



# NEWS

ĆENKI, LES (Spring)  
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# ALL PARTNERS' GATHERING

ÍY SÇÁĆEL, gilakas'la, ha7lh skwáyel, tânisi, shé:kon,  
boozhoo, kwe', hóʔą, le7 te sitqt! (greetings)

We look forward to reconnecting with Partners and collaborators in person on Wednesday, June 6th, at our All Partners' Gathering. We will meet in Lethbridge, AB, taking advantage of the Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium (SILS) being hosted in Canada this year.

SILS 2018 will run June 7-9, and each day will have a distinct focus and audience: Research - Day 1, Instructional Skills - Day 2, and Education - Day 3.

Onowa Mclvor is one of the keynote speakers and will talk about the NEȚOLNEW 'one mind, one people' project on Thursday, June 7. We will also have information about how interested communities can participate in the Environmental Scan project (see below for more on the EnviroScan).

Looking ahead, the Dehcho First Nations has invited the Partnership to meet in the Northwest Territories in fall 2019 – An incredible opportunity to meet on the land in the North during the United Nations Year of Indigenous Languages!



*Impression from the Northwest Territories*

# NETOLNEW ONLINE

Have you visited our project website yet? Created by our Research Assistant Nicole Davies (*below, left*), the NETOLNEW partnership now has a home online at [www.netolnew.ca](http://www.netolnew.ca) (*below, right*). Nicole (Saulteaux Anishinaabe and Métis) is coordinating all of our communications and is behind the design of the newsletter you are currently reading. You can also follow us on Twitter [@netolnew](https://twitter.com/netolnew), and you can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NETOLNEW/>.



**NETOLNEW 'one mind, one people'**

@netolnew

Working to understand and enhance Indigenous adults' contributions to reviving Indigenous languages in Canada

# PARTNER UPDATES

UPDATE FROM

**TSI  
TYÓNNEHT  
ONKWAWÉN:NA**



## Using oral language resources in language learning

*By Callie Hill and Thohtharátye Brant*

*“How can first language speakers’ oral language recordings be used as a learning tool to increase proficiency in adult second language learners?”*

This is the research question Callie Hill and Thohtharátye Brant have set out to address over the next couple of years. Specifically, they will use Kanyen’kéha mother tongue (K1) recordings collected at meetings with Elders (from neighboring communities) to support adult Kanyen’kéha second language (K2) learners.

One of the key recommendations of the Kenhtè:ke Strategic Plan (2017) for Kanyen’kéha is to focus on creating proficient adult speakers. Tyendinaga being a community of no adult K1 speakers, they have to find creative ways to develop and implement programming somewhat in isolation. Callie and Thohtharátye have an approved research plan that will investigate the effectiveness and challenges of using K1 language documentation to create a learning model to increase proficiency of K2 speakers.

*Article continued on next page.*



*Kanyen'kéha K1 Speakers attending the Ratiwennókwás Gathering IV ("They are choosing the words"), October 28, 2017 (photo credit: Callie Hill).*

One of the key recommendations of the Kenhtè:ke Strategic Plan (2017) for Kanyen'kéha is to focus on creating proficient adult speakers. Tyendinaga being a community of no adult K1 speakers, they have to find creative ways to develop and implement programming somewhat in isolation. Callie and Thohtharátýe have an approved research plan that will investigate the effectiveness and challenges of using K1 language documentation to create a learning model to increase proficiency of K2 speakers.

The work will begin with analyzing existing recordings from previous Elder gatherings and Thohtharátýe will work with Elders to expand the recorded resources to include language used in different social interactions. Documented K1 Kanyen'kéha language will then be used to create a variety of curricula and materials, including word frequency lists, short stories, and conversations. These will be distributed to various groups of K2 learners and their feedback sought, as learners' feedback will be central to understanding the use and effectiveness of these new resources. Through surveys, talking circles, and one-on-one interviews, the strengths and challenges of using recorded K1 oral language resources in adult Indigenous language programs will be assessed to inform next steps.



*Thohtharátýe Brant (far left) with Kanyen'kéha K1 Speakers at the Ratiwennókwás Gathering IV ("They are choosing the words"), October 29, 2017 (photo credit: Callie Hill)*

UPDATE FROM

# WSÁNEĆ SCHOOL BOARD



## WSÁNEĆ update – Adapting tools and methods for SENĆOŦEN

*By Tye Swallow, David PENÁĆ Underwood, and John STOLŹEŁ Elliott*



*Our SELWÁN SKAPEŁ - Elders' Standardization Working Group, February 28, 2018. From left to right: SELILIYE Belinda Claxton, FELÁMTEN Louis Claxton, STOLŹEŁ John Elliott, linguist Tim Montler and PENÁĆ David Underwood. (photo credit: Tye Swallow)*

The research work of the WSÁNEĆ School Board (WSB) research team focuses on two streams. First, the WSB is leading the way in adapting the NEŶOLNEW language assessment tool by translating it from English into SENĆOŦEN. STIWET, a grade-three immersion teacher at the Tribal school is working closely with Elders to translate the tool.

The second stream is a collaboration between Elder SENĆOŦEN teacher STOLŹEŁ, and PENÁĆ, a former language revitalization apprentice, as well as the WSB Elders' Standardization Working Group. This stream is helping to structure a SENĆOŦEN grammar related to the Root Word Method created for the Kanyen'kéha (Mohawk) language.

*Article continued on next page.*

UPDATE FROM

# DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS



## Dehcho First Nations Update: RA visit to the Dehcho Elders' Gathering

*By Robby Smoker-Peters*

From January 23-25, 2018, I was both honoured and privileged to have been a visitor to Dehcho territory in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories, where I attended a three-day Elder's gathering to discuss their language revitalization and maintenance efforts. The gathering was facilitated by Andy Norwegian and Violet Jumbo, two first language speakers who are passionate and committed to working on language revitalization efforts within their territory.

This was an extraordinary event to bear witness: over 50 Elders and dozens of witnesses from across Dehcho territory gathered to discuss how to ensure that Dene Zhatié – the Dene language – will be passed on to the younger generations. The entire gathering was facilitated in the Dene language. Non-Dene speaking people, such as myself, listened to the proceedings through a headset where real-time translation from Dene into English took place. During the gathering, there was a great deal of storytelling, and group activities intended to create a framework and next-steps in the Dehcho First Nation's language revitalization efforts.



*Attendees at the Dehcho First Nations Elders' Gathering, January 2018 (photo credit: Chief Gerry Antoine)*

This was a powerful gathering where a significant amount of emotion, energy, and labour was invested. I was told countless times there had not been a gathering of Elders from across the territory such as this before. It is with great respect and humility that I say thank-you to Andy, Violet, Alison, Chief Gerry Antoine, and to the Elders who allowed me to sit with them on this amazing gathering.

Néx<sup>w</sup>m k<sup>w</sup>uk<sup>w</sup>scéyp,  
Thank you



*Attendees at the Dehcho First Nations Elders' Gathering, January 2018 (photo credit: Chief Gerry Antoine)*



*The Elders' Gathering took place at the Recreation Centre in Fort Simpson, NWT, January 2018 (photo credit: Robby Smoker-Peters)*



**Left:** Research Assistant Robby Smoker-Peters introducing herself to attendees of the Dehcho Elders' Gathering; behind her on the right, two translators translating her words from English into Dene Zhatié, January 2018 (photo credit: Chief Gerry Antoine). **Right:** Dehcho First Nations Executive Director Alison de Pelham and Research Assistant Robby Smoker-Peters witnessing and documenting the work at the Dehcho Elders' Gathering, January 2018 (photo credit: Chief Gerry Antoine)

# updates from **THE UVIC TEAM**

UPDATES FROM

## **THE NILLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



### Advisory Committee's Update – NILLA (NEȚOLNEW Indigenous Language Learning Atlas) Ready to Pilot

*By Robby Smoker-Peters, Adar Anisman & Adam Stone*

Often when attending international conferences, Onowa McIvor and Peter Jacobs are asked to share what Indigenous communities in Canada are doing to revitalize and reclaim their languages. Knowing the good work of so many communities and the successes they are achieving, Onowa and Peter found that there is no unified place where these efforts are shared to inspire and educate others – both internationally as well as across communities, provinces, and territories more locally within Canada. Enter the NEȚOLNEW Indigenous Language Learning Atlas (NILLA), a project that is aimed at developing and launching a national online gathering space for Indigenous language communities to access and share their initiatives, resources, and learning and teaching successes.

With input from the NILLA Advisory Committee, the UVIC RA team has developed three variations of a survey to gather information on and represent the current state of language education and revitalization programs focused on the creation of new language speakers. The three survey versions focus on: 1) work in communities; 2) work taking place through organizations; and 3) a follow-up survey, which would be completed with both communities and organizations based on their responses to the first survey.

*Article continued on next page.*

The gathered information will then be transformed into a visually interactive website. This site will feature two levels of accessibility: A public component open to anyone interested in the language revitalization initiatives taking place across Canada, and a second, password-protected portion only accessible to contributing partner communities via login. This protected space will facilitate information sharing and networking between Indigenous communities: informational items will include curricula examples and communities can digitally interact with one another to perhaps seek further information or share experiences about language revitalization efforts within their own communities.

The NILLA project is now in the pilot phase: Indigenous communities and organizations across Canada are invited to participate in this groundbreaking project. Take the survey at [www.netolnew.ca/nilla](http://www.netolnew.ca/nilla) or contact us at [survey@netolnew.ca](mailto:survey@netolnew.ca).

THEME UPDATE

## LANGUAGE & WELLBEING



Indigenous people have long identified language as playing a vital role in community belonging and the transmission of culture. There is more research that explores the importance of culture to the wellbeing of Indigenous people but little research that examines the relationship between *language* and the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of Indigenous people. The NETOLNEW community partners have expressed interest in exploring these links, and specifically, the relationship between trauma, latent speakers (those who spoke their language as children but no longer speak), as well as plateauing speakers who appear to be struggling with continued progress in their speaking and

learning. Partners have also expressed interest in exploring effects of language revitalization on the overall wellbeing of Elders, language mentors, and adult language learners.

These research questions are the focus of Theme 5 Language & Wellbeing of the NETOLNEW Partnership, which will be launched this fall. Research Assistant Danielle Sullivan (*left*) will begin the foundation for this theme over the summer. Danielle is from Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland), born and raised in Corner Brook located within the traditional territory of the Qalipu First Nation to which her family belongs.



Danielle is currently enrolled in the MSW-Indigenous program at UVic. She will gather literature related to this theme, and then share her findings with Partners and interested collaborators.

A Student Research Experience Award from the Indigenous Mentorship Network of the Pacific Northwest (IMN-PN) supports her work. Our team was successful in applying for this \$2,000 award provided to Indigenous students and researchers pursuing Indigenous wellness-related research. Dr. Paul Whitinui (an Indigenous Māori scholar from Aotearoa New Zealand with a background in sport and leisure, and Indigenous health and development) and Dr. Onowa McIvor (Project Director) will act as co-mentors to Danielle.



HÍ, SW̩KE HÁLE

Chen kw'enmantumi

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