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Community Partnerships

IN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE
REVITALIZATION



Indigenous peoples across Canada are seeking to ensure the survival and rejuvenation of their languages.

The Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization provides participants with knowledge and skills needed to work in or with Indigenous communities, to analyze the factors that lead to language loss, and to develop practical strategies for language revitalization that are culturally appropriate and responsive to the unique needs of the community.

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En'owkin Centre



**University
of Victoria**

WHY PARTNER WITH THE CILR PROGRAM?

The Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization (CILR), developed by the University of Victoria's Department of Linguistics and Division of Continuing Studies in partnership with the En'owkin Centre offers accessible and culturally appropriate learning opportunities to support language revitalization work in communities. Winning awards in Knowledge Mobilization, CILR has been successfully offered in community settings in British Columbia, Alberta, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Quebec and Ontario.

Delivering the full certificate—or individual courses—within a community using a cohort-model offers many benefits including fostering a supportive and encouraging learning environment, developing learning opportunities that are relevant and accessible to participants, and providing university credit that can be laddered into further studies.

Collaborative structure

The CILR program has been designed to allow community partners and the University of Victoria to work in collaboration to co-develop a program that responds to the unique language revitalization needs of a community. In a Community Partnership, the CILR program staff (including Academic Advisor from Department of Linguistics) works with an Indigenous organization or institutional partner. The Community Partner brings language and culture expertise, as well as a culturally appropriate liaison between the university and participants. The University of Victoria brings a credible framework for Indigenous language revitalization including linguistics expertise, credit course offerings, and streamlined administrative services.

Examples of successful partnerships have ranged from educational institutions such as Nunavut Arctic College, to Indigenous Nations such as the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, to not-for-profit language societies such as the Quuquatsa Language Society formed to serve the 14 tribes of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations on Vancouver Island.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Community Coordinator: A vital role

To facilitate the CILR program delivery, the Community Partner appoints a Community Coordinator to interact with the CILR staff throughout the duration of the program and courses. This role is key to the success of the program. The Community Coordinator serves as a liaison between the CILR program staff and instructors, the community partner and the students

PROGRAM GOALS

- Provide learners with the foundational knowledge and skills in linguistics that are needed to undertake language preservation and revitalization work.
- Build knowledge and skills in language preservation, revitalization, and cultural resource management principles and practices.
- Develop learners' ability to analyze language preservation issues relevant across Indigenous cultures and specific to their own communities.
- Enhance learners' capacity to develop responsive strategies and programs designed to preserve and revitalize Indigenous languages.
- Offer a comprehensive and respected certificate program (along with opportunities for language community members to participate in elective courses on a non-credit basis).
- Create a foundation for subsequent academic studies in related areas in such topics as education, cultural resource management and linguistics.

to arrange the local delivery of the courses. Responsibilities include securing classroom locations and any technology requirements, identifying potential Elders and resource people to support the course(s), helping with recruitment and supporting students locally as they complete their application and registration paperwork. The Community Coordinator and the CILR Program staff work together to ensure the program runs smoothly.

Program participants

The CILR program welcomes all students, regardless of their academic background and previous experience. Students generally come from a wide range of backgrounds including community-based language teachers, local government workers, cultural workers, and community members working or interested in language preservation and revitalization initiatives. CILR classes often include both young adults and Elders (and everyone in between)—this inter-generational aspect of the program adds tremendous value for all.

WHAT WILL THE COMMUNITY LEARN?

The CILR program is a 12-unit certificate that includes five core courses and three elective/language courses chosen based on community priorities and needs. One of the elective courses must include an Indigenous language course.

Core courses:

- LING 180A Dynamics of Indigenous Language Shift
- LING 180B Issues, Principles and Practices in Language Revitalization
- LING 181 Introductory Linguistics for Language Revitalization
- LING 182 Language Learning, Language Revitalization and Social Action
- LING 183A Documentation and Recording for Indigenous Language Reclamation; or
- LING 183B Advanced Methods for Indigenous Language Documentation

Elective courses:

- LING 184 Indigenous Language Materials Development
- LING 186 Language in Indigenous Culture
- LING 187 Special Topics in Language Revitalization
- LING 272 Introduction to Indigenous Languages of British Columbia
- LING 379 Language and Land

Language courses:

- LING 156, 256, 356, 456 Self-Directed Immersive Language Learning (Levels 1-4)
- LING 157 Learning to Learn: Supporting Indigenous Language Learning
- LING 158, 258, 358, 458 Indigenous Language Mentorship (Levels 1-4)
- LING 159, 259, 359, 459 Indigenous Language (Levels 1-4)

Program design guidelines

Keeping the following guidelines in mind, the CILR program works in partnership with communities to customize the content and delivery of the program:

- Respect Indigenous ceremonial and economic cycles/events in scheduling of courses.
- Consider the infrastructure needs and realities of communities (ie. technology, facilities) in designing overall curriculum and elective course delivery strategies.
- Integrate existing language research activities.
- Build capacity for language learning for adults in communities.
- Ensure that both Indigenous and other instructors are respectful of cultural protocols and sacred and sensitive issues, have integrity, and hold the respect of local communities.

- Involve Elders and fluent speakers in advising, teaching and mentoring roles.
- Ensure that course design validates local approaches to language preservation/revitalization.
- Integrate creative and culturally appropriate instructional activities for language learning.
- Develop skills/understanding in the role and development of standardized writing systems.
- Provide practical instruction and opportunities to apply field methods in language revitalization, including the use of information technologies to preserve and disseminate information and provide instruction.
- Compare and contrast current and emergent issues in language revitalization globally and at the community level.
- Introduce linguistic concepts through the structure of the learner's own language.
- Address community protocols and intellectual property issues in preservation activities.

Laddering opportunities

The University of Victoria offers programming in Indigenous language revitalization in a multitude of programs designed to ladder into one another. The CILR program provides an option as the first step. Graduates of the program are able to ladder into Year 2 of the diploma program.

Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization (CILR); or IED Certificate in Language Proficiency (CILP)	YEAR 1
Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization	YEAR 2
Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization (K-12 teacher certification)	YEAR 3/4
Masters in Indigenous Language Revitalization (MILR)	YEAR 5+

Programs run in partnership between UVic's Department of Indigenous Education, Department of Linguistics, Continuing Studies and En'owkin Centre.

HEAR WHAT PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY!

"I am most definitely going to be able to use the skills and knowledge from this course to my everyday life and to my professional life and within my community."

Student

"This program has brought our staff together in our overall vision for our school immersion K-12 program, and has helped us in the development of new curriculum. We are also working closely with other communities and sharing our resources."

Community Partner

"Thank you for creating a safe space for language"

Community Partner

"I truly hope we can move a mountain in the time we have with the CILR program."

Community Partner

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

Budgets for in-community delivery can vary and a detailed budget projection can be provided that reflects current prices and community needs. There are many variables affecting costs. Some examples include: community location chosen for delivery, whether a local instructor is hired or an instructor is brought in, if Elders or teaching assistants are included in the educational experience, if there is in-person consultation and planning. We look forward to working with you to determine what will best meets the needs of your community and your budgetary considerations as well as supporting you in seeking grant funding where possible.



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Contact us to talk about a partnership!

Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization

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