

Ideas for adult education programs

Here are some ideas for including Aboriginal language in your adult education programs during Aboriginal Languages Month.

- Include traditional activities like storytelling, drum dancing, games and singing in your program. These are ways that adult learners can learn and use language without a formal language lesson.
- Have an Aboriginal language lunch once a week. Plan some traditional games, like string games, or Arctic or Dene games.
- Have a stew and bannock lunch with readings from some books in the language of your community.
- Make a display of Aboriginal books in your library or hall. Encourage learners to borrow them.
- Have a cultural activities day. This can include sewing, tool making, fishing, cooking, beading, etc.
- Have a storytelling evening with Elders.



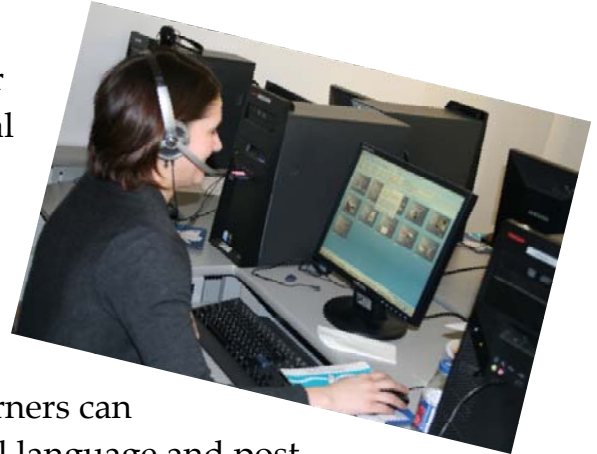
Celebrate Aboriginal Languages Month

- Set up an Elders' room (space) in the learning centre. Have tea and bannock available. Encourage learners to drop in and talk to the Elders.
- Have a sentence of the day displayed around the school. Teach students the new sentence every day. It can start with "Good morning" and go on to other things.
- Have a language contest on the radio. For example, Ulukhaktok has a contest every Friday. The host says 10 words in English and the first person to translate them into Inuinnaqtun wins a prize. You can also do this as a classroom activity.
- Have an outdoor scavenger hunt. Students can look for the language in the community e.g. street signs, government buildings, etc.
- Make up some posters for your community about Aboriginal languages. Encourage people to speak their language. You can also do some public service announcements for the radio.
- Have learners make up a family tree. Use the language of the community to name the different relationships. For example, Bush Cree for *grandmother* is *nohkam*.

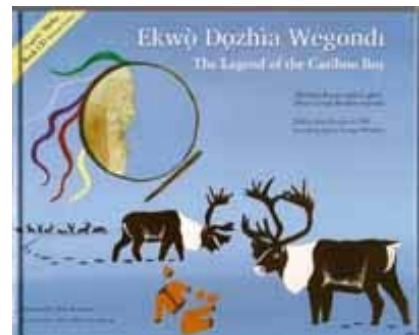


Celebrate Aboriginal Languages Month

- Have learners make a talking book in their language. See www.nwt.literacy.ca (Digital literacy) for examples and instructions.
- Have Elders talk about values and laws that are part of the learners' tradition. Learners can make posters about them in the Aboriginal language and post them around the community.
- Have a traditional crafts day. This can include sewing, tool making, cooking, beading, etc.



- Have learners make a pamphlet or poster about the importance of speaking your Aboriginal language. It can include slogans like:
 - Start early – talk to your baby in Gwich'in.
 - Share your stories, share your culture.



- Have learners take part in a quiz about Aboriginal languages in the NWT.
- Play music by an Aboriginal musician – like David Gon, for example – preferably in an Aboriginal language.