First Nations Languages Conference 2007
Program

August 12, 13 & 14
The University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

Theme: Immersion Planning – Language Nests to Master Apprenticeship

This conference is an opportunity for teachers, local community educators, Elders, academics, linguists and others to gather and learn from one another through informative workshops and plenary discussions focused on the issue of First Nations language revitalization in British Columbia.

The theme of this conference, *Immersion: Language Nests to Master Apprenticeship*, will allow participants to explore innovative approaches to language revitalization and to share successes. Workshops range from sharing new research to immersion course development and immersion teaching in the classroom and many workshops involve hands-on activities for participants.

British Columbia is home to 198 First Nations and two thirds of all Canada’s First Nations languages. *Immersion teaching and learning is paramount to achieve truly effective language revitalization.*

**Information Displays:** Our conference foyer contains displays from various groups from around BC with information on their language programs, curriculum, and approaches to learning and teaching. Most will be on display for the Sunday Evening of Networking and many will remain up for viewing throughout the conference.

**Presentations from Language Groups:** We would like to celebrate the diversity of languages! If you are here with a group and would like to make a short presentation in your own language, such as a prayer before a break or meal, at opening or closing, or at our conference banquet, please visit the registration desk and speak to a member of the conference staff. We hope to hear from as many groups as possible and thank everyone in advance for contributing.

HOSTS
# Conference Schedule

### Sunday, August 12
- **6:00 – 9:00 pm** Early Registration and Networking Evening

### Monday, August 13
- **7:30 - 8:30 am** Registration
- **8:30 – 9:30 am** Welcoming Prayer and Opening Remarks
- **9:30 – 10:00 am** Announcements and Goodwill
- **10:00 – 10:30 am** Break
- **10:30 – 12:00 pm** Panel: Immersion Schools
- **12:00 – 1:00 pm** Lunch
- **1:00 – 2:30 pm** Workshop Session 1
- **2:30 – 4:00 pm** Language and Culture Connections Hands-on Activities Afternoon
- **5:30 pm** Banquet

### Tuesday, August 14
- **8:30 – 9:00 am** Opening Remarks
- **9:00 – 10:15 am** Panel: Academics on Immersion
- **10:15 – 10:30 am** Break
- **10:30 – 12:00 pm** Workshop Session 3
- **12:00 – 1:00 pm** Lunch
- **1:00 – 2:30 pm** Workshop Session 4
- **2:30 – 3:00 pm** Closing Remarks

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**An Evening of Networking:** This evening event is a wonderful opportunity to meet with people working in immersion education and hear what they have to say about curriculum, practices in immersion and immersion planning and make new networking contacts in an informal setting.

**Welcoming Prayer and Traditional Opening:** The opening prayer will be accompanied by a traditional musical opening by Butch Dick from the Songhees First Nation and Chief Andy Thomas from the Esquimalt First Nation.

**Announcements and Goodwill:** Speakers making announcements include Nathan Matthew, on behalf of the New Relationship Trust, the Honourable Tom Christensen, Minister of Children and Family Development, and Ruth Wittenberg, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Post-Secondary Education Division of the Ministry of Advanced Education.

**Banquet:** You are invited to share in a wonderful meal with the conference hosts, presenters and other participants to celebrate the wonderful work being done in First Nations language revitalization. Entertainment includes, among others, a presentation from the students of the L’il’wat Claoʔalcw Immersion Class. Extra tickets for non-conference participants are available for purchase.

*Your conference emcees are Lorna Williams and John Elliot.*
## Workshops and Rooms

**Day 1: Monday, August 13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1 – 1:00 to 2:30 pm</th>
<th>2:30 to 4:00 pm: Language and Culture Connections Hands-On Activities Afternoon.</th>
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| **1A** Mohawk Language Diploma Program: Enabling our Adult Learners  
**Elliot Building Room:** Ell161 | **2A** Language and Music  
**MacLaurin Concourse** (outdoors) |
| **1B** Language Programming for All Ages and Stages  
**MacLaurin Building Room:** MacD288 | **2B** The Making of Traditional Medicines with Western Medical Influences  
**Cornett Building Room:** B111 |
| **1C** Total Physical Response (TPR)  
**Cornett Building Room:** B143 | **2C** The Art of Storytelling  
**Cornett Building Room:** B143 |
| **1E** The ÁLENECE Program: Learning from Place, Spirit, and Traditional Language as Language Instruction for Adults in SENCO-SEN  
**Elliot Building Room:** Ell160 | **2D** Ethno-Botany: Local Medicinal Plants and their Purposes  
**Elliot Building Room:** Ell160 |
| **1F** PWIM (Picture Word Inductive Model): Practical Application to Teaching Nłeʔkepmxcin  
**Cornett Building Room:** B111 | **2E** Activity Based Curriculum for Sliammon Language Learning  
**MacLaurin Building Room:** MacD288 |
| **1G** Skwxwú7mesh Sníchim Best Practices for Immersion Planning  
Note: this is a 3 hour workshop running from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.  
**MacLaurin Building Room:** D283 |  |

**Day 2: Tuesday, August 14**

<table>
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<th>Session 3 – 10:30 to 12:00 pm</th>
<th>Session 4 – 1:00 to 2:30 pm</th>
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| **3A** Mohawk Language Diploma Program: Enabling our Adult Learners  
**Elliot Building Room:** Ell161 | **4A** Increasing Confidence to Teach and Speak through Mentorship  
**Elliot Building Room:** Ell160 |
| **3B** Using Immersion Techniques in Implementing the NSW Aboriginal Languages K-10 Syllabus in Australia  
**Cornett Building Room:** B143 | **4B** Using Immersion Techniques in Implementing the NSW Aboriginal Languages K-10 Syllabus in Australia  
**Cornett Building Room:** B143 |
| **3C** E-learning  
**MacLaurin Building Room:** MacD288 | **4C** E-learning  
**MacLaurin Building Room:** MacD288 |
| **3D** Proposal Writing  
**MacLaurin Building Room:** MacD283 | **4D** Proposal Writing  
**MacLaurin Building Room:** MacD283 |
| **3E** Focus Group: Teacher Immersion Training Programs  
**Cornett Building Room:** B111 | **4E** Focus Group: Language Authorities  
**MacLaurin Building Room:** MacA144 |
| **3F** Language Programming for All Ages and Stages  
**MacLaurin Building Room:** MacA144 | **4F** Total Physical Response (TPR)  
**Elliott Building Room:** Ell161 |
| **3G** Increasing Confidence to Teach and Speak through Mentorship  
**Elliott Building Room:** Ell160 | **4G** PWIM (Picture Word Inductive Model): Practical Application to Teaching Nłeʔkepmxcin  
**Cornett Building Room:** B111 |
Panel Presentations

Panel - Immersion Schools: This panel offers a unique opportunity to hear from those successfully teaching and learning language through immersion, to hear the personal experiences of students and teachers of various ages and backgrounds, and hear the histories and unique stories of immersion schools.

From the Okanagan area, panelists include Bill Cohen, an Okanagan artist, educator, and Band Councilor who played a key organizational role in the development of the local immersion school and Pauline Archachan, a respected Okanagan Elder and fluent speaker of her traditional language. Pauline works with others at the Okanagan Band’s cultural immersion school and plays a key role in its immersion program.

Kathy Michel, respected in her field throughout BC, works as a Curriculum Developer at Chief Atahm School and Janice Billy, also from Chief Atahm school, is an experienced language teacher.

There will be a special presentation from the L’il’wat Clao7alow Immersion Class lead by representatives from their school in Mount Currie: Terri Williams, an immersion teacher, Burt Williams, a high school language teacher, and Dion Pierre, a Xit’olacw Community School Board Member who grew up learning the language at home and raised his two sons speaking the language at home daily. Information about the children’s presentation, including the names of the participating students can be found in the resources section of the conference binder.

Panel - Academics on Immersion: The members of this panel are at the forefront of current research in language immersion and are all currently completing PhD degrees in language. Trish Rosborough is the Director of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Branch of the Ministry of Education. She is Kwakiutl, from Fort Rupert on Vancouver Island. Kathy Michel is currently working at Chief Atahm school as their Curriculum Developer. Ben Morton works for the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation as an advisor on Aboriginal education and culture. Originally from England, Ben moved to Canada after spending time traveling throughout North and South America, and has adopted Sioux Valley Dakota Nation as his second home in Canada, where he learned the language. This panel will allow the speakers to tell their stories, speak about their studies and thoughts on teaching language and the practical side of research.
**Special Announcements**

Several groups are using this conference as an opportunity to make exciting funding announcements to support First Nations language revitalization in British Columbia. The New Relationship Trust will announce funding to support language teacher training through DSTC Programs in First Nation communities; the Ministry of Advanced Education, as part of the Aboriginal Service Plans, has set aside specific funding to support language programming in public post-secondary institutes; and the Ministry of Children and Family Services will announce funding for language nest programs.

We are honoured to have the following speakers at the conference to provide details of these funding announcements:

**Chief Nathan Matthew** is an exceptional leader who has worked for many years to promote quality education for First Nations students across British Columbia. Nathan served for many years as Band Chief and Tribal Chairperson in his community, holds a Masters degree in Education and was formerly a school principal, and has worked tirelessly to build valuable partnerships with education stakeholders including the BC Aboriginal Education Partners and the provincial and federal governments. A recent example of Nathan’s accomplishments has been his work with FNESC to obtain jurisdiction over First Nations on-reserve education. Through years of consultations with First Nations and negotiations with the governments, Nathan was a key player in developing an agreement between BC First Nations, the provincial government and the federal government, and this past year the successful passing of federal legislation enabling First Nations education jurisdiction.

![Chief Nathan Matthew](image)

**The Honourable Tom Christensen** was appointed Minister of Children and Family Development on Aug. 15, 2006. He previously served as Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Minister of Education. Mr. Christensen was elected to represent the riding of Okanagan-Vernon in 2001 and re-elected in 2005. He currently serves as chair of the Cabinet Legislative Review Committee and as a member of the Government Caucus Committee on Social Development. Mr. Christensen graduated from the University of Victoria with a law degree in 1994, and was called to the B.C. bar in May 1995. Mr. Christensen was born and raised in Vernon, the fourth generation of his family to raise a family in the Vernon area.

![The Honourable Tom Christensen](image)

**Ruth Wittenberg** was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Post Secondary Education Division in May of 2006. In this position, she is responsible for the provincial funding and policy for public post-secondary universities, colleges and university colleges and support of the private post-secondary education system. As part of her portfolio, Ruth is appointed to the Degree Quality Assessment Board, Private Career Training Institutions Agency, Post Secondary Employers’ Association and University Public Sector Employers’ Association and the Inter University Planning Committee. She is also a Board member of the Irving K. Barber Scholarship Society, and the Virtual School Society.

![Ruth Wittenberg](image)
**Workshop Details**

3B 4B  **Using Immersion Techniques in Implementing the NSW Aboriginal Languages K-10 Syllabus in Australia**  
*Dr. Jennifer Munro, Senior Education Officer, NSW Office of the Board of Studies*

This workshop will provide an introduction to NSW Aboriginal languages, an overview of the key elements in developing the syllabus, an update on how the syllabus is being implemented in NSW schools in Australia, and several demonstrations of materials and resources currently in use.

1A 3A  **Mohawk Language Diploma Program: Enabling our Adult Learners**  
*Bonnie Jane Maracle, Language Circle Member (Tyendinaga), and Callie Maracle, Program Co-ordinator*

Learn about how the Language Circle at Tyendinaga is addressing the intergenerational transmission gap by developed post-secondary programming that enables adult learners to learn the Mohawk language while attaining university accreditation for their language immersion efforts.

1B 3F  **Language Programming for All Ages and Stages**  
*Kathryn Michel, Curriculum Developer, Chief Atahm School*

Through this workshop explore the wide range of programs used in second language classrooms worldwide and successful strategies involving language nests, language immersion, and community language camps presented by an experience language program designer and facilitator.

1C 4F  **Total Physical Response (TPR)**  
*Janice Billy, teacher, Chief Atahm School and Stacey Michel*

This workshop will involve participants in an action-filled, fun, and understandable way of learning language as the presenters demonstrate how TPR will excite, energize, and help your students to learn the “target language” in a fun way.

4A 3G  **Increasing Confidence to Teach and Speak through Mentorship**  
*Lorna Williams, Assistant Professor at the University of Victoria, CRC Indigenous Knowledge & Learning; Gail Blaney, Sliammon, teacher, DSTC student; and others*

This presentation will share the learning experience of DSTC students who learned to mentor new language learners while being mentored themselves by Elders who are fluent language speakers. The workshop will describe the two Master/Apprentice models that were used, how the language learning was coupled with cultural activities, and how mentorship learning affects the confidence of new language teachers.

1E  **The ÁLENEC Program: Learning from Place, Spirit, and Traditional Language as Language Instruction for Adults in SENCO1EN**  
*Presenters from the Saanich Indian School Board (SISB) and the Saanich Adult Education Centre*

This workshop aims to show participants how the SISB made its Learning from Place program successful, how the program integrates traditional language learning, and how others can draw from their program to improve language programs in their own communities.

1G  **Skwxwu7mesh Sníchim Best Practices for Immersion Planning**  
*Deborah Jacobs, Squamish Nation Department Head, Peter Jacobs, Squamish Nation Language Technologist, and Kirsten Baker Williams, Squamish Nation Instructional Administrator*

In 2001, the Squamish Nation Education Department developed a 5-year plan for the Squamish Language Program. This plan recognizes Squamish language as the cornerstone of the Squamish identity. This workshop will cover the four components of Squamish Nation: Research, Immersion School, Collaboration with Institutions, Research Design and will show highlights of their digitalized learning collections. Note: this workshop is 3 hours in length and so conflicts with participation in Language and Culture Connections Hands-On Activities Afternoon.
Workshop Details Continued…

1F 4G PWIM (Picture Word Inductive Model): Practical Application to Teaching
Nle?kepmxcin
Mandy Na’zinek Jimmie, NVIT Language Instructor, and Joella Bolan, Merritt Secondary Language Teacher
PWIM is an interactive, productive and “safe” approach to learning the Nle?kepmxcin language, orally and in the written form, and is currently used in the Merritt area from middle-school to post-secondary levels. The students study a picture, identify what they see in the picture to label, read/review the words, classify words and develop titles, sentences, and paragraphs about their picture.

3C 4C E-learning
Thelma Wenman, Sto:ilo Nation
How can you best use technology for successful language learning? This workshop will explore how e-learning is being used in immersion language programs and how it is helping teachers and students.

3D 4D Proposal Writing
Deanna Daniels and Lou-Ann Neel, First Peoples’ Heritage, Language and Culture Council
This workshop will give you all the tools you need to put together a successful funding proposal. The presenters will discuss how to ensure you are correctly meeting proposal criteria, how proposals are selected, and offer tips to make your proposal the best it can be.

3E Focus Group: Teacher Immersion Training Programs
A directed discussion on Teacher Immersion Training Programs lead by Lorna Williams and Thelma Wenman. Although mediated, participants rather than leaders will determine the themes of this discussion and have the opportunity to provide feedback on Teacher Immersion Programs.

4E Focus Group: Language Authorities
A directed discussion on the subject of Language Authorities lead by Tracy Herbert, Tyrone McNeil, and Christa Williams. Although mediated, participants rather than leaders will determine the themes of this discussion and have the opportunity to provide feedback. The goal of this focus group is to work on establishing criteria for Language Authorities.
Language and Culture Connections: an afternoon of hands-on activities

Various presenters are providing hands-on demonstrations showing how language teaching can be rooted in culture. Participants in these workshops will have the opportunity to explore the connections between language and culture while learning traditional cultural activities from experienced teachers from many of the diverse communities across British Columbia. The hands-on aspect of the demonstrations will allow participants to experience the activities for themselves and learn how culture can be integrated into their lesson plans and classes.

These activities will be run much less formally than the other conference workshops. Please choose one to attend from the descriptions below. If you find that a workshop is crowded or full, we suggest that you choose and join another. Other activities may be available that are not listed below. If so, see posted information.

2A Language and Music  
Butch Dick, Bradley Dick
Butch Dick is a retired teacher who, along with his son, Bradley Dick, has worked hard for over ten years to revitalize their extinct language. They will tell their story and speak about the struggles they’ve faced. Butch and Bradley will perform traditional songs from several Nations, and speak about how language can be learned and taught by learning the words and meaning of songs and music.

2B The Making of Traditional Medicines with Western Medical Influences  
Dr. Jeanne Paul
Dr. Jeanne Paul, from a Coast Salish background, was born and raised at the Sliammon Band near Powell River, BC. She attended the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon, and graduated with a Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine. She now works making therapeutic herbal creams and as a First Nations Linguistic Consultant for the University of British Columbia. She will make traditional medicines with her audience in her workshop and focus on following the natural birth and death of a plant, First Nations return to traditional medicine through herbs and plants, and continuous learning and studying of traditional plants and their uses.

2C The Art of Storytelling  
John Elliot
An interactive workshop on traditional storytelling.

2D Ethno-Botany: Local Medicinal Plants and their Purposes  
Eunice Ned, Verley (Tess) Ned
Verley Ned and Eunice Ned, from the Sumas First Nation, are both teachers and speakers of their language, Halq’eméylem- up river. Verley Ned is a respected community Elder and also speaks Hulq’uminum Island dialect. They speak of implementing Indigenous culture, language, plants, and protocols into the academic word and their workshop will involve participants as they make teas, salves, and tinctures for health purposes from local medicinal plants.

2E Activity Based Curriculum for Sliammon Language Learning  
Betty Wilson, Gail Blaney, Elsie Paul
Sliammon language instructors, along with a respected community Elder, will demonstrate how they have integrated culturally based curriculum activities into their language teaching, from kindergarten through to middle school and older students. Through lessons based on the seasons, using modern technology with traditional stories, weaving and awl making, and excursions with activities such as gathering shellfish on the beach and digging for roots in the woods, their program has successfully blended language and culture instruction to enhance learning. Their workshop will allow participants to take part in traditional activities and learn about their connection to language.
Meals: Registered conference participants are provided with vouchers for breakfast and lunch at registration sign-in. Additional vouchers may be purchased from the University of Victoria Housing Office.

Parking
Parking passes must be displayed between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm (parking is free on evenings and weekends). Parking passes can be purchased from dispensers at the campus entrances or in Residence Parking Lot #5.

Maps and tourist brochures for Victoria and the surrounding area are available at the conference registration desk.