

NETOLNEW

# NEWS

ĆENITĚŁONSET (Fall)  
2019, ISSUE 4

UPDATES FROM

**THE  
UVIC  
TEAM**



**tânisi, Ha7lh Skwáyel (greetings),**



Every year, Community Partner representatives, Project Co-leads, and UVIC team members travel great distances to gather, learn from each other, and strengthening the relationships within the NETOLNEW Partnership.

At the invitation of the Dehcho First Nations, this year's multi-day Gathering took place in Łíídlíi Kųę, in the territories of the Dehcho, near Fort Simpson, NWT.

It was a stunning location for the Gathering during the *International Year of Indigenous Languages*. We were blessed with beautiful fall weather, some lucky enough to catch the northern lights, but mostly, we enjoyed each other's company. Stories of success were shared, support was offered on tackling challenges, and the languages were at the center of it all.

We hope you enjoy the many pictures in this latest issue of our newsletter, along with Partner research updates, an important 'save the date', and more.

In the spirit of collaboration, ekosi, Chen kw'enmantumi,

*Onowa & Peter*



University  
of Victoria

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# In loving memory of T'łat'łakų Dr. Trish Rosborough



On the morning of August 15, 2019, wąk'wa (sister), 'námukw (friend) T'łat'łakų Trish Rosborough journeyed on to be with her ancestors.

Trish was passionate about working in community and bringing Indigenous language revitalization methods and models to the communities where the language lives.

An adult learner of her late mother's first language, Kwak'wala, Trish often used a narrative approach to her research, sharing stories of her personal journey as a language learner, teacher, and researcher.

In her scholarship she explored how to retain both, Indigenous languages and the worldview understandings within the languages. Trish was the Principal Investigator in her SSHRC Insight Grant project "*Beautiful Words: Enriching and Indigenizing Language Revitalization through Understandings of Linguistic Structure*". She was a co-Principal Investigator with the NEȚOLNEȚ Partnership, where she supported community Partner research and helped to guide the overall Partnership.

Trish will be missed greatly by all members of the NEȚOLNEȚ Partnership. Her intelligence, compassion, and fierce determination will continue to guide us as we carry on with the work Trish was so deeply committed to.



With attending co-leads and Partners at the NEȚOLNEȚ All Partners' Gathering, Pikánii territory, June 2018  
*(photo credit: NEȚOLNEȚ)*



With attending co-leads, collaborators, and team members at the final NEȚOLNEȚ Assessment Tool working group meeting, April 2015  
*(photo credit: NEȚOLNEȚ)*



Trish with co-lead Peter Jacobs at the Western face-to-face NEȚOLNEȚ Partnership grant application meeting, at UN Blue Quills, Aug 2016  
*(photo credit: NEȚOLNEȚ)*

Trish with co-lead Onowa McIvor at the NEȚOLNEȚ Partnership launch, Sept 2017  
*(photo credit: UVIC Media)*



# Impressions from the All Partners' Gathering (Sept 9-10, 2019)

Łíídlíi Kųę, "the place where rivers come together" is approx. 500km west of Yellowknife. The town centre is located on an island near the south bank of the Deh Cho River. Below, arriving guests take in the view from our Inn.



Bannockland Inn, location of 2019 All Partners' Gathering.



Time was set aside to visit and share stories.

Dehcho First Nations' Grand Chief Gladys Norwegian (r) and senior advisor Rosemary Gill (l) welcome attendees ahead of the official start of the Gathering.



Co-leads Peter Jacobs and Onowa McIvor listen to Partner updates and answer questions about the Partnership.

Attending Partner representatives shared about their research and language work in their communities.



*Clockwise from left:* Tsohahí:io Deom & Kahtehrón:ni Stacey (KEC), Kari Chew (UVIC), Barbara Sylliboy (MK), Ross Krekosi & Marilyn Shirt (UNBQ), Callie Hill & Karen Lewis (TTO), Kathy Michel & Rober Matthew (CAS), Violet Jumbo (DFN), Rhonda Hopkins & Stephanie Roy (KT), Suzanne Gessner (FPCC), Tye Swallow & PENÁĆ Underwood (WSB)





Visiting the Drum Circle at the Ehdaa (“a point in the river or a point of flat land”) historical site



Chief Gerald Antoine speaks about the (world’s tallest) wood teepee built on the historic Papal site.



A special thanks to Violet Jumbo (r), who was a key figure organizing our stay in her community - Máhsi!



Máhsi and neghôhdá!

UPDATES FROM

**THE  
UVIC  
TEAM**



## A warm welcome to Edōsdi (Dr. Judy Thompson)

We are happy to share that Edōsdi is joining the NEXOLNEW Partnership in the capacity of co-investigator. She will support the Governance and leadership of our grant as well as contribute to the Theme “Language & Health and Wellbeing”. In her own words:

Dzenēs hoti’e! Edōsdi ushyē. Tałsetān didene hots’ih.Tsesk’iye esdā tsehi. Tlabānotine hots’ih ja’ sini.

My name is Edōsdi (Judy Thompson) and I am a member of the Tahltan Nation. I am the Language Reclamation Director for my Nation and also a learner of my Tāitān language. I have been teaching at the post-secondary level for over 25 years and recently accepted the position of associate professor in the Department of Indigenous Education at the University of Victoria.

I am excited to continue my learning, teaching, and research journey alongside you. My research interests include Indigenous language revitalization; Indigenous language and health and wellbeing; Indigenous research methodologies; Indigenous based curriculum and pedagogy; and Indigenous knowledge systems.

## APG 2020

Mark your calendars - the next All Partners’ Gathering will take place June 24, ahead of SILS 2020.

## SILS 2020 - Global Indigeneity: Language From the Four Directions

The 27th annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium will be held **June 25-27, 2020**, at Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, on the lands of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, jointly hosted by Queen’s University; Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na; and Kingston Indigenous Languages Nest (KILN).

SILS2020 will focus on **global perspectives** of Indigenous Language Revitalization. This theme is **inspired by the four directions teachings** for understanding health and community in holistic perspective, encompassing the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.



**Deadline for proposals is January 31, 2020. | Conference website: <https://sils2020.ca/>**

# Partner Updates

UPDATE FROM

## Kahnawà:ke Education Centre



Our teacher mentor/coach, Tsohahí:io Deom, out on the land with the teachers and nursery students at Karonhiannónhna school (photo credit: KEC)

Our goal at the Kahnawà:ke Education Centre is to support teachers to increase their professional capacities while simultaneously providing opportunities to continue growing as language speakers.

During our 3-year research project, we will create and evaluate a professional development plan for elementary Kanien'kéha immersion teachers who are second language speakers.

The plan includes providing ongoing support opportunities for teachers to improve both their language skills and teaching abilities, in the form of mentorship and professional development activities. We will also develop an assessment tool based on Kanien'kéha ways of knowing.



Wahéhshon Shiann Whitebean, the new project RA (photo credit: KEC)

UPDATE FROM

## WSÁNEĆ School Board



The WSÁNEĆ School Board just wrapped up a three-part research project focused on supporting our immersion teachers to improve their language proficiency in SENĆOŦEN. First, we translated the NEŦOLNEŦ language assessment tool into SENĆOŦEN and tested it with novice teachers. We also studied how to use the Root Word Method for teaching the SENĆOŦEN language and are developing a root word tool and dictionary (that stemmed from this project).

With the SENĆOŦEN Proficiency Learning Community, we aim to increase opportunities for language learning and language use among the immersion teachers. We started with a small group during a pilot year, but this year all teachers will participate in regular gatherings to work together towards meeting their language goals from first year support teachers to our higher proficiency immersion teachers.

# Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na



In our research at Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na (TTO) we use recordings of first language speakers of Kanyen'kéha and convert them into learning resources for adult language learners. Because we no longer have any first language speakers of Kanyen'kéha in our own community, our research team travelled to neighbouring communities. There, we met with small groups of first language speakers (see photos below), eliciting and recording different kinds of language, such as congratulating, questioning, consoling, etc.

So far, we have created 14 language learning units, each including an audio file, a video with subtitles in both Kanyen'kéha and English, and a curriculum template. The next step is to get feedback from the first language speakers on our work to date, before sending the resources out for testing with the wider community.



Tewateronhyáhkwa (Mina Beauvais) Kanáhstatsi (Nancy Howard); Warisó:se (Josephine Gabriel)



Arónhyate (Peter Mitchell); Kahentén:te (Grace Mitchell); Karihwénhawe (Dorothy Lazore); Joe Lazore



Sha'karonhyó:ta'ne (Paul Deer); Tekahonwén:sere (Mel Diablo)  
(photo credit: TTO)

UPDATE FROM

## Dehcho First Nations



The Dehcho First Nations recently started a *NWT Pilot Mentor-Apprentice Program* (MAP) with participants from the Dehcho region as well as from two other NWT regions, Tłı̄cho and Gwich'in. With this pilot project, we are exploring ways to assess the progress and outcomes for MAP participants. We are considering translating the *NETOLNEW* language assessment tool and using the tool at the beginning and end of the program with participants to test its efficacy.

Together with David General, the newly appointed Dehcho First Nations Executive Director, the research team will begin implementing the DFN research plan "Assessment for Dene Zhatie Proficiency Building" this fall.



UPDATE FROM

## Kenjgewin Teg



In our region, Kenjgewin Teg is a hub for Indigenous language revitalization in Anishinabemowin, as we offer a variety of language activities (e.g., language classes for students in higher education, advisory services for immersion programs within local communities, summer language camps for elementary students, and teacher education).

We are currently undertaking research focused on a language fluency assessment tool created for and with our Anishinabek people on Manitoulin Island. The tool is now being piloted and anticipation to use the tool is growing among fellow Indigenous nations.

Kenjgewin Teg began developing this Anishinabemowin assessment tool after conducting in-depth research into Indigenous and heritage language assessment tools and not finding a suitable tool for our Indigenous language needs and priorities. The next phase of our work will be to validate the tool and have it ready for implementation and wide-spread availability.



Early Childhood Education Anishinabemowin Diploma Graduates June 29, 2019  
(photo credit: KT)



2018 Fall Language Immersion Learning Camp at Kenjgewin Teg  
(photo credit: KT)

UPDATE FROM

## First Peoples' Cultural Council



First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) has been offering the Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP) since 2008. In the first ten years of the program, 155 apprentices participated. The majority of apprentices fully complete the program, with 57% of apprentices completing 100% of hours that are part of the program.

Our research project will be focused on understanding the reasons why some apprentices do not complete their hours and what can be done to increase active participation. We will interview past participants and ask them to share what challenges they faced and what supports would have benefitted them. The findings from this research will inform changes to our MAP programs and program supports moving forward.



Graduates of the 2019 MAP Cohort (*photo credit: FPCC*)

## Collaborator Updates

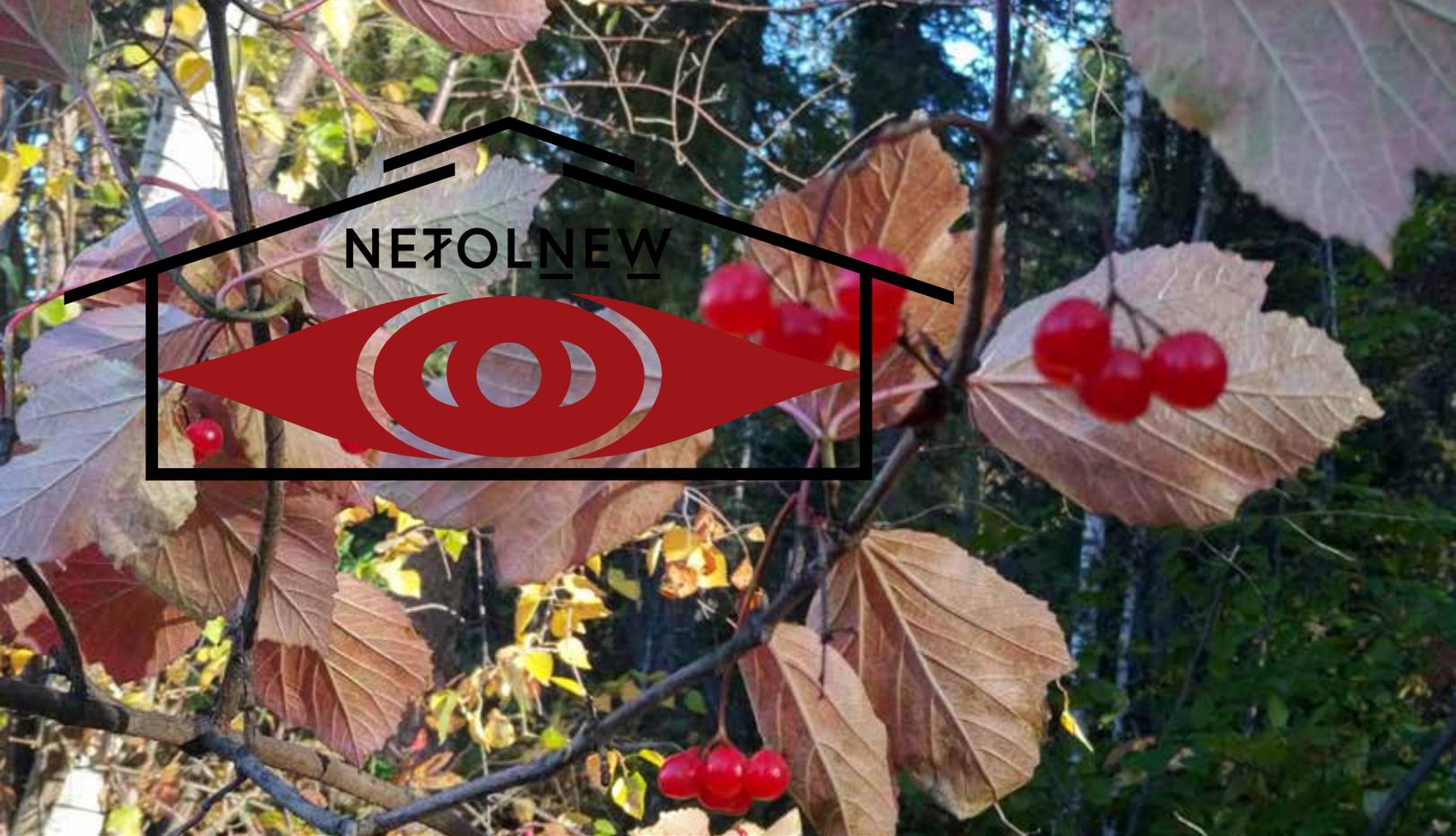
### Syilx Language House



The Syilx Language House (SLH) graduated its first cohort in June 2019 in Penticton, BC. The learners completed a four-year adult fluency program, excelling in 1,600 hours of sequenced immersion curriculum (equivalent to the hours of classtime delivered in a bachelor's degree). The curriculum uses Direct Acquisition methods, immersion, cultural knowledge, and learning by teaching. This year, the SLH is partnering with two new community organizations: with Ti kwu ti xilx Indigenous Association, running a language nest in Westbank, BC, and a Language House with the Osoyoos Indian Band, run by graduates of the SLH program.

Syilx Language House graduating class.

*Left to right:* Shayla Allison, Sheri Stelkia, Levi Bent, Maynard McRae, Jordan Coble, Sonya Jensen, Tyler Ernst, Michele Johnson. (*photo credit: SLH*)



Wela'liog, Nyá:wen, Miigwech,  
ay-hay, kinanâskomitinawaw,  
Masi chogh, Máhsi, Kukstec kuc,  
HÍSŪKE SIÁM, Mēduh, Ḡilakas'la,  
Chen kw'enmantumiyap (thank you) for your  
interest in our work.

Learn more at [www.netolnew.ca](http://www.netolnew.ca)  
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