

Aboriginal Languages Conference: *Echoing the Voices of Our Ancestors* February 22 - 23, 2002

A Huge Success!

Two hundred and seventy participants attended the sold out Aboriginal language Conference held at the Best Western Richmond Hotel February 22-24, 2002. Delegates came together and shared materials and strategies for language revitalization, celebrated their accomplishments to this end and inspired one another to carry on to the next steps.

A Conference highlight was the opening ceremony. Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations welcomed the delegates with prayers, songs and speeches and the visitors responded in kind in their respective languages. It was a powerful expression of First Nations unity in our common goal to revitalize B.C. Aboriginal languages.

Dorothy Lazore, keynote speaker from the Mohawks of Tyendinaga, left delegates with a strong message that everyone can do something about our languages, including establishing language immersion programs. Joe Michel, Shuswap elder of the Adams Lake Band, at the banquet, encouraged us to “put on our binoculars” to look around and find what is there to help us in our language work.

The Squamish Delegation, the Haahuupayuk Dancers and the St’at’imc Group entertained delegates with songs, dances and regalia; it was particularly heartwarming to see the children participating in these groups.

A large number of delegates stayed for the closing ceremonies and indicated unanimously that they wanted a repeat Conference next year, and that it should be a day longer with more workshops. Delegates rated the overall Conference very highly, indicating that they learned new skills and strategies for language teaching, and especially appreciated the Aboriginal languages and technology workshops and plenary.

Co-hosted by the FNESC Aboriginal Language Sub-Committee, First Peoples’ Heritage, Language and Cultural Council (FPHLCC) and the First Nations Confederation of Cultural Education Centres (FNCCEC): BC Caucus.

Aboriginal Languages Conference 2003! Language Poster Campaign

The FNESC Aboriginal Language Sub-Committee is encouraging the creation of local community posters to promote the importance of revitalizing our Aboriginal languages. We will showcase posters at our next Aboriginal Languages Conference scheduled tentatively for Summer 2003.



FNESC Maori Language Study Tour - 2003

Kia Ora! (Good Day!)

Date: March 2003
 Cost: \$4,200
 Includes: meals, accommodation, and airfare!

Glossary

Te Kohanga Reo – language nests
 Kuraa Kaupapa – immersion schools
 Te Rangakura – teacher education
 Te Whare Wanagao Awanuiarangi – A Maori University

Marae Living

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

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!

***** Only 35 seats available!*****

Reserve a space with a \$1000 deposit by September 14, 2002.
 (Please make cheque payable to FNESC)

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.

Nisga'a Tongue Twisters

Hlaa hliškwhl hlguuhlkwahl hlgu hlgii kwahl hlamsiy hlokshl hlaa hlišgwit hli daa hlo'ohl hlinhlinhlintxiithl hliškwhl hli xhlookdiit.

Sim simgit sipsiip'inhl si sim'oogithl sisuusim sisays Sylvia Smith sbayt-seeks saxwhl Ksi-Sginist.

Gapgaabi hl gaak ganhl ganaawhl ganganhl gamhemgandiit ganhl gagaythl gagwee'et gasgoohl galgalxkwahl goothl gaak.

Gwe'es gwiiks-gwisgwaaskwahl gwee'em gwiikwahl gwiilah gwisgwoosgum gwaatl'ax ii gwiilgwalkwahl gwiis gwiikwahl gwaaso.

Txas hloksi hl Xsaak wil t xts'i-hats'ihl xsgaakhl x'anaaxhl xbilgamtkw iit xhootkwit ii xsilim heet'inskwahl xbilgamtkw iit xts'i-xbeeksihl sk'ayukwshl xsgaak, ii xbits'axwt wil xsitt ii xhaldaxwkwit.

Ts'l ts'uusgim ts'axwhl ts'axts'ax ts'im ts'im ts'laaskw ts'init ii ts'axwhl ts'ipkwahl ts'akhl ts'uuts'im laxmo'on ts'im ts'eets'iks ts'im ts'oohl ts'ap ii ts'ookshl ts'ik iit ts'eekhl ts'im ts'ankst hlaa ts'oots'a'ahl yeen.

Dixdidi'is dip diikwahl daalah diwitkwidiit dahlia t dilaahldiit dip dits' duuw diswilt dalt'aindiithl duus iit disdasdiithl dok'a'am do'ohldiit doosda'a diswilhl dukwsgum daaladiit ii daxdukw'hlixdiiit

Masim minmani hl mask'aawadaxhl misk'a ni hl milmalgaksgum maamakst min-ganeeks ii hlaa misaax iit midakshl mixk'aax iit mismits'ikshl mukwt

Submitted by: *Silimks* (Irene Seguin)

NITEP Course on First Nations Languages – Mary Jane Joe, NITEP Coordinator (UBC)

I have had the pleasure of teaching EDUC 141, a First Nations Cultural Studies course that focuses on First Nations languages at the Urban Centre. Students are required to write a term paper about language revitalization or how language is being promoted and preserved in their community. They had to interview an elder, learn an orthography (alphabet), and teach a lesson about their language.

From an instructor's perspective, the most meaningful activity this term was writing four-line poems in our languages. As we listened to each other read the poems, time seemed to stand still. It was like medicine for the soul. Our languages have words that are connected to our ancestors, to our lands and the environment. There are ties to history, culture and traditions. Our words have rhythm and significance. There is meaning. We must not lose these connections. Our languages hold precious keys that can help us on our journeys.

The Urban students in Year 1 and 2 have given their permission to share these poems with you. Please note: the question mark "?" in the poems represents a glottal stop. The capital "o" represents a theta or "th" sound.

POEMS

Ktaqamkuk Mulisek Kimu'j

Sipujij kutapsku'j munlink
Qaqtek kimu'j meelpaeg
Soulis kknpegh mollyguajeck
Ktaqamkuk ahwanchajeesh kepenkeck
Keptiemege nome menisponde dete
Miwomi wessa mone wela'lin!

TOe stal'ew peq t'o ewem
TOe spehels t'it'el'em
TOe maytla tOe swahhtqwuhm
?ict neca

Nabi hant'ih
Lhuy chuh hant'ih
Nabi ses nilh'in
Lhuy heyant hant'ih

Tutaw snekwem, Nach'im ta skwayel
Ti ta sp'akw'us wa sisik
Chilhiwilh ta smenmanit,
Chilhiwilh ta stsektsek
Ta l ti, na wa kwachnamen

"Ukoh tadizyin whe oolhas
Nyoo oosa'awet dizbon
Dzetnig hukselh'az etsul 'ut'ih
Dich'oh whenki

Ni't, naatsa, niookska, niiso.
Napi isttokiyiwa.
Niisit, naa, ihkitsik, naaisoyi
Waanist aakoohkoyiwa.

c'aaqstutl nana?a
kuw'iitap t'uhciti
?uustupsitl ?u?uskwapmis
?aanastis ?um'aaqtlat

A Dancer's Prayer

From the break of dawn
Into the Starry Night
May many joys dance
In your heart
And may the Creator
Watch over you!

This river, white, fresh water
This wind, singing
This dance, this drum
We are one

It is a muskrat
There is also a fish
Muskrat keeps an eye on bear
He is eating a fish

Bright sun, beautiful sky,
Here the eagle flies
Over the mountains,
Over the trees
Here it is in which he sees

He is standing in the river fishing
The pail is full
He stops working in the afternoon
He sails away by himself

One, two, three, four.
Trickster, he knocks on her door.
Five, six, seven, eight.
Say he will wait for her

To absorb knowledge
Is to open the doors of your mind
You will then become unprejudiced
An anything will be possible

*Erica Skinner
Mi'kmaq: Year 1*

*Heather George
T'sleil Waututh: Year 1*

*Grant Alphonse
Tsilhqotin: Year 2*

*Azury Biavaschi
Squamish: Year 1*

*Jessica Bell
Nak'azdli: Year 1*

*Shaylen Smith
Siksika: Year 1*

*Herbie Cook
Nuu-chah-nulth: Year 1*

Sung to the tune of Roy Orbison's Pretty Woman:

lyómex Slhá:lí

lyómex Slhá:lí ye imex lite xalh
lyómex Slhá:lí, stl'el - shxwchomes
lyómex Slhá:lí skway kw'els, q'al ewe ixw the'it
lyómex Slhá:lí eweta kw'a ste'omex telewe.....e'e

lyómex Slhá:lí qw'oqwelex
lyómex Slhá:lí skw'ay ewe kwetslexwal
lyómex Slhá:lí kw'ese eyelhomex.....
lyómex Slhá:lí wa ixw stat'il ste'a te
 eltha...(tiger growl)

lyómex Slhá:lí tl'elexw kw'e ts'elil
lyómex Slhá:lí qwal kw'e ts'elil
lyómex Slhá:lí oxwesthoyx te'
 sxweli'emes

lyómex Slhá:lí a'a'a'a'
lyómex Slhá:lí kwats xwe mi
lyómex Slhá:lí thet kw'es ilsoyx o.....
 Tsel tl'ilsome tsel cha ayi'thome stl'itls
 elswas telo xwelalt.....

lyómex Slhá:lí ewe imex exw yelaw
lyómex Slhá:lí ewe xamloy exw
lyómex Slhá:lí ewe lamexw ayel wa.....

lyólem.....

Lis kwa ste'a iyólem...
 Lam tsel t'wa t'okw luh shop...
 Cha wayel xwelalt kats xwo stam te'il kwetslexw,
 Li imex q'olthet mite eltha.....
 A'a li chexw imex xwemi te eltha.....

Ets'ele.....lyómex Slhá:lí!!!

Presented by Sto:lo Shxweli Haq'emeylem Language Program at the Aboriginal Language Conference: Echoing the Voices of Our Ancestors.



BC Aboriginal Language Needs Assessment-April, 2002 **First Peoples Heritage Language and Culture Council & First Peoples Cultural Foundation**

The First Peoples' Heritage Language and Culture Council and First Peoples' Cultural Foundation are currently undertaking a province wide Aboriginal Language Needs Assessment. The purpose is to update badly needed information on the current status of First Nations/Aboriginal languages and programs in BC. The information will provide those of us working for Aboriginal/First Nations languages with important baseline data and will support initiatives of the Council and Foundation in working to document, preserve, maintain, revitalize, rebuild, restore and enhance our languages. Further, this assessment will help to create a compelling case for financial support from both government and non-government sectors.

All First Nations communities, Aboriginal organizations and language groups across British Columbia are invited to participate. A mail out began mid April 2002. Our ambition is to gain a thorough updated understanding of the current state of Aboriginal/First Nations languages - this can only happen by receiving a high percentage return from all of the geographical areas of BC. With all of the language information gathered a complete analysis will be made, which will allow for accurate input into our organizations database. This information will then be updated on an ongoing basis and will be invaluable in guiding the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture program.

The FPHLCC encourages all First Nations communities and organizations to participate in this critically important language initiative. We salute and acknowledge all the incredibly hardworking people throughout the province who keep our languages alive - we know how busy you are and thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this assessment. Please feel free to direct any questions and/or receive a copy of this needs assessment by calling Deanna Daniels, Language Programs Coordinator at:(250-361-3456).

First Voice.com Beta Testing

First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council (FPHLCC) invites teams of First Nations community-based 'Beta Testers' to participate in the testing and refinement of the FirstVoices.com Aboriginal Language Resource. If interested and need more info, contact:

*Deanna Daniels, Language Program
Coordinator, FPHLCC, Phone: 250 361 3456,
Fax: 250 361 3467 or email: Deanna@fpcf.ca*

Communities and organizations may submit letters of support for this project. To view this resource, log on to www.FirstVoices.com

* Beta testing is a technical term for refining software for improvement.

FirstVoices.com Training

During summer 2002, First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University will co-sponsor training courses in the use of the FirstVoices web site.

The courses will include sessions in linguistic field methods as well as the use of computers, video and voice recording equipment for the collection of Aboriginal language data for uploading to FirstVoices.com.

Dates:

SFU: July 8 - 31, Kamloops, BC - \$440 (credit course)
UVic: July 29 - August 9, Victoria, BC - \$400 (workshop)

For registration / information, contact:
Peter Brand at peter@fpcf.ca or check the website www.FirstVoices.com and look for summer courses.

FNESC ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

- 1. Language Curriculum Workshops.** At the February 7&8 Level I workshops, thirty-one participants attended in Terrace, and twenty attended in Chase. At the March 7&8 Level II workshops, thirty-seven registered for Vancouver and twenty-two for Chase. A number of people who registered for workshops did not attend, and this raised some concern for a number of reasons. For example, workshop facilitators need to prepare materials for the number of people registered, and food and facilities are arranged based on the number of people expected to attend. Additionally, other people might register if they know there are seats available. This coming year, there will be a \$50.00 registration fee for these workshops.

For next years' workshops, both Chief Atahm and Skeke'kya will elaborate specific criteria for their workshops. Some of the Level II registrants at Chief Atahm did not have the extensive background required for a hands-on curriculum development session. Skeke'kya is looking to revamp the workshops for accreditation. This way, the workshops could be developed to include (1) the basics of curriculum development, (2) advanced skills in curriculum development applied specifically to First Nations language and, (3) design and completion of a unit or multiple units of curriculum suitable for delivery in their community or school setting.

- 2. Language Resources Inventory.** The inventory project coordinator will be focusing on gathering comprehensive information on one large language group, Shuswap, and two smaller language groups, Ktunaxa and Tsimshian. Information is being gathered from other languages as well. Communities not included in this round of the inventory can be added later. This survey was designed to determine what kinds of resources exist in our communities to allow for greater sharing of materials and ideas. Be sure to let us know if you need further information for including your resources in this inventory.
- 3. Developmental Standard Term Certificate (DSTC).** A traditional Stó:lō celebration was held on January 25th, 2002 to mark the historic occasion of being the first language community in BC to have a DSTC passed by the B.C. College of Teachers. The celebration involved feasting, witnessing, speeches and Stó:lō children who entertained in Halq'eméylem. FNESC presented a plaque of congratulations to Stó:lō Nation, the B.C. College of Teachers and the Aboriginal Language Sub-Committee.
- 4. World Indigenous Peoples Conference: Education (WIPCE).** FNESC will be represented at this Conference. A workshop presentation on innovative teacher education initiatives is proposed, including a presentation on the Interim Teaching Certificate and the Stó:lo DSTC. WIPCE 2002 will be held on August 4 – 10, 2002 at Stoney Park Nakoda Nation, Morley, Alberta. For more information, check the conference website at www.fnahec.org/wipce2002.
- 5. Aboriginal Language Newsletter.** Community members are welcome to submit articles regarding Aboriginal language revitalization activities, new resources, ideas and strategies for language teaching and learning. We will print your submissions in our next newsletter

A number of people at the Aboriginal Language Conference asked how they could contact Dorothy Lazore. She kindly agreed to include her contact information as follows:

Dorothy Lazore
23 Huron Brant
Desoronto, ON K0K 1X0

Home: (613) 396-1161
Work: (613) 966-6984
Fax: (613) 966-6474



Our Sympathies

To the family and friends of
Virginia Grace Mirehouse
 (December 31, 1947 – May 10, 2002)

Grace, loved and respected warrior for First Nations Education, was born into the large Andrews family in Lytton, BC (Cooks Ferry Band) from the Nlaka'pumx Nation. Grace was fluent in Nlaka'pamumx and spoke it in her every day prayers and life. She was President of the Native Education Centre and Instructor and member of the UBC Senate. Her commitment to First Nations Education throughout her lifetime was unwavering.

To the family and friends of
Ada Yovanovich Jaad Sang Kinghliiyaas
 (August 23, 1924 – April 20, 2002)

At 78 Years Ada was a fluent Haida speaker. She taught traditional Haida ways. In taking part in a Diabetes research project, she coined the phrase "Our food is our medicine." Ada received her Grade 12 adult dogwood diploma last June 2001. She had been teaching the Haida Language at the Skidegate Haida Immersion Programme for the past 3 ½ years. Her main goal was to have more Haidas pray in the Haida Language. Thanks to her dedication, at least 16 other Haida people now pray in the Haida Language. Howa! Jaad Sang Kinghliiyaas, 7ahgan hla saajaawada! (Rest yourself).

Aboriginal Languages Sub-Committee

John Elliot Sr.	Saanich Indian School Board
Tim Bilou	Kitamaat Village Council
<i>Shoysh qwel whet</i> (Gwen Point)	Sto:lo Nation
Mona Jules	SCES - Secwepemc Cultural Education Society
Beverly Frank	Upper St'at'imc Language Authority
<i>T'icnek</i> (Marilyn Napoleon)	Upper St'at'imc Language Authority
Joan Gentles	School District #27 - Cariboo Tribal Council
<i>Siyamtelot</i> (Shirley Leon)	Coqualeetza Cultural Centre
Lisa Wells	Kwakiutl District Council Sub-Office
Vacant	Yinke Dene Language Institute
<i>xGwoimtxw</i> (Sadie Harris)	Coast Mountain School District #82
<i>Silimks</i> (Irene Seguin)	Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a
Debbie Leighton-Stephens	Tsimshian Tribal Council
Barbara Barltrop	Nanoose First Nation
Theresa Dennis	Lower Similkameen
<i>Gwaaganad</i> (Diane Brown)	Skidegate Band Council
<i>Wamblii wii ya</i> (Jessie Stephens)	Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
<i>Snilelwet</i> (Deborah Jacobs)	Squamish Nation
Simon Robinson	First Peoples Cultural Foundation
<i>Wanast'sa7</i> (Lorna Williams)	BC Ministry of Education
Victor Guerin	Musqueam First Nation

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