



HONOURING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

Through colonization came both the systematic destruction of Indigenous languages and the valuing of the written word over oral teachings, traditions and knowledge sharing, so integral to Indigenous cultures. And yet, the 2011 census reports that over 60 Indigenous languages are still spoken across Canada and close to a quarter of a million people speak one of these at home.

Indigenous peoples' histories, cultures and languages are still ignored, made invisible or thought of as unimportant by school systems and other institutions. Many Canadians are simply not aware of their vitality and meaning.

There is an active movement to reclaim and revitalize Indigenous languages across the country and there are specific Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report designed to support these efforts. Visit trc.ca to find out more.

Educators can take a significant role in changing these perceptions and this tool can contribute to these efforts by:

- ensuring that students learn about our Indigenous language heritage and their importance;
- welcoming Indigenous students and families into schools by learning, sharing and using greetings (while also recognizing there are different dialects);
- showing students Joining the Circle short animated films in Indigenous languages in classrooms, school meetings and events with families;
- inviting Indigenous community members and Elders to speak about this issue and share the value of Indigenous languages (including the languages in this resource and others spoken in your communities);
- acknowledging that many of our common words in English are in fact Indigenous words such as Canada, toboggan, moose, kayak, moccasin, pecan, and igloo.

CREE

ENGLISH	CREE	PRONUNCIATION
Welcome	Ninaskomitin	Ni nas koo mitin
Hello	Wâciyê	Wachay
Goodbye	Wâciyê	Wachay
Thank you	Mîkwêc	Meequetch
I'm sorry	Nimihcilawêsin	Ni mi chi layway sin
How are you?	Tân' êhtiyin	Tan ay tee yun
Let's play	Mêtawêtaow	May tah way tao
My name is...	...n'šinihkâsowin	Ni shi ni kah so win

INUKTITUT

ENGLISH	INUKTITUT	PRONUNCIATION
Welcome	Tunngasugit(si) <i>single vs plural</i>	Too-nga-su-geet (see)
Hello	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ullaqut <i>good morning</i>• Unnusaqut <i>good afternoon</i>• Unnuqut <i>good evening</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oo-la-koot• Oo-noo-sa-koot• Oo-noo-koot
Goodbye	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Siarutau <i>until next time</i>• Kauputtau <i>until tomorrow</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See-a-roo-ta-oo• Cow-put-ta-oo
Thank you	<i>Regional differences</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• naqumik• nakumik• quianamik• mutna	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Na-ku-mick• Na-koo-mick• Key-an-na-mick• Mutt-na
I'm sorry	Mamiana(q)	Ma-mi-a-na
How are you?	Qanuipii	Ka-noo-we-pee
Let's play	Pingualuq	Ping-oo-a-look
My name is...	Atira...	At-tee-ra...

LUNAAPEEW

ENGLISH	LUNAAPEEW	PRONUNCIATION
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nooleelündam éel páyan• Nooleelündam éel páyeeng <i>plural</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nō la lin dum el py yun• Nō la lin dum el py yang
Hello	Kwīingu-néewul (lōhmwa) <i>plural</i>	K-wing-a now-wool (low-mai)
Goodbye	Láap-ūch kūneewulōhmwa	La pitch cun now al loom moi
Thank you	Anushik	A-nish-eek
How are you?	Koolamátsi ha?	Kōl la mul see ha
My name is...	Nīi ndushīnzi	Knee-dish-sheen-zi

MICHIF

ENGLISH	MICHIF	PRONUNCIATION
Welcome	Binvnu	
Hello	Alo	Alo
Goodbye	A larwouèrur <i>'till next time</i>	
Thank you	Marsi	Mar-see
I'm sorry	J'mexkuz	
How are you?	Kawmen kté?	
Let's play	On jou tu	
My name is...	J'mappèl	J'm'appell

MOHAWK

ENGLISH	MOHAWK	PRONUNCIATION
Welcome	Tekwanonhwerá:tons	Deh gwah new h weh laAh dews
Hello	Sekoh	Say-koh
Goodbye	Onen ki' wahi	Oh-nen-kee-wah-hee
Thank you	Niá:wen	Nee-ah-way
How are you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skennen ken <i>are you well?</i>• Oh nyohtonhaty <i>how's it going?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skayn-nen-kén• Oh-nee-yoh-tawn- haw-tee
Let's play	Wakatkahritsheronni <i>I am playing</i>	Wah-katt-kah-hrits- hey-rone-nee
My name is...	...yonkyats	Yone-ky-ats

OJIBWE

ENGLISH	OJIBWE	PRONUNCIATION
Welcome	Gdi-mokaagoom	Gdi-makaagoom
Hello	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aanii• Aaniin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ah-nee• Ah-neen
Goodbye	Baamaa pii <i>see you later</i>	Bah-mah-pee
Thank you	Miigwech	Mee-gwetch
I'm sorry	Ga-wiin njida	Ga-ween injidah
How are you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aaniish ezhi-bmaadiziiyan?• Aaniish naa?• E-nowek na go? <i>used only by Mississauga people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ahneesh ayzhi bimaadizeeyan?• Ahneesh nah?• Ay no wayk na go?
Let's play	Damnodaa	Damnodah
My name is...	...ndizhnikaaz	Indizh nikoz

OJI-CREE

ENGLISH	OJI-CREE	PRONUNCIATION
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biindigen <i>singular</i>• Biindigeg <i>plural</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Been di gayn• Been di gayg
Hello	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waajiiye• Booshoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wah jee yay• Booshoo
Goodbye	Miinawaach gawaabamin <i>I'll see you again</i>	Mee na waach gawaabamin
Thank you	Miigwech	Meegwech
I'm sorry	Ni-minji-na-wenz	Ni mingee na waynz
How are you?	Aaneshiiyaayan	Ahnayshee yah yan
Let's play	Gadazhiikemin	Ga da zhee min
My name is...	...ndizhinikaaz	N dizhi ni kahz