



Fall/Winter 2008



- 2** Letter from the Executive Director
- 3** First Nations Youth Uses Modern Tech
- 4** Developers Beef Up FirstVoices Keyboards
- 5** FirstVoices Facts
- 6** Arts Program Supports Traditions
- 7** Successful Partnership with the BC Arts Council
- 8** Winners of First Nations Art Competition
- 9** Cathi Charles Wherry - In my own words...
- 10** Language Nest Fosters Learning
- 11** You Ask, We Deliver

FirstVoices Online Language Archive Gets a Boost from Telus

A young First Nations actress digs for clams as a Telus camera operator focuses his lens on her hands. The Telus crew is gathered on the beach at Vancouver's Trout Lake to capture the verb "to dig." It's just one of 225 verbs that Telus is filming for the FirstVoices video library.

The video clips are each 5-8 seconds in length and are being filmed silently so they can be used in the future by any First Nations language group who is registered on the site and who wants to illustrate a phrase or verb in their own language by showing what it looks like "in action."

For First Nations languages, being able to see what a verb looks like is especially important. "While the foundations of many European languages are the nouns—most First Nations languages in Canada are rooted in their verbs—the action words," says Peter Brand, FirstVoices Coordinator. "This fact really accentuates the importance of being able



A Telus film crew with First Nations actors Alexis Wells and Juritha Owen, on location at Trout Lake in Vancouver

to visually demonstrate the meaning of verbs."

FirstVoices has many other elements already available in its online library to assist First Nations language learners—including audio that allows users to hear their own language spoken by fluent speakers. However, videos demonstrating verbs were missing from the existing tools—and enormously expensive to obtain.

"Telus really stepped up to the plate to help us with what we needed for this project," says Tracey Herbert, Executive Director of the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council. "A contribution like this

one is vitally important—not just for archiving the remaining 32 First Nations languages in B.C., but as a tool to stem the critical loss of language by inspiring a new generation of speakers."

The "Visual Verbs" project began in June and a Telus film crew—including two First Nations apprentices who are pursuing careers in video and new media production—filmed the verbs all summer. The new videos are now available for communities to use in their language archives and plans are in the works for more to come.

For more information, visit:
www.firstvoices.com

Letter from the Executive Director

This issue of our newsletter highlights successes in our efforts to document B.C. First Nations languages. We celebrate these successes but with each step forward, we know that the journey to full documentation of Aboriginal languages is taking too long.

The vast diversity of B.C. Aboriginal languages are threatened with imminent extinction. In most B.C. Aboriginal communities, the number of fluent speakers has dropped to less than ten elders and they are in their sixties and seventies. Time is running out.

At the 2006 First Citizens' Forum, delegates acknowledged that language and cultural renewal has the power to significantly change the lives of communities and that it has a profound effect in improving the health, self-confidence and pride of Aboriginal youth and adults. At the same forum, Premier Gordon Campbell said, "If we lose those languages, we lose a piece of our province's heritage, and in doing so we lose a piece of ourselves."

If this rich diversity of languages is to have any chance of surviving for the next generation of young Aboriginal British Columbians, drastic steps must be taken immediately to ensure that a viable digital record is meticulously archived for them and for their children and all future generations of Aboriginal British Columbians.

Since it was launched in 2003, the FirstVoices project of the First Peoples' Council has developed program infrastructure to make this



"In most B.C. Aboriginal communities, the number of fluent speakers has dropped to less than ten elders and they are in their sixties and seventies. Time is running out."

happen and has documented as much as possible with available funding. Currently there are 41 B.C. First Nations languages with 72,000 word entries archived on the FirstVoices website. While this is progress, it represents less than five percent of what is required in order to document First Nations languages in B.C.

With time running out, the First Peoples' Council has developed a plan to fully document these languages over three years through the FirstVoices project. This will take funding that the

Council does not presently have. We are looking for partners in this vital effort and with your help, I'm confident we will find them.

Together we can hasten the journey to full documentation of B.C. First Nations languages—we owe it to our Elders.

*Tracey Herbert
Executive Director
First Peoples' Heritage,
Language and Culture Council*



FIRST PEOPLES'
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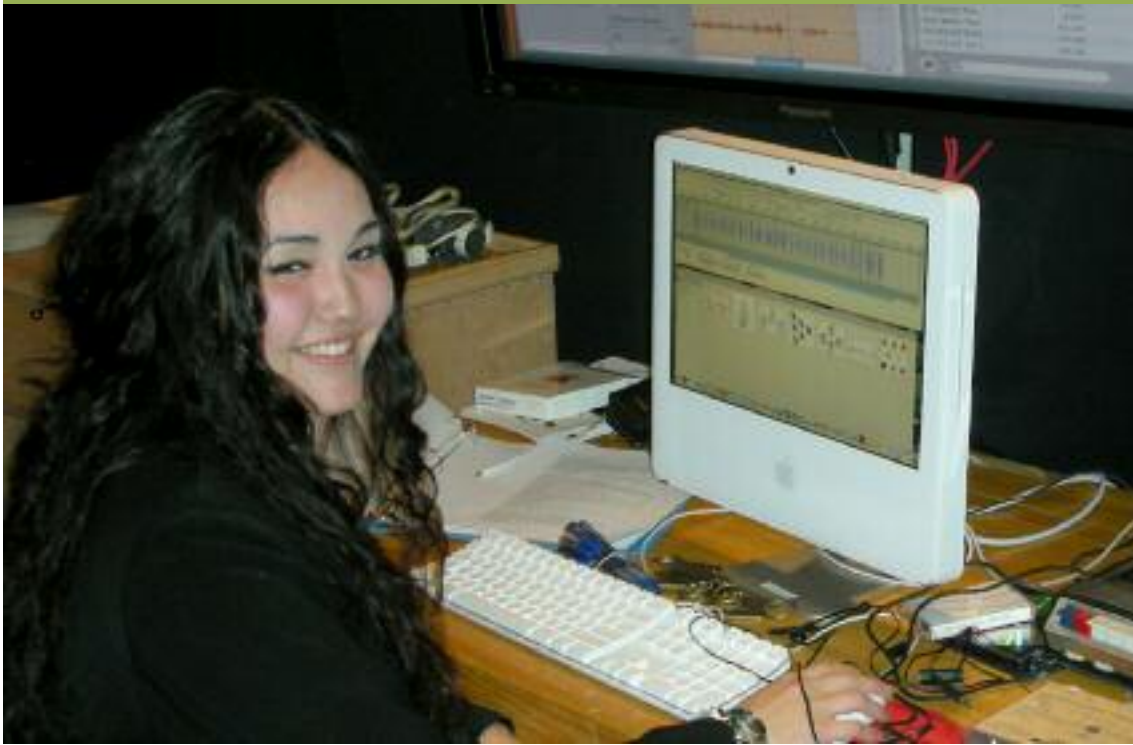
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First Nations Youth Uses Modern Technology to Revitalize Languages



Marisa Phillips organizes recordings of the Ktunaxa language for the FirstVoices website

At 20 years of age, Marisa Phillips is pretty clear about where her career is headed.

"I've found that I work really well with cameras and computers," she says. "I'm definitely going to be heading down a technological road in my career."

Marisa began working with FirstVoices in 2007, first creating an online archive of Ktunaxa words, phrases, images and songs using audio recording equipment and a digital camera. She found that the computer work and audio editing seemed to come naturally. She completed the project and it wasn't long before FirstVoices asked her to participate in a pilot project called "Language Tutor," an online program that delivers language exercises in listening, speaking and reading.

Although she doesn't have any formal training on computers, says Marisa, "as a kid, I used the computer for games and the internet. That was pretty much the extent of my knowledge. But when I started working with FirstVoices, I latched onto the technology very quickly."

Marisa is one of a new generation of First Nations youth in B.C. who are taking up the language cause and who understand how to use new tools to keep their traditions and language alive.

"To me, language revitalization work is incredibly important. Personally, my language is very close to being extinct. We have only 27 fluent speakers in our Nation," says Marisa. "The FirstVoices projects combine our old knowledge with the technology today."

Another tool that Marisa has helped to pioneer for her work on First Nations language revitalization uses a simple iPod. In 2007, a woman from the Ktunaxa First Nation approached Marisa with a 15-year-old Ktunaxa language tape and asked how it could be used to teach others.

"I told her it would probably be really simple to do," says Marisa. "After I had loaded all of the files, I created a web page. It was just created out of an I-web program. And from this podcasting website, my people were able to download it on their iPods." The result was that anybody in the community with an iPod would have access to a previously unused, but important language resource.

The easy solution brought Marisa to international attention and led to an invitation to

present a session on using podcasting in language revitalization work at the annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium in the U.S. last year. As a follow up, she created a PowerPoint presentation and a short movie with step-by-step instructions on how to use podcasting as a way to teach language.

Most recently, Marisa has been working with Telus technicians to help with the production of more than 225 short video clips demonstrating verbs. Earlier this year, the telecommunications giant chose two Aboriginal youths— including Marisa and Burton Amos—to help with the production of the clips for the FirstVoices website. With all of her experience working on FirstVoices, Phillips was a natural choice.

"I have definitely been learning in the visual verbs project. Drawing 250 storyboards requires being mentally and physically fit. All the hands-on experience is absolutely wonderful," she says.

It's just one more project that this young language crusader can add to her growing resume. With so much still to be done to revitalize First Nations languages in B.C., it's critical work that will make the difference to the survival of these languages in the province.

To find out more about how the Ktunaxa Nation is using podcasting technology as a language tool, visit:

http://web.mac.com/mphillips_ktunaxa



Developers Beef Up FirstVoices Keyboards



Chris Harvey explains the process for creating a keyboard for a new language on the FirstVoices website.

“The first step is for the FirstVoices team to contact the community to get the full orthography—the writing system of the language. That will include letters that are used from the English alphabet, special characters that are not in English and any accents that may appear both above and below letters.

They also get the alphabetical “order” for that language. We have to make sure we know the order so that the FirstVoices website will place the letters on the keyboards in the order that a speaker expects.

I take that information and figure out how to best represent that language on the computer. There are huge catalogues with every letter in every language in use on the planet. We take the characters for each specific language and find out how to get those to appear on a computer.

The next step is to find a way for the computer to recognize each letter because computers do not come with these languages pre-installed.

After that, for a Mac, I develop a keyboard layout so that the speakers of the language can type their language using each character they need.

On a Windows system, I use Marc’s Keyman developer software—he has a programming language that you use to remap the identity of the English keyboard. For example, if a language needs an x with a line under it, I might take the slash key on the English keyboard and remap it as an x with a line under it so the speaker will have an easy-to-remember-way to reproduce that particular letter.

So far, we’ve gone through this process for at least 45 different languages.”

Chris Harvey and Marc Durdin recently visited our Brentwood Bay offices to help us upgrade the online keyboards that are the backbone of the FirstVoices Language Archive.

Marc is the inventor of “Keyman” and “Keyman Web” software, which allow users to type in their original languages using a special keyboard that appears on their computer screen. Each language on FirstVoices.com has its own custom keyboard.

Chris works with Marc to create these keyboards (see left sidebar on how he does it) and is the developer of the fonts—Aboriginal Sans and Aboriginal Serif—that all First Nations languages use to represent the unique letters of their languages.

Chris and Marc visited the First Peoples’ Council offices to update the FirstVoices keyboards based on feedback from communities about how their languages should be written. Because of recent changes in technology, the two developers were also able to fine-tune how the languages are represented onscreen to make typing easier.

Keyman Technology Is Born

Although they’re a great team now, Chris Harvey and Marc

Durdin haven’t always worked together.

Back in 1992, Marc was living in Laos in Southeast Asia when he was faced with a problem—how to type the local language, Lao, on his computer. Because there wasn’t a way to do it in Windows, he wrote a program. Then friends suggested he should do the same for other Thai languages.

“So I ran home and jumped on the computer and updated it to include northern Thai languages and it just exploded from there,” Marc says. “We now have over a million users all around the world in over 600 languages in 180 countries.”

After hearing about Marc’s language programming, Peter Brand of FirstVoices contacted him in 2001 looking for a solution for typing in different First Nations languages. Marc introduced Peter and FirstVoices to his “Keyman” keyboard software, a product that FirstVoices now uses to allow PC users to write in the many unique writing systems of their languages.

“Keyman Web,” developed only recently, makes it possible to embed keyboards for each language directly into each FirstVoices archive on the website. In this way, people can



Marc Durdin of Tasmania, inventor of “Keyman” and “Keyman Web”

easily access and contribute to their language archive on the FirstVoices website without having to have an actual physical keyboard available to them.

"FirstVoices is the first Canadian Aboriginal use of Keyman Web," Marc says. "And I think we've only just scratched the surface of where Keyman Web will be used on the FirstVoices website and in other places."

Marc Durdin lives in Hobart, Tasmania. Find out more about Keyman and Keyman Web at www.tavultesoft.com.

Creating Aboriginal Fonts

"Many years ago, I decided to take a Cree immersion course in Saskatchewan," says Chris Harvey. "Those were in the days when the Cree writing system was impossible to find on a computer—there was just no way to do it. So, before I packed and went to Saskatchewan, I decided to make my own Cree font, so I could take notes while I was learning it. That was my first time working with language development on a computer."

"After that, when I met a speaker of another language, I would help them develop whatever font was necessary for their language," he says.

What started as a tool to make learning easier for a course in Cree has become a lifelong interest and successful career for Chris. Today, he focuses specifically on Indigenous North American languages on his website:

www.languagegeek.com.

Chris Harvey is based in Hamilton, Ontario.



FirstVoices Facts

Created in 2003 with funding provided by the province of British Columbia and the Department of Canadian Heritage, FirstVoices is an online First Nations language documentation and learning tool, with a focus on the many diverse Aboriginal languages of B.C. The First Peoples' Council administers the project, providing training and ongoing support for language communities.

As of November 2008, FirstVoices is working with 41 First Nations communities in B.C.

There are 59 First Nations languages and/or dialects of languages in the province of B.C. (there are officially 32 First Nations languages).

The First Peoples' Council now works with over half of them.

Currently there are 63 languages and dialects archived on the FirstVoices website: (with more being added all the time)

- 41 for B.C.
- 17 for the rest of Canada
- 5 from California

Top Language Archives: (November 2008)

- Kwak'wala
- Nisga'a
- Halq'eméylem (Sto:lo)
- Ktunaxa

According to linguists, a typical First Nations language lexicon numbers between 20,000 and 30,000 words.

To date, the most successful FirstVoices language archive contains approximately 4,600 entries, comprised of 3,500 words and 1,100 phrases.

If we realistically estimate that we could gather 20,000 entries for each language, the required number of entries would be 1.5 million.

So far, FirstVoices has 72,000 entries, which is 4.8% of what is required in order to document First Nations languages in B.C. overall. That means that 96% of what needs to be documented is still left to do.

FirstVoices website: www.firstvoices.com



Deborah Page, the language coordinator for the Nak'azdli FirstVoices team in Fort St. James, building a database

Nisga'a Children Learn Importance of Traditions through Arts Program Grant



Breanne Percival hard at work drawing a crest for the Nisga'a Spirit Lava Dancers' regalia

Formed in 2004, the Nisga'a Spirit Lava Dancers are a dance group of approximately 20 to 30 dancers ranging in age from 4 to 60. In 2008, they received a grant from the First Peoples' Council to create drums and regalia to be used in performances by the group.

"The grant for the drums and regalia making allowed us to assist some of our young group in making simple regalia," says Teresa McMillan, manager of the Lava Dancers. "Family crests are used traditionally. Our dance director, Peter McKay, showed the children how to draw their own crest designs and some of the children used these designs in their regalia."

"The drum making workshop was key in being able to share

another aspect of the Nisga'a culture," says Teresa. "The children learned more about their history through the art of drum making, including how drums were used yesterday and continue to be part of our culture today."

Both the drums and regalia were an important part of a dance performance held in July at the "Gathering of Many Nations" in New Aiyansh, B.C. "It was very exciting to see the

students join in, with parents and family members all feeling very proud of their child's accomplishments," she says.

Through creative projects such as making moccasins, necklaces and various masks, the Lava Dancers have been able to pass along the important values and traditions intrinsic to the Nisga'a culture. The dance troupe applied for the grant from the First Peoples' Council, not just for the performance event at New Aiyansh, but also as a way to continue passing on the teaching of "yuuhlimkaskw," a practice that accompanies all Nisga'a traditional education.

"We believe that in order for the children to feel a positive sense of self, they must see for themselves the good that they have learned and create a physical model of what they hold in their hearts and minds," says Maureen Morven, president of the dance troupe.

"As the children learn and create different

forms of art, they receive counsel on the correct uses and treatment of these projects, as well as warnings against improper use. This is yuuhlimkaskw. We trust that if each child is guided in this way, they will be better equipped to choose a life without drugs, alcohol and violence, which in itself holds a possibility of a future with unlimited advantages."

The Aboriginal Arts Development Awards are funded through the generous support of the BC Arts Council. For more information and to apply for this year's round of funding, including two new grant programs, refer to the back page of this newsletter.

Applications can be found online in the "Arts" section at www.fphlcc.ca.



A Successful Partnership with the BC Arts Council Brings More Funding to Artists

Who is the British Columbia Arts Council?

The BC Arts Council is the agency of the government of the Province of British Columbia committed to ensuring that all British Columbians are able to participate in a healthy arts and cultural community recognized for its excellence.

The organization's mission is to support the arts and cultural community to achieve its creative, social and economic potential.

For more information, visit:
www.bcartscouncil.ca.

The Aboriginal Arts Development Awards (AADA)—now going into their 16th year—began in 1993 at what is now the BC Arts Council. That year, Jeremy Long, the BC Arts Council's current executive director, launched the awards with support from the provincial government. Then, as now, the awards offered grants to Aboriginal artists working in the province of B.C.

"After about three years of running the program ourselves," says Jeremy, "we found we weren't making inroads into the communities. That's when we approached First Peoples' to see if they would consider housing the program." With well-established connections to the First Nations community outside of urban areas, the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council was the natural choice to deliver a program that needed broad participation from Aboriginal artists.

Since the program began, it has grown significantly, and each year demand far exceeds the availability of funds." During the past 10 years, there has been a significant increase in the number, diversity and quality of applications," says Cathi Charles Wherry, Arts Program Coordinator at the First Peoples' Council. "Approximately 90 applications from Aboriginal artists are now submitted every year."

The program's growth corresponds with a flourishing of First Nations arts and culture in the province. "First Peoples' has been doing arts outreach

across the province for several years and over the past five, it has really shown great results," says Jeremy. "The work of First Peoples' has generated a lot of artistic and cultural activity throughout the B.C. First Nations community."

The program's emphasis on offering support to applicants throughout the process, many of whom are emerging artists is also reaping results. "We can see that a lot of Aboriginal artists are now making the transition to applying to our other funding programs, which was always our goal. It's clear that many Aboriginal artists have learned how to create successful applications for funding through the support they received from the AADA."

In 2008, the BC Arts Council was able to double its funding to the First Peoples' Council, which will allow the organization to expand its program offering to Aboriginal artists. The funding increase is thanks to a generous donation from the provincial government through the BC 150 Cultural Fund, a fund set up to celebrate the province's 150th birthday.

Jeremy Long is hopeful that this trend will continue. "I'm hoping that in the long-term, other funders get involved," says Jeremy. "It's great that the New Relationship Trust is now funding the arts program, but I think it's time that other funders also stepped in to increase the resource base at First Peoples'."



Cathi Charles Wherry, Arts Program Coordinator at the First Peoples' Council and Jeremy Long, Executive Director at the BC Arts Council

Calling All Events!

Do you have an event in 2009 that you'd like to share? We're looking for Aboriginal events related to language, arts and culture to publish on our website (www.fphlcc.ca) and in future editions of this newsletter. Send your event to megan@fphlcc.ca

Coming Soon: a Digital Version of this Newsletter

Would you like to receive a digital version of this newsletter? Send your request to: megan@fphlcc.ca

Winner of the iPod Announced

The winner of the draw for an iPod nano at our booth at the North American Indigenous Games in Duncan, B.C. in August was Bertha Williams of Delta B.C. Congratulations, Bertha!



First Nations Art Commissions Announced

The winners of the competition that will enhance the First Nations art collection at Government House in B.C.'s capital city have been selected.

Luke Marston of Ladysmith will carve a 12-foot healing pole that will be raised on the grounds of Government House.

Bruce Alfred, Kwakwaka'wakw from Namgis, will create a steam bent canoe box.

Marianne Nicolson from Victoria and a member of the Dzawada'enuxw Tribe of the Kwakwaka'wakw, will create an original acrylic painting with mixed media inlay.

Debra Sparrow, who is from Musqueam will be weaving two ceremonial blankets in the Coast Salish tradition.


In June, the First Peoples' Council announced that it would be accepting proposals from artists for the project. A panel of respected First Nations artists was brought together, and in October they made their selections from 28 submissions. The selection committee included Doreen Jensen, Dempsey Bob, Arthur Vickers and Brenda Crabtree.

The proposals were impressive and included ideas for a wide range of artistic works from both high-profile and emerging artists from across the province.

"The high caliber of proposals that were submitted by First Nations artists was not surprising to us," says Tracey Herbert, Executive Director of the First Peoples' Council. "It is truly

representative of the richness of First Nations cultural and artistic traditions in British Columbia."

The project is being funded through a \$100,000 grant from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation as part of the BC150 celebrations. One of the aims of BC150 has been to honour, support and celebrate Aboriginal arts and

culture in the province. The four original works will be created over the next several months and will be unveiled at a special celebration at Government House in Victoria in 2009. 



Conceptual drawing of a 12-foot healing pole submitted by Luke Marston of Ladysmith, B.C.

Staff Profile - Cathi Charles Wherry

In my own words...

"Since 1996, I have worked as Art Programs Coordinator for the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council. This work supports Aboriginal and First Nations artists and cultural workers in B.C. through development and delivery of arts funding, provision of resources and training, and advocacy on a regional and national level.

I feel very fortunate to do the work I do. I think I have the best job in the arts in B.C. I feel honoured to be playing a small role in helping people realize their dreams and visions and I appreciate being involved in work that actually makes the world a better place.

Since 1979, I have lived on beautiful Coast Salish territory in Victoria. I graduated from the Visual Arts Program at Camosun College and have an honours Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Studio Arts from the University of Victoria. In all of my work, I strive to maintain a healthy balance between this training and my understanding of the traditional Anishnabe sensibility that resides in my memory and my bones.

I am Anishnabeque, and a member of the Rama Mnjikaning First Nation in Ontario, where my father was born. My mother's ancestors came across the sea four generations ago. I didn't grow up immersed in the culture of my people.

For many reasons, my Mishomis (grandfather), who served in Europe during World War I,

moved the family off reserve when my father was 12. My father was a fluent Ojibway speaker at the time. He grew up, met my mother and made a life for himself. So I was raised in a working class town where there were very few Indian families, and although we would visit Rama, you might say I grew up like a fish out of water. In a strange way, this gave me insight into the importance of knowing who you are, and being connected to your culture.

I think that because I'm both part of the community and not from here, it has helped me in this job—helped me to be fair and neutral. The reality of going

back and forth between worlds while growing up was a challenge, but in some way it has given me one of my greatest gifts in the work I do.

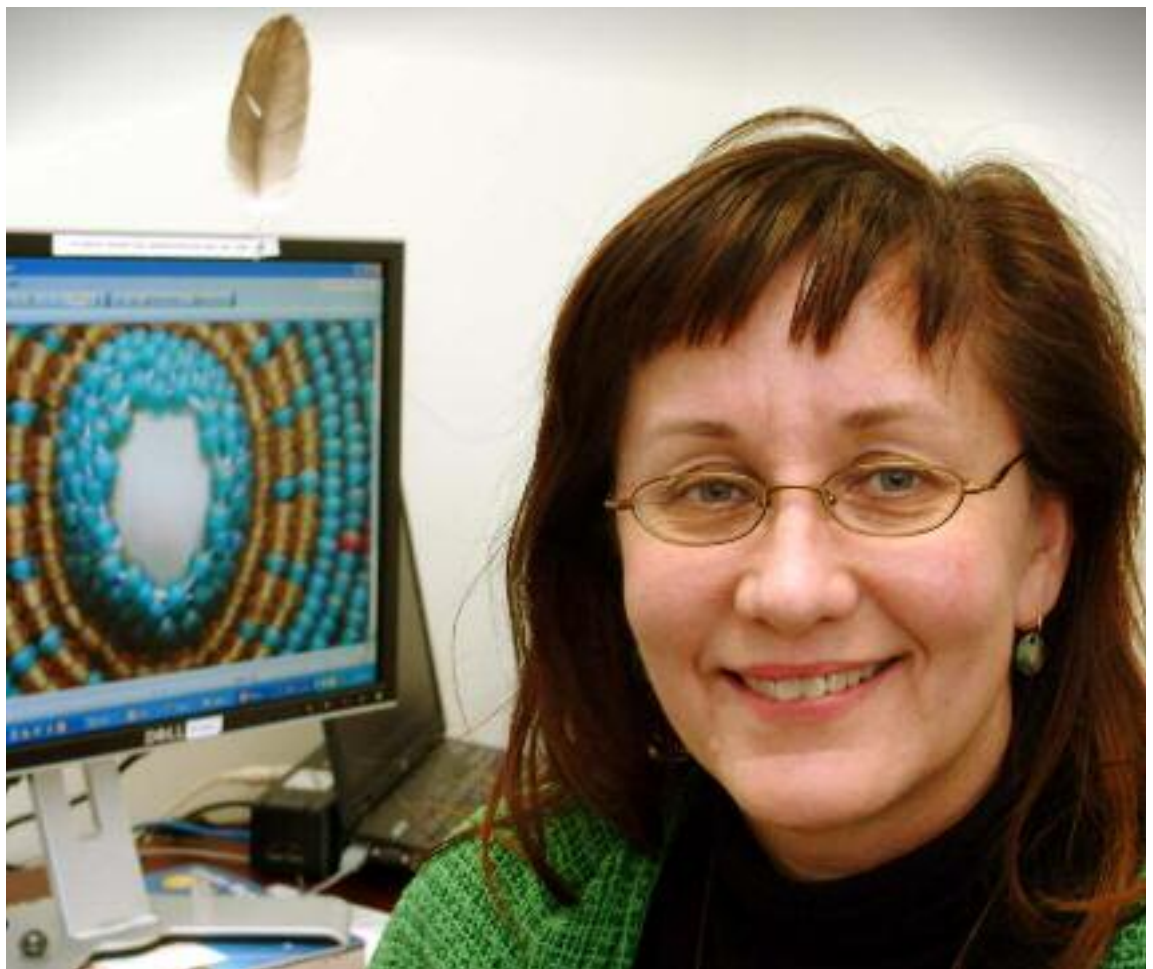
I am a visual artist, a curator, a writer and an arts educator. I think it gives me an important insight into the needs of the people I'm serving. I approach everything I do as an artist.

I look forward to returning to my own art practice. In my free time, my big ambition is simply to grow food, cook and make art. One of my goals is to learn and practice as much self-sufficiency as I can.

I also like doing beadwork and

adornment arts. Ten years ago I started to learn some of the skills related to making birch bark baskets and feel a real connection to that material. Both my Nikomis (grandmother) and great grandmother made them but I didn't have the opportunity to learn from them. Now I feel a sense of responsibility to learn how to work with the materials.

I have a 21-year-old son and wonderful partner as well as a 13-year-old stepson. Being a mother has made this and everything about my work and my culture more important to me." 📷



Pre-school Language Nest Fosters Okanagan language for Children and Educators

About the Language Nest Program

The Pre-school Language Nest provides a total immersion setting for young learners of First Nations languages. Children range in age from newborn to 3-5 years of age. Language Nest teachers utilize community resources and are themselves either fluent speakers or are in the process of becoming fluent speakers in their languages.

Last year, the First Peoples' Council signed a three-year agreement with the successful B.C. Language Nests, a collaborative project funded by the New Relationship Trust, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation (through a trust established by the Ministry of Children and Family Development).

In its first year, the First Peoples' Council supported new or established immersion programs to work towards 100% immersion programming, and to develop a community plan for capacity building, training, and curriculum development. Projects are now in their second year.

"It's interesting to me to know that young children hear sounds in words that are sometimes hard for us to hear," says early childhood educator, Ramona Wilson. "Sometimes it's very tiny sounds at the end of words or words from deep in the back of the throat that children pick up."

It's all part of her learning as Ramona teaches 15 two- and three-year-olds the Okanagan language at the Snc'c'amala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre in Vernon. And with the help of a successful Language Nest proposal submitted to the First Peoples' Council, she has also been able to have an Elder, Virginia Gregoire, in the classroom.

"She's grandmotherly and kind and she helps us out in so many ways," says Ramona. "I'm Okanagan and she's helped me to learn the language, too."

The Okanagan Indian Band was one of six successful applicants for Language Nests in 2007-08, the first year of this new First Peoples' Council program. Funded by the New Relationship Trust, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation (through a trust established by the Ministry of Children and Family Development), Language Nests are intended to help preschool children and their parents to become fluent in their original languages.


The Okanagan Band reports that the Language Nest experience has been valuable for staff and teachers. They have been able to improve their skills and knowledge generally in the Okanagan language through modeling and coaching, and have benefited from the presence of Elders who can answer the question, "how do

you pronounce that?" Over six months, the children in the infant/toddler room and the age three- to five-room have learned basic vocabulary and how to respond to simple directions and commands.

Parents who have been developing their own vocabularies at language classes or through fluent speakers in their families, have expressed their pride about the amount of the language their children have internalized.

"I like the idea of our daycare having the Language Nest Program," says Lacey Gabriel, a parent of one of the young students. "Now Devon will be able to learn the language from a young age and pass it down to his family in the future. I believe this program will better our community for language revitalization."

Children from the Okanagan language immersion school—many of whom are older siblings of children in the infant/toddler and three- to five-year-old rooms have also—on occasion, come to speak, sing and engage in interactive performances with the younger kids.

In the long term, Ramona believes the Language Nest will just be the beginning for the children in her classroom. "They will go on to our headstart room and to our immersion school. This experience is teaching us that we can do this and that the language is not going to be gone forever." 



Students and teachers from the Snc'c'amala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre in Vernon, B.C.

You Ask, We Deliver

Following the recommendations of language program grant recipients, the Language Programs department is pleased to announce it is developing new online forms for the Aboriginal Language Initiative (ALI) and the BC Language Initiative (BCLI) Programs.

Applications, tutorials, and interim and final report forms have been available online for the past few years in both Word and PDF formats. We've gotten a lot of positive feedback about

this online system, but you've also told us how we can improve, by clarifying the language in all of the forms and making the reporting forms available online sooner.

We've been listening! Over the past few months, we've been updating the forms, making them more user-friendly based on your feedback.

Here's what else is new:

- Final report forms will be available online at least two

weeks prior to the reporting deadline.

- Tutorials for ALI and BCLI have been revamped and tutorials will soon be available for new programs, including Language Authority, Language Camp, Language Nest and Master Apprentice.
- The wording in the forms has been updated and edited for clarity.

We'd like to know what you think. Please feel free to

download the forms that are available and provide feedback on their usability by contacting the Language Programs Coordinator at deanna@fphlcc.ca or the Language Programs Assistant at leah@fphlcc.ca.

All forms and tutorials can be found at www.fphlcc.ca/tk_forms.aspx.

Language Program Forms Available

In the table below we've listed when all of the forms will be available on the website, including applications for the new funding year.

AVAILABLE NOW	AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER	AVAILABLE IN 2009
ALI/BCLI Interim Report Interim Report Tutorial Request for Project Amendment Form	BCLI 2009/2010 Application (Deadline: February 27, 2009) BCLI Application Guidelines	Final Report Final Report Tutorial ALI 2009/2010 Application ALI Application Guidelines
Language Authority	Request for Project Amendment Form	Application Guidelines Final Report Final Report Tutorial
Language Culture Camp	Request for Project Amendment Form	2009/2010 Application Application Guidelines Final Report Final Report Tutorial Language Immersion Project Pre-Course Survey Language Immersion Project Post-Course Survey Language Culture Camp: Camper Evaluation Form
Language Nest	Request for Project Amendment Form	Application Guidelines Final Report Final Report Tutorial
Master-Apprentice	Fluency Evaluation Plan Master-Apprentice Log Sheet Master-Apprentice Panel Evaluation Report	Application Guidelines

The Aboriginal Arts Development Awards Put Out Call for Proposals and Announce NEW Funding

Since 1996, the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council has delivered the Aboriginal Arts Development Awards grant program through a partnership with the BC Arts Council.

Proposals are accepted from First Nations and Aboriginal artists, arts and culture organizations, and established collectives that have a demonstrated commitment to their practice in any artistic discipline—visual, music, dance, theatre, literary or media, and including the contemporary practice of traditionally based forms. Last year, 90 proposals were received, and 21 individuals and 19 groups or organizations were awarded a total of \$304,490 through the program.

This year, the First Peoples' Council is pleased to announce two new streams of funding. With additional support from the New Relationship Trust and the BC Arts Council, this longstanding program will be enhanced by the launch of two new programs: **Sharing Traditional Arts Across Generations Program** and **Aboriginal Arts Administrator and Cultural Manager Internships Program**.

See below or visit our website for more information about these new programs.

Emerging Individual Artists Program – for Artistic and Professional Development

Deadline: December 1, 2008

Assists adult Aboriginal artists and arts professionals to:

- ☑ increase their skills and knowledge through advanced mentorship and training
- ☑ gain the recognition of their peers (artists who work in the same artistic tradition)
- ☑ develop a history of public presentation (not necessarily in publicly-funded venues)
- ☑ devote more time to their work

Organizations Program – for Arts Production and Organizational Capacity Building Projects

Deadline: December 1, 2008

Assists Aboriginal organizations and established unincorporated arts collectives to:

- ☑ advance the work of Aboriginal artists
- ☑ enhance their activities as an arts and culture organization or collective
- ☑ build capacity and sustainability for the organization for the benefit of artists and audiences
- ☑ enhance their connections to other arts organizations or networks.

NEW! Sharing Traditional Arts Across Generations

Deadline: January 15, 2009

Will encourage sharing of cultural and artistic knowledge from one generation to another.

The program is meant to:

- ☑ enhance traditional arts activities in all disciplines
- ☑ increase the training and participation of artists in these practices
- ☑ support the transfer of artistic knowledge and skills between generations
- ☑ enhance the network of artists practicing traditional art forms in all disciplines

NEW! Aboriginal Arts Administrator and Cultural Manager Internships

Deadline: January 15, 2009

Will provide community-based internship and training opportunities to individuals who have demonstrated commitment to arts administration and cultural management.

The program will support professional development through:

- ☑ organized internships with a mentor at a host organization
- ☑ structured distance mentorships
- ☑ relevant training, research or travel

For more information and to apply for programs, visit www.fphlcc.ca and click on the "Arts" link.



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