



כִּי תִּשְׁכַּח אֶת-אֱלֹהֵי הַמִּצְרַיִם  
כִּי תִּשְׁכַּח אֶת-אֱלֹהֵי מִצְרָיִם

tânisi,

The XYE Cree Speakers' Society is now planning for the 2025 pimācihitatān nēhiyawēwin: Keep Our Language Alive conference to be held on May 26 & 27, 2025 at the Dakota Dunes Resort on Dakota Whitecap First Nation. Due to the overwhelming response we received from participants who attended the 2024 conference, and requests to have the plenary sessions in the Cree language, all plenary sessions at our 2025 conference will be solely in the Cree language.

This is the third year of the pimācihitatān nēhiyawēwin: Keep Our Language Alive Conference. Support and awareness of the importance for revitalizing the Cree language has grown since the project was initiated in 2021. Through the expanding network of Cree language advocates we have learned that there is still more work to be done. At this time, we are seeking your financial commitment to work towards addressing this urgent need and build on the momentum that has been created through the conference.

We would be happy to discuss how your organization can become a sponsor in the upcoming conference and any other aspects of this endeavor you have an interest in supporting.

Also, attached is the 2024 pimācīhitātān nēhiyawēwin: Keep Our Language Alive Conference Report for more information.

êkosi pitamâ (that's all for now)

Sincerely,

Milton Foot

Milton Tootosis  
Founder XYE Cree Speakers' Society

mâmaŋcihitowin

“Working and helping each other”

## 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**  
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