

A Call from Youth for Indigenous Language and Cultural Revitalization



Why this is important

Cultural revitalization ensures the continuity of rich Indigenous traditions. Language, for example, is more than a means of communication – it is a powerful tool that cultivates a strong sense of culture, belonging, and community. Indigenous youth play a pivotal role in ensuring that the diverse languages of Indigenous peoples thrive and resonate. This reconnection leads youth to become the guardians of their cultural legacy to assure that traditional stories, ecological knowledge, and spiritual teachings endure into the future. Practicing traditional Indigenous activities aid youth in remaining connected to the land, their histories and cultures. In addition, the skills that are gained through experiential learning and language (re)connection can carry into life outside of the classroom – providing Indigenous youth a sense of empowerment and pride. This is fundamental to students building their self-confidence and self-esteem.

What we heard

Through previously funded *Social Sciences and Humanity Research Council (SSHRC)* funding, we learned that high-school students desire to learn more about their languages, histories, cultures, and traditional activities:

- Connection with Elders
- Language teachings
- Land-based teachings
- Harvesting
- Plant medicines
- Traditional dancing
- More community engagement

What we provide

We are able to provide top-up for the pay for language or cultural knowledge holders in an effort to be equitable with other teaching positions. People who are receiving top-ups from these funds are not subjects of research but are invited to be co-collaborators.

We are open to other possibilities that serve youth and their communities, and welcome further discussions, if funds can be used to support learning and partnerships in other ways.

How to contact us

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