



250.679.8837
caschool@alib.ca
chiefatahm.com



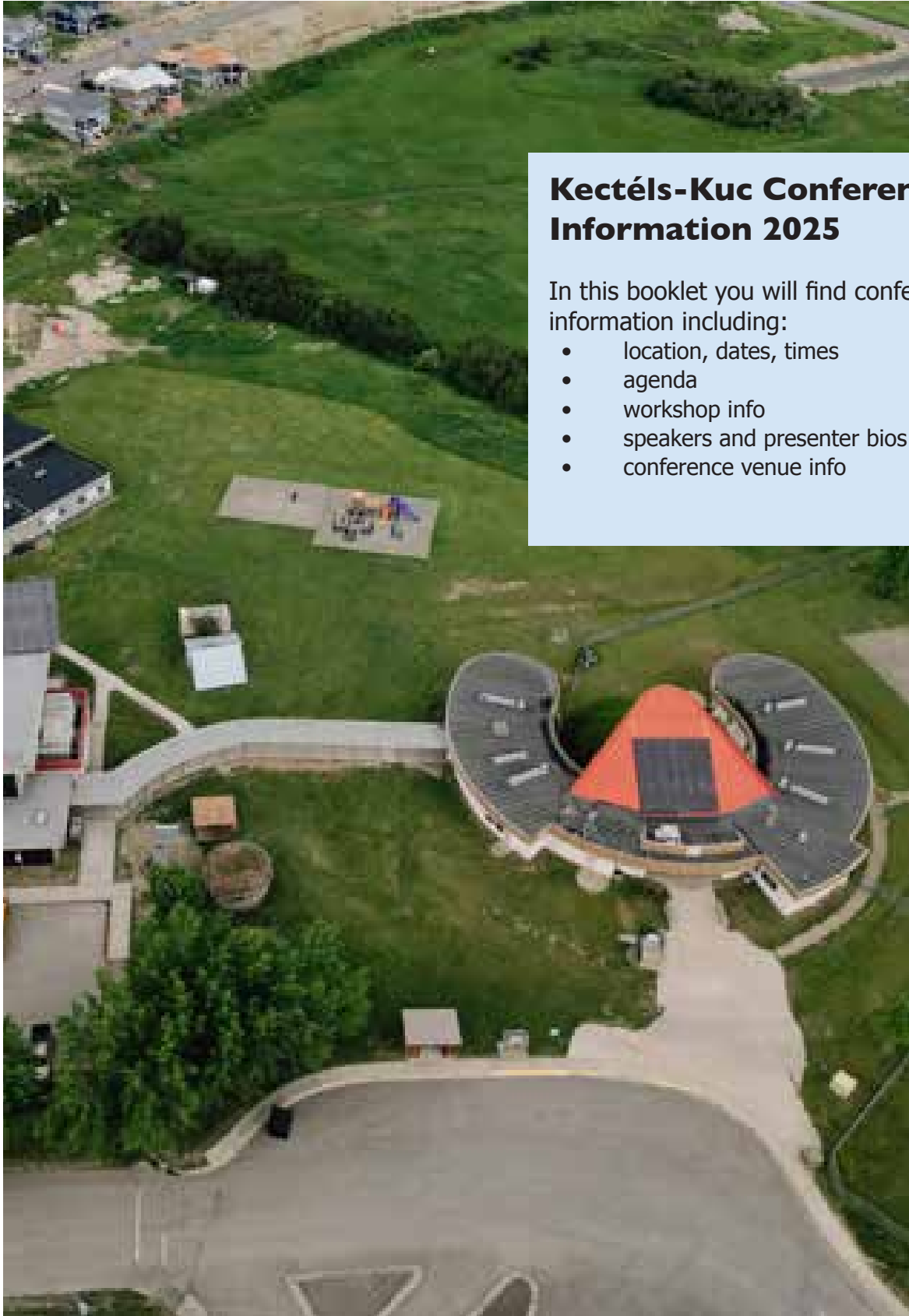
KECTÉLS-KUC

What they have given us

Chief Atahm School Language Conference
May 30 & 31, 2025
Chase, BC, Canada

Welcome to Our Language Conference

Our school is a unique learning community featuring Secwépemc language immersion and Secwépemc-centred teachings. We invite you to join us at our school site to celebrate our First Nations languages and to learn new teaching ideas.



Kectéls-Kuc Conference Information 2025

In this booklet you will find conference information including:

- location, dates, times
- agenda
- workshop info
- speakers and presenter bios
- conference venue info

Weytkp

Welcome to all participants to the Chief Atahm School Language Conference. This year's theme is "Kectéls-kuc" which means "what they've given us". We have chosen this theme to honour all of the language and teachings our Elders have gifted us throughout the years and also to recognize our roles and responsibilities of "giving back" through becoming teachers and language leaders. This spirit of reciprocity is reflected in our keynote speakers and the workshops and activities throughout the conference.

This year we are hosting the conference at our school site near Chase, BC, to invite you to see where Secwépemc language is a living language. Also, we will be bringing in leaders in Indigenous language revitalization to share their insights with the hopes of inspiring others.

We have hosted a language conference for over 20 years as a celebration of all of our languages. During each year's conference, our teaching staff demonstrate their best practices along with other language education leaders.

In many respects, our conference attracts Indigenous language practitioners from far and wide who seek to expand their teaching, to gain inspiration and to get to know other teachers.

We look forward to getting to know you!

Robert Matthew
Chief Atahm School Principal



Robert Matthew **Chief Atahm School Principal**

I am proud to have been Chief Atahm School's principal for over 30 years and to have worked for over 40 years in teaching and administration. The school is a unique learning community featuring Secwépemc language immersion and Secwépemc-centred teachings.

I am grateful to have worked alongside many Elders doing field research and curriculum development on Secwépemc stories and place names. The research has served two purposes: to produce Secwépemc curriculum for Chief Atahm School and to add to my personal knowledge of what it takes to be a Cstelenec, "a person of the lake".

I am excited that our school is hosting another language conference and look forward to sharing ideas with you all.

Location

Chief Atahm School is located on the Adams Lake Reserve #4, across the South Thompson River bridge from Chase, B.C. approximately 55 km east of Kamloops and 52 km west of Salmon Arm.



Driving From the East (from Salmon Arm to Chase)

Travel 50 km west on the Trans-Canada Hwy #1 from Salmon Arm. Turn right onto Shuswap Ave to enter Chase. Continue on Shuswap Ave for 1.2 km, then turn right onto Pine St. Follow Pine Street for 1.3 km, cross the bridge, and take the road to the left. After 400 metres, turn right, then take a quick left into the parking lot. The conference opening will be held in the large gymnasium building.

Driving From the West (from Kamloops to Chase)

Travel approx. 52 km east on the Trans-Canada Hwy #1 from Kamloops. Turn left off the highway into Chase (near the A&W exit) via Shuswap Ave. Continue on Shuswap Ave for 2.5 km, then turn left onto Pine St. Continue on Pine St for 1.3 km, cross the bridge, and take the road to the left. After 400 metres, turn right, then take a quick left into the parking lot. The conference opening will be held in the large gymnasium building.

Our Partners



R Stselxméms r Secwépemc Institute



First Peoples Cultural Council



Adams Lake Band

About The Conference

1

Chief Atahm Conference

We have hosted over 20 language conferences over the years and are always excited to meet other language educators and warriors. This year we are focusing on planning for the future of our languages.

2

Language Teaching Methods

As part of our commitment to Indigenous language revitalization, we purposefully focus on the details behind language programming, including best practices in teaching, planning and assessment.

3

Building Community

Language revitalization can sometimes be a lonely process and can be very challenging at times. Through our conference, like-minded people support each other and share their thoughts, ideas and dreams for their languages.

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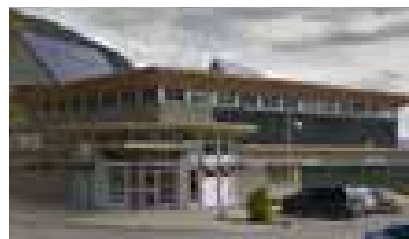
Theory into Practice

At our conferences we cater to those that are not only dreamers but are "doers". It takes action to move mountains and as a community of language activists, we focus on future oriented-goals for language survival.

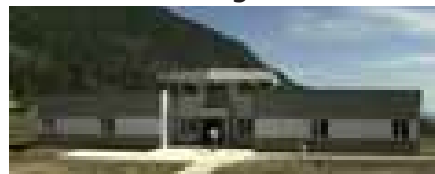
Conference Site Info



Adams Lake Band Gym



Chief Atahm High School



Our Speakers

Dr. Kathryn Michel **Language Instructor**

Dr. Kathryn Michel has worked extensively in the area of community language revitalization and Indigenous language immersion education. She is one of the founding parents of Chief Atahm School, a Secwépemc language immersion program in 1991 on the Adams Lake Reserve near Chase, BC. Dr. Michel holds a Doctorate in Education from UBC and a Master of Arts in Education degree from SFU. She has written, edited and published numerous language curriculum resources for use in Secwepemc immersion classrooms. In 2013, she developed the "First Nations Language Essentials" curriculum guides for use in language programs in First Nations Schools across BC. Currently she is lead instructor for R Stselxméms r Secwépemc Institute language programs through NVIT and UBCO.



Seth Armitage **Language Instructor**

Seth is a former Chief Atahm School student who is currently enrolled in UBC's Master of Arts in Educational Technology. He currently teaches in Chief Atahm School's post-secondary partner institute, R Stselxméms r Secwépemc in the Adult Language Fluency Programs through NVIT and UBCO. Seth shares his knowledge of the language and culture to the program while incorporating many digital tools in his language work. Seth also works on our atahm. info and First Voices dictionaries and works with Secwépemc Elders on documenting and transcribing stories and narratives. Seth shares his passion for language in his home, with his four children and wife Willow.



Special Guest



Callie Hill

**Chief Executive Officer
Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na
Language and Cultural Centre**

Callie Hill is Turtle Clan, Kanyen'kehà:ka, and is a lifetime resident of Kenhtè:ke. She is the Chief Executive Officer of Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na Language and Cultural Centre (TTO) since 2004 and has dedicated much of her professional life to revitalizing Kanyen'kéha for the benefit of her community and the Mohawk Nation.

Callie has a Master of Education Degree in Indigenous Language Revitalization from the University of Victoria. She continues to be a learner of the Mohawk language. Callie will speak about the language revitalization that began over 30 years ago when a group of parents from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory came together to create ways to raise their children so they could learn and honour their language and culture. Through this goal many speakers have been born. This spirit of language awakening continues as construction of their new Kenhtè:ke Language and Cultural Centre is scheduled to begin.

"We are thrilled to embark on this transformative journey with the start of construction of our new school and cultural centre. Our vision extends beyond bricks and mortar – it is about creating a dynamic space that cultivates knowledge, celebrates culture, and builds community for generations to come. Thank you to all who have journeyed with us and continue to do so."

Callie Hill, 2023

Day I Morning: Fri. May 30th

08.15-08.45

Check-In at Gymnasium

Check-in and get your conference package in the front foyer of Adams Lake Gymnasium. Refreshments and muffins will be served in gym.

08.45-09.00

Conference Welcoming

Welcome Song by CAS staff and students.

09.00-09.15

Welcome Speech

Adams Lake Band Kúkpi7 Lynn Kenoras-Duck Chief welcome address.

09.15-09.45

Keynote Speech

Dr. Kathryn Michel will share the history and developments of Chief Atahm School and discuss how intensive adult programming is preparing the school and community for the future.

09.45-10.30

TPRS Demonstration

Master TPRS instructor Janice E. Billy will lead a mini-demonstration of the storytelling technique of teaching language.

10.30-10.45

Beverage and Nutrition Break

11.00-12.00

Adult Programs Panel

This panel of teachers, students and community activists explore the challenges and goals for planning and delivery of adult programming and will discuss ideas for improvements.

Speakers

Candice Day
Allie Louis
Stacey Michel

Callie Hill
Kathryn Michel

Moderator

Lisa Orton

12.00-01.00

Lunch

Participants pick up their lunches in the outside tent.

Day I Afternoon: Fri. May 30th

01.00-02.15

Day One Workshops

- 1A. Using Stories to Teach Language to Children and Adults
Janice E. Billy
- 1B. Lexlexéye: Developing a reading program for language immersion
Lisa Orton, Tammy LeBourdais, Elaine Colgate
- 1C: Designing Intensive Language Programs for Adult Learners
Dr. Kathryn Michel
- 1D: Training your Ears and Eyes for Language
Stacey Michel
- 1E: First Peoples' Workshop
TBA

02.15-02.30

Beverage and Nutrition Break

Beverages and snacks are available at each workshop site.

02.30-03.30

Panel, Round Table and Discussion Group

A. Youth Panel: In Outside Tent

Young people are the future of our languages. It is vital that their voices be heard and that they have the opportunity to network and learn from each other. This panel will hear from young people actively learning their languages with an open invitation for other youth to join in the conversation.

Speakers Rainbow Cady Jada Michel
Matthew Jones Spetenetkwe Romandia

Moderator Candice Day

B. Language Teachers Roundtable: In High School Main Foyer

We are pleased to host a Roundtable on planning for succession of language teachers. We invite language teachers, either teachers in training or practicing teachers, to join in the Roundtable to discuss issues related to teaching, training and succession.

Speakers Janice E. Billy Callie Hill
Ada Jules Charlie Fortier

Moderator Kathryn Michel

C. Elders Discussion Group: In Gymnasium

We invite Elders to join the conversation on the role of Elders in language revitalization led by Secwépemc teacher and Elder Robert Matthew. This session will encourage fluent mother-tongue speakers to discuss their roles in "planning for the future" for their languages.

03.40-03.50

Hotel Shuttle Leaves for Kamloops

Bus pickup at front of gymnasium

Day 2 Morning: Sat. May 31st

09.00-09.15

Opening Address

Opening address by former Chief Atahm School student, Seth Armitage, who is currently an instructor in the R Stselxméms r Secwépemc adult fluency programs.

09.15-10.00

Keynote Speech

Callie Hill, Chief Executive Officer of Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na Language and Cultural Centre will share their experiences of Mohawk language revitalization at Tyedinaga reserve in Ontario.

10.00-10.15

Beverage and Nutrition Break

10.15-12.00

Day Two Workshops

2A. Mapping Our Language

Robert Matthew and Lawrence Michel

2B. Building Language Leaders in the Language Nest

Laura Michel, Candice Day, Kathryn Michel

2C: Use of Technology in Language Learning

Seth Armitage and Aaron Leon

2D: Dream-making: Language Revitalization in Tyendinaga

Callie Hill

12.00-01.00

Lunch

Participants pick up their lunches in the outside tent.

Day 2 Afternoon: Sat. May 31st

01.00-02.15

Cultural Experiences

3A. Making a Survival Shelter

[Robert Matthew and Lawrence Michel]

In this hands-on workshop, Robert Matthew and Elder Lawrence Michel, will guide participants through a shelter-building unit including the theory and practice of shelter building in various situations and building emergency shelters using natural materials.

3B. Me7 kukuwétmet ell xqe7wellentiye ʔe skwehllq ell meláme: Plant/Medicine Walk

[Lisa Orton & Denise Sellars]

Participants will join Lisa and Denise on a medicine collecting walk that will enhance your observation skills and give ideas for how to incorporate language into cultural teachings.

3C. Interior Salish Wetland Weaving

[Catherine Pierre]

Learn from Secwepemc/syilx weaver and cultural worker Catherine Pierre who offers a mixed media doll making workshop that includes both Cattails and Tule Wetlands plants with a variety of materials to embellish your own doll. (Limited to 30 participants)

3D. Creative Connections: Art and Language Exploration

[Robyn Tardif]

Join us for a hands-on art workshop that invites participants to explore the intersection of language and creativity through art. Designed for those interested in both personal expression and collective collaboration, this session will feature two engaging art activities centered around the theme of Kectels-Kuc.

02.30-02.45

Conference Closing

Join us at the big tent for the conference closing

- door prizes
- closing speech
- Farewell Song

02.50-03.00

Hotel Shuttle Leaves for Kamloops

Bus pickup at front of gymnasium

Friday Workshops 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.

1A. Using Stories to Teach Language to Children and Adults

Janice E. Billy

Discover the power of TPRS in this engaging and interactive workshop presented by master TPRS teacher Janice E. Billy. TPRS is a fun-filled story-based method that helps language learners acquire fluency naturally through comprehensible input. In this session, participants will:

- Learn the core principles of TPRS, including circling, personalization, and storytelling techniques.
- Experience a live demonstration of TPRS in action.
- Explore how to create engaging stories to maximize language acquisition.
- Gain practical strategies for adapting traditional stories to TPRS units aimed at different proficiency levels and classroom settings.

Whether you are new to TPRS or looking to refine your skills, Janice is sure to leave you with the tools and the motivation to make language learning more effective, engaging, and enjoyable for your students.

1C. Designing Intensive Language Programs for Adult Learners

Kathryn Michel

This workshop is designed for educators and program developers who want to create impactful intensive language programs for adult learners. Participants will explore best practices for curriculum design, teaching methodologies, and strategies that maximize language acquisition in both face-to-face and online learning environments. Dr. Michel will cover key elements such as, structuring one and two year programming, designing lessons that build understanding of core language structures, and, how to integrate real-world communication tasks. This Workshop will focus on:

- Frameworks for intensive language program design
- Strategies for adult learner engagement and motivation

1B. Slexlexé'ye: Developing an Immersion Reading Program

L. Orton, E. Colgate

This workshop focuses on creating reading programs within language immersion settings. Chief Atahm School staff will share the primary reading program that has been created to foster literacy development while maintaining immersion program goals. This workshop will cover:

Immersion Reading Goals: Examine how reading instruction in immersion can be effectively introduced while maximizing exposure to the language.

Developing Culturally Relevant Materials: The challenges and successes of creating reading materials that are culturally relevant and that support literacy and language acquisition goals.

Literacy Approaches: Integrate whole language practices, such as read-aloud sessions, with phonemic letter-sound practice.

Assessing and Supporting Diverse Learners: Explore assessment tools and strategies to support all learners.

1D. Training the Ears and Eyes for Language

Stacey Michel

In this workshop, Stacey Michel, will demonstrate her exciting methods for teaching the sounds and pronunciation of Indigenous languages. This comprehensive workshop is designed for language educators and learners who are looking for strategies to improve pronunciation and letter-sound identification leading to literacy.

Key Workshop Objectives:

- Gain insights into how gaining an "ear" for the unique speech sounds of a language will help in the development of pronunciation and speaking.
- Letter-Sound Identification: Ways of introducing students to decoding writing for languages in a fun and accessible way that helps students experience success.
- Pronunciation Teaching Techniques: Learn practical methods to teach pronunciation, focusing on easy to follow articulation strategies

1E. First Peoples Workshop

TBA

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) administers the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program. The mandate of FPCC is to assist B.C. First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts, cultures and heritage.

The vision of FPCC states: First Nations languages, arts, cultures and heritage in B.C. are thriving. 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.

Saturday Workshops 10:15 - 12:00 p.m.

2A. Mapping Our Language

Robert Matthew, M.Ed, B.Ed & Lawrence Michel

Our traditional lands are alive with local stories, practices, relationships, and memories. The process of cultural mapping is a way for us to define our places of importance. As outlined in UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages, cultural mapping is one method for focussing a communities attention on the protection of language and the use of language names for their lands. In this workshop, educator Rob Matthew and Elder Lawrence Michel will demonstrate some introductory experiences designed to help children in our immersion classrooms connect to nature and to the rich cultural heritage embedded in place. Key goals of Mapping Our Language are to:

1. Foster respect for the land and knowledge of land processes
2. What is important to know?
3. What stories or teachings are connected to key locations in and around our community?
4. How has the land around our community changed over time?

2C. Use of Technology in Language Learning

Seth Armitage & Aaron Leon

This workshop will be facilitated by two fathers who are committed to language revival for their own families and their nation. The workshop aims to explore the role of interactive technology in teaching and learning Indigenous languages. Participants will be able to deepen their knowledge and/or skills of current technological tools through practice and through hands-on activities. This workshop will showcase some of the digital tools used to teach language both in-person and online and there will be a demonstration of immersive digital experiences and other technological teaching and learning innovations. Participants will leave with activities, resources, and practice using some of the interactive platforms presented to them.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptop or tablet to the presentation. Some ipads will be available for use.

2B. Building Language Leaders in the Language Nest

Laura Michel, Candice Day, Kathryn Michel

Chief Atahm School's language nest was started in 1987 inspired by the Te Kohanga Reo movement of the Maori in New Zealand. For many decades we were fortunate to have dedicated mother tongue speaking Elders to surround the babies with language. For the last few years, we have been staffing our nest with those who have learned the Secwépemc language as adults. Our language nest team is made up of one advanced-level speaker who had worked for many years with the Elders, and three language nest workers who do the bulk of the administrative and daily tasks such as childcare and cooking. As it is essential that each staff member be committed to the immersion environment, we have provided language training for staff in addition to their work at the nest. Without this commitment to maintaining an "all Secwépemc language environment" it is too easy for English to creep into the nest. In this workshop, we will share some strategies of how to build and maintain an English-free language nest environment, even if your staff is still learning the language themselves.

2D. Dream-Making: History of Language Revitalization in Tyendinaga

Callie Hill

Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na (TTO) was established in 2000 by a group of community members concerned with the revitalization of the Mohawk language in Tyendinaga. Their name means "keeping the words alive". Their language programming include a nursery program, a Mohawk immersion elementary school, an adult learning program, and other community resources. They are a not-for-profit organization that serves the Tyendinaga community and all of those seeking to learn about their proud culture. Callie will expand on her keynote by sharing some of the creative ways they are raising their children while honouring their culture and growing many new speakers. This spirit of language awakening continues as construction of their new Kenhtè:ke Language and Cultural Centre is scheduled to begin.

Panels & Roundtable Speakers

Rainbow Cady

Preschool Language Teacher

Rainbow Cady works as a language teacher in Chief Atahm School's preschool immersion classroom. Rainbow has completed Simon Fraser University Language Proficiency Diploma in Secwepemctsin for Eastern Dialect. She is currently enrolled in Year Three Secwepemc Fluency Courses through UBCO. She brings a passion for learning language and a love of working with children into her teaching.

Charli Fortier

Language Instructor

Charli Fortier is the Language Manager for Simpcw. As the Language Manager, Charli has taught the Simpcw Language and Culture Staff credited courses through Simon Fraser University and is the main instructor the Simpcw cohort for the Language Proficiency Certificate in Secwepemctsin. She works closely with Elders within the Secwépemc Nation to elicit, translate and transcribe the language.

Matthew Jones

Language Student

Matthew is a former student of Chief Atahm School who has gone on to expand his language through working with his mother in the Mentor-Apprenticeship Program (MAP). He is currently a student in the Simon Fraser University Language Proficiency Certificate in Secwepemctsin for Eastern Dialect.

Ada Jules

Immersion Language Teacher

Ada Jules is a proud Secwepemc educator from Adams Lake Band. She holds a Secwepemc Language Immersion Proficiency Diploma and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Victoria. A former student of Chief Atahm School, Ada now teaches Grade 4 immersion at Chief Atahm, where she is dedicated to fostering language revitalization and cultural learning.

Allie Louis

Language Instructor

Allie is a former student at Chief Atahm School and worked for many years as a teaching assistant. Currently Allie is an instructor for Simon Fraser University Language Proficiency Certificate in Secwepemctsin for Eastern Dialect, a joint project between Neskonlith Band and Wumec r Cqweqwelutn-kt Community Society.

Jada Michel

Language Educational Support

Jada has completed her Secwepemctsin Proficiency Diploma through Simon Fraser University and is currently enrolled in Year Three of the Secwepemc Language Fluency Program at UBCO. Jada is an accomplished language student who is always willing to share her knowledge to young and old alike. Jada works at Chief Atahm School as an educational assistant in primary immersion.

Spetenetkwe Romandia

Language Student

Spetenetkwe is Secwépemc from Sketsín. She is committed to learning the Secwépemc language and culture and is open to seeking new experiences and contexts in which to learn more. She works as a mentee in the Youth Mentor-Apprenticeship program and is currently a student in the Simon Fraser University Language Proficiency Certificate in Secwepemctsin for Eastern Dialect.

OTHER SPEAKER'S INFO:

Janice E. Billy (see p.16)

Candice Day (see p.16)

Callie Hill (see p.07)

Kathryn Michel (see p.06)

Stacey Michel (see p.17)

Saturday Cultural Experiences 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.

3A. Making a Survival Shelter

Robert Matthew & Lawrence Michel

In this hands-on workshop, Robert Matthew and Elder Lawrence Michel, will guide participants through a shelter-building unit including the theory and practice of shelter building in various situations and building emergency shelters using natural materials.

Participants will gain knowledge about types of shelters for a wide variety of outdoor scenarios. The workshop facilitators will guide you through some theory and vocabulary, demonstrating how to teach basic survival skills to language learners of all levels. Participants will also be provided with opportunities to try out their skills of locating a shelter and selecting a type of shelter to construct, based on the available resources.

3C. Interior Salish Wetland Weaving

Catherine Pierre

Learn from Secwepemc/syilx weaver and cultural worker Catherine Pierre who offers a mixed media doll making workshop that includes both Cattails and Tule Wetlands plants with a variety of materials to embellish your own weaving. Catherine brings substantial experience as a learner and teacher. She lives within her traditional territory in the beautiful Okanagan valley and is active in arts and cultural revitalization of her syilx culture. In this workshop each participant will be able to take home their weaving project.

(Participants limited to 30 people)

3B. Me7 kukuwétmet ell xqe7wellentiye te skweñllq ell meláme: Plant/Medicine Walk

Lisa Orton & Denise Sellars

Join Lisa and Denise Sellars for a guided plant identification walk that weaves together language, cultural teachings, and land-based learning. Starting with an introduction and prayer followed by an immersive exploration of Secwepemc plant names, uses, and ethical harvesting practices. We will share plant maps and language prompts to deepen learning. Visit key plant sites, recognize important cultural keystone species, and reflect on seasonal cycles that guide traditional harvesting. Come ready to observe, listen, and share in this interactive experience that connects language to the land in meaningful ways!

3D. Creative Connections: Art & Language Explorations

Robyn Tardif

Join us for a hands-on art workshop that explores the intersection of language and creativity. Designed for those interested in both personal expression and collective collaboration, this session will feature two engaging art activities centered around the theme of Kectels-Kuc. Each participant will produce something they can take home, and, working together, the group will collaborate on a larger-scale, community-based art project. Whether you're an experienced artist or a beginner, this workshop is a space to explore, create, and connect with others in a meaningful and artistic way. All skill levels welcome!

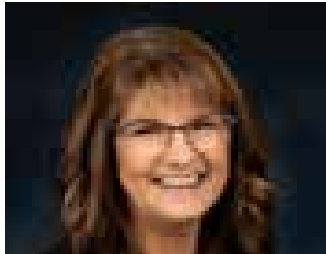


Workshop Presenters



Janice E. Billy
Immersion Teacher

Janice E. Billy is the grade 2/3 immersion teacher at Chief Atahm School and also teaches in the adult proficiency program. For over 20 years she has worked with all ages of language learners, from children to adults. She is a well-known TPRS presenter and has the ability to bring excitement to teaching language through storytelling while still using comprehensible input. Janice also teaches an intensive TPRS course at our TPRS Summer Institute.



Elaine Colgate
Chief Atahm Vice-Principal

Elaine Colgate has more than 30 years of experience as a school principal and executive coach. Driven by her commitment to instructional innovation and drawing from her knowledge on best practice in learning and literacy development she supports instruction within the school's immersion program. In this capacity, Elaine assists teachers in refining their teaching practices and collaborates with the curriculum team to develop research-based literacy resources for the immersion program.



Candice Day
Language Nest Assistant & Post-Sec Researcher

Candice is Secwépemc from Stuxtéws. She began her language journey during the pandemic with taking online classes taught by two Elders from her community. Nine months later, she packed up her things in Vancouver to attend the adult immersion program at R Stselxméms r Secwépemc in Adams Lake. Candice works in the Chief Atahm language nest and is currently assisting in the development of a grammar resource for Secwepemctsin immersion teachers.



Denise Sellars
Immersion Assistant

Denise (Tsilkst) Sellars (Xat'súll - Soda Creek) is a Language Resource Assistant at the Chief Atahm School, where she works alongside teachers and staff to ensure the children get a well rounded education based in the Secwepemc language. She holds a Secwepemc Language Proficiency Diploma from Simon Fraser University (SFU) and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Secwepemc Language Fluency at the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO).



Aaron Leon
President, Tsm7akseltn Society

Aaron Leon is from Splitsin, Secwépemc Nation. He has a BFA with a major in photography from Concordia University. He oversees AV and tech at the Splitsin Tsm7aksaltn Society. Aaron is currently attending UBC Okanagan in the Interdisciplinary Graduate program researching Secwépemc histories and stories.



Robert Matthew
Chief Atahm School Principal

Robert Matthew is Secwépemc from Simpcw. He has a Teaching Certificate and a Masters of Education and over 40 years experience in teaching and administration, 15 years in the B.C. public schools system and 25 years at Chief Atahm School. His passion is oral history, traditional knowledge and mapping.

Workshop Presenters



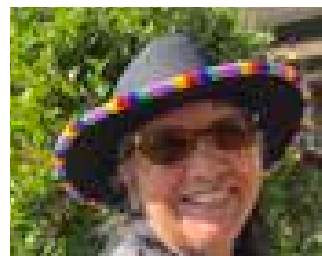
Laura Michel
Language Nest Teacher

Laura has a B.A. from TRU with a Major in Theatre and a Secwépemc Language Proficiency Diploma from R Stselxmémis r Secwépemc. As Language Nest Coordinator, Laura creates an immersive language environment. She is also a playwright, known for her play "Echoes of the Homesick Heart", created in partnership with Western Canada Theatre, that brings the nuances of language, identity, and community to light.



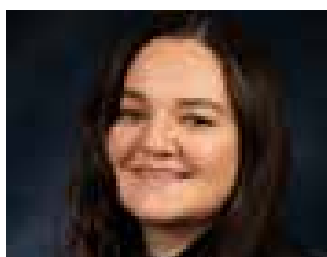
Lawrence Michel
Secwépemc Elder

Lawrence Michel is a respected Elder, storyteller and language teacher from Cstélen, Secwépemc Nation. "Slé7e Larry" has shared his knowledge to many generations of students at Chief Atahm School. He has a vast knowledge of the land, cultural skills and technology. Lawrence is also a journeyman carpenter and has taught many of our young people the basic woodworking skills.



Stacey Michel
Nłe7kepmx Dept. Head and Language instructor

Stacey Michel is employed by Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) as the Nłe7kepmx Dept. Head and Language instructor in their adult fluency program. For over 15 years she had worked at Chief Atahm School as the Nursery/Kindergarten Secwépemc language immersion teacher. She is a master teacher and has developed many creative ways to work on early literacy skills for language learners.



Lisa Orton
Language Immersion Coordinator

As Immersion Program Coordinator at Chief Atahm School Lisa has various roles, including curriculum development, assisting in language classes for children and adults. Lisa holds a BA and a Secwépemc Language Proficiency Diploma and is completing her Master of Linguistics. Passionate about language revitalization and on-the-land learning, Lisa enjoys exploring Secwépemc plant traditional uses.



Catherine Pierre
Cultural Teacher

Catherine is a Secwépemc/syilx artist who is a gifted seamstress, interdisciplinary artist, writer, poet and arts educator. She holds a certificate in Indigenous Fine Arts through UVIC with a focus on Creative Writing. As an arts educator she has worked with youth and adults teaching a wide range of traditional creative arts from natural materials to printmaking to sewing. She has an award-winning book titled, Zoe and the Fawn.

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Robyn Tardif
Instructional Assistant

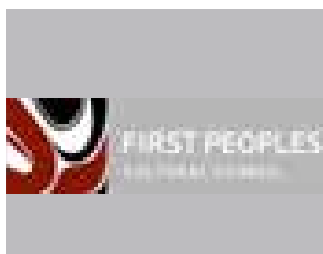
Robyn Tardif (Kenpésq̓t, Secwépemc Nation) holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Alberta University of the Arts specializing in Glass and a Secwépemc Language Proficiency Diploma from R Stselxmémis r Secwépemc. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Secwépemc Language Fluency through Stselxmémis/UBCO. She is dedicated to integrating artistic expression through various mediums, including glass, textiles, jewellery, and drawing with language revitalization.

Workshop Presenters



First Peoples **Presenter**

TBA



First Peoples **Presenter**

TBA

Conference Accommodation

Shuttle busses are available from our conference hotels to and from the conference site.



Sandman Signature Hotel

225 Lorne St, Kamloops (250)377-7263

1 King Bed + Sofa Bed @ \$179. + tax per night

Group Code: Chief Atahm School



Accent Inns

1325 Columbia St. West, Kamloops (250)374-8877

2 queen beds @ \$145 plus tax per room per night

GROUP ID 6620377

CHASE COUNTRY INN

576 Coburn St. Chase (250)679-3333

2 Queen Beds: \$165. + tax

1 Queen Bed: \$145. + tax

Breakfast incl.

Based on 2 person occupancy

OVERLANDER MOTEL

181 Shuswap Ave Chase; (250)679-8633

2 Queen Beds or 1 Queen + 1 double: \$115 plus
tax for 2 people + extra peson \$15 plus tax

Single Queen: \$110 plus tax

F.A.Q.

The Chief Atahm School Language Conference is hosted by our staff and school community. We make all attempts to make our event safe, inviting and informative for all participants. If you have any specific concerns or questions, please direct them to Kim at caschool@alib.ca



If I registered online, how do I check-in to the event?

Bring your e-ticket with the QR code to get scanned in and to collect your conference items, or, show your ID to Kim, at the registration desk.



What does registration include?

Friday morning continental breakfast, 2 nutrition and drink breaks per day, 2 lunches and 2 days of workshops. Free shuttle from Kamloops is available from select hotels.



I have accessibility needs, can you accommodate me?

Our conference facilities are all on one level with no stairs and paved walkways.



Can you accommodate my special diet?

We are unable to accommodate every special diet, but we will have vegan, non-dairy and gluten-free choices available. Please bring your own food if you are concerned about cross-contamination or have serious reactions.



What parking arrangements are available at the venue?

There are three main parking lots available for parking.



Can I get a refund if I change my mind about attending

All cancellations must submit a completed cancellation request form no later than April 30, 2025 (available online or request one from Kim at caschool@alib.ca)
A Cancellation Fee of \$25 will be applied for each registrant. After April 30, 2025 there will be no refunds granted, however, substitution of participant names will be accepted.



Are there any shuttles to transport me to the event?

Our school busses will be available for shuttling participants to and from our designated hotels and motels.



Can I buy a ticket on-site?

There will be a limited number of conference tickets available at the door. E-transfer or credit card only via Zeffy, our online payment site.



Our school is a unique learning community featuring
Secwépemc language immersion and Secwépemc language immersion.

"We have a vision of a Secwépemc-speaking community living in balance with nature"

Kúkstec-kuc!

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us

Contact Us

Telephone 250.679.8837
Email caschool@alib.ca
Website chiefatahm.com

Chief Atahm School

Box 1068
6371 Chief Jules Drive
V0E 1M0

