



LANGUAGE EDUCATION FOR K-12 CLASSROOMS

Children in residential schools were expected to speak European languages (English or French) and often report being punished for speaking their traditional languages. Today, many Indigenous languages are fragile and at risk of being lost. The loss of a language is devastating to a culture and is a direct legacy of the residential schooling system.

Indigenous languages are highly conceptual in nature and express Indigenous world views. For example, the translation for pencil, Elder Ekti Margaret Cardinal shares, is roughly 'a stick that makes markings' in Cree.

Why Introduce Indigenous languages?

Exploring the greeting and farewell words of Indigenous languages being used in Treaty areas situated in the provinces of Alberta:

- helps students explore and understand Indigenous world views
- supports belonging for students who identify as First Nations, Métis and Inuit
- creates a more inclusive classroom space.

Use these videos, student handouts, and classroom connections to bring Indigenous languages and perspectives to life in your classrooms.

WATCH THE VIDEOS

Click on the images to view the recordings.



Elder
Wilson Bearhead
shares greetings and farewells in
Nakota



Elder
Ekti (Margaret) Cardinal
shares greetings and farewells in
Cree



Knowledge Keeper
Charlene Noskey
shares greetings and farewells in
Cree (Y Dialect)

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Grades K-12

Create a word wall with Indigenous greetings and farewells and their English translations. Practice saying them together. Elementary teachers could include these words in their morning message or other literacy activities with students.

Grades 2-12

Use one of these on-line translation dictionaries to further explore Cree, Blackfoot and Nakota languages:

- [Blackfoot](#)
- [Cree](#)
- [Nakota](#)

Explore words for common school objects, the seasons, or words related to a current unit of study.

Work with students to infuse Indigenous words into land acknowledgements, curriculum explorations and descriptions of the land when discussing geography.

Grades 7-12

After watching the videos, consider the conceptual nature of Indigenous languages. What can we understand about Indigenous world views given this approach to language?

Access other FREE resources and
register for professional learning:

www.EmpoweringTheSpirit.ca



Alberta Regional Consortium

INDIGENOUS WAYS TO SAY 'HI' AND 'BYE'



How are you? **Hello**
Hi Nice to see you!

Goodbye **Bye!**
See you later.

Using Indigenous words at school is one way to take action toward reconciliation. Watch these Indigenous people share their words for greetings and farewells. Can you say them too?

Teacher

Language

Hellos and Goodbyes



Elder
Wilson
Bearhead

Nakota

The sun coming out and
blessing this world **OR** hello aba wahteno
OR greetings
We will see you later soon **OR**
we will meet again in this hucimatawan
world



Elder
Ekti (Margaret)
Cardinal

Cree

Hello	tānisi
Where do you come from?	tāntē ohci kiya
It's a nice day	miyo kīsikāw
It's a nice morning	miyo kīkisēpāyāw
I love you	kisākihiti
Let's go home now	kiwētān ekwa
Thank you	kinanāskomitin
Great Job	kahki
That's it for now	ekosi
Until next time	kīhtwān mina
I will see you again	kāwapihmitin



Knowledge
Keeper
Charlene
Noskey

Cree, Y Dialect

How are you?	Tansi
I'm ok, how about you?	Mona nantow, Kiya maka?
Where are you from?	Tante ochi kiya?
Goodbye	Ikosi maka
See you again	Kīhtwam ka-wapamitin



INDIGENOUS GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

How are you? **Hello**
Hi Nice to see you!

Goodbye **Bye!**
See you later.

Why Learn and Use Indigenous Words?

Children in residential school were not allowed to speak their language. Many people who attended these schools talk about how lonely and scary it was to not be allowed to speak in the only language that they knew.

Because of residential schooling, generations of Indigenous children did not get to learn their traditional languages and to learn the oral teachings that would have been a part of their language learning.

Today, many Indigenous languages are at risk of being lost.

One **reconciliation-ACTION** all students can take is to learn and use Indigenous language greetings and farewells. This sign of respect supports Indigenous peoples in feeling valued.

Listen to the language teachings from Elders and Knowledge Keepers by clicking on their images to the right.

Teacher

Language

Hellos and Goodbyes



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Wilson Bearhead

Nakota

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Knowledge Keeper
Charlene Noskey

Cree, Y Dialect

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Because of residential schooling, generations of Indigenous youth had very limited opportunity to practice or use traditional languages and to receive the oral teachings that would have typically accompanied their language learning.

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Language

Greetings and Farewells



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