FPCC to Co-Host International Indigenous Languages Conference

This summer, the First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation and the First Peoples’ Cultural Council, in partnership with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, will host a major international conference on Indigenous language revitalization to celebrate the United Nations 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages.

The HELISET TŦE SKÁL – ‘Let the Languages Live’ – 2019 International Conference on Indigenous Languages will take place in Victoria, B.C. from June 24 to 26, 2019. The international gathering will be held by and for Indigenous people. It will bring together language experts and advocates from around the world to share their successes and knowledge in language revitalization.

First Nations leaders from B.C. and across Canada are encouraged to attend the conference and to urge their community members to join.

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**LANGUAGE CHAMPIONS AND EXPERTS WELCOME**

“The conference will be a forum to highlight the important language revitalization work currently happening in B.C. at the community level,” said Tracey Herbert, Chief Executive Officer at the First Peoples’ Cultural Council.

“While B.C.’s First Nations languages are all severely threatened, there is a lot of reason for hope. We’re incredibly proud of the work being led by many brilliant First Nations people in this province whose commitment to re-building our culture through language is an inspiration to Indigenous language advocates the world over.”

This conference will offer multiple workshop streams, including practical training in language immersion, archiving and documentation techniques; language policy and legislation; language revitalization program planning; models for language revitalization and education; language and technology; and storytelling. Participants will gain practical skills and knowledge to apply to their Indigenous language revitalization work.

“With the declaration of the 2019 Year of Indigenous Languages, the UN begins a global shift in the history of Indigenous Peoples on this planet. Here in B.C. and around the globe, Indigenous Peoples are continuing their work to remember, reclaim, restore and revitalize their languages, knowledge and wisdom – the voices of the land and our ancestors,” said Wanosts’a7 Dr. Lorna Williams, Member of the Board, First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation.

Some funding will be available to assist with travel costs and registration fees to ensure the conference is accessible for Indigenous people from B.C. who want to attend.

For more information and to register, visit: [www.fpclanguageconference.ca](http://www.fpclanguageconference.ca)

**“HELISET TŦE SḰÁL — Let the Languages Live’ can teach the world about the beauty, wisdom and power in our languages to heal the spirit, community and the land.”**

— Wanosts’a7 Dr. Lorna Williams, Member of the Board, First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation

**FEDERAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES LEGISLATION**

The federal government has tabled legislation to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages in Canada. For updates on the progress of the legislation and information on the national engagement sessions please visit our legislation page: [www.fpcc.ca/language/legislation](http://www.fpcc.ca/language/legislation)
FPCC Making Record Investments in REVITALIZING B.C.’S FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES

Thanks to new funding, the First Peoples’ Cultural Council has significantly increased programs, outreach and funding to communities throughout the province to document and build fluency in B.C.’s First Nations languages. This new funding is already having an impact on language revitalization work in communities. For Edōsdi (Dr. Judy Thompson), Director of the Tahltan Central Government’s Language and Culture Program, the new FPCC funding means her community now receives more grants of higher value. In addition to their existing FPCC-funded language programs, they now receive B.C. Language Initiative grants and funding to document their languages using FirstVoices, which provides online tools for Tahltan speakers wherever they live. This is vital because, “the majority of Tahltan speakers are elderly, so there is a real urgency for adequate resources to build up our languages and maintain them for future generations,” said Edōsdi.

The language revitalization goals are to create fluent speakers through immersion programming at all levels, to record and document B.C.’s 34 unique First Nations languages and over 90 dialects for future generations and to help B.C. First Nations communities strengthen their language rebuilding efforts through strategic planning training and resources.

FPCC is excited about the progress that is already being made and even greater support for language grants and programs that will be coming in 2019/20.

IMMERSION PROGRAMMING

- More grants than ever are available for Mentor-Apprentice, Language Nest and the B.C. Language Initiative and Aboriginal Languages Initiative programs.
- **NEW!** Reclaiming my Language: A Course for Silent Speakers, launching in 2019, assists those who know their language but because of personal barriers are unable to speak it.
- Language grants are more accessible with more grants available, increased value of each grant and funding that is multi-year to support long-term planning.

LANGUAGE PLANNING

- **NEW!** Language Gathering and Sharing Grants program is funding language-based gatherings to encourage collaboration between communities. The application process is open year-round with grants up to $15,000.
- Regional Language Revitalization Coaches provide workshops and information on language planning resources and grant information. Two additional coaches are planned for 2019.
- **NEW!** Language Planning Program, launching in 2019/20, with comprehensive training and 10 grants for community language planning.

LANGUAGE ARCHIVING AND DIGITIZATION

- More grants for FirstVoices language archives will be available in 2019. Check our website for updates.
- FPCC is working to digitize our language resources and is developing a funding program for community language digitization projects to be launched in 2019.

RESOURCES & REPORTS

- **NEW!** FPCC now has Language Program Fact Sheets available in one package.
- **NEW!** Language for Life is a new resource to support fluency at home.

LINKS

- [www.fpcc.ca/language/resources](http://www.fpcc.ca/language/resources)
- [www.fpcc.ca/grants/language](http://www.fpcc.ca/grants/language)
- [www.fpcc.ca/language/programs](http://www.fpcc.ca/language/programs)
- [www.fpcc.ca/language/status-report](http://www.fpcc.ca/language/status-report)
First Peoples’ Cultural Council
EVENTS, OUTREACH AND TRAINING

SIGN UP FOR FPCC NEWS AND FUNDING ALERTS!

If you would like to receive email alerts on grant deadlines, program developments, FPCC events and more, join our mailing list: www.fpcc.ca/signup

The two artists for the BC Ferries Northern Sea Wolf project: Nuxalk Nation’s Danika Naccarella and Kwakiutl Nation’s Richard Hunt (Call to artists facilitated by FPCC)

Sarah Tom and Christine Edgar at the 2018 Mentor-Apprentice Team Training

Shayla Allison and Candice Gabriel from Outma Sqil’w at the 2018 Language Nest Training

Loretta Kristenson at the 2018 Elders Gathering

2018 Arts Administrative Intern Roundtable [L–R]: Rose Spahan, Curtis Clearsky, Rob Thomson, Valerie Bob
Meet the First Peoples’ Cultural Council
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION COACHES

Meet the new FPCC Language Coaches: ḥiikuusiinapšił Victoria Wells, who is Ehattesaht of the Nuuchahnulth, and TE,LI,MET,ȾTEN Glenn Jim, who is WSÁNEĆ from WŚÍKEM First Nation in North Saanich.

The language coaches have been travelling to First Nations communities throughout the province to support all aspects of project planning, grant writing and comprehensive language plan development.

These workshops are for language planners, leaders (traditional and elected), teachers, language champions, advisors, Elders, visionaries, youth and cultural leaders and anyone else interested in learning more about starting a language revitalization program.

So far, they’ve provided workshops in Tofino, Prince George, Cultus Lake, Brentwood Bay, Dawson Creek, Cranbrook, Terrace, and on Mid- and South-Vancouver Island. They have provided training to over 175 participants representing no less than 32 First Nations across the province.

Vicki and Glenn will be headed out to visit more communities in 2019 so please check here for more information and upcoming sessions: www.fpcc.ca/language/coaching

NEW! LANGUAGE GATHERING AND SHARING GRANTS

NEW GRANTS! FPCC is now offering funding of up to $15,000 for language-focused gatherings that bring First Nations communities and organizations in B.C. together to share about their current and future language revitalization projects and plans as follows:

• Informal language-based gatherings with two or more communities or organizations that share the same language.
• The goal of these events is to share information and resources and to provide opportunities for relationships that support language revitalization.
• Simplified grant applications are accepted on an on-going basis throughout the year.

For more information, visit: www.fpcc.ca/language/programs
FPCC Indigenous Music Initiative Supports B.C. Music Industry Professionals

In early 2018, FPCC launched funding for the Indigenous Music Initiative, in partnership with Creative BC, and we are excited to report that interest in this program continues to grow. There are currently two grant streams: Emerging Indigenous Music Industry (IMI) Professionals with grants up to $10,000 and Expanding Capacity in the Indigenous Music Recording Industry with grants up to $30,000.

Arts Manager Sarah Pocklington explains that the goal of the program is to “help Indigenous recording engineers with studios to gain more work, to provide more opportunities to Indigenous music administrators, to equip musicians with the knowledge, skills and information they need to be successful within the music industry and to increase the number of Indigenous people involved in the cultural industries so that the Indigenous music industry thrives.”

In May of 2018, FPCC and Creative BC hosted the Indigenous Music Retreat to connect up-and-coming musicians and industry professionals with each other and experienced mentors. Some incredible relationships have been formed that have continued beyond the retreat, creating a supportive community for Indigenous artists. Snotty Nose Rez Kids are just some of the artists who attended and they have gone on to be short-listed for the Polaris prize and nominated for a Juno award.

Eleven IMI grants were awarded in the 2018/19 program year and the recipients have been doing incredible work in their fields. Dayle Cutler received a grant to further develop his recording studio. He has expanded and is currently teaching recording engineering to youth, building up a whole new generation in the Indigenous music industry.

Dayle has been developing a workshop for youth on writing and recording hip hop and will be hosting one with FPCC at the 2019 Indigenous youth conference, Gathering Our Voices. He has also started working with Elders in his community to help them record their Indigenous language, which will have long-lasting benefits for his community.

This is just one example of what is possible when people receive the tools they need to expand their skills, not just for themselves, but also for those in their community and beyond. FPCC is excited to see how the program is growing and creating new and long-lasting opportunities for Indigenous music artists and professionals in B.C.

To learn more about the Indigenous Music Initiative, visit: www.fpcc.ca/arts/programs/indigenous-music-initiative

NEW $1,000 ARTS MICRO-GRANTS!

Are you an artist, musician, performer or arts collective with an emergent need to support your work? Arts Micro-Grants are intended to respond to extenuating circumstances and emergent needs, as well as to contribute to professional development in all artistic disciplines. Some examples would be:

- Travel costs for a performance or exhibit opening.
- Training and skill development.
- Provide the ability to pursue new opportunities.

Grant application requirements have been simplified and applications are accepted on an on-going basis. To learn more: www.fpcc.ca/arts/programs/micro-grants
FPCC welcomes Karen Aird as Manager of the Cultural Heritage Program. Karen Aird is a member of Saulteau First Nation in the Treaty 8 Territory of B.C., through her mother Marlene Cameron/Desjarlais. She brings 23 years of experience working with Indigenous communities and organizations across B.C. and Canada as an archaeologist in Indigenous heritage planning and management. Karen is President of the National Indigenous Heritage Circle, a non-profit organization focused on the identification, management and conservation of Indigenous heritage.

We are excited to have Karen on board to develop FPCC’s cultural heritage program and bring the voices of Indigenous people to the Indigenous cultural heritage conversation in B.C.

Through sustainable and comprehensive funding, the four goals of FPCC’s Indigenous cultural heritage program will be to:

1. Increase inter-generational transmission of Indigenous heritage and cultural knowledge.
2. Increase community capacity to support Indigenous cultural heritage through grants for best practices, capacity building, mentorships and cultural infrastructure development; develop training programs and tools; and advocacy efforts.
3. Conduct research to develop a strategy for the revitalization and maintenance of all forms of B.C. Indigenous heritage.
4. Invest in and develop a strong network of experts on revitalization of Indigenous heritage and cultural knowledge.

In an Indigenous context, cultural heritage refers to ideas, experiences, objects, artistic expressions, practices, knowledge and places that are valued because they are culturally meaningful, connected to shared memory, or linked to collective identity. The loss of Indigenous heritage is profound and there is an urgent and immediate need to achieve sustainable funding and support to protect it now and into the future.

FPCC’s Indigenous Cultural Heritage Program does not currently have funding to develop its program goals and grants streams. We are calling on all levels of government and organizations to support us in the important work of revitalizing and conserving the Indigenous cultural heritage of B.C.

Follow us on Facebook or sign up for updates on our website to keep up with news about FPCC’s new cultural heritage program: www.fpcc.ca/signup

“As Indigenous people, we know that our heritage is inherent and diverse and cannot be separated from our Indigenous language, culture or identity. It is a gift passed down from our ancestors as a legacy for future generations. It is my hope to expand the narrow and limiting concept of heritage and knowledge to include Indigenous perspectives in a transformative way.”

— Karen Aird, FPCC Cultural Heritage Program Manager

LEARN MORE – FEDERAL REPATRIATION LEGISLATION

Bill C-391 is a private member’s bill to “develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to promote and support the return of Indigenous human remains and cultural property, wherever situated, to the Indigenous peoples of Canada.”

FPCC will be providing ongoing information and progress updates about this legislation and what the outcomes could mean for Indigenous cultural heritage in B.C.

For more information on Bill C-391 please visit: www.fpcc.ca/heritage
Welcome New BOARD MEMBERS!

We held our 2018 Annual General Meeting from October 12-14 at the Kwa’lilas Hotel in Port Hardy. The AGM brings the Board and Advisory Committee members, and staff and program participants together to review the past year’s achievements and plan for the future.

WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO FPCC

• Ika’wege (Lou-ann Neel), a descendant of the Məl̓amllikullu, Da’nax’daxw, Ma’amtagila, ‘Namgis and Kwagiulth tribes of the Kwakwaka’wakw, is Vice-Chair
• Carla Lewis of the Gitdumden Clan of the Wet’suwet’en Nation
• Mâlågius (Gerald Lawson) from the Heiltsuk Nation

Full list: www.fpcc.ca/about-us/board

SEEKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We currently have several vacant seats on the Advisory Committee and are looking for applicants who have demonstrated a commitment to their community as knowledgeable champions of First Nations language, heritage, arts and culture.

View our current Advisory Board list for vacancies and information on how to apply: www.fpcc.ca/about-us/advisory

NEW BOARD CHAIR

FPCC is honoured to welcome Laax Lo’op (Cynthia Jensen Fisk) as our new Chair!

Believing that the language and the culture of the Gitx’san were “just sleeping,” Cynthia has worked her entire life to re-awaken them. She started the Doreen Jensen Memorial Gitx’san Language Class in 2009 in memory of her mother, Doreen Jensen. In addition to being a fluent speaker and teacher, she is also an accomplished practitioner of traditional art.

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