



FIRST NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

LANGUAGE IS

LIFE

Campaign Webinar
April 15, 2025

APRIL 2025



Format

The presentation will be 45 minutes with time for questions at the end

Please remain muted throughout the presentation

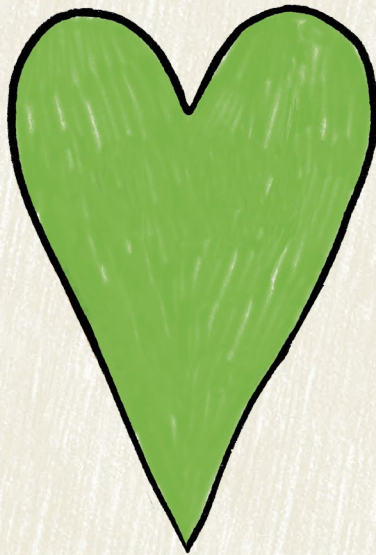
Please enter your questions in the chat and they will be answered in the Q&A at the end of presentation

If you are experiencing any technical difficulties, please message the host Tech, First Nations

The webinar is being recorded and will be available on our website

Participants will receive a survey via email tomorrow. We would be grateful if you could complete the survey to share your feedback

Thank you and enjoy!



Language is Life

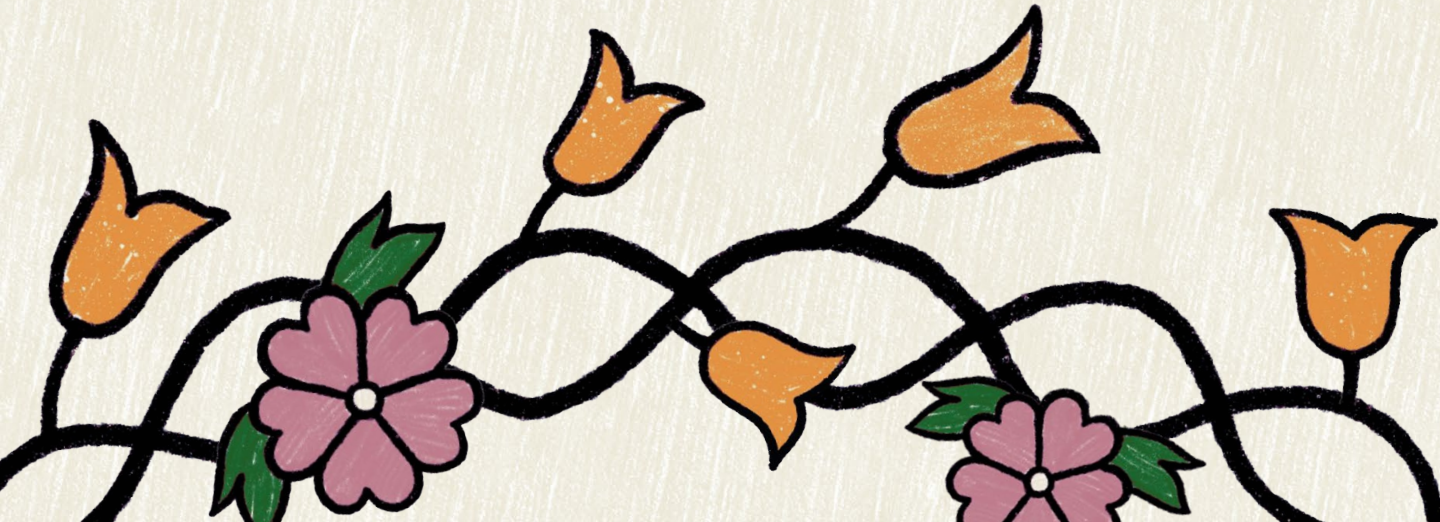
Language is a vital asset for Native people and communities. It defines who we are and where we come from, capturing value systems that cannot be translated into English.

Language shapes our identity and culture, and ties to our ancestors.

LANGUAGE IS LIFE.

There are only about 150 Native languages still alive today in the US, many spoken only by a few elders. Without intervention, many of these languages will become extinct within 50 to 100 years.

To address this urgent crisis, First Nations Development Institute launched the Native Language Immersion Initiative in 2017. This project fosters a new generation of Native American language speakers and helps communities build sustainable language immersion programs.





Language is Life



On April 24th we will be kicking off a special matching gift campaign “Language is Life” in support of our Native Language Immersion Initiative.



During this special campaign, supporters can double their impact – all gifts will be matched up to \$500,000!



This opportunity will be available through the end of May!



Funding through the “Language is Life” campaign will help tribes and Native-led organizations support new generations of Native American language speakers, and help Native communities establish infrastructure and models for Native language immersion programs that may be replicated throughout Indian Country.



OUR TEAM



Abi Whiteing

Blackfeet

Director of Native Arts,
Language, and Knowledge



Jona Charette

Northern Cheyenne/Turtle
Mountain Band of Chippewa

Director of Individual
Giving



Sabrina Walker

Tlingit

Program Officer



A.J. Garcia

Jicarilla Apache and Nahua

Program Officer





Native Language Immersion Initiative

First Nations' Native Language Immersion Initiative (NLII) supports language-immersion models in Indian Country so that Native communities can reclaim control of Native languages.

NLII was founded in 2017 through a \$1 million, three-year challenge grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities for which First Nations raised 1:1 matching funds.

Since 2018, First Nations have supported Language programs with just over \$7 million in grants.





Native Language Immersion Initiative

In 2024, First Nations received requests for \$5,674,624 in funding support from native non-profits and tribal programs working to revitalize and perpetuate native languages. Through the NLII program we awarded just over \$1.9 million in grants.

2024 was the first year First Nations has been able to offer multi-year funding (2yrs) for language programs. This type of funding is a crucial need for programs and allows for planning, capacity building, and sustainability.

Types of supported programming:

- Distinct regional community-based language programs
- Early childhood
- K-12
- Summer sessions
- Apprenticeships
- Adult learning
- Language Nests-starting in utero and engaging families prenatal or within three months of birth



Xine:wh-ding & The Hupa Language Immersion Nest:

Cultivating Intergenerational Healing through Language Resurgence



Nest Nohma:lyo'



And YOU! Our Families, Parents, Teachers, & Community

We would not be able to do this work without numerous others that have contributed immensely to our work over the years: language teachers and elder speakers, other Hoopa Tribal Education department employees, high school student workers, the families of students and our wonderful students themselves





Teach kids K-4 in
Immersion Summer
School Program

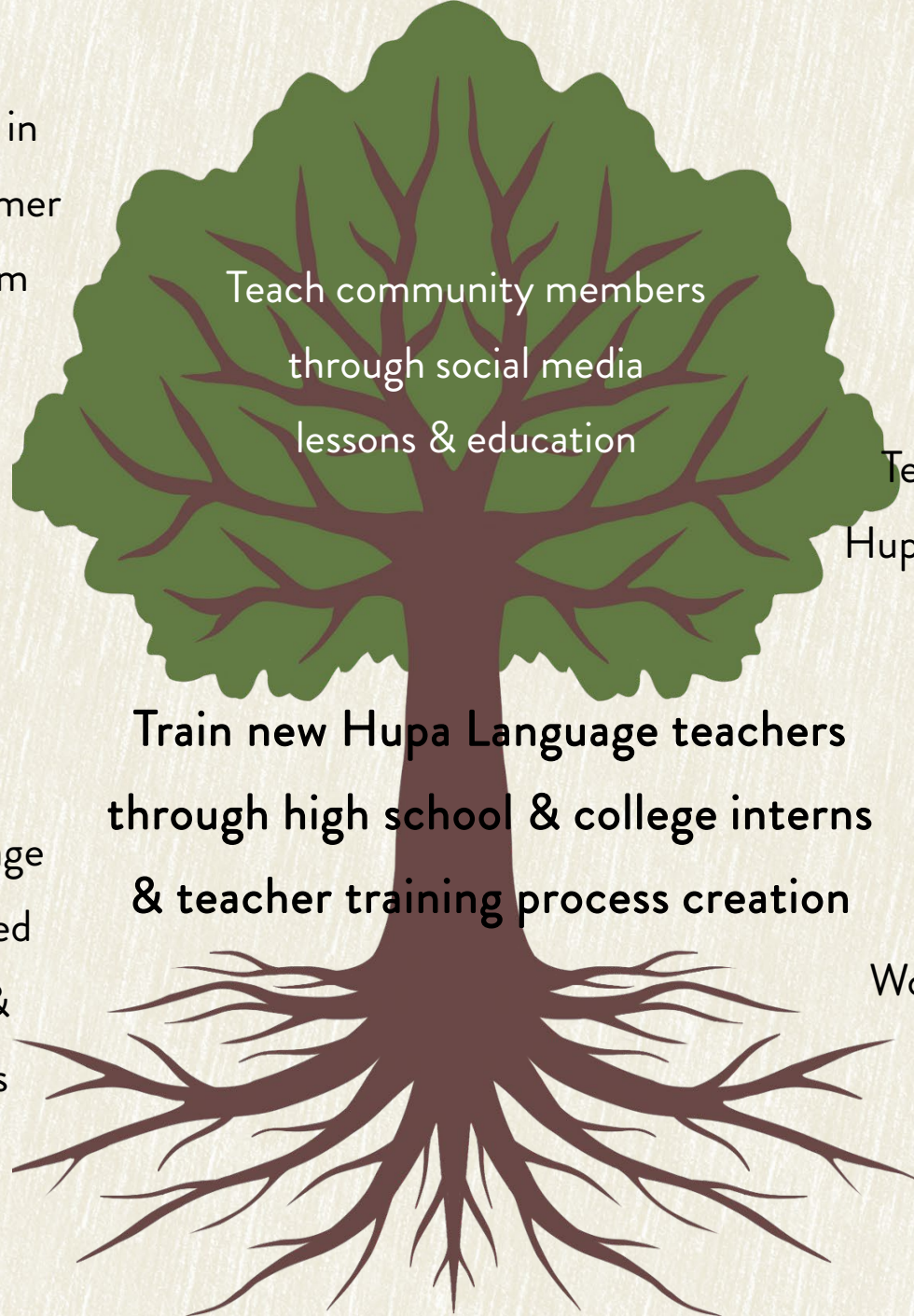
Teach community members
through social media
lessons & education

Teach babies & families
Hupa Language in the Nest
& Baby Groups

**Train new Hupa Language teachers
through high school & college interns
& teacher training process creation**

Make Hupa Language
curriculum centered
around our land &
cultural traditions

Work with elder speakers



Immersion Nest Students

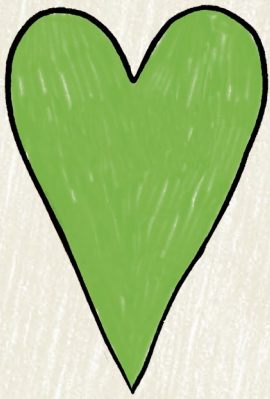


“He:yung whima:lyo’!”
“Hello! My friend!”

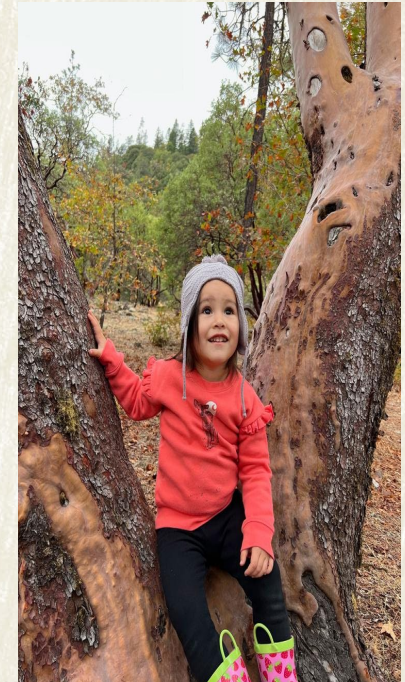


Niwhong-xw xokyunsa'an
'a:yundit'e ma:
k'iwinya'ya:n, xine:wh,
ninis'a:n





Ninisa:n who:łts'it





The Next 10 years...



A New Generation of Hupa Language
First Language Speakers!



FALL OF 2024

2nd Year of Immersion Nest, w/
a longer day & more students!

FALL 2026 - FALL 2034

*Starting 1st year of Kindergarten Hupa
Language Immersion Class.
Then adding additional grades each year
(to follow initial cohort to 8th grade+)*



THANK YOU

Follow Xine:wh-ding on social media!

IG @hupalanguageimmersionest
Facebook: Hupa Language Immersion Nest

Support our Language is Life Campaign

www.firstnations.org/languageislife

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