FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL

Revitalizing First Nations Languages, Arts, Cultures and Heritage

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Overview

- Introduction to First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Overview of Program Strategies
- Strategic Integration of Community Language, Arts, Cultures and Heritage

LANGUAGE   ARTS   HERITAGE

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FPCC Overview

Organizational Vision

First Nations languages, arts, cultures and heritage in B.C. are thriving. The knowledge and worldviews expressed through First Nations languages, arts, cultures and heritage are valued as essential to our collective well-being and human rights.

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External Peer-Review Committees
of community experts determine which projects are funded

Board of Directors & Advisory Committee
includes 34 Indigenous languages

Information and Resource Sharing
at conferences and community events

PROGRAMS & SERVICES DIRECTED BY COMMUNITY NEEDS

In-Person Visits
to communities across B.C.

Collaboration and Support
in communities with FPCC program staff and coaches

Program Feedback
through formal and informal channels

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Current Context

20+ funding streams supporting community-led projects for:

- **204** First Nations
- **34** languages & **90+** varieties
- Indigenous artists & arts & heritage organizations

Value Creation

- Training and professional development
- Coaching and mentorship
- Networking and engagement
- Resources and tools
- Research and advocacy
- Job creation in communities

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Language

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Language Status Assessment (LSA)

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF
B.C. First Nations Languages
Third Edition, 2018

Why Complete an LSA?

☼ Can be used as an advocacy tool
☼ Can be used to educate the general public
☼ Can be used to support the community mobilization
☼ Important to see the reclamation taking place

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Language Program Strategies

☼ Language Technology Program
☼ Language Revitalization Planning Program

"Another success ... is the tremendous untapped potential for **connecting** our language **assets with learners.**"

~ Doig River FN
FirstVoices team

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Immersion Programing

☼ Mentor-Apprentice Program
☼ Youth Empowered Speakers
☼ Reclaiming My Language

"**Learning the language** has been a dream of mine for many years but I never knew how to make that **dream into a reality.**"
— **YES Apprentice**

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Open-Strategy Program

☼Pathways to Language Vitality

Example of eligible community-led projects:
• Adult language immersion programs
• Language Nests
• Language documentation
• Resource and materials development

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Indigenous Arts Programs

ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLECTIVES BASKET
- ❖ Organizations and Collectives
- ❖ Community Art Spaces
- ❖ Sharing Traditional Arts Across Generations
- ❖ Arts Administrator Internships & Mentorships

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Indigenous Arts Programs

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST BASKET
- ❖ Individual Artist Grant
- ❖ Individual Arts Scholarships & Mentorship
- ❖ Arts Vitality Micro-Grant

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INDIGENOUS MUSIC BASKET

- ♪ Indigenous Music Grants
- ♪ Music Industry Professionals
- ♪ Indigenous Music Retreat

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What Is Indigenous Cultural Heritage (ICH)?

▷ Ideas, experiences, worldviews, objects, forms of expression, practices, knowledge, spirituality, kinship ties, places, and land valued by Indigenous Peoples.

▷ ICH is often living heritage and it may be intangible rather than physical

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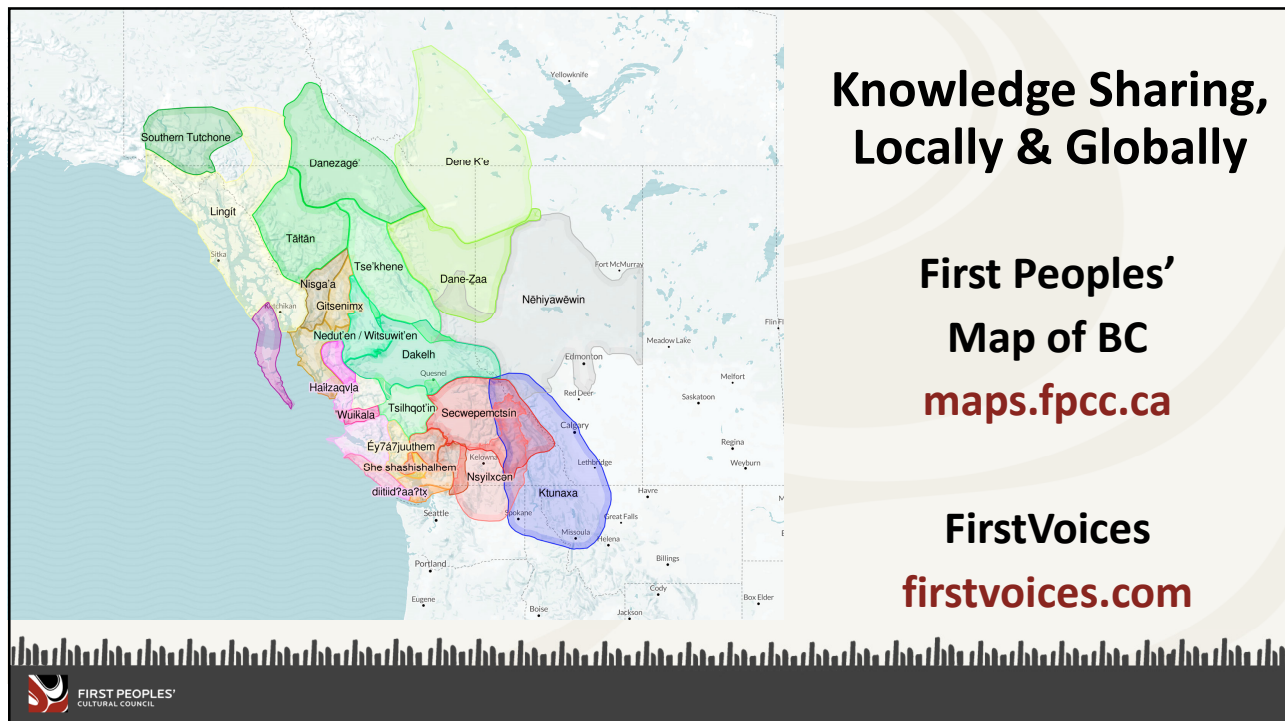
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How do we make *projects* within Arts, Language, and Heritage sustainable for us or for future generations?

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Sustainability for First Nation Language, Arts and Heritage –
A Wholistic Approach: Differentiating Revitalization and Reclamation

Revitalization as:

"Breathing new life into the language [arts and heritage]…increasing the number of speakers, increasing the domains in which the language [arts and heritage are] used, and promoting intergenerational transmission."
(Leonard 2011: 141)

Reclamation as:

"A much larger social process of claiming—or reclaiming—the appropriate cultural context and sense of value that the language [arts and heritage] would likely have always had if not for colonization." (ibid.)

Leonard, Wesley Y. 2011. Challenging "Extinction" through Modern Miami Language Practices. American Indian Culture and Research Journal 35(2): 135-160.

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Slide 21

Are language, arts & heritage revitalization listed as a strategic priority?

Within a:
- Comprehensive Community Plan
- Language Status Assessment
- Land Use Plan
- Economic Development Plan
- Education Plan
- Language and Culture Plan
- Other?

What is CCP?

Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) is holistic, community-driven planning that covers all aspects of the community and lays out a vision and goals for the long term.

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Slide 22

Strategic Planning for Revitalization of Language, Arts and Heritage

Shift communities from the *'standard approach'* of siloed projects, and reacting to language, arts, and heritage loss…

…to an **integrated plan-based model** of proactively building a future for the vitality of these areas.

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Why Strategic Planning?

✓ Outcomes

✓ Costs

✓ Expertise

✓ Advocacy

✓ Implementation

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Standard Approach vs. Wholistic Approach

The 'standard approach'
- ✕ Decision making
- ✕ Development agenda
- ✕ Development
- ✕ Indigenous culture
- ✕ Resources

A wholistic approach
- ✓ Self-determination
- ✓ Systems approach
- ✓ Cultural context
- ✓ Strategic orientation
- ✓ Community mobilization

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Self-Determination

Syilx Okanagan Language Declaration

"We, the *Syilx Okanagan* Peoples have spoken our nsyilxcən language since time immemorial, and we are responsible for the protection, revitalization and advancement of our nsyilxcən language."

– excerpt from the Syilx Okanagan Language Declaration

Those who have been able to assert decision-making control have significantly increased their chances of sustainable development.

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Governance - *Systems Approach to Strengthening Capacity*

Standard Approach
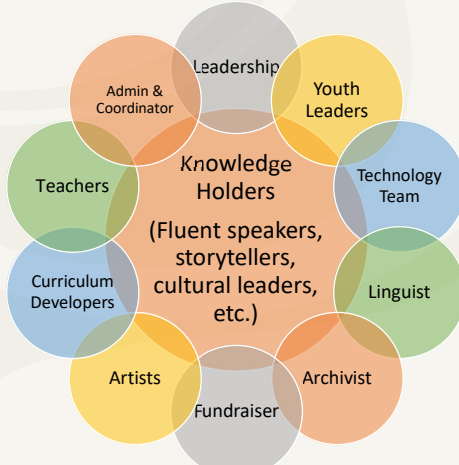
Project
- Space
- Knowledge Holder
- Materials
- Orientation
- Schedule/timeline

Wholistic Approach

Leadership
Admin & Coordinator
Youth Leaders
Teachers
Technology Team
Knowledge Holders
(Fluent speakers, storytellers, cultural leaders, etc.)
Curriculum Developers
Linguist
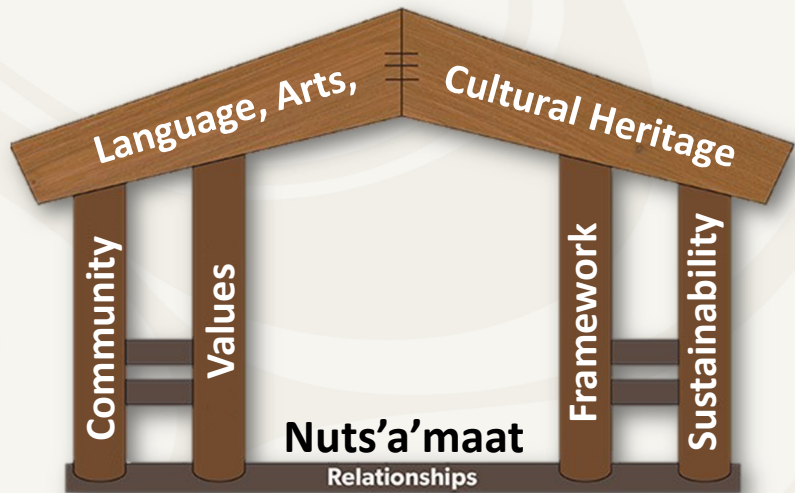Artists
Archivist
Fundraiser

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Cultural Context

- Grounded in Culture and Tradition

- Incorporating values that are important to community can help guide the work

Language, Arts, Cultural Heritage

Community · Values · Framework · Sustainability

Nuts'a'maat

Relationships

Image credit: Camosun College, https://camosun.ca/indigenization-four-corner-post-model

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Strategic Orientation

Empowers community to focus on the strategic decision-making, and long-term vision of the Indigenous language, arts heritage.

1. WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?
2. WHERE ARE WE NOW?
3. WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?
4. HOW WILL WE GET THERE?
5. HAVE WE ARRIVED?

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Community Mobilization

- Language, arts & heritage across all domains

- Mobilize the community towards the reclamation of their Indigenous language, arts heritage
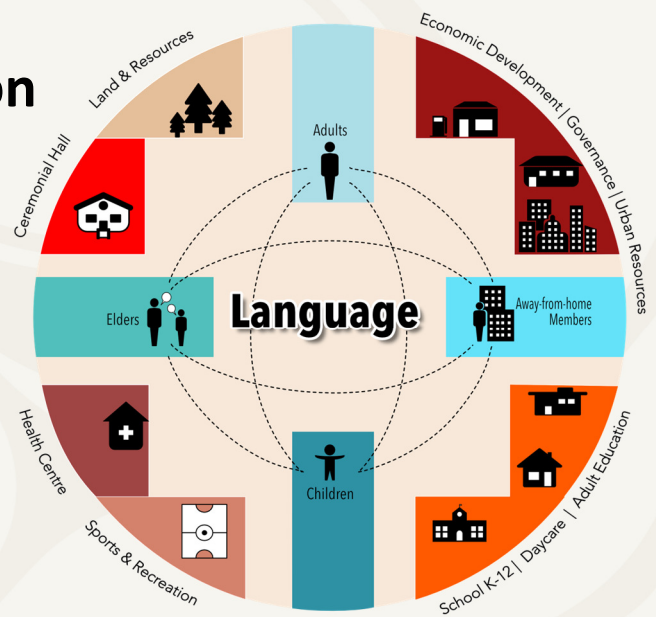
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Strategic Planning for Revitalization of our Language, Arts and Heritage should be viewed as a continuous process without a final stopping point
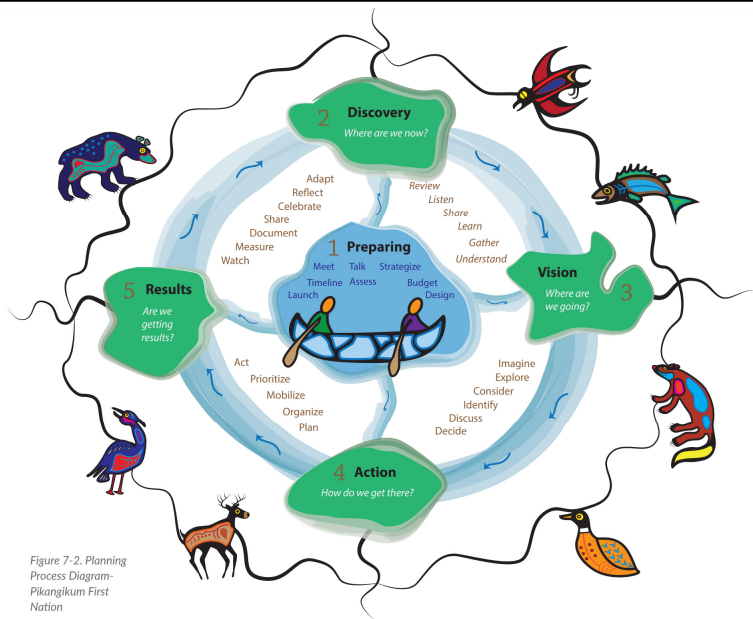

Figure 7-2. Planning Process Diagram-Pikangikum First Nation

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Final Reflection

- Authentic Indigenous histories need to be told in Indigenous voices; that's how we will move forward

- First Nations language, arts, cultures and heritage are interwoven; support is needed across all sectors

- Indigenous cultural heritage in Canada is integral to UNDRIP

- Critical for the health and wellness of Indigenous people

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Dialogue, Questions, Responses

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Questions & Support

General: info@fpcc.ca
Coaches: languagecoaches@fpcc.ca

FPCC Website: fpcc.ca
Sign up for News: fpcc.ca/signup

FPCC Grant Portal: fpcc.ca/login

HÍ,SW̱KE SIÁM HALE

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Resources

- FirstVoices – www.firstvoices.com
- First Peoples' Map of BC – www.maps.fpcc.ca
- FPCC Language Planning Toolkit – https://language-toolkit.fpcc.ca/

References

- Cornell and Kalt (2007). Two Approaches to the Development of Native Nations One Works, the Other Doesn't. Rebuilding Native Nations: Strategies for Governance and Development, Chapter 1, pages 1-33
- Gessner and Parker (2021). Language Planning: Planning a Future for Your Language, https://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/SILL/SILL9.pdf
- Native Nation Institute, University of Arizona (2021). What is Native Nation Building? https://nni.arizona.edu/what-native-nation-building
- Okanagan Nation Alliance (2021). Syilx Okanagan Language Declaration, https://www.syilx.org/about-us/syilx-nation/4918-2/

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