



"Honouring Residential School Survivors"

December 1 & 2, 2011 Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre Saskatoon, SK. Canada





Greetings, tānisi, Anīn Šikwa, Edlanét'e, Hau Koda, Hau Kona, Hau Kola!

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre's (SICC) Board of Governors, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the participants, volunteers, presenters and staff who made this year's annual First Nations' Language Keepers Conference (FNLKC) another resounding success. This nationally recognized conference has done much to bring awareness to First Nations' languages across Canada. It also provides a great opportunity for language keepers to come together and exchange ideas and share best practices in First Nations' language preservation.

A special greeting is extended to the Elders, our knowledge holders and language keepers, who come from the many First Nations across Saskatchewan and

Canada to share their stories and teachings at the conference. Although this conference is largely focused on supporting First Nations' language educators, a significant and central aspect is the participation of our Elders, who come from the community and know firsthand the challenges associated with language and culture retention. Their presence and voices are invaluable and offer strength, hope and direction for our First Nations' languages.

This year's theme, "Honouring Residential School Survivors", is particularly important because of the detrimental and lasting negative impact Indian Residential Schools have had on First Nations' languages and cultures. The involvement of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the plenary session underlined the importance of retaining and revitalizing First Nation languages despite the residual effects of the Residential School era. The growing success of this conference is a reflection of the importance placed upon First Nation languages by our First Nation communities.

I hope that attendees to this year's FNLK Conference gained valuable insight and left encouraged to continue the important work that they do in preserving, promoting and protecting First Nations' languages. I look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Respectfully,

Chief Marie Anne Day Walker-Pelletier SICC Board of Governors

Greetings, tānisi, Anīn Šikwa, Edlanét'e, Hau Koda, Hau Kona, Hau Kola!

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC), I would like to extend my thanks to the staff, volunteers and presenters who made the 2011 First Nations' Language Keepers Conference a success. This conference has become an important 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 practices in language preservation, protection and promotion.

This year's conference theme was "Honouring Residential School Survivors". The Canadian Indian Residential School system was intended to assimilate First Nation children by taking away their languages and cultures. This theme emphasizes the importance of strengthening First Nations' languages and cultures to counter the negative impacts of the residential school system.

The conference featured a series of workshops, plenary sessions and public events to support language teachers and practitioners in building their language skills. Elders, educators and leading academics from across Canada presented on a variety of topics. As well, the conference had a series of workshop and plenary sessions on the residential school experience in recognition of this year's conference theme.

Over three hundred delegates attended this year's conference. The SICC hosted delegates from across Canada and the United States. Many workshops and plenary sessions offered this year covered a great range of topics. 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.

A special greeting is extended to the Elders, our knowledge holders and language keepers that have come together to share their stories and teachings at the conference. Our Elders 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. The First Nations' Language Keepers Conference is a realization of the importance our Elders place on our languages.

I am looking forward to welcoming all those who strive to support First Nations' languages to the 2012 First Nations' Language Keepers Conference. Based on the comments and feedback from this year's delegates, we know many of you will be back with us at next year's conference.

Sincerely.

Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

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Dorothy Myo President

"Honouring Residential School Survivors"

The Leading First Nations Language Conference in Canada





CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The conference objectives act as the guide in the overall purpose and goal of the First Nations' Language Keepers Conference. The intention is to provide and lead First Nations' people and youth in the understanding that language is vital and critical in the sovereignty of First Nations' people. Not only is the SICC First Nations' Language Keepers conference committed to addressing language retention for the immediate needs; it hopes to address future needs as well. Listed below are the four 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 both in and out of the classroom:
- 2. To assist communities in developing strategies for revitalizing their languages and cultures;
- 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.

INTRODUCTION TO CONFERENCE

This report is an overview of the 2011 First Nations' Language Keepers Conference hosted by the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC). The conference took place December 1 and 2, 2011, at the Saskatoon Inn. The First Nations' Language Keepers Conference is held annually in Saskatoon. The conference theme for 2011 was "Honouring Residential School Survivors". This conference has been designated a national First Nations' languages conference by the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres.

"Honouring Residential School Survivors" involves educating the general public of this era of Canadian history. More importantly, it involves healing that requires undoing the harm of the Indian Residential Schools by revitalizing First Nations' languages and cultures. For this year's conference, special emphasis was placed on providing presenters and keynote speakers to address this important issue.

Once again, a call for presenters was issued for this year's conference. From the presentations received, an outstanding group of Residential School survivors, educators, Elders, leadership and youth were selected to share views and experiences at the conference. The conference featured a series of workshops, plenary sessions and public events that assisted language teachers and practitioners in building their language skills.

As part of this year's conference, the SICC launched an inaugural book writing contest for First Nations' youth. This contest was intended to inspire youth to write in their First Nation's language. The participants were to create an original book in a First Nations' language with an English translation. The winning entries were selected based on creativity and originality. The winning entry was a book in Nahkawe titled Ānīn Ēnimanjiwin Nongom? (How are you feeling today?) that was submitted by the Fishing Lake School kindergarten class.

A Feast and traditional Round Dance was held on the evening of December 1st at the Oskāyak High School in Saskatoon. This tradition has always been vital to maintaining and teaching our young people about their kinship ties to one another, their families and communities. The Round Dance was well attended with standing room only.

Nearly 300 First Nations' Language Keepers from all over Canada came together to help one another strengthen their respective languages and cultures. The hope of the Conference Organizing Committee is that the delegates were assisted in their important work through the workshops and plenary sessions offered.

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DAY ONE HIGHLIGHTS - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

The proceedings for Day One began with a pipe ceremony conducted by Dakota Elder Ken Crowe. The Morning Song was performed by Barry Ahenakew and the Opening Praver was provided by Ken Crowe. It is always an important protocol to begin any major First Nations' event with appropriate ceremonies.

The Master of Ceremonies, Elder Howard Walker, introduced Tribal Chief Felix Thomas of the Saskatoon Tribal Council. Chief Thomas welcomed delegates from different First Nations across Canada to the Treaty Six Territory.

Chief Wallace Fox, from the Onion Lake First Nation, gave an impassioned address about the importance of language and culture that set the overall tone for the conference.

Vice Chief Simon Bird, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), gave opening remarks on behalf of the FSIN. Vice Chief Bird stressed that language and culture were an important make-up of First Nations' identity.

Dorothy Myo, President of the SICC, welcomed delegates and emphasized that it is everyone's responsibility as Language Keepers to pass on our First Nations' languages and cultures to the next generation. Dorothy extended thanks to the many sponsors who helped make the conference possible.

Morning Plenary Address - Day One

The morning plenary address was given by Dr. Brock Pitawanakwat, researcher for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). Mr. Pitawanakwat gave a brief update on the progress being made by the TRC.

There were six concurrent workshop sessions held the morning of Day One.

Day One – Morning Concurrent Sessions

"Revitalization of Indigenous Languages of Siberia" & "Role of University in the Maintenance and Revitalization of First Nations' Languages"

Presenters: Eleonora Usenkova & Veronika Makarova, University of Saskatchewan

The presenters provided an update on research into the revitalization of Indigenous languages in Siberia. As well, a presentation was made on the role of universities in maintaining and revitalizing First Nations' languages.

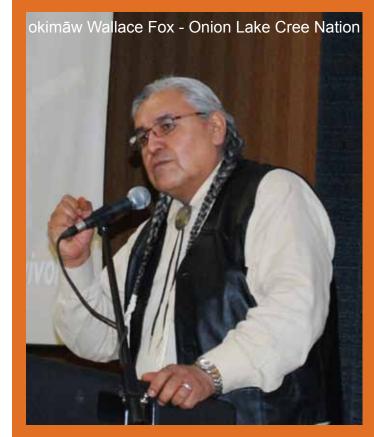
"Before You Know It (BYKI) - Using Computer Software to Teach Language" Presenter: Kelly Fontaine, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC)

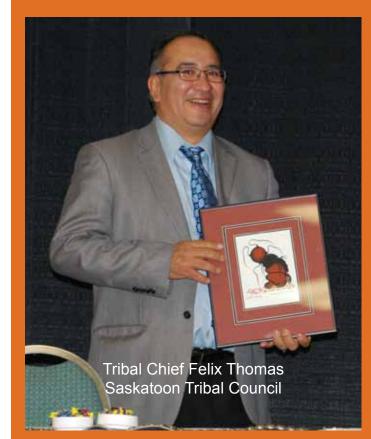
In January 2008, an assessment was made of how First Nations' language teachers utilized information technology (IT) within the languages classrooms. From this assessment, the Information Communication Technology Unit of MFNERC designed and implemented an "IT strategy" throughout the entire province of Manitoba. The strategy was reviewed and key points were presented. From this strategy, came the development of a language software program. Demonstrations were provided of the Dakota, Cree and Ojibway versions of the software.

"Kinship Wheel - Wahkohtowin ('TH' dialect)"

Presenter: Robin McLeod, Prince Albert Grand Council

Robin McLeod gave a presentation on the importance of the Woodland Cree kinship system and how it





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needs to be revived. Robin provided details on a method he developed to teach the Cree kinship system in the classroom by using the medicine wheel and expanding the wheel to illustrate how the kinship system works. He refers to this wheel as the "Kinship Wheel".

"History and Legacy of Indian Residential Schools -Resiliency of Aboriginal People"

Presenter: Alvine Mountain Horse, University of Alberta

In this session, the theme of promoting awareness and public education about the history and legacy of Indian Residential Schools to the general public was discussed. Alvine discussed how the Indian Residential School system had two primary objectives: to remove and isolate children from the influence of their homes. families, communities, traditions and cultures; and to assimilate them into the dominant culture. The presentation described how the resiliency of the cultural heritage and language of Aboriginal people has resulted in their survival. It was emphasized how Aboriginal students have an awareness of the impact of the Indian Residential Schools.

"tāpwāwakēyihtamowin – Common Beliefs of the First Nations"

Presenter: Judy Bear, Little Pine First Nation

The presentation discussed how historically different First Nations' cultures had a common worldview. As well, the presentation provided details on how, historically, some different First Nations had common beliefs regarding belief in the Creator and Mother Earth and where they fit in the cycle of life, value systems, pipe use and ceremonies. The presentation shared stories from the worldview including: origin of Voice-Earth sounds; animate and inanimate in the Algonquian language; and, an explanation about Eagle feather and its use.

"Holistic Approach in Language Teaching"

Presenter: Margaret Reynolds, English River First Nation

Margaret Reynolds gave a presentation utilizing the medicine wheel and discussed how this symbol represents many different concepts, including the four directions, the four grandfathers and the four winds. As well, she presented on the story of the sacred tree and its relation to the life of the people.

Luncheon Keynote Address:

The luncheon keynote address was given by Ted Quewezance, Residential School Survivor and spokesperson of the National Residential Schools Survivors Society. His personal and inspiring presentation was well received. Ted spoke of his experience as an Indian Residential School survivor. Ted discussed how the legacy of Residential Schools continues to haunt their victims. As well, he discussed the Indian Residential Schools Survivor Society.

Lunch concluded with a fashion show was hosted by Tracy Toulouse, designer and owner of Swirling Wind Designs from Sudbury, Ontario.

Day One - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 1

"Traditional Mapping - Reclaiming Identity through the Land"

Presenters: Barry Ahenakew & Melody Wood, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

The workshop highlighted SICC's belief that First Nations' individuals and their communities have the inherent and moral obligation to ensure the continuation of their languages and cultures, so that current and future generations are assured the right to communicate in their languages and maintain a positive Indigenous cultural identity. Workshop participants gained an understanding of the need and importance of the Saskatchewan First Nations' Traditional Place Names Project and learned of the project's objectives.

"Community Wellness through Indigenous Knowledge and Language"

Presenters: Josie Auger & Narcisse Blood, Nechi Training Institute

The presentation demonstrated the pedagogical approaches used for experiential learning as it applies to the impact of colonization on language. It was stressed that the focus of the learning process is to engage the participants in a holistic exercise that will integrate an Indigenous epistemology, re-learning Indigenous constructs and connecting Natural Law values to the relationships that have been altered by trauma and addictions. The presentation included Sacred Healing Circles for the participants, experiential learning by participants and the application of healing indigenous knowledge.



Annestera Ted Quewezance - Spokesperson National Residential School Survivors Soc

"Healing Through the Power of Humour" Presenter: Verna Whitford, Sweetgrass First Nation

Verna provided a motivational presentation on her experiences. She described how, after going through many surgeries, using a wheelchair and crutches to aid in her walking, she is mobile again with a new lease on life. Her desire was to bring joy and laughter to others by using the power of humour.

"Immersion Works But it Takes a Lot of Work" Presenter: Wanda Barker, Frontier School Division Manitoba

During this workshop, the participants had an opportunity to find out more about the "ins and outs" of an immersion program. The presentation provided a clearer understanding of the time, commitment and work that is necessary to maintain an immersion program. The presenter provided first hand experiences from various stakeholders in an established immersion program.

"Residential School Residue & Cultural Revitalization" Presenter: Peter Nippi, Kinistin First Nation

This presentation discussed how the preservation of our First Nation's identity and language will show us where we came from, where we are and where we are going. Peter described how our ceremonial life has sustained us on Turtle Island and is what we need to get back to. He pointed out that since contact, we have lost track on our guiding principles and need to get back on track. He related how our people suffer from many forms of addictions and that the recovery process requires us to go back to basics. He emphasized the need to move past colonization and go back to critical Indigenous thinking.

"Leadership and Language: Youth are the Future, the Hope" Presenters: Ethel Gardiner, Heather Blair & Shelby Laframboise, The Canadian Indigenous Languages & Literacy Institute

This presentation focused on leadership in language, youth are the future and the hope, and how our young women who are taking on their own journeys as language leaders in these contemporary and conflicted times. The presenters discussed how the goal of their initiative is to provide young women with opportunities to regenerate themselves culturally by providing them with experiences to reconnect to their heritage and language.

Day One - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 2

The presentation described how the Indian Residential School system was one of the main causes of First Nations' culture and language loss. The presenters detailed how the Residential Schools severed the bond between children, parents and families and did irreparable harm to First Nations' culture and language in one generational span. In addition, they discussed how the survival, social and spirituality components of a culture are affected by language loss. The workshop looked at eight generations of a family impacted by language loss since the signing of Treaty 4 in 1874.

"Truth and Reconciliation Committee of Canada Update" Presenter: Kim Quinney, Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada

The presentation described how the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has a mandate to learn the truth about what happened in the Residential Schools and to inform all Canadians about what happened in the schools. The presenter related how the Commission will document the truth of

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"Teaching Cultural Values, Beliefs and Morality through Saulteaux Legends and Stories" Presenters: Margaret Cote & Lynn Cote, First Nations University of Canada & University of Regina

what happened by relying on records held by those who operated and funded the schools, testimony from officials of the institutions that operated the schools, and experiences reported by survivors, their families, communities and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience and its subsequent impacts.

"Clearwater River Dene School Transitional Immersion Program"

Presenter: Mark Klein, Clearwater Dene First Nation

The presentation described the Clearwater River Dene School Transitional Immersion Program (CRDS) which is currently in year five of its Transitional Bilingual Programming. The presenter related how the program is designed to provide the educational context for students to graduate from the CRDS as productive, functionally bilingual members of our First Nation and society at large. Students in head start and pre-kindergarten receive all of their instruction in the Dene language. This follows the language nest model, initially developed by the Maori.

"Language and Cultural Activism"

Presenter: Randy Morin, Oskāyak High School

The presenter discussed the state of the languages, cultures, traditions, and ceremonies of Indigenous people. He described the state of Indigenous youth and what techniques can be used when working with them as an educator and role model. The participants learned various ways of working with youth today. The presentation was based on the presenter's personal experiences and research.

"Curriculum Development Through Elder Validation"

Presenters: Ruth Norton & Marcella Fontaine, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre

The objectives of the session included sharing best practices, the process of curriculum development with Elder and First Nation teacher involvement, and understanding the teaching methodology and strategy. The presentation described the concept for the eight phased First Nation Language Curriculum development course which is premised on the current state of First Nation languages. It highlighted that the curriculum development course is unique in that Elders were involved in the process from the beginning and helped form, shape and validate the curriculum.

"Reconnecting To Our Denesuline Vital Ways of Life"

Presenter: Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth, Prince Albert Grand Council

The presentation focused on how traditionally First Nation's education was based on the land, how language guided the teachings, the survival of cultural traditional games, and how ways of knowing was inherent education. It was relayed how Aboriginal people around the world are losing their identity, language and culture at an alarming rate. The presenter detailed how the loss is due to influence of technological media; television, games, and music. She described how parents today are not teaching these vital traditional cultural skills to their children to maintain their identity.

'Honouring Residential School Survivors'

Margaret Reynolds Dene Elder, English River First Nation

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CEREMONIES AND ROUND DANCE

Traditional First Nations' ceremonies are an integral part of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre's (SICC) annual First Nations' Language Keepers Conference. These ceremonies include a Sweat Lodge Ceremony, morning Pipe ceremonies, Traditional Feast, Round Dance and Give-Away Ceremony.

The opening event of the conference was a Sweat Lodge Ceremony held at the SICC ceremonial grounds adjacent to Saskatoon on November 30, 2011. After that, a Feast Ceremony was conducted at the SICC offices. SICC staff donated the feast food. Elder Ken Crowe of the SICC's Elders Advisory Council conducted the Sweat Lodge Ceremony and Feast. As well, Elder Dolly Neapetung was in attendance.

Each morning of the conference, Pipe Ceremonies were held at the Saskatoon Inn and were well attended by Elders and delegates. The Pipe Ceremonies were held in a room set-aside for these events. There were also female Elders from the First Nations' language groups of Saskatchewan in attendance at the Pipe Ceremonies. Their participation showed the importance and respect women play in ceremonial life.

A highlight of the First Nations' Language Keepers Conference was a community Feast and Round Dance held on the evening of December 1, 2011, at the Oskāyak High School in Saskatoon. Students from the First Nations' University of Canada prepared the late night lunch. The cook from Oskāyak High School prepared the feast on behalf of the First Nations' Language Keepers Conference.

The Round Dance was a tremendous success with over 400 conference delegates, community members and youth in attendance. Temperature for the time of the year played a vital role for the success of the round dance. Warm weather enabled a large crowd to attend the event with a high number of youth and children. There were 16 lead Round Dance singers at the event.

The SICC provided a shuttle service to bring conference delegates from the Saskatoon Inn to the Round Dance. Many expressed the sentiment that this Round Dance was well organized and a joyous occasion.

The SICC wishes to express great appreciation to the Elders who participated, the Master of Ceremonies Howard Walker, Stick Man Marc Longjohn and Whip Man Glen Lewis.

First Nations Language Keepers Round Dance



'Honouring Residential School Survivors'

Keesik Song Morin-Knight Language Keeper



DAY TWO HIGHLIGHTS - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011

The proceedings for Day Two began with a pipe ceremony conducted by Dakota Elder Ken Crowe. The Morning Song was performed by Glen Lewis and the Opening Praver was provided by Elder Ken Crowe. Master of Ceremonies Howard Walker introduced the Morning Speaker Austin Tootoosis.

There were two sets of six concurrent workshop sessions held in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Day Two – Morning Concurrent Sessions 1

"Traditional Mapping - Reclaiming Identity through the Land" Presenters: Barry Ahenakew & Melody Wood, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

See Day One – Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 1

"How can the Teaching of First Nations' Languages Become a Reality?" & "Archival Sources on First Nations' Languages" Presenters: Richard Julien & Mary Marino, University of Saskatchewan

The presenters provided details of their research on First Nations' education, second language learning for First Nations, the politics of language, phonetics, sociolinguistics and language teaching methods.

"Before You Know It (BYKI) - Using Simple Computer Software to Teach Language" Presenter: Kelly Fontaine, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre

See Day One - Morning Concurrent Sessions 1

"Kinship Wheel - Wahkohtowin ("TH" dialect)" Presenter: Robin McLeod, Prince Albert Grand Council

See Day One - Morning Concurrent Sessions 1

"History and Legacy of Indian Residential Schools – Resiliency of Aboriginal People" Presenter: Alvine Mountain Horse, University of Alberta

See Day One - Morning Concurrent Sessions 1

"Treaty Awareness and Discussion"

Presenter: Judy Bear, Little Pine First Nation

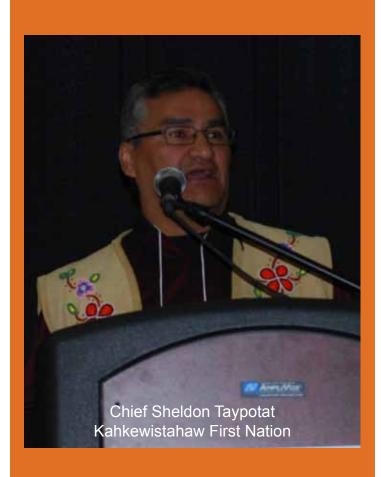
The presenter discussed the importance of Treaty from a Plains Cree perspective. This was an informative and well attended workshop. She emphasized the need to teach and carry on this important aspect of First Nations' life and heritage.

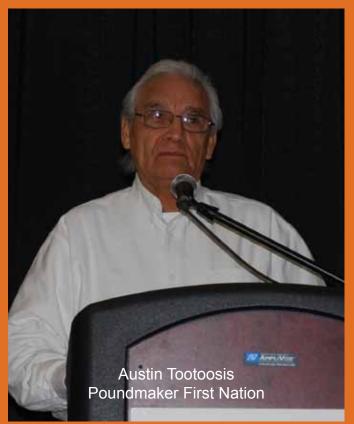
Day Two – Morning Concurrent Sessions 2

"Indigenous Language & Cultural Renewal: The Maori Model"

Presenter: Ethel Gardiner, Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy, University of Alberta

The presenter discussed a proposed University of Alberta course that will include visiting educational sites where achievements and challenges are met by the Maori in their goal toward "Maori enjoying education success as Maori". In this workshop, participants heard how they can join in on this unique opportunity and viewed a slide show from a similar tour to see what will be in store for the course.





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"Indigenous Traditional Games"

Presenter: Lamar Oksasikewiyin, Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network

This interactive workshop showcased various North American Indigenous Traditional Games that can be utilized in the classroom. It was discussed how these games fit into various subject areas, such as Math, Physical Education, Science, and Language Arts. Games such as Feather Dart, Stone People, Hoop and Dart were showcased, as well as how to make the game pieces. The history of the games was also presented, and how games were used, not only to pass time, but to aid in the acquirement of skills for survival. Participants in this workshop took part in some of the games.

"The State of First Nations' Languages" Presenter: Tracey Pascal, Statistics Canada

This workshop highlighted data collected by Statistics Canada on Aboriginal languages and provided a brief tour of the website for conference participants. Information highlighted included home language, mother tongue, ability to speak or understand an Aboriginal language, the strength and vitality of Aboriginal languages and factors associated with perpetuating and revitalizing these languages.

"mi ima mēhkosit: Integrating Language Learning and Creative Expression"

Presenter: Robin Brass, Peepeekisis First Nation

This presentation demonstrated how language learning is being integrated into new artistic practices such as media based and performance art based works. The presenter is a practicing artist who has been incorporating language learning into her creative process and finished works for the past six years. This presentation included a live video/audio performance in Nahkawewin (Saulteaux) as well as audio and video documentation from other art projects involving Nehiyawewin.

"Sparking a Virtual Conversation about Residential Schools'

Presenter: Jamie Lerat, Saskatchewan School Boards Association

The presenter described how the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) embarked on a pilot project with the Horizon School Division to present Aboriginal Myths and Misconceptions Awareness Training via webinar for the 2010-11 school year.

The presenter detailed that in September 2010, the Ministry of Education began offering school divisions and education partners Adobe Connect webinar software free of charge. As a result, the SSBA has been provided with a permanent virtual meeting room. In phase one of this pilot project, the SSBA partnered with the Horizon School Division to present six, one-hour modules from October to April.

"Instructor Resource Guide for Cultural Teaching: Protocols and Methodologies"

Presenter: Barb Frazer, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

The presenter provided an introduction to the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) Instructor's Resource Guide. The participants were introduced to the 15 modules of this curriculum. The presenter described the cultural framework that informs and shapes the cultural teachings and the customs that elicit roles and responsibilities.

Luncheon Keynote Address:

"Coming Home, Returning to Our Roots" Presenter: Verna Whitford, Sweetgrass First Nation

Verna spoke of her time in Residential Schools and the healing process she undertook afterwards. She spoke of how she uses humour to overcome her spiritual, mental, emotional and physical challenges. She also related that humour is a way to deal with many problems First Nations' people face today. Verna also entertained the delegates with Plains Cree songs and a hand drum.

In addition to the luncheon program, the winners of the First Nations' Language Keepers Conference Book Writing Contest for students were announced. The contest was intended to inspire youth to write in their First Nation's language. The participants were to create an original book in a First Nations' language with an English translation. The winning entries were selected based on creativity and originality. The winning entry was a book in Nāhkawe titled Ānīn Ēnimanjiwin Nongom? (How are you feeling today?) and was submitted by the Fishing Lake First Nation kindergarten class.





Day Two - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

"miyo-nānākatohkēwin - Awareness Leading To a Good Life" Presenter: Austin Tootoosis, Poundmaker First Nation

Austin Tootoosis spoke on the need to reclaim traditions and how this will help in the battle against addictions. Drawing on his own Residential School experience, he spoke of his subsequent life dealing with and overcoming addictions. Austin spoke of the urgent need to reclaim First Nations' identity which involves a return to spirituality.

"Community Wellness through Indigenous Knowledge and Language" Presenter: Josie Auger & Narcisse Blood, Nechi Training Institute

See Day One - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 1

"Healing through the Power of Humour" Presenter: Verna Whitford, Sweetgrass First Nation

See Day One - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 1

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See Day One - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 2

"Learning First Nations History and Culture Through Art and Artifacts" Presenter: John Spyglass, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

John provided an overview of the SICC's collection of art, artifacts, photographs, stories, songs and books pertaining to Saskatchewan First Nations' people. He described how the SICC Collections Department staff acquires and documents items, recording the history of the art and preserving the item. It is important to give accurate detail as this becomes a way of teaching future generations of the history and culture of First Nations' people. This workshop related stories of the clothing and materials used to create beautiful works of art that are both functional and ceremonial.

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"Clearwater River Dene School Transitional Immersion Program" Presenter: Mark Klein, Clearwater Dene First Nation

See Day One - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 2

"Language and Cultural Activism" Presenter: Randy Morin, Oskāyak High School

See Day One - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 2

"Curriculum Development Through Elder Validation" Presenters: Ruth Norton & Marcella Fontaine, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre

See Day One - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 2

"Aboriginal Language Renewal Through Music" Presenter: Laura Burnouf, NORTEP/NORPAC

Laura demonstrated how song can be incorporated into the teaching of language in a fun and interactive way. She performed Christmas carols translated into Cree such as "Jingle Bells" and "Silent Night". She also demonstrated the use of Total Physical Response (TPR) teaching methods to accompany the songs.

Closing Remarks and Thank You Prayer

Dorothy Myo, President of the SICC, provided closing remarks for the conference. Elder Dolly Neapetung offered the thank you prayer.

Conference Participants





MEDIA COVERAGE

Language Keepers Conference honours residential school survivors Darla Read. Eagle Feather News, December 2011: page 24

Ken Crowe grew up speaking the languages and practicing the cultural traditions of the Dakota and Cree.

That was until he was forced to leave Wahpeton Dakota Nation to attend residential school in Prince Albert. There, he recalls cleaning the floors as one of the punishments when he would speak his mother or father tongue instead of English.

"They totally ignored who I was and what I was. They just wanted to remould me... mould me into what they wanted me to be. Everybody looked forward to June, because that's when we'd all go home, and be Indians again."

Crowe, like many residential school survivors, lost much of his language and culture, but he is also part of a movement to reclaim them.

Survivors like him were honoured at this past month's First Nations' Language Keepers Conference in Saskatoon.

"The loss of language has been impacted by Indian residential schools. And, it's not the fault of the survivors that many don't have their languages and other critical information relating to their identity, their heritage," says Dorothy Myo, President of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre, which hosts the annual event.

The conference focuses on the preservation and revitalization of First Nations' languages. This year's theme was "Honouring Residential School Survivors."

"We want to honour them in a good way by having that as our theme, but also creating an opportunity and forum whereby they can come in and find resources so they can reclaim their languages and their culture," explains Myo.

For Crowe, it was after he was married that he decided to go back to his roots.

"Probably around 32, 35 somewhere in there. I said that's enough of this trying to be something that I'm not. This language that I'm speaking, there's something wrong with this language (English)."

Crowe continues to study Dakota and Cree and passes on what he knows.

"What the wife and I are doing now is I'm teaching my kids Dakota what I know, what I still remember, and she's teaching them Cree. I throw in a little bit in Cree, too. We're teaching them. I want to pass that on. Those languages should not die. They should not go into history to say this used to be a language at one time and it's not here anymore."

Crowe's goal, in the next 10 years, is to teach his children at least half of what he knows but hopefully all of his knowledge of Dakota and Cree.

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Once again, the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural (SICC) showed that it is truly a leader in advancing the cause of language and cultural retention by hosting another successful First Nations' Language Keepers Conference. Dakota Elder Ken Crowe was head Elder, as ceremonial print and tobacco were given to insure the proper and safe functioning of the conference.

On December 1, the conference began with a pipe ceremony led By Elder Ken Crowe, and was helped along with Elders and conference organizers. Prayers were conducted for the safety and well-being of the anticipated large crowd that would convene at the Saskatoon Inn for the next two days. The pipe ceremony is one reason conference participants enjoy a safe and beneficial time at all SICC events.

After the morning song by Barry Ahenakew and opening prayer by Elder Ken Crowe, opening remarks were given by Tribal Chief Felix Thomas, FSIN Vice Chief Simon Bird, Chief Wallace Fox and SICC President Dorothy Myo. The opening plenary address was given by Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada researcher. Brock Pitawanakwat.

Six concurrent sessions were presented in the morning, with topics ranging from immersion programming to traditional worldviews and technology. Each breakout session was well attended. After the hour morning sessions, a lunch time plenary speaker addressed the crowd. This speaker was Ted Quewezance, who is a former Chief of Keeseekoose First Nation and is a Residential School Survivor. His impassioned speech was felt by many and underscored this years' important theme. To lighten up the crowd a fashion show was conducted after the speech, Tracy Toulouse, designer/owner from Swirling Wind Designs, showcased her many wonderful creations.

The afternoon saw two concurrent sessions with six breakouts per session. Attendees at the conference had a diverse selection of choices. The first day of the actual conference was busy but very informative.

The following evening, a Feast and Round Dance were held at Oskāyak and, as always, it was well attended. Chairs were brought in based on the numbers of attendees from last year's Round Dance. But, they were all filled as many of the finest lead singers from across Saskatchewan sang the very latest and very best songs from the Round Dance circuit. It was a very safe and fun filled evening. The SICC staff held a Give-Away and served a midnight lunch to show their appreciation.

The second day started with an opening morning song from Glen Lewis and opening prayer again from Elder Ken Crowe. Austin Tootoosis gave the opening speech and thoroughly enraptured audience members with his speech in regard to the theme of Honouring Residential School Survivors.

The second morning saw a total of twelve break-out sessions and again conference attendees had a good selection of presentations to attend. At lunch, Verna Whitford entertained audience members with humour and beautiful singing. Also at lunch, the winners of SICC's book writing contest were announced. The Fishing Lake School's kindergarten class took top honours.

After lunch, twelve more sessions were offered and at the conclusion, Dolly Neapetung gave the thank you prayer and SICC President Dorothy Myo gave the closing remarks.

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre wishes to thank all the First Nations' Language Keepers for their devotion to revitalizing and retaining our languages and cultures. We extend a warm invitation to all the Language Keepers to attend next year's conference.

"Honouring Residential School Survivors"



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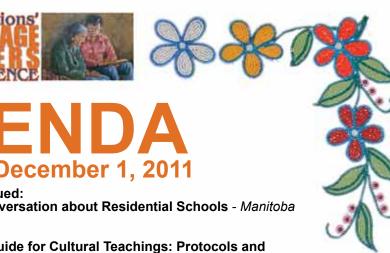




APPENDICES

 CONFERENCE AGENDA **CONFERENCE POSTER** ROUND DANCE POSTER BOOK WRITING CONTEST POSTER

AGE
Thursday, Dec
eakout Sessions continued: Sparking a Virtual Conversat Room Jamie Lerat Instructor Resource Guide fo Methodologies - BC Room
Barb Frazer alth Break
eakout Sessions: Traditional Mapping - Reclair Barry Ahenakew, Melody Wood
Community Wellness throug Ballroom B Josie Auger, Narcisse Blood
Healing through the Power o Verna Whitford Immersion Works, But it take
Wanda Barker Residential School Residue - Peter Nippi Leadership & Language: You Ethel Gardiner, Heather Blair, S
eakout Sessions: Teaching Cultural Values, Be Legends and Stories - Wig & Margaret Cote, Lynn Cote Truth and Reconciliation Cor Kim Quinney Clearwater River Dene Schoo Ballroom C Mark Klein Language and Cultural Active Randy Morin Curriculum Development thro Ruth Norton, Marcella Fontaine Reconnecting to Our Denesu
Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth osing Prayer - Elder Ken Crow
ast & Round Dance kayak High School - 919 Broadv uttle will be provided to & from S
ing First Nations La



eclaiming Identity though the Land - Wig & Pen Wood 1 nrough Indigenous Knowledge & Language -

boc wer of Humour - Ballroom C

it takes a lot of work - Saskatoon Room

idue - Manitoba Room

e: Youth are the Future, the Hope - BC Room Blair, Shelby Laframboise

es, Beliefs and Morality through Saulteaux Nig & Pen

n Committe of Canada Update - Ballroom B

School Transitional Immersion Program -

Activism - Saskatoon Room

nt through Elder Validation - Manitoba Room ontaine enesuline Vital Ways of Life - BC Room

Crowe

Broadway Avenue from Saskatoon Inn

Language Conference in Canada

	AGENDA Friday, December 2, 2011			×	First Nations' CONFERENCE AGE Friday, Decer
7:00am	Pipe Ceremony - Room 234			12:00pm-	Lunch Break - Ballroom B & C • Keynote Speaker: Verna Wh
8:00am- 12:00pm	Registration	0	159	1:00pm 1:15pm-	Breakout Sessions:
8:30am- 9:10am	 Morning Song - Glen Lewis Opening Prayer - Elder Ken Crowe Master of Ceremonies - Howard Walker Welcoming Address: TBD - Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation 			2:15pm	 miyo-nanakotohkewin - Awa Pen Austin Tootoosis Community Wellness throug Ballroom B
	 Morning Speaker: Austin Tootoosis - Poundmaker First Nation Ballroom B & C 				 Josie Auger, Narcisse Blood Healing through the Power of Verna Whitford
9:15am-	Breakout Sessions:				Immersion Works, But it tak Wanda Barker
10:15am	 How can the Teachings of First Nations' Languages Become a Reality & Archival Sources on First Nations' Languages - Wig & Pen Richard Julian, Mary Marino Before You Know It (BYKI) - Using Computer Software to Teach Language - Ballroom B 				 Residential School Residue Peter Nippi Leadership & Language: Yo Ethel Gardiner, Heather Blair,
	 Kelly Fontaine Kinship Wheel - Wahkohtowin (TH Dialect) - Ballroom C Robin McLeod History and Legacy of Indian Residential Schools - Resiliency of Aboriginal People - Saskatoon Room Alvine Mountain Horse Treaty Awareness and Discussion - Manitoba Room Judy Bear Reconnecting to our Denesuline Vital Ways of Life - BC Room Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth 			2:20pm- 3:20pm	 Breakout Sessions: Teaching Cultural Values, Bule Legends and Stories - Wig & Margaret Cote, Lynn Cote Learning First Nations Histor Ballroom B John Spyglass Clearwater River Dene Schor Ballroom C Mark Klein Language and Cultural Active
10:40am	Health Break				 Randy Morin Curriculum Development the Ruth Norton, Marcella Fontain
10:45am- 11:45am	 Breakout Sessions: Indigenous Language & Cultural Renewal, The Maori Model - Wig & Pen 				Aboriginal Language Renew Laura Burnouf
	 Ethel Gardiner Traditional Games - Ballroom B Lamar Oksasikewiyin The State of First Nations Languages - Ballroom C Tracey Pascal 			3:00pm	Closing Remarks, Closing Song
	 mi ima ēhkosit: Integrating Language Learning and Creative Expression - Saskatoon Room Robin Brass Sparking a Virtual Conversation about Residential Schools - Manitoba Room Jamie Lerat Instructor Resource Guide for Cultural Teachings: Protocols and Methodologies - BC Room 				
a 📣	Barb Frazer "Honouring Residential School Survivors"			he Lea	ding First Nations Law

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a Whitford - Sweetgrass First Nation

- Awareness Leading to a Good Life - Wig &

hrough Indigenous Knowledge & Language -

lood **ower of Humour** - *Ballroom C*

it takes a lot of work - Saskatoon Room

sidue - Manitoba Room

e: Youth are the Future, the Hope - *BC Room* Blair, Shelby Laframboise

es, Beliefs and Morality through Saulteaux *Wig & Pen* te History and Culture through Art and Artifacts

School Transitional Immersion Program -

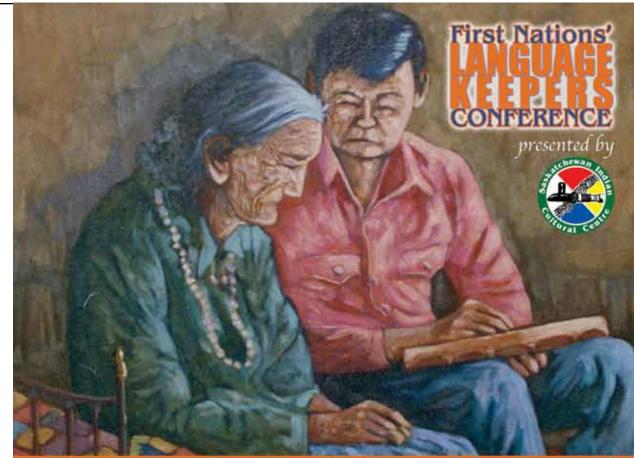
I Activism - Saskatoon Room

ent through Elder Validation - Manitoba Room ontaine Renewal through Music - BC Room

Song & Prayer

The to





"Honouring Residential School Survivors" ecember 1 & 2, 2011 - Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK. Canada

chewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) announces the 2011 First Nations ers Conference This event celebrates and supports language at Nation people The 2011 Conference theme is "Honouring Indian hool Survivors" The Conference will include workshops on the history the Indian Residential Schools and how they have contributed to the f First, Nations languages. Teaching methodologies that incorporate bes es and technological innovations in the teaching of First Nations' languages wi used to assist families, language instructors, schools and communities.

you to bring your enthusiasm and First Nations humour. Come to celebrate bute to First Nations' language revitalization and retention efforts. Network

Information pertaining to session topics will be in the areas of

- Teachings that inspire youth to learn about the history and legacy of Indian al Schools in the school curricula
- noting awareness and public education about the history and legacy of Indian idential Schools to the general public;
- Teachings that empower youth to value and honour their language and cultural
- Revitalization, retention, best practices and technological innovations in the teaching of First Nations' languages and cultures; and,
- Elders' cultural teachings and protocols

Who should attend this conference:

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

EARLY REGISTRATION: Post Marked by November 1, 2011 **REGISTRATION:** after November 1, 2011 ELDERS & STUDENTS: Students must have valid student card TRADE SHOW BOOTHS Limited Space - First Come First Serve) REGISTRATION: Post Marked by November 1, 2011 Space will be allocated by Conference Committee Registrations Payable to: statchewan Indian Confined Centre by Certified Cheque or Money Order For more information contact

CONTENENCE PAR

Phone: (306) 244-1146 E-mail: conference@sicc.sk.ca Website: http://www.sicc.sk.ca







First Nations' HELLERS CONFERENCE Book Writing Contest for students

tānisi (Cree), Anīn Šikwa (Nakawē), Edlanét'e (Dene), Hau, Koda (Dakota), Hau, Kona (Nakota), Hau, Kola (Lakota)

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre promotes First Nations' language development, revitalization and retention. To encourage First Nation children to write in First Nations' languages, SICC has launched an annual book writing contest.

- Open to students from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Create a book in a First Nations' language (an English translation must be provided as well)
- Submissions must be received by Wednesday, November 16, 2011 by 5:00 p.m.
- · Up to five books will be selected to win
- The winner(s) will receive \$500 and 20 copies of the published book.

Entries will be reviewed and judged by the First Nations' Language Keepers Book Writing Contest Committee. The Committee will select the winning book(s) based on creativity and originality. The book may contain illustrations but this is not necessary. Illustrations will be provided for the winning stories selected.

The winner(s) of the contest will be announced at the First Nations' Language Keepers Conference on December 1, 2011.

For more information contact: **Gladys Christiansen** E-mail: gladys.christiansen@sicc.sk.ca

Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre 305-2555 Grasswood Road East Saskatoon, SK S7T 0K1 Phone: (306) 244-1146 Fax: (306) 665-6520



Background on the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

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 Frist Nations' culture and language 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 which advocates on behalf of 87 First Nations' cultural centres and programs across Canada. As the cultural centre of the 74 First Nations of Saskatchewan, the SICC play 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 the 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 body 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 50 years ago.

Throughout the year, the SICC Languages department continued to produce new languages 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 2011 conference was a success with over 300 delegates participating. A key feature of this conference is the central role played by First Nations' Elders.

The SICC Library was one of the first departments of the SICC 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, games and hand drumming sessions.

Throughout the year, the Audio/Visual Technical department of the SICC provides 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 SICC's retail outlet, these resources are also distributed through trade shows, Pow Wows and other community events.

The SICC Board of Governors is proud that the management and staff of the SICC work to continually improve essential services and programming. This discipline and dedication will ensure that the SICC continues to be the central institution of the FSIN and a unique resource for the First Nations of Saskatchewan.





Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

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