



Update to the BCAFN on First Nations Language, Arts and Heritage

Tracey Herbert, CEO, First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC), October 2, 2024
AFN Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL) Member for B.C.



Funding Opportunities

Explore grant opportunities at <https://fpcc.ca/grants/> or scan code

Mentor-Apprentice Program (closing October 15/24)

The Mentor-Apprentice Program for individual learners is a one-on-one language immersion program that helps people to become fluent speakers by bringing their language into their daily lives at home and on the land.

New Heritage Grant (closing October 22/24)

FPCC's Cultural Practices Grant is a new program that supports B.C. First Nations in planning, carrying out and documenting community-based cultural practices and events that affirm identities, foster a sense of belonging, and celebrate the roles, relationships and responsibilities within a community. Activities may include:

- Celebrations honouring children and youth
- Celebrations honouring people who hold important roles within their communities
- Events that bring community members together to affirm and strengthen relationships, cultural identities and responsibilities
- Seasonal and celestial activities and events
- Knowledge gathering and transfer, including documenting cultural practices and events
- Reawakening of cultural places and the traditions associated with them, and other culturally important practices that are held by communities.

Coming Soon: Youth Empowered Speakers (YES) Program (applications available Nov. 15/24)

The YES program provides training and paid work internships for students aged 18-35 alongside Mentor-Apprentice Program language learning.

Language Funding Update

- Two different language resolutions regarding the Regional Allocation Formula (RAF) for community-based language funding were tabled at the AFN AGA in July 2024.
- One resolution reintroduced a previously defeated resolution for an equally-weighted RAF which would result in a significant drop in funding for B.C.
- The other resolution, introduced by B.C., advocated for more time to reach consensus on an evidence-based RAF and for the AFN to use all means at their disposal to ensure

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that Canada lives up to its legally binding commitments in the Indigenous Languages Act to provide adequate, sustainable and long-term funding for the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening of Indigenous languages.

- As a compromise between the two resolutions, the Technical and Chiefs Committees on Languages agreed to an interim RAF limited to 2 years. While B.C. will see a reduction in funding under the interim RAF, the reduction is not as great as it would have been with an equally-weighted RAF.
- B.C. had requested a two-day languages summit supported by an independent mediator and facilitator to continue to negotiate the RAF; this will take place in November.
- We continue to advocate for a research-based and data-driven approach to the RAF.
- B.C. is in a unique position with 36 First Nations languages and approximately 1/3 of First Nations communities in Canada; this is not adequately addressed in the current RAF.
- FPCC continues to advocate and build a case for investment that meets the unique language needs of B.C.

Other Resources

Learn your language on www.firstvoices.com

Check out our map of First Nations languages, artists and cultural heritage points of interest: <https://maps.fpcc.ca/>

Sign up for FPCC's social media on: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

Endangered Languages Project (ELP): <https://www.endangeredlanguages.com/>

About the First Peoples' Cultural Council

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) is a First Nations-governed organization formed in 1990 with the mandate to support the revitalization of B.C. First Nations languages, arts and cultural heritage. 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.