**First Nations Language Champions**

The following individuals have been celebrated as Language Champions at the First Nations Education Steering Committee’s First Nations Languages Conference

*2017*

**Stsméiqen Chief Ron Ignace,** Lifetime Achievement Award, champion of the Secwepemctsin language

**Bella Alphonse,** Lifetime Achievement Award, champion of the Tŝilhqot’in language

**Tsémina Bernita Saul,** School Education Award, champion of the St'at'imcets language

**Sékya7 Gloria Wallace,** Community Education Leadership Award, champion of the Ucwalmícwts language

*2015*

**Angela Dennis,** Lifetime Achievement Award, champion of the Tahltan language

**Dolly Sylvester,** School Education Award, champion of the Hul’q’umi’num’ language

**Diane Brown,** Community Education Leadership Award, champion of the Haida language

**Jessica Williams,** Youth Award, champion of the Gitsenimx language

2013

**Mona Jules**, Lifetime Achievement Award, champion of the Secwepem̓ctsín language

**Frances Brown**, School Education Award, champion of the Heiltsuk language

**Bridget Dan**, Community Education Leadership Award, champion of the Secwepem̓ctsín language

**Reginald Dennis**, Youth Award, champion of the Tahltan language

2011 **Ts'aa Gabin Verna Williams** from New Aiyansh, champion of the NIsga’a language **Gracie John** from the Saik’uz First Nation, Vanderhoof, champion of the Dakelh language (Southern Dialect) **Clara Camille** from the Canoe Creek First Nation, champion of the Secwepemc language **Stephen Brown** from the Old Massett Band, Haida Gwaii, champion of the Xaad Kil language **Cecilia DeRose** from the Esket First Nation, champion of the Secwepemctsin language
**Uu?ath a qwis Kathy Robinson** from the Tseshaht First Nation, champion of the Tseshaht & Ditidaht language
**Nuwaqawa Evelyn Windsor** from Bella Bella, champion of the Hailhzaqvla/Heiltsuk language **YELḰÁŦȾE Earl Claxton Senior** from Saanich champion of the SENĆOŦEN language

2009

**Pewi Alfred**, a Kwakwakw'wakw speaker from Alert Bay

**Antoinette Archie**, a Shuswap speaker from Canim Lake

**Elsie Archie**, a Shuswap speaker from Canim Lake

**William Attachie**, a Beaver speaker from Doig River First Nation

**Celestine Brigham**, a Chilcotin speaker from the Stone Reserve

**Nancy Camille**, a Secwepemc speaker from Canoe Creek

**Alex Campbell**, a Smalgyax speaker from Prince Rupert

**Amy Charlie**, a Nlaka'pamux speaker from Lytton

**Catherine Coldwell**, a Nak'azdli Carrier speaker from Fort St James

**Delphine Derickson**, an Okanagan/Interior Salish speaker from Westbank

**Katherine Fraser**, a Nuu-chah-nulth speaker from Port Alberni

**Mandy Jimmie**, a Nle'kepmx speaker from Merritt

**June Johnson**, a Liq'wala speaker from Campbell River

**Violet Johnson**, a Nuu-chah-nulth speaker from Gold River

**Louise Lacerte**, a Nedut'en dialect speaker of Carrier from Burns Lake

**Daisy Major**, a nłeʔkepmxcin speaker from the Coldwater Indian Reserve

**Gertrude Ned**, a Sta'at'imc speaker from Lillooet

**Bev Phillips**, a Nlakapamux speaker from Lytton

**Lawrence Michel**, a Secwepemctsin speaker from Adams Lake

**Selina Myers**, a Chilcotin speaker from Nemiah Valley

**Ticwtkwa Georgina Nelson**, a St'atimcets speaker from Lil'wat, Mount Currie

**Elizabeth Phillips**, a Halq'eméylem speaker from Chehalis

**Kwosel Pettis**, a Halq'eméylem speaker from the Seabird Island Band

**Faye Seymour**, a Tsek'ene speaker from Fort Ware

**Brett Waterfall**, a Hailhzaqvla speaker from Bella Bella

**Betty Wilson**, a Klah ah men speaker from Powell River