



A Draft Strategy on First Nations Language Revitalization

First Nations Languages Forum

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Purpose

- Given the precariousness of First Nations languages, the Strategy is meant to mobilize First Nations and others to maximize current opportunities for revitalization
- To articulate the vision, values, goals and broad areas of change needed for language revitalization
- To set out fiscal and organizational approaches to facilitate the normalization of First Nations languages across Canada
- To serve as an evergreen document to inform and be informed by internal and external developments on language revitalization



Guideposts

- First Nations values and worldviews
- Diversity of languages, language states, capacities, organizational infrastructure
- No nation or language left behind
- Flexible First Nations-led frameworks
- Coordination across First Nations and First Nations organizations
- Adequate, sustainable and long-term funding as essential to language revitalization



Background

- 2015: AFN calls for a First Nations language revitalization strategy, drawing on existing resolutions and reports
- Ongoing input from Technical Committee on Languages
- National engagements in preparation for Indigenous Languages Act and with respect to its implementation
- 2019: Passage of *Indigenous Languages Act* in Canada; the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; International Year of Indigenous Languages
- 2022: International Decade of Indigenous Languages



Highlights – Support Structures

Enhancing the support structure / system can ensure no one is left behind

- Addresses need for all-level supports – grass roots / First Nations, regional / semi-regional where determined by First Nations; national
- Encourages First Nations to build on collective strengths and resources by establishing or strengthening bodies at the sub-regional or regional level where desired
- Champions diverse and multifaceted approaches from the grass roots up, rather than top down, determined by First Nations needs, interests and goals
- Calls for whole of government approach to ensure appropriate coordination in such areas as life-long learning, education, health and social services.



Highlights - Funding

Insufficient, proposal-based, short term funding impedes First Nations efforts to revitalize their languages

- Demands adequate, sustainable and long-term funding as required in the ILA
- Supports First-Nations determined mechanisms and funding models
- Supports formation of regional supports provided funding is not at expense of community allocations
- Reflects work on new Indigenous Languages Funding Model including focus on ongoing core (programmatic) funding, First Nations control, limited use of proposal-based funding, opportunities for collaborative initiatives and organizational supports.



Highlights – Multifaceted Approaches

The diversity of First Nations languages, language states, situations and capacities demands varied and unique approaches to revitalization

- Supports the use of multifaceted approaches as determined by First Nations based on their unique circumstances, worldviews, needs, goals and capacities
- Identifies promising multifaceted approaches being used
- Recognizes that a multifaceted-based approach demands a better system of support, appropriate funding mechanisms, and adequate funding, as identified throughout the Strategy.



Highlights – Accountability and Data

First Nations led accountability mechanisms are needed. Data are lacking for costing, accountability and revitalization in general

- New mutual accountability mechanisms based on First Nations values, needs and goals
- Better data and more research to inform revitalization efforts and planning
- Enhanced data collection to support costing adequacy and sustainability and the new funding model
- First Nations ownership of First Nations data



Where We Are Now

- Ongoing work on a new Funding Model, including engagements
- Data collection initiative - costing and funding model
- Exploring opportunities under the ILA for cooperation and organizational support structures
- Resource for co-development work, e.g. on the Decade and the related Global Action Plan
- Potential for implementation document with actions and goals for First Nations mobilization
- Turning the urgency of the moment and the opportunities at hand into a positive future for First Nations languages.



We would like to hear from you

Your feedback on the Draft Strategy is valuable to us. Please share your thoughts about the content as well as how you would like to see it implemented and used by and for First Nations and others going forward.

Please send your thoughts, comments and questions regarding the Draft National Strategy on First Nations Language Revitalization to:

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Masi Cho / Miigwetch Thank you!

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