



Club

FALL 2022
SENIOR EDITION

NEWSLETTER

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**Welcome Back
Seventh
Generation Club
members!**

Learn your Language with FirstVoices

It's important for everyone to be able to use their Indigenous languages in their everyday lives, at home, at school and online. There are resources available on FirstVoices (www.firstvoices.com) to help you get started on your language learning journey.

Like other languages, First Nation languages have grown and changed over time. Thirty-three out of 34 BC-based First Nations languages are represented on FirstVoices the platform.

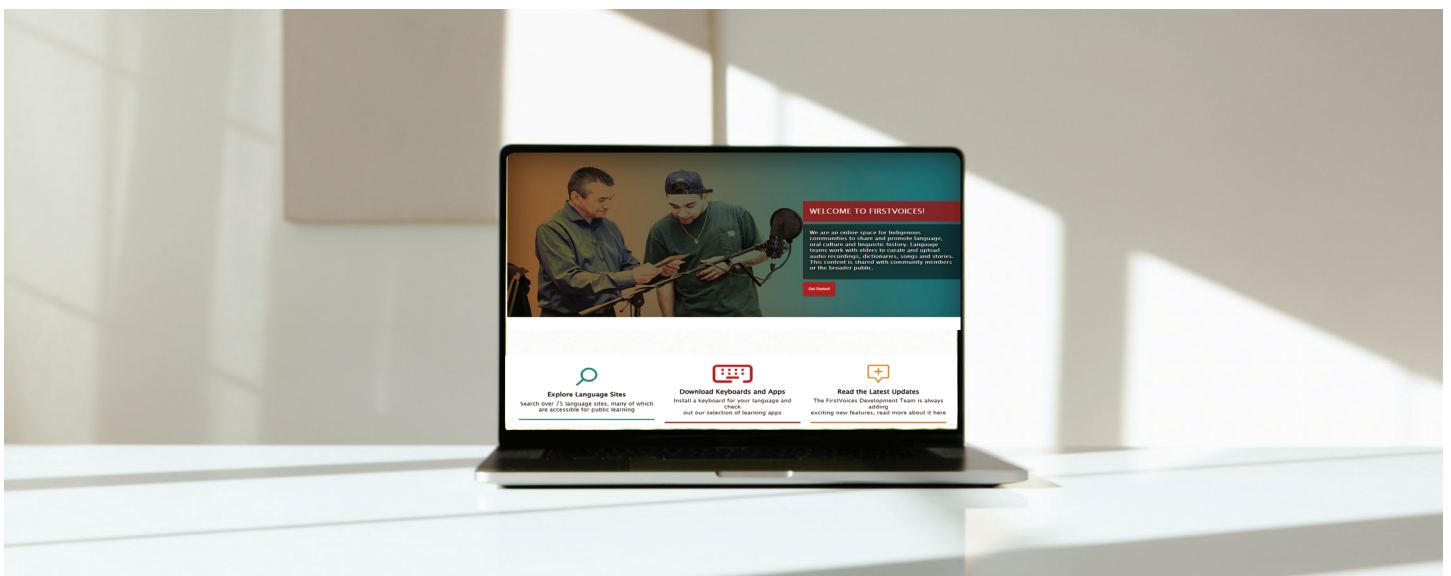
FirstVoices adds hundreds of words each month. Over 154,893 words, 94,146 phrases and 865 songs and stories can be found on the FirstVoices website.

Language helps us to ask questions, answer questions, communicate thoughts, express feelings, and understand one another. A long time ago, our vocabularies may likely have been smaller as they did not include as many nouns as we have today. Some of the funny words you and your friends may use now could be a word that is actually added to the dictionary decades later!

Below, try to create a new word and write a definition to go with it.

Word: _____

Definition: _____



First Nations Language Careers

Speaking and developing your fluency in your First Nations language is an act of decolonization. In British Columbia alone there are more than 34 different First Nations languages. Below, you can read about education pathways and careers centred around learning your First Nations language.



"Keep your identity strong by learning your language and culture!"

Maklalees Rosalie MacDonald is from the Small Frog Clan and she belongs to the House of Many Eyes. She is proud to be Nedut'en, Witsuwit'en on her maternal side of the family and Dakelh on her paternal side. Rosalie is employed as a Language Curriculum Development Teacher for Lake Babine Nation. As a faculty member of Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) she has taught in the Nedut'en Language Proficiency Degree program since 2019.

Rosalie chose a career in the education field because she fell in love with school, knowing she can make a difference by revitalizing language and culture. Education was strongly encouraged by her parents, Louise Lacerte (a PhD candidate), and Philip Lacerte Sr, along with all the language speakers within her family.

Her language and culture journey started in 2008 with the Developmental Standard

Term Certificate program, which was a 3-year community-based program. She then earned a diploma in First Nations Studies in 2011 and applied for the Bachelor of Education program with the University of Northern BC. She specialized in elementary education, concentrating on intermediate education through her practicum. In 2016 Rosalie successfully completed her Master of Education Degree from University of British Columbia and NVIT. Rosalie master's program included a 3-year Mentor Apprentice Program with First Peoples' Cultural Council.

Today she uses her skills and experience in language for field work. She would like to apply for a doctoral degree in the near future. She also wants to help others who are trying to re-learn, retain, and revitalize their language and culture through her research and studies.

First Nations Language Careers



Debbie Leighton-Stephens is from the Killerwhale clan of the Gitwilgyoots Tribe and a member of the Ts'msyen Nation. She comes from the community of Metlakatla. After she graduated from high school, Debbie worked for her home community as a Home School Coordinator. She later worked as a Teacher's Aide in an elementary school. It was then that she decided that if she was truly going to help children with their learning she needed to further her own education. Debbie enrolled in university to complete her first degree and earned her teaching certificate. After a few years of classroom teaching and coordinating in the Ts'msyen Sm'algyax program, Debbie realized that she needed to go even further with her education. She enrolled into a Master of Education Degree. With a master's degree she was able to work as a Principal of Indigenous Education.

After working in the education system for almost thirty years she formally retired

from School District 52. Debbie continues to support the Ts'msyen Language Program to this day. Over six years ago, Debbie decided to pursue a doctorate of education. While in the program, her focus was to work with younger Sm'algyax team-teachers and Ts'msyen Knowledge Holders to develop an understanding of the Ts'msyen ways of being by building an understanding of the traditional Ts'msyen adaawx narratives.

Debbie recently completed her doctorate. Debbie's Ts'msyen language and culture is very important to her. Throughout her many years working in Indigenous education, she was fortunate to learn alongside many other Indigenous scholars, including Ts'msyen Knowledge Holders. She was driven by knowing how important it is for First Nations learners to feel proud about who they are and where they come from. She is not a fluent speaker but each day she continues to learn her language.

"We are all future Knowledge Holders. We need to prepare ourselves for when the time comes. Embrace every opportunity you can to learn your language. We need First Nations language teachers. If you set your mind to it, you can do it. Ga'wansgasm (You all work hard). It is truly a unique gift that you will never regret."

Languages in the News

Ditidaht First Nation launched a cool video game featuring the diiʔdiiʔtidq language that takes players on a cultural journey by canoe through the First Nation's traditional territory off the coast of Vancouver Island. The app can be found at [Ditidaht Kids](#) ([Ditidaht Kids Video Game – Learn Ditidaht](#)).



Westbank First Nation has made self-paced online resources for learning the nsyilxcən language. They have created 45 video tutorials featuring Councillor Jordan Coble and Okanagan Nation Alliance Member Levi Bent, using Book 1 of the Paul Creek nsyilxcən curriculum. It is the first language series of its kind. To sign up you can fill out the form at this link: [Request for Language Submission Form - Westbank First Nation \(wfn.ca\)](#).



Try Singing to Learn your First Nations Language!

The Raising Sm'alg yax project was created to connect families and preserve the Sm'alg yax language. Sm'alg yax is spoken by communities on the north coast of BC. This includes communities of Məxłaxaala (Metlakatla), Txałgiw (Hartley Bay), Gits'ilaasü (Kitselas), and Gits'mk'eelm (Kitsumkalum).

One way the project promotes the learning of language is through songs. Singing and writing songs is one of the best ways to learn and remember a language because it involves repetition and listening. Hearing songs helps you learn the correct pronunciation of words.

On the website of Sm'alg yax, there are songs that you can sing to with your little siblings or younger cousins, or nieces and nephews. The following is an example of Hokey Pokey lyrics in the Sm'alg yax language:

Hooki Pooki
Ksiłooda_____,
ts'ilm gaa_____,
ksiłooda_____,
Adm äa k'wiä susuut

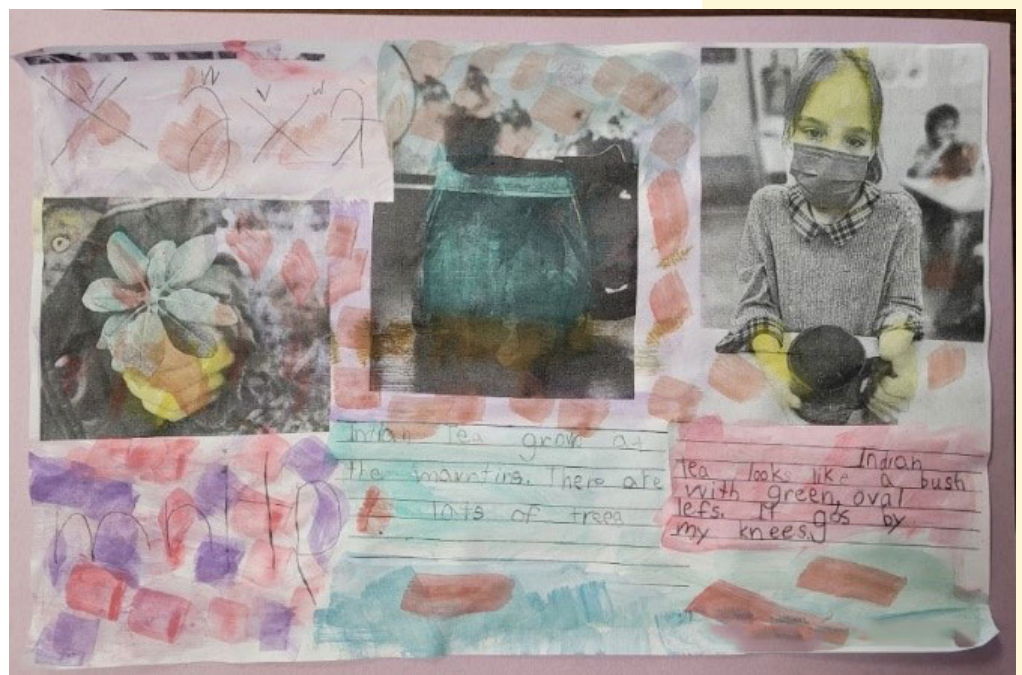
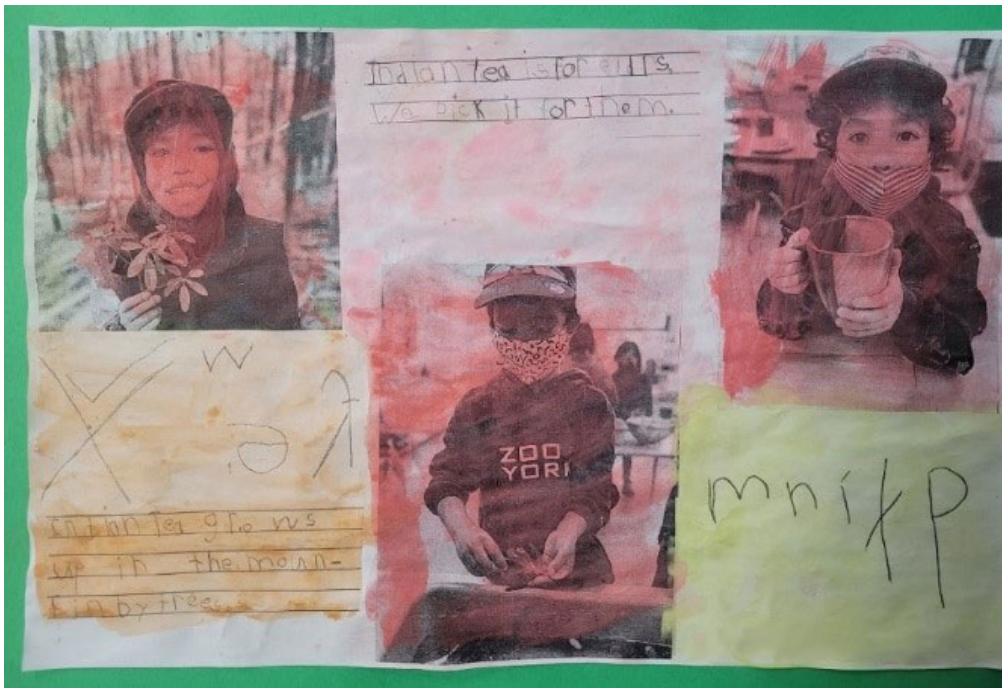
Dm dzabn hooki pooki
Dm da k'wit tguyeltgn
Nii wila waal da gwii.

(Repeat the song
substituting body parts)

You can listen along at:
<https://www.smalgyax.ca/songs>.

Spotlight on Science Day!

Thanks Seventh Generation Club members for participating in the Science Day contest. Please see some contest submission from Outma Sqilxw Cultural School.



Seventh Generation Club Word Search

UDXBMAOPBBVWSUSFYNIQPQAMUZGYJY
 XCSEWVPFIEMVRCYECHAMPIONSKNNTMA
 KDZTLFPZZOOISXOOWYOHLMRNFZIRYZ
 UGINEVMTSYXRFATMLEQFDVKEEZLZSP
 EQRCORECORDINGSLMHMNHISTORYYYXK
 HRBMTEXLBPFFYNEHNDUCTZHPWNVLCZD
 JPWWBICKTRYVTCDVQRQWZQRQGJUIGPG
 WSWXPWOJSWECYEWANELIWMOTDJNATJ
 SCNHKFPNKJJTPVTCDSOATFCBKZDWYT
 BACUBXMI AJWNI ESVR YDFMYLQMZ IYAU
 PLYYCWXDURJCPLHLFNXIVRFVNTGRWN
 DFAVAFUFC AIJDOPRIDERXUZA AKEEKJ
 ZAFNBXWSOIBEJPLSHQHSGNRVPRNZIC
 XMDKGBVVFVJMSMQOLLYTWGZEVPOOYC
 YQLDKUJBGWHXJEKNRNQVRPFKZOZOH
 MWKEUIANYJMADNQGQTHOYGYZPJ SKYQ
 CHDAANDGGOPLKTYSGCHIRZQSKSWMVO
 TQIJQRLQEF COHXPTFOLCSWDMRGARUA
 GYKYHWNINFKLMKIFSVFENBBGKJWEXR
 GNZEQZFIVWZGIYJRZSUSPRCEMXRVSU
 EAWCMWGFNTGKQNOCCMHMZLSQTURIIML
 PIEDUROZYGHSJUGLVB JIOJKNSVTTED
 VCIKMMAWOFWYTNIUHSTFCULTUREANM
 TTFJYRHTSHRTQOJAISPIDLHLQGOLTU
 IVALDQMUBTPVHZRDTSLMTNWFYRZIOK
 WLYSYTCZACDRRQBIFMTZHKKJOQH ZRP
 XDDUHGQORTMVUMAUEFKIUDHTIPSEZW
 ARLQOCJNLRJDFVNKJSIYCFPUEKPRBB
 MUUDDUHCZOJ MPEKNOWLEDGEDQPZHEC
 YGGNBVWZSKINC DGC OXOQLDSYKVFB SU

Dictionaries
 Linguistic
 Champions
 Culture
 Pride

Firstvoices
 Recordings
 Community
 History
 Write

Development
 Revitalize
 Learning
 Mentor
 Tips

Indigenous
 Knowledge
 Language
 Stories
 Songs

The Seventh Generation Club is coordinated by the First Nations Education Steering Committee and First Nations Schools Association, in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority and the Vancouver Canucks.



SEVENTH
GENERATION

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If you have any questions, or would like to see something included in upcoming newsletters, write to the Editor at the address above, or send an email to: seventhgen@fnesc.ca.