



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New language immersion resource for BC First Nations communities

BRENTWOOD BAY, B.C. – The First Peoples' Cultural Council is pleased to release the *Language Nest Handbook for B.C. First Nations Communities*. This new community handbook is a unique resource for early childhood language immersion programming and was produced with the support of the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation.

The language nest model creates a supportive immersion environment for pre-school age children, in which staff, Elders, parents and support workers carry out daily activities entirely in the First Nations language.

Co-authored by Dr. Kathryn Michel of the Chief Atahm School and Cséyseten Language Nest program, the *Language Nest Handbook for B.C. First Nations Communities* outlines the vision and goals of the language nest model, summarizes research on language immersion at the early childhood level and answers common questions about bilingualism and second language acquisition for young children. The handbook also provides practical solutions to common challenges in running a language nest program, based on the experience and knowledge of language nest program administrators and experts.

“Language nest programs are proving to be extremely effective for language revitalization,” explains Aliana Parker, Language Revitalization Program Specialist at the First Peoples' Cultural Council. “We're very excited to be able to partner with B.C. experts to produce and share this resource with communities across B.C. and worldwide.”

This book is accompanied by an *Online Companion Toolkit* that makes available a wide variety of resources, tools and templates useful for all aspects of language nest programs, from job descriptions to lesson plans to activity templates. The handbook and online toolkit will be relevant to parents, teachers, educators, Elders and community members interested and involved in language revitalization and early care and learning.

The First Peoples' Cultural Council created the handbook as an in-depth resource for First Nations communities to use when developing language revitalization efforts. Though language nest programs are growing in popularity due to their demonstrated success in Hawaiian and Māori language revitalization, still very little documentation or resources exist to support the development of new language nest programs. This handbook builds on the research and experiences from successful language nest models internationally and within B.C. to share tips, ideas, and 'better practices' for all interested in developing and running early childhood language immersion programs.

COMMITTED TO THE REVITALIZATION OF B.C.'S ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES, ARTS AND CULTURES

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The *Language Nest Handbook for B.C. First Nations Communities* is just one of a number of language resources developed by the staff and community partners of the First Peoples' Cultural Council. The handbook will be distributed widely in print and will also be available online at www.fpcc.ca on the Publications page.

About the First Peoples' Cultural Council

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a B.C. Crown Corporation with the mandate to support First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts and cultures. FPCC has distributed more than \$22 million to B.C. Aboriginal communities since 1990.

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