

### **Learning Culture Through Arts**

*John Spyglass, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre*

This workshop will examine and discuss the artwork presented from the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre's Art Collection. The SICC Art Collection consists of historical documents and photographs, Elders Interviews, Artwork, and archeological material, all contributing to the preservation of Saskatchewan First Nations Culture and Language.

Through discussions and examining the components of the clothing and materials used in creating the artwork, participants will learn the history of Artwork, and how First Nations People have maintained their unique culture and livelihood.

Overall this workshop will enhance the participants knowledge of First Nations Artwork and how it will contribute to the cultural education. The SICC Art Collection has work from all the First Nations Language Groups from Saskatchewan, analytical discussions of common themes and differences found in the artwork will add to the participants knowledge of First Nations culture.

### **Dance and Songs**

*Don Speidel, Saskatoon Public Schools*

Teaching language through dance and songs.

### **Dealing with H1N1 Community Planning and the School**

*Alyssa Lerat, Cowessess First Nation*

A review of the award winning H1N1 community planning undertaken at Cowessess First Nation.

### **Decolonization in Our Treaty Territories: Moving Forward**

*Tamara Starblanket, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations*

This workshop is about decolonization and understanding how the worldview is integral to Indigenous Peoples in reclaiming their Indigenous identity.

### **Dene Medicine Wheel Teachings**

*Margaret Reynolds, English River First Nation*

### **Dene Writing System**

*Anne Tousaint, Dene Language Specialist, Prince Albert Grand Council*

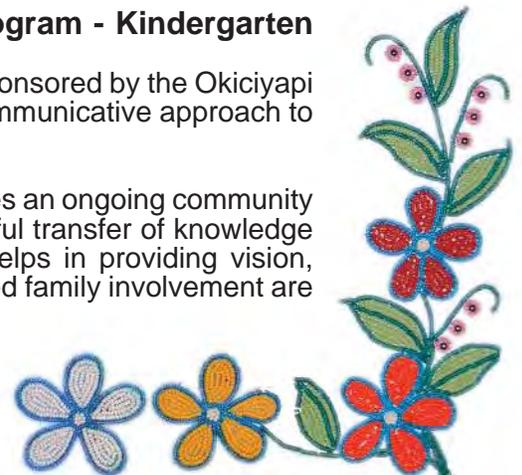
### **Early Learning Cree Immersion**

*Cort Dogniez, Saskatoon Public School Division*

### **The Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program - Kindergarten to Grade Three**

The Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program, sponsored by the Okiciyapi Partnership, is an early learning strategy focusing on a communicative approach to language instruction and cultural awareness.

The Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program uses an ongoing community engagement model to ensure the respectful and meaningful transfer of knowledge from community to classroom. An advisory committee helps in providing vision, direction and support for the project. Parental and extended family involvement are crucial to the success of the project.



### **Gift of Language and Culture - Curricula**

Irene Carter and Gift of Language Team, Onion Lake Gift of Language Site  
The Onion Lake Gift of Language site develops Curricula and accompanying resources to be used in First Nations Language Programs. These resources are on CD and/or DVD form. Participants will be walked through the process of manipulating resources on these CD'S/DVD's to meet their community's language structures using Microsoft Publisher 2000 or newer. Participants can bring their laptop with Microsoft Publisher 2000 or newer installed and/or USB drive.

### **Historical Worldview and How it Relates to First Nations Culture**

*Judy Bear*

tāpwēwakēyihitamowina means "beliefs" in Cree Language. Judy A. Bear of nakiwachihk – Sweetgrass First Nation will share what she labelled as First Nations historical worldview. The worldview explains where the language (voice) originates with humanity, where spirituality and the belief 'spirit' comes from. The way this worldview can be used in the present First Nation children's education as a guide, how the history, the time of treaty making has shown that the western man and the First Nations cultures clashed and historical concepts were misinterpreted. Today, the tāpwēwakēyihitamowina worldview shows where First Nation languages fit, where ceremonies fit, where traditional cautions like "Don't hold out a child in your hand when you participate in any ceremony", 'Don't stare at the northern lights', 'Don't allow children to watch a funeral procession' also the power of voice as a communication tool and the power it has today with humanity.

### **Honoring our Mothers and Grandmothers Teachings: A Dakota Language Family Immersion Model**

*Canku Kağa Dakota School – Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Manitoba*

Dakota Family members of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation will present a Family Immersion Model which honours their Ancestral Dakota way of passing on the gift of Language.

Topics throughout the presentation will focus on the Dakota way of life and teaching of the Dakota language to include: the History, background, methodology, spirituality, stories, songs and dance, curriculum and the future of the Dakota Language.

### **Indigenous Laws: Revitalizing and Reintegrating Nehiyaw Laws**

*Sylvia McAdam, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre*

The Indigenous laws have been referred to as First Nations, Indian, and natural laws. Indigenous Laws pre-exist the signing of the Treaties. In fact, at the time of the Treaty signing these laws governed and directed the signing process. Indigenous Laws are from the Creator. All of the Creator's creations have laws that they abide by, these are called manitow wīyinkewna. Parts of these manitow wīyinkewna are the Cree laws that still exist and are practiced throughout Cree country. Our legal traditions are the various Indigenous ceremonies, which house the laws of the Cree people. The ceremonies are the 'corrective force' in which Cree laws are applied and upheld. In order to exert sovereignty, Indigenous people must identify and understand their own laws and legal traditions.

### **Nakawē Writing System**

*Margaret and Lynn Cote, First Nations University of Canada*

### **Nakota Writing System**

*Tom Shawl, Fort Belknap, Montana*

### **Manitoba First Nations Language Strategy**

*Ruth Norton, Manitoba First Nations Education Research Centre*

### **Planning for Indigenous language retention and revitalization: Every project and classroom is an important part of your plan**

*Dr. Heather Blair, University of Alberta*

Joshua Fishman's (1990, 1991, 1994) model for threatened languages (GIDS) forms the basis of planning for language revitalization and provides "a guide to how far a minority language is threatened and disrupted" (Baker, 1993, p. 57) and hence the kind of work that needs to be done in each community. In order to explore the language planning processes we used a framework outlined by Ruiz (1994) and Haugen, (1985) which includes status planning, corpus planning, implementation, and evaluation for a language group.

This presentation is based on the discussions and reflections of one group of language advocates taking a ten day course aimed at providing an in-depth understanding of the status of Indigenous languages and planning for language restoration in their own communities in western Canada. In this presentation we will explore the place of leadership, immersion programming, Elders participation, teaching methods and materials development, technological innovation in an overall language plan for a school, community and language group.

### **Leadership and Advocacy in developing and implementing an Indigenous Language Program**

*Esther Sanderson, University College of the North*

Indigenous languages, values, histories and intellectual knowledge and Indigenous ways of teaching and learning are important to understand and include when developing Indigenous programs. In developing Indigenous program in a western academic system Indigenous scholars often face the politics of recognition of Indigenous programs that are outside the foundational premises of the settler knowledge systems. We invite you to hear our story as we discuss the experiences and the lessons learned in developing and implementing the Certificate in Teaching Ininimowin. We will also briefly outline our internal and external partnerships formed, the program, the students, and the instructors. The presentation will conclude with a discussion asking two questions. How has your western education experiences impacted on (1) your ability to develop curriculum for Indigenous language programs and (2) your ability to teach Indigenous languages.

### **Sakewew Substance Awareness and Empowerment for Youth (SSAEY) Group**

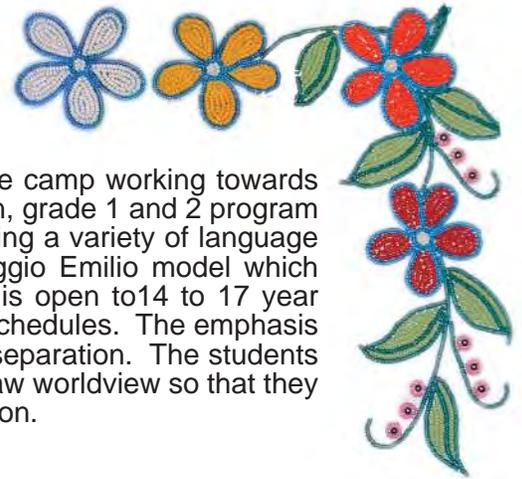
*Celeste Tootoosis Coordinator, Sākewew High School, North Battleford, Saskatchewan*

The SSAEY presentations involve the Sakewew Dance Troupe and the SSAEY group together to discuss the kinds of things that youth are thinking about and wanting to create change in their lives, and community. Students facilitate a discussion after the presentation. The cultural program is designed to give the youth a respectful outlook, better understanding and knowledge of the First Nations people. The school holds periodic events that consist of round dances, Elders gatherings, talking circles, tipi teachings, feasts, and a yearly cultural camp.

### **Second Language Methods and Models: Ideas about Second Language Methods and Models and making them your own!**

*Belinda Daniels, Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division*

This presentation is about 2nd language initiatives undertaken by the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division in Saskatchewan (Canada). There are two



main priorities within the division and a summer language camp working towards nêhiyawak language revitalization. The Cree kindergarten, grade 1 and 2 program is in-housed at St. Frances and is a bilingual program using a variety of language methods another idea that has been used was the Reggio Emilio model which parallels nêhiyaw worldview. The Oskayak High School is open to 14 to 17 year olds who are exposed to language learning in their daily schedules. The emphasis here is that language is culture; there is no distinction or separation. The students learn a variety of customs and practices that reflect nêhiyaw worldview so that they become a part of the ceremony of life, their original intention.

### **SICC First Nations Language Strategy**

*Language Developers, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre*

In 2006, the first SICC Language Strategy was developed and it has provided essential focus for First Nations' language advancement and promotion. Further expansion and change is necessary to the Language Strategy in order to continue to build on the Centre's mandate and meet the challenges of First Nations' language loss. To this end, a literature review and bibliography has been completed to provide a research base for the revision of the Language Strategy. Other models of best practices have been identified that may assist the development of the overall direction of the strategy. The draft of the SICC Language Strategy was tabled with the Elders Advisory Council. The SICC Language developers will present the current draft of the strategy.

### **Sustainable Development and How it Relates to Language Preservation**

*Lynn Cote, First Nations University of Canada*

### **Teaching Treaties in Classroom**

*Harry Lafond, Office of the Treaty Commissioner*

*Alma Kytwayhat, Office of the Treaty Commissioner*

The OTC has developed a Treaty Information Kit for use in Saskatchewan schools that features educational resource materials, including curriculum supplements, original videos and books about the history of treaties. To encourage use of these materials the OTC also provides in-service training for teachers. The Treaty Information Kit was developed to assist teachers implement the topic of treaties in the classroom. This teacher resource was initiated by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner in partnership with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Government of Canada, Saskatchewan Learning, Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre.

### **Tipi Teachings**

*Juliette McAdam, Big River First Nation*

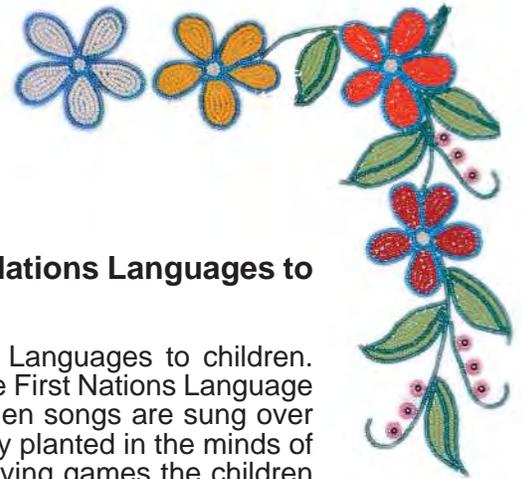
The tipi teachings teach the laws, principles and values of the Saulteaux and Cree people. Each pole signifying a teaching reflecting the laws. The lodge pins represent the values which hold a family together. The tipi is representative of the woman whose authority is always within the home. Each teaching honours the family, the home and the laws of the First Nations people.

### **Traditional Games**

*Lamarr Oksasikewiyin*

First Nations' children's games from the Traditional Games Society based out of East Glacier Montana.





### **Treaty Four Student Success**

*Lori Whiteman, Treaty Four Education Centre*

### **Using Songs, Rhymes and Games to Teach First Nations Languages to Children**

*Margaret Cote, First Nations University of Canada*

Using songs, rhymes and games to teach First Nations Languages to children. Children love to sing, rhyme and play games. Singing in the First Nations Language is an excellent way to learn new bits of the language. When songs are sung over and over again the words and patterns become more firmly planted in the minds of the children. Besides having fun singing, rhyming and playing games the children are learning their First Nations Language.

### **Utilizing Elders Teachings in University Classes**

*Richard Missens, First Nations University of Canada*

### **Elders Voices: Curriculum Development in First Nations Governance**

The School of Business and Public Administration at the First Nations University of Canada is in the process of reviewing and strengthening its current Indian Public Administration program. The project was intended to increase the number of courses being taught in public administration and to expand the curriculum to include First Nations Governance. Under the guidance of an advisory committee, the Business School and the Indian Communication Arts Department (INCA) at the First Nations University began the Elder's Voices project in 2009. The project is a part of a video series on First Nations governance and it included elder's interviews as a part of the curriculum development. To date our INCA department has interviewed more than 50 elders, presenters and experts, has attended more than 15 national, local and regional events, and has developed a massive collection of interviews, and transcripts in its holdings

### **Interactive White Board and Digital Learning Resources**

*Scott Parker*

Interactive White Boards, How using them can engage students to increase achievement. Students learn in 3 different ways, Seeing, Hearing & Doing. See how an Interactive white board can do this.





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