B.C. FirstVoices Language Project

PROJECT INFORMATION

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is seeking partnerships with British Columbia First Nations to document their languages at FirstVoices

Project Contacts:

First Peoples' Cultural Council

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FUNDING SOURCES

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
New Relationship Trust

Project Description

Through its FirstVoices project, the First Peoples' Cultural Council develops Internet and app-based language archiving and education resources that provide First Nations language communities and learners with the tools to document and learn their rich linguistic heritage. The B.C. FirstVoices Language Documentation Project 2012–13 will provide B.C. community-based language documentation teams with training, technical support, equipment and funding for team members to build language resources at FirstVoices.com, create language lessons using the FirstVoices Language Tutor and develop dictionary apps for the iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch. Project options include the following:

A: FirstVoices Language Archiving Project

The FirstVoices Language Archiving project will provide languages *that do not have an existing FirstVoices archive* with training, technical support, equipment and funding to digitize and archive their language online at FirstVoices.com. Project outputs will include the following:

Community Portal	1,000 interactive word entries
Community Welcome Page	1,000 interactive phrase entries
Community Picture Gallery	2 stories
Community Art Gallery	2 songs
Interactive Alphabet	Dictionary/Phrase App

Possible training dates:
August 20th – 24th, 2012
September 17th – 21st, 2012

B: FirstVoices Archive Upgrades

The FirstVoices Archive Upgrades project will provide community-based language documentation teams with funding to update and add additional multimedia content to an existing FirstVoices archive. Project outputs will include:

Upgrades to text, images, videos and audio
Upgrades to FirstVoices Kids content
Additional 1000 words and 1000 phrases added to FirstVoices.com

C: Language Tutor Lesson Development OR Expansion

The FirstVoices Language Tutor project will provide community-based language documentation teams with training, technical support and funding to develop web-based language lessons.

The FirstVoices Language Tutor *Expansion* Project will provide teams with funding to develop additional lesson content and upgrade existing content. Project outputs will include:

5 thematic interactive language courses

Note: The community-based team will determine language lesson content, scope and levels. Suggested lesson topics will be provided.

D: FirstVoices Mobile Application Development OR Mobile Application Upgrades

The FirstVoices Mobile Application Development project will provide community-based language documentation teams with funding to update FirstVoices Kids content and repurpose this content to create a stand-alone mobile language app. The Mobile Application Upgrades project will allow teams to edit and update existing application content. Project outputs will include:

Development of a mobile app OR
Upgrades to mobile app content

About FirstVoices.com

FirstVoices is a suite of web-based tools and services designed to support First Nations people engaged in language archiving, language teaching and culture revitalization. To date, 65 communities are archiving at FirstVoices. The FirstVoices Language Archive contains thousands of text entries in many diverse First Nations writing systems, enhanced with sounds, pictures and videos. FirstVoices language games and resources are available to all FirstVoices users. This facilitates the continuing dynamic nature of the FirstVoices application. FirstVoicesKids.com provides access to FirstVoices language data for pre-readers. The collection of language games and activities at FirstVoicesKids.com uses picture interfaces to engage young children with the sounds of their languages. To access FirstVoices Kids, visit: www.firstvoiceskids.com. To access FirstVoices games, visit: www.firstvoices.com/en/games.

About FirstVoices Language Tutor

The FirstVoices Language Tutor provides First Nations language students with access to graduated interactive Web-based vocabulary and conversation building exercises. The application keeps track of student progress for both student and teacher. To take a sample lesson in Nak'azdli please visit: http://publish.myudutu.com/published/launch/1360/Course2787/Launch.html

About FirstVoices Mobile

As of May 2012, FirstVoices has developed 12 interactive dictionary/phrase apps for the iPod, iPad and iPhone. The apps contain text, audio, image and video content and are available as free downloads from the iTunes store. For a list of mobile apps currently available for download please visit: http://www.firstvoices.com/en/apps

Criteria Selection

Plan for Collaboration
The First Peoples' Cultural Council has determined that it can only support the 34 distinct languages of B.C. due to limited resources. Multi-dialect language groups are encouraged to collaborate around a central FirstVoices archive, Language Tutor and mobile app. Applicants applying to FirstVoices for funding are required to submit a plan for collaboration (see section 6 of the application form)

FirstVoices Language Administrator (FVLA)
The FirstVoices Language Administrator is the community-based project manager. The FVLA is responsible for all aspects of project fiscal management, documentation and communication. As the manager of their community FirstVoices language archive, the FVLA should possess an above average level of technical competency and communication skills in order to effectively administer the day-to-day operation of the site and the authorization of content displayed at FirstVoices. Ability to speak and write the language is an asset, but is not mandatory.

FirstVoices Language Recorder (FVLR)
The FVLR should possess strong technical skills, with the ability to quickly adapt to new computer hardware, web and audio recording technologies. Because of the intensive FirstVoices training period and the short intensive duration of the project, it is desirable to select someone for this position willing to firmly commit to seeing the project through.

Fluent Language Speaker
The most important member of the language documentation team is the person or people chosen to deliver the spoken word. It is important to select these participants based upon their knowledge of, and fluency with, the language, their ability and willingness to commit to a regular schedule of language recording sessions and their expected health and well being for the duration of the project.

Project Site Allocation

Participating communities will be expected to provide their FirstVoices language documentation team with suitable office space, furniture, high-speed Internet access and utilities as an "in-kind" contribution to the success of the project.

Public Access to Language Content

As a condition of participation, communities planning to participate in this project are advised that language content must be made publicly accessible via the Internet. Once the minimum content requirements are met, communities are free to create password protected "private" language archives at FirstVoices should they wish to.

Planning for Continuation of FirstVoices Resources

Each community language program chosen to participate in the B.C. FirstVoices Language Documentation Project is expected to commit to a long-term plan for continuing language documentation at FirstVoices.com. The First Peoples' Cultural Council offers a range of resources aimed at assisting community language teams to identify and apply for additional sources of language documentation funding to enable the "starter" resources created through this project to grow to their full potential. The First Peoples' Cultural Council seeks to inspire partner communities to set a target of over 20,000 entries at FirstVoices in order to achieve a lasting and viable language legacy.

About First Peoples' Cultural Council

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a provincial Crown Corporation formed by the government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program. Each of the 34 First Nations languages in B.C. is represented on the First Peoples' Advisory Committee. The mandate of First Peoples' Cultural Council is to assist B.C. First Nations in the revitalization of their languages, arts and cultures. See: www.fpcc.ca