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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**New Funding Opportunities for First Nations Language Revitalization to be Addressed at Upcoming Conference**

**Vancouver** – The Honourable Tom Christensen, Minister of Children and Family Development, Ruth Wittenberg, Assistant Deputy Minister of Post-Secondary Education Division, and Chief Nathan Matthew, on behalf of the New Relationship Trust, will be speaking at the First Nations Languages Conference taking place at the University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, from August 12-14, 2007. All three speakers will be announcing new funding available to support First Nations language revitalization in British Columbia.

The New Relationship Trust plans to discuss new funding to support language teacher training through Development Standard Term Certificate (DSTC) Programs in First Nation communities, while the Ministry of Advanced Education is expected to speak to details of specific funding that has been set aside to support language programming in public post-secondary institutes. The Ministry of Children and Family Services will be addressing new funding for language nest programs.

“It is exciting that these new funding opportunities are available in British Columbia,” said Christa Williams, Executive Director of the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC). “Supporting new language teachers and allowing successful language programs to grow is necessary to truly achieve language revitalization.”

The First Nations Languages Conference is a bi-annual conference held in British Columbia to facilitate discussion and share learning on the topic of language revitalization. This year’s conference theme is *Immersion Planning: Language Nests to Master Apprenticeship* and is hosted by the First Peoples’ Heritage, Language & Culture Council, the First Nations Education Steering Committee, and the Faculty of Education at the University of Victoria.

Minister Christensen, Ms. Wittenberg, and Chief Matthew will be speaking from 9:30-10:00 am on Monday, August 13, 2007 in the MacLaurin Auditorium at the University of Victoria. Media is welcome to attend.

For more information about the First Nations Languages Conference, visit [www.fnesc.ca](http://www.fnesc.ca).

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