

Aboriginal Languages Sub-Committee

Kevin Paul	Saanich Indian School Board
Tim Bilou	Kitamaat Village Council
Gwen Point	Sto:lo Nation
Mona Jules	SCES - Secwepemc Cultural Education Society
Beverly Frank	Upper St'at'imc Language Authority
Marilyn Napoleon	Upper St'at'imc Language Authority
Joan Gentles	School District #27 - Cariboo Tribal Council
Shirley Leon	Coqualeetza Cultural Centre
Lisa Wells	Kwakiutl District Council Sub-Office
Vacant	Yinke Dene Language Institute
Sadie Harris	Coast Mountain School District #82
Irene Seguin	Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a
Debbie Leighton-Stephens	Tsimshian Tribal Council
Barbara Barltrop	Nanoose First Nation
Theresa Dennis	Lower Similkameen
Diane Brown	Skidegate Band Council
Lena Ross	Nuu-cha-nulth Tribal Council
Deborah Jacobs	Squamish Nation

Language Publications Available through FNEsc Office

Ignace, M. 1988. <i>Aboriginal Language Teacher Education in B.C.: Education and Certification Needs.</i>	Ignace M. 1998. <i>Handbook for Aboriginal Language Program Planning in BC.</i>
Cost: \$5.00	Cost: \$15.00 (Handbook) \$10.00 (Workbook)

Aboriginal Languages Resource Inventory

In response to a request for proposals, Chief Atahm School was selected to conduct the work of developing an Aboriginal Languages Resource Inventory. This project will include an annotated bibliography and summaries of specific language curriculum and resource materials. Language materials will be acquired and held in the FNEsc resource center, available for review by community members to promote sharing of ideas and information. To contribute to this project or to learn more about it, please contact Kathy Michel at (250) 679-8837 at Chief Atahm School.

If you require further information regarding the FNEsc Aboriginal Language Newsletter, you may call FNEsc at (604) 925-6087 or write us at 113 - 100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2. Our website address is www.fnesc.bc.ca



Aboriginal Language Newsletter

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Aboriginal Languages: From Parent to Child!

First Nations languages in BC are now in a critical state. In BC alone, we have between 27 and 34 Aboriginal languages, representing eight distinct language families. Before the Residential School era, Aboriginal languages were used as the language of the family and community. Our languages have undergone tremendous decline, and more and more English is replacing the use of our languages in the home and in public. In most Aboriginal communities of British Columbia, our parents and even grandparents now use and speak English to communicate with the younger generation. Thus, intergenerational transmission of our Aboriginal languages has been seriously disrupted. In planning language renewal, it is crucial to remember that if our languages are to survive they must be transmitted naturally from parent to child in the home!

First Nations are now taking steps to revitalize and revive our languages. Language planning efforts are needed. Learning a language can be a difficult undertaking, requiring years of hard work. Community members need to be committed to learning the language and need to inspire one another to learn and use it. Language renewal must be tied to every day use, and must be seen as part of a process of strengthening our communities. Language planning must take into account that efforts focused solely in the school or education system will not be enough. Language renewal efforts must be focused strongly in our homes and in our communities.

IRPs approved by the BC Ministry of Education

IRPs are Integrated Resource Packages required for offering curriculum content on a specific subject area in a public school. First Nations communities are responsible for creating IRPs for their language and submitting these to the Ministry of Education for approval. The following IRPs for teaching Aboriginal languages from grades 5 -12 have been approved. Contact numbers are provided for community members interested in learning how approved IRPs were developed.

- Nsiylxcen (Okanagan) - SD #53 (Okanagan Similkameen)
Contact: Jim Insley - Director of Instruction (250) 498-3481 ext. 238
- Secwepemctsin (Shuswap) - Secwepemc Cultural Education Society & SD #73 (Kamloops)
Contact: Dr. Renee Spence - Administrator, First Nations Education Council (250) 828-9807
- Sm'algyax (Algyaxm Ts'msyen) - SD #52 (Prince Rupert) & Ts'msyen Sm'algyax Language Authority
Contact: Debbie Leighton-Stephens - First Nations Education Services Department Head (250) 627-1536
- Upper St'at'imcets - SD #74 (Gold Trail) & Upper St'at'imc Language Culture and Education Society
Contact: Marilyn Napoleon - Lillooet Tribal Council Education Coordinator (250) 256-7523
- Sim'algaxhl Nisga'a - SD #92 (Nisga'a)
Contact: Jackie Santa - Nisga'a Language and Culture Centre (250) 633-2234

Language in Process of Receiving Approval

- Shashishalhem (Sechelt Language) - SD #47 & Sechelt Nation Education.

FNESC & FPHLCC/ FPCF Protocol Agreement

The First Peoples Heritage, Language & Culture Council (FPHLCC)/First Peoples Cultural Foundation (FPCF) and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) have agreed to work together in an organized manner to promote, support and further the preservation and promotion of Aboriginal Languages in British Columbia. The three organizations aim to ensure that there is little or no overlap in activities or funding requests and agree to share information and communicate regularly.

The FPHLCC/FPCF & FNESC protocol agreement was signed on March 8, 2001. Debbie Leighton-Stephens, Chair for the Aboriginal Languages Sub-Committee, represents the Sub-Committee at FPHLCC/FPCF meetings. Simon Robinson, Executive Director will represent FPHLCC/FPCF at FNESC Aboriginal Language Sub-Committee meetings.

FNCCEC/AFN Protocol Agreement

On December 9, 1999, The First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres signed a protocol agreement with the Assembly of First Nations forming a partnership dedicated to joining efforts to address the state of emergency of First Nations languages. The FNCCEC administers the limited funding that is available through Heritage Canada for language preservation and faces a tremendous challenge in doing so. BC First Nations are concerned about how this money is distributed as they do not believe that the flat division of resources by region is equitable considering the diversity of language within B.C., which has far greater than one-tenth of the languages in Canada.

National update

The National strategy for Aboriginal languages in Canada includes:

- Declaring aboriginal languages are in a "state of emergency".
- Lobbying for protective legislation for Aboriginal languages in Canada.
- Promoting the establishment of a National First Nations Language Foundation to resource the reversal of language loss and prevent their extinction.
- Ensuring sufficient resources for the National Chiefs' Committee on Languages to conduct its work in keeping with its mandate.

BC Representatives on National Committees

Chief Ron Ignace chairs the National Chiefs Committee on Aboriginal Languages. Chief Bill Cranmer is also a member of the Chiefs Committee. Deborah Jacobs is a member of the National Technical Committee on Aboriginal languages.

Information regarding the national strategy on Aboriginal languages in Canada, including what you can do to help, can be found on the following websites for FNCCEC and AFN respectively as follows:

http://www.schoolnet.ca/aboriginal/fnccec/fnccec_whats-new-e.html
<http://www.afn.ca/Programs/Languages/lang/contents.htm>

Provincial Aboriginal Languages Conference - 2002

The FNESC Aboriginal Languages Sub-Committee, First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Cultural Council FPHLCC/First Peoples Cultural Foundation (FPCF) and the BC Cultural Centres will be co-hosting a Provincial Aboriginal languages Conference scheduled for February 22 & 23, 2002. Location TBA.

The suggested theme put forward for the conference is "Echoing the voice/spirit of our ancestors/elders." Communities are asked to bring information regarding their programs and to set up displays for information sharing. Workshops will be held to discuss the costs of language planning and program delivery to help to determine the costs of preserving First Nations languages. There will also be language curriculum workshops, workshops on creating partnerships, technology and language instruction.

World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE)- 2002

WIPCE 2002 will be hosted by the First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium (FNAHEC) at a beautiful site on Stoney Nation lands in the mountains just west of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The dates of the conference will be **August 4 - 10, 2002.**

For more information:
 2002 WIPCE Calgary
 Suite 310, 6940 Fisher Rd. SE
 Calgary, AB T2H 0W3

Phone: (403) 258-1775
 Fax: (403) 258-1811
 E-mail: wipce@fnahec.org
 Website: <http://www.fnahec.org/wipce2002>

FNESC Maori Language Study Tour - 2002

Date: March 17 - 30, 2002
 Cost: \$4,200
 Includes: meals, accommodation, and airfare!
Only 35 Seats available!

Reserve a space with a \$1,000 deposit by September 14, 2001.
 (Please make cheques payable to FNESC)

Marae Living

Learn about the customs and protocol of living on a Marae, the ceremonial center of a Maori settlement or community.

If you require further information regarding the FNESC Maori Language Study Tour, you may call FNESC at (604) 925-6087 or write us at 113 - 100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2.

Curriculum Workshops - 2002

Members of the Aboriginal Languages Sub-Committee who attended the Language Curriculum Development Workshops - 2001 shared that the experience was very beneficial and supported the continuation of the workshops for next year. There will be four workshops next year instead of two, and they will take place in February and March 2002. More information will be sent out in the fall.

Kia Ora! (Good Day!)

This tour is of special interest to communities who are working on a Developmental Standard Term Certificate (DSTC) for Language Teachers and for anyone who is working toward Aboriginal Language Renewal. Come and learn how the Maori were successful in their language renewal efforts!

Glossary

Te Kohanga Reo - language nests
Kura Kaupapa Maori - immersion schools
Te Rangakura - teacher education
Te Whare Wanaga o Awanuiarangi - a Maori University

DEVELOPMENTAL STANDARD TERM CERTIFICATE (DSTC) - Bulletin

In June 1999, the British Columbia College of Teachers approved the framework for a new certificate for teaching First Nations Language and Culture. Through its framework, the BC College of Teachers set the stage for First Nations communities to enter into partnerships with post-secondary institutions to develop programs that meet the requirements for granting Developmental Standard Term Certificates. Proposals for such programs must come from First Nations communities and must proceed through the program approval process of the BC College of Teachers. Post-secondary institutions with teacher education programs must work in partnership with First Nations communities to develop programs that meet the needs of the community applying for a DSTC.

The DSTC includes three main components:

1) Mathematics, Science, English & Canadian Studies	18 credits
2) Academic courses in Language and Culture	50 credits
3) Indigenous Peoples Teacher Education (IPTE) *	22 credits
DSTC total academic credits	90 credits

Note: Component 1 of the DSTC can be completed by each individual on their own. Component 2, Academic courses in Language and Culture, may be developed at the local community level in partnership with one or more post-secondary institutions.

Sto:lo Nation DSTC Proposal

Sto:lo Nation submitted a proposal for a Developmental Standard Term Certificate to the BC College of Teachers in June 2001. Sto:lo Nation developed their proposal in partnership with Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Faculty of Education. If the proposal is accepted in the fall, the Sto:lo Nation/SFU DSTC program will be ready for delivery by January 2002.

Sto:lo Nation Invites other First Nations to join IPTE

What is IPTE?

IPTE, Indigenous Peoples Teacher Education, is the portion of the DSTC that consists of 22 credits of Education

methods. IPTE is designed for learners to gain skills in teaching Aboriginal language and culture. It consists of three sets of seminars and includes a practicum. It is offered through Sto:lo Nation's Education Division in partnership with Simon Fraser University's Faculty of Education. Through IPTE you will gain knowledge and practice toward becoming a highly skilled Aboriginal language teacher.

If you are interested in participating in IPTE and want further information, please contact Gwen Point, Education Manager, Sto:lo Nation. Tel: (604) 824-5216, Fax: (604) 824-5326 or email her at gwen.point@stolonation.com

Admission to IPTE:

- Three (3) credits of university transfer English - first year level;
- Equivalent of six (6) credits of coursework in an Aboriginal language;
- Two (2) references; and,
- Essay on career goals and objectives.

DSTC Q & A

Does a DSTC program grant a degree?

- No. The First Nations DSTC is a teaching credential only. It enables a person to be recognized as a teacher under the School Act, and is issued by the BC College of Teachers. The recipient will be granted a certificate to teach in British Columbia but will not be given a degree.

Does the DSTC certificate allow the holder to "ladder" to a permanent certificate?

- Yes. The DSTC consists of 90 credits of academic and professional work recognized by a university with a teacher education program. A DSTC holder can "ladder" to a permanent standard certificate by gaining an additional 30 credits of specified academic and professional work recognized by a university teacher education program. Finally, for a full professional certificate, a further 30 credits would be required.

Does the DSTC include a practicum?

- Yes. The DSTC includes a practicum component that takes place in language and culture classrooms. The exact nature of the practicum is the responsibility of the planning team as they anticipate the needs of their students and the context within which the practica can be scheduled.

Does the DSTC qualify a teacher to teach immersion?

- No. Teachers need to have a standard or professional certificate to teach immersion. However, the DSTC was developed so that it could easily ladder into a standard and then a professional certificate.

Are the courses towards a DSTC provincially accredited?

- Yes. In order to be approved by the College of Teachers, all academic courses must carry university transfer credit. All education seminars/courses must also be approved by the College of Teachers before they will be accepted as part of a program.

Who pays for the delivery of the courses in my community?

- This is determined by each partnership as they address the needs of the communities. If the courses are offered nearby, it may only require that tuition be paid. Communities may choose to purchase courses/seminars or contract with a post-secondary institution. Funds may be available through the Indian Studies Support Program (ISSP) or through the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Will the new DSTC replace the First Nations Language Teachers Certificate?

- No. The First Nations Language Teachers Certificate will still be available through the First Nations Language Authorities. This certificate needs to be renewed after four years.

How does one go about starting a program towards a DSTC?

- Begin by contacting Laura Bickerton at the College of Teachers, Christa Williams at the First Nations Education Steering Committee and by contacting the Dean of Education or Associate Dean/Director of Teacher Education at one of the approved teacher education programs in British Columbia. These are Malaspina University College, Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria.