

# pimâcihitâtân nêhiyawêwin



tânisi,

On behalf of the YXE Cree Speakers Society, we are pleased to invite you to partner with us as a sponsor of the **pimâcihitâtân nêhiyawêwin Keep Our Language Alive 4th Annual Conference**, taking place September 28–29, 2026 at the Dakota Dunes Resort and Conference Centre.

This national gathering brings together Elders, fluent speakers, educators, youth, policy-makers, and allies committed to Cree language revitalization and cultural continuity. As Canada enters the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages, this conference serves as a practical, action-oriented platform advancing reconciliation, education, and community-driven solutions.

Your sponsorship directly supports language transmission, capacity-building, and intergenerational learning—while demonstrating meaningful leadership aligned with TRC Call to Action #14, UNDRIP, and ESG commitments.

We would be honoured to discuss how this partnership can align with your organization's priorities and create lasting impact. My contact information is below.

kinanâskomitin,

Sincerely,

Milton Tootoosis, BA, PAED  
Founder | CEO  
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**mâdawîcihitowin**

“Working and helping each other”

# 2026 pimâcihitâtân nêhiyawêwin KEEP OUR LANGUAGE ALIVE CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

**Date:** September 28–29, 2026

**Location:** Dakota Dunes Resort and Conference Centre

**Attendance:** 300 delegates

**Audience:** Elders, Cree language speakers, educators, youth, Indigenous organizations, governments, and corporate partners

**Focus:** Cree language revitalization, immersion models, digital tools, policy, education, and community-led innovation

## Why Sponsor?

- Demonstrate authentic reconciliation in action
- Support Indigenous language revitalization and cultural sustainability
- Align with TRC Call to Action #14, UNDRIP, and ESG / DEI goals
- Engage directly with Indigenous leaders, educators, and communities
- Gain national visibility in a respected, purpose-driven forum

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

### pêkopayi (AWAKEN) SPONSORSHIP LEVEL \$25,000 (1 AVAILABLE)

- Naming recognition: Presented by [Sponsor]
- Logo on all conference materials and stage backdrop
- Speaking opportunity (opening or plenary)
- Complimentary exhibitor table
- 6 complimentary registrations
- Recognition in media, program, and post-conference report

### ayisiyiniw (HUMAN) SPONSORSHIP LEVEL \$15,000

- Prominent logo placement
- Sponsored breakout session or luncheon recognition
- Exhibitor table
- 4 complimentary registrations
- Acknowledgement in all digital and printed materials

### witaskiwin (ALLIANCE) SPONSORSHIP LEVEL \$7,500

- Logo placement on conference materials
- Shared session or cultural activity recognition
- 2 complimentary registrations
- Acknowledgement during opening remarks

### wâhkôhtowin (RELATIONSHIP) SPONSORSHIP LEVEL \$3,500

- Logo on website and program
- 1 complimentary registration
- Verbal acknowledgement
- Additional Opportunities (Custom)

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Elder Honoraria
- Youth & Student Sponsor
- Language Technology & Innovation Sponsor
- Cultural Event or Feast Sponsor
- Tote Bag/Lanyard/Program Sponsor

# BACKGROUND

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.



