

News Release

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Journey of Language Revitalization Continues at 2nd Annual Keep Our Language Alive Conference pimācīhitatān nēhiyawēwin

On May 13-14, 2024, over 200 Indigenous Language leaders will gather on traditional Whitecap Dakota Unceded Territory at the Dakota Dunes Resort for the 2nd annual Keep Our Language Conference. The conference aims to inspire aspiring speakers, teachers, instructors, community leaders and policy makers in their journey of language revitalization and reclamation.

This year's conference theme "Awakening the Spirit of the Language," was developed based on 2023 conference discussions about the limitations that occur when language teaching and strategies are separated from spirit. Elders and diverse speakers will share their journey in awakening the spirit of the Cree language in their personal lives and how it manifests in their community, their connection to the Cree language, how they promote revitalization and strategies for reclaiming our space.

Other conference sessions will discuss:

- Land Based Education
- Star Blanket Teachings
- Understanding the Impacts of Trauma in Language Development
- Plains Indian Sign Language
- How Youth Can Engage in Language Learning & Revitalization
- Teaching Methodologies, Practices, and Classroom Techniques for Success

A Pre-Conference Workshop, being held in partnership with Saskatoon Teachers Federation Professional Learning, will provide participants the opportunity to work collaboratively to create a bank of Cree Language outcomes and indicators that are matched with provincial outcomes and indicators.

"As we know, colonization played a large role in the loss of our language, and for Indigenous communities, language loss impaired intergenerational knowledge transfer and compromised their personal identity," says Milton Tootosis, YXE Cree Speakers Society and conference organizer. "We have been learning that most institutions are mandated to support all Indigenous languages with limited resources, hence we are narrowing our focus to the Plains Cree "Y" dialect and then sharing what we learn with others. It is in this spirit of sharing and learning that we have guest speakers from other Nations."

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For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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