

Introduction

The YXE Cree Speakers' Society was founded in 2021 by Milton Tootoosis, a nêhiyaw of the Poundmaker Cree Nation in Treaty Six Territory. The primary goal of the YXE Cree Speakers' Society is to revitalize, enhance and strengthen culture through the Indigenous language of the region. Its objectives are to:

- Preserve, develop and expand the local Plains Cree (Y) dialect;
- Establish a network and action group of concerned and committed fluent/advanced Cree speakers;
- Develop and promote effective and innovative products and services for the diversity of learning styles;
- Establish a long-term sustainability strategy to keep the language thriving for the benefit of future generations of Plains Cree speakers;
- Fulfill the spirit and intent of Treaty Number Six;
- Enact The Indigenous Languages Act, 2019:

"Whereas the recognition and implementation of rights related to Indigenous languages are at the core of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and are fundamental to shaping the country, particularly in light of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action."

- Contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Articles 13, 14 & 16; and
- Create an opportunity for reconciliation as set out in the Truth & Reconciliation Final Report: Calls to Action 13, 14, 15 & 16.

Rationale

Indigenous language programming and funding has been in place for well over 30 years in various forms and with various levels of financial commitment from funders. In 2021-22 the YXE Cree Speakers' Society sought funding to access grassroots information on the lessons from past and current programs. The focus on the Plains Cree (Y) dialect was intentional as it was noted that most organizations attempting to further Indigenous language development have limited funding with their broad mandates of including all Indigenous languages.

In addition, The Smithsonian Magazine reported that the following will occur when a language dies:

1. We lose the expression of a unique vision of what it means to be human.
2. We lose memory of the planet's many histories and cultures.
3. We lose some of the best local resources for combatting environmental threats.
4. Some people lose their mother tongue.

All are critical in a global environment where interdependence is necessary for growth. This project will present the findings from the consultations with grassroots Plains Cree language speakers, research gathered and the supports required for aspiring speakers at a conference in 2023.

pēkopayi (awaken) Sponsorship Level – \$20,000

To awaken the creator given language, is to breathe life into the peoples of whom the language was gifted. “Awakening” the language is a step toward decolonization where the donor’s contribution marks a significant commitment to acknowledging the truths of a colonial history with their own awakening.

Benefits:

- Logo on all official print and radio ads, poster, social media, Facebook page and web site
- Acknowledgement in all break-out sessions, in the program and on-screen
- Representative introducing keynote speaker in a plenary session
- 2 tables of 8 at the luncheon
- Corporate banner (supplied by the sponsor) on display at venue

ayisiyiniw (Human) Sponsorship Level - \$10,000 – \$19,999

The creator gave each human race their own language with their own creation story. The “human” experience includes the mental, emotional, spiritual and physical characteristics of life. To bring balance to these elements of humanity enables all to thrive.

Benefits:

- Logo on official print and radio ads, poster, social media, Facebook page and web site
- Acknowledgement in all break-out sessions, in the program and on-screen
- Table of 8 for the luncheon
- Corporate banner (supplied by the sponsor) displayed at the event venue

wītaskīwin (alliance) Sponsorship Level - \$5,000 – \$9,999

Allies are critical in bringing about change to societies to address the inequities within. The “ally” brings their skills and abilities to assist in shifting the colonial narratives and realities with the intention of unity.

Benefits:

- Logo on official print and radio ads, poster, social media, Facebook page and web site
- Acknowledgement in the program and on-screen

wāhkōhtowin (relationship) Sponsorship Level - \$500 – \$4,999

Our human relationships and relationships with the environment model who we are as a society. Being of one-mind and bringing movement (action) to the “relationships” needed to sustain humanity and the world around us is a way to exemplify wāhkōhtowin.

Benefits:

- Logo on official print and radio ads, poster, social media, Facebook page and web site
- Acknowledgement in the program and on-screen

Thank you for your consideration.

Cheques may be payable to:

MGT Consulting

Attn: Milton Tootoosis

#107 - 103 Packham Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4

For more information, please contact:

Shelly A. Tootoosis

Mobile: 1.306.370.9475

Email: info@yxecreespeakerssociety.ca