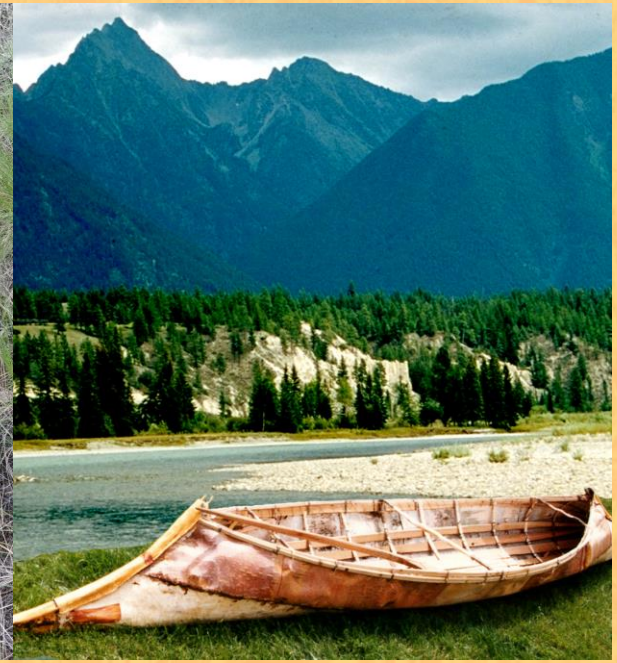
Language Planning
October 11, 2018
Kitsumkalum, Terrace, BC



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CULTURAL COUNCIL

First Peoples' Cultural Council

Language Vision Planning: Moving Beyond A Wishlist

… planning a future for your language

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Community Map

Draw a map of your community, then “tour” your group around your community.

WHAT DO WE DO FIRST ?

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Why can't we just hire an elder and start a language class?

What is a language plan?

A language plan identifies:

1. Where you are now (assessment)
2. Where you want to go (vision & goals)
3. How you'll get there (action plan)

Good language planning is about collectively deciding <u>what you want</u> and being <u>specific</u> about how you'll achieve it.

WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN TIMELINES PRIORITIES

A Process for

LANGUAGE VISION PLANNING

to become Language Aware, Knowledgeable, and Fluent

GOALS OBJECTIVES ACTIVITIES MEASURABLE EVALUATION

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Why make a Language Plan?

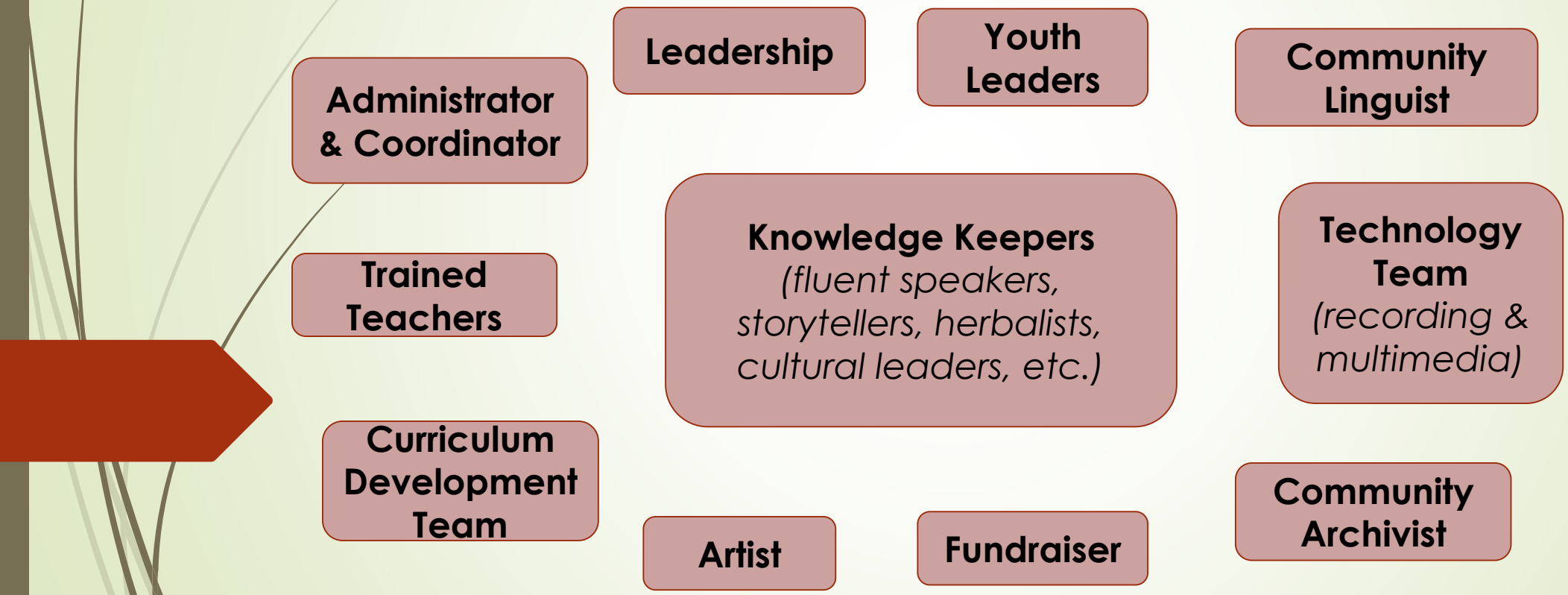
- Can unite a community and multiple communities around a shared goal; generates buy-in and leadership support
- ensures projects are sequenced (build on each other)
- focuses on strategies that have the desired outcomes (knowing vs. putting into action)
- enables efficient use of funds as they come available
- demonstrates capacity to funders and to the government (ideally, funding for plans instead of projects!)

The **planning process** is beneficial because:

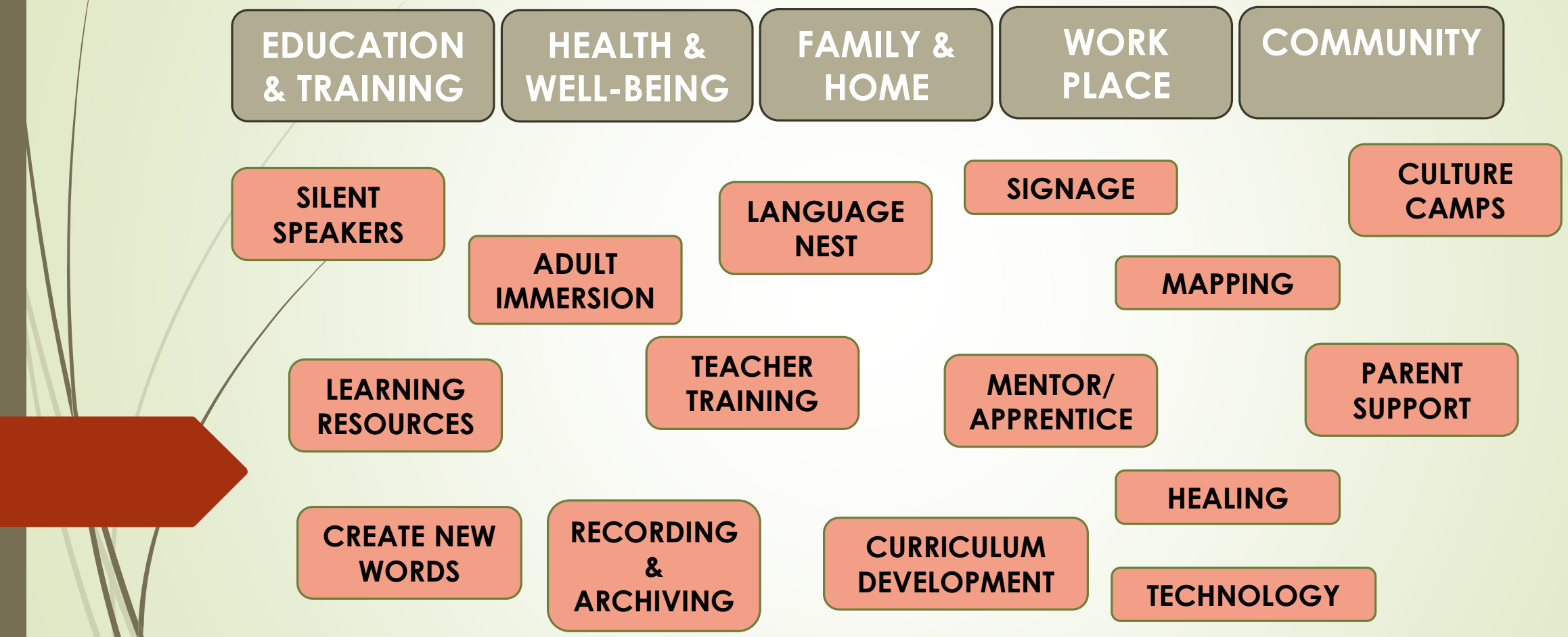
- ✓ It brings people **together to talk** about language collaboration
- ✓ **Creates awareness** and generates **interest**
- ✓ Gives **community** members a **voice**
- ✓ Creates **skill development** opportunities for project team
- ✓ **Existing language** programming in community is **strengthened**

Community Language Infrastructure

E.g. **Language Team**



Language Revitalization Toolkit



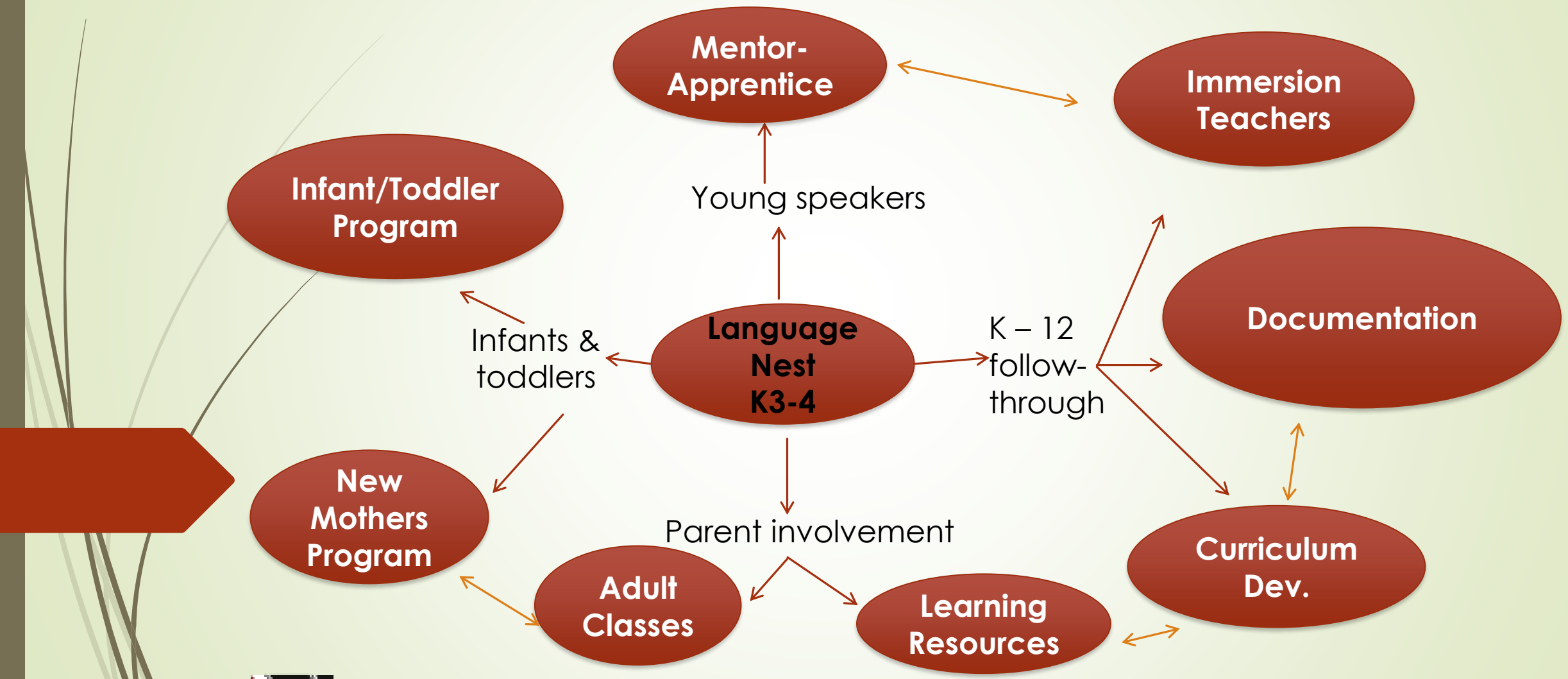
Project Plan vs. Language Plan

Language Nest
K3-4

- Space
- Speakers (Elders)
- Materials

- Training
- Schedule, timeline
- Etc.

Project Plan vs. Language Plan

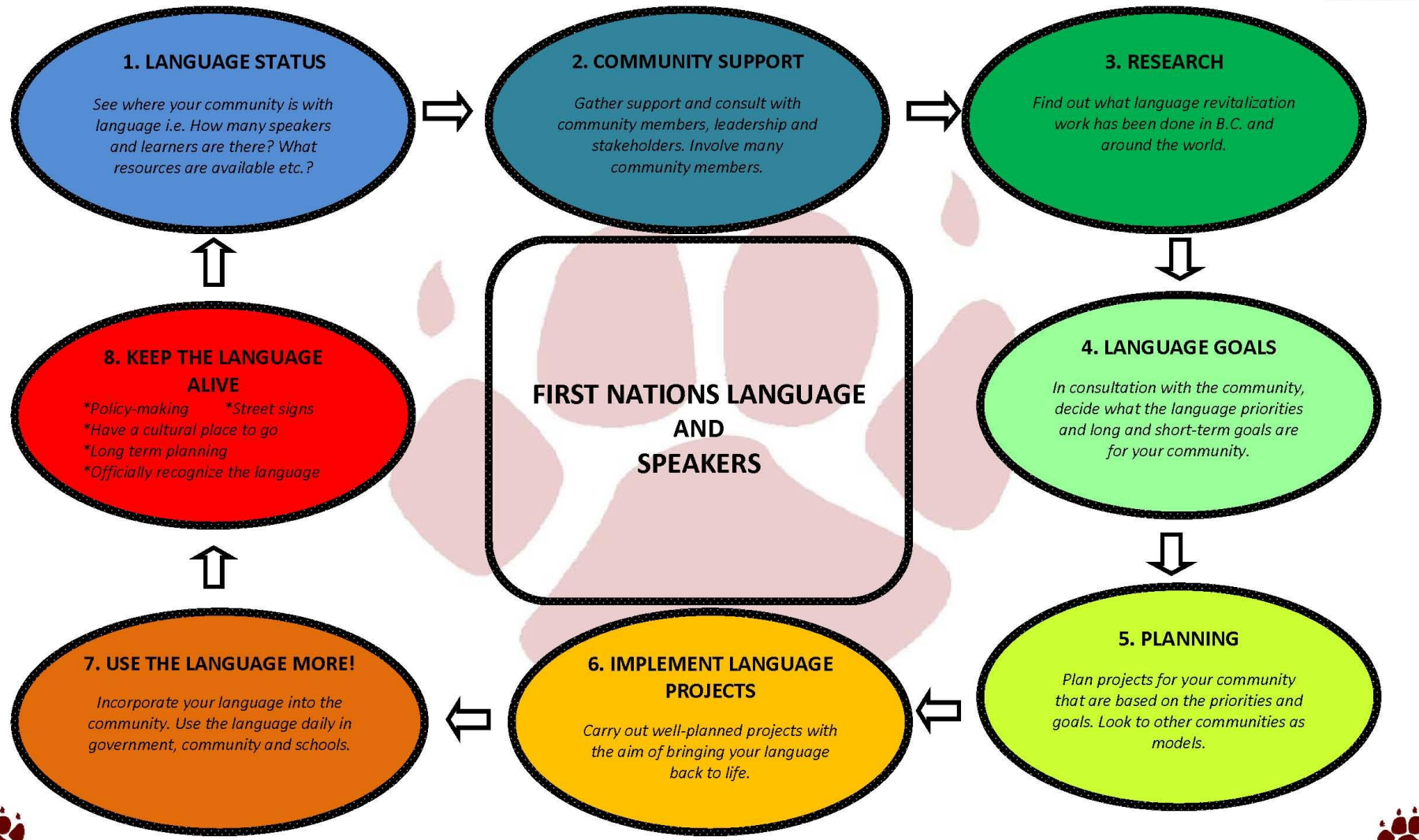


WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Have only one community meeting to brainstorm a wish-list
- Hire outsiders to research and write a 200+ page language plan

8 STEPS TO COMMUNITY LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION: KEEPING IT ALIVE

First Peoples' Council Language Program



1. DETERMINE THE STATUS OF YOUR LANGUAGE

Has a Language Needs Assessment (LNA) been completed for your community or language?

2. COMMUNITY SUPPORT and COMMITTMENT

The **CHAMPIONS**, the **ELDERS**, the **LEARNERS**, and the **COMMUNITY** decide to **work together** towards language revitalization.

3. INVESTIGATE

- Research what language work may have already been done in your language.
- This may include other communities or dialects or similar languages close by.

4. Language Goals

- In consultation with community:
  - determine language priorities
  - what the long and short-term goals are for your community.

5. PLANNING

- Plan projects for your community that are based on the priorities

6. IMPLEMENT LANGUAGE PROJECTS

- Carry out well-planned projects with the aim of bringing your language back to life.

7. USE THE LANGUAGE MORE !!

- Incorporate your language into the community.
- Use the language daily in government, community, and schools.

8. KEEP THE LANGUAGE ALIVE !!

- Long-term planning
- Street signs
- Have a cultural place to go
- Officially recognise the language
- Policy Making

Community Language Infrastructure

What is the **current state** of your infrastructure?
What is your **ideal future state**?
How can you plan for that?

- Leadership
- Human Resources ("Language Team")
- Policy Development
- Space
- Physical resources (language materials)
- Community-led research (Monitoring &Evaluating)
- Education
- Media

Some Strategies That Work

Language Immersion

- ✓ Language Nests
- ✓ Mentor-Apprentice Program
- ✓ Adult Intensive Immersion ("Language Houses")
- ✓ Language-medium Education (eg. Chief Atahm School, W̱SÁNEĆ School Board)

Strategies That Work

What strategies do you know that have had **great outcomes** for language revitalization?

It's tempting to focus on what's **easy** or **obvious** or **popular**, but this doesn't always get results.

Evaluation

Be willing to assess what you're doing and make changes if it isn't working:

- Know where you're at and why
- Understand where resistance comes from
- Be clear about your goals and outcomes

How are you measuring your progress and your results?

How will you know if you have been successful?

Some Strategies That Work

Language Documentation

- ✓ Recording fluent speakers
- ✓ FirstVoices and language archiving

Some Strategies That Work

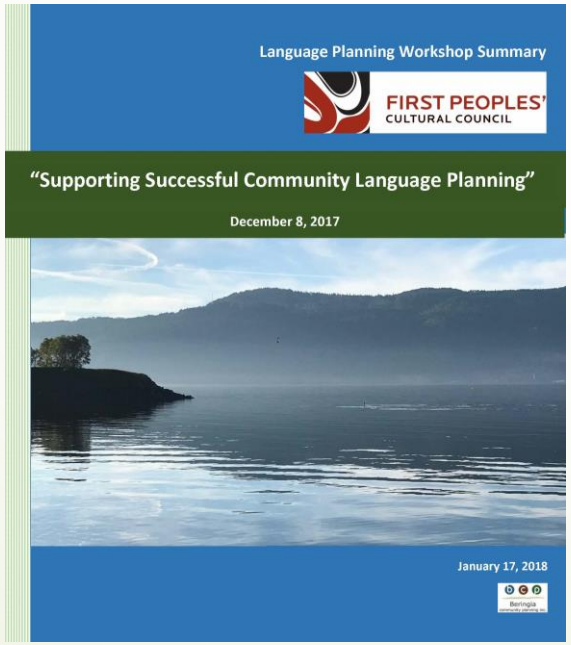
Creating language champions

- ✓ Supporting Silent Speakers
- ✓ Training Youth Leaders

A note about Language Planning…

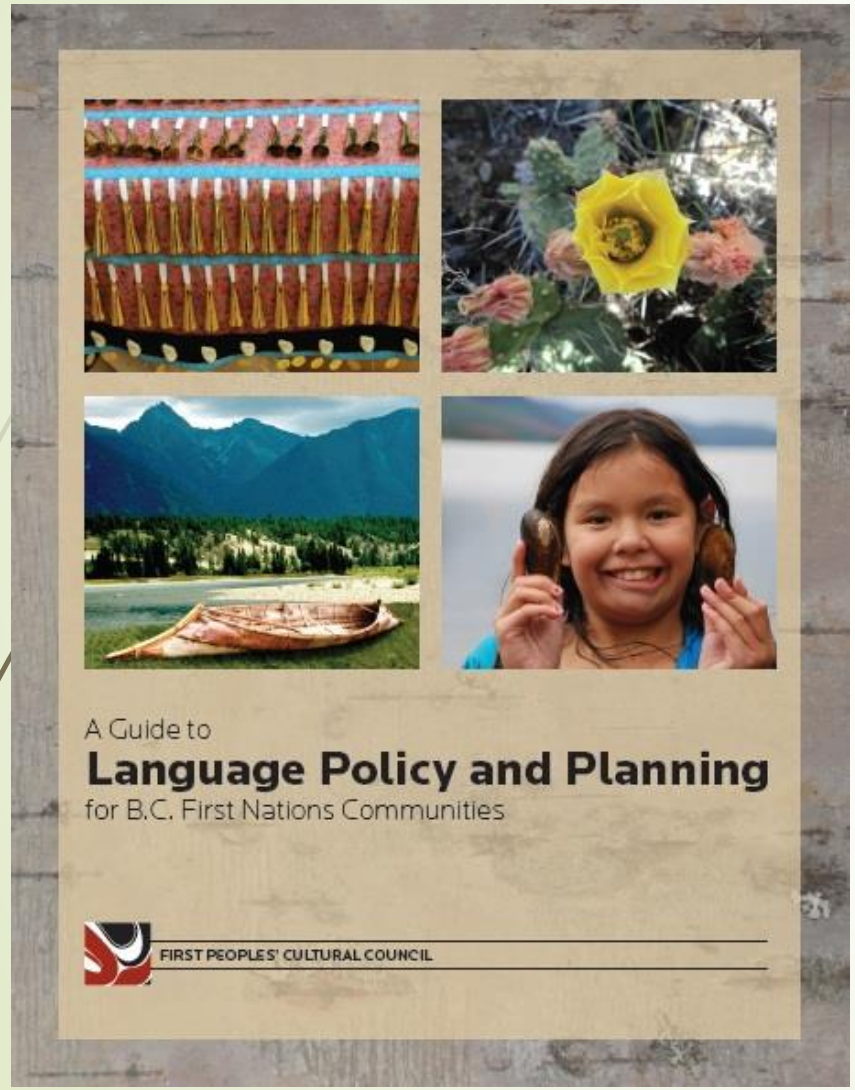
Keep in mind:

* It's a new thing – we don't have many good examples
* FPCC still learning about how this process works



FPCC Resources - Legislation

www.fpcc.ca/language/Legislation

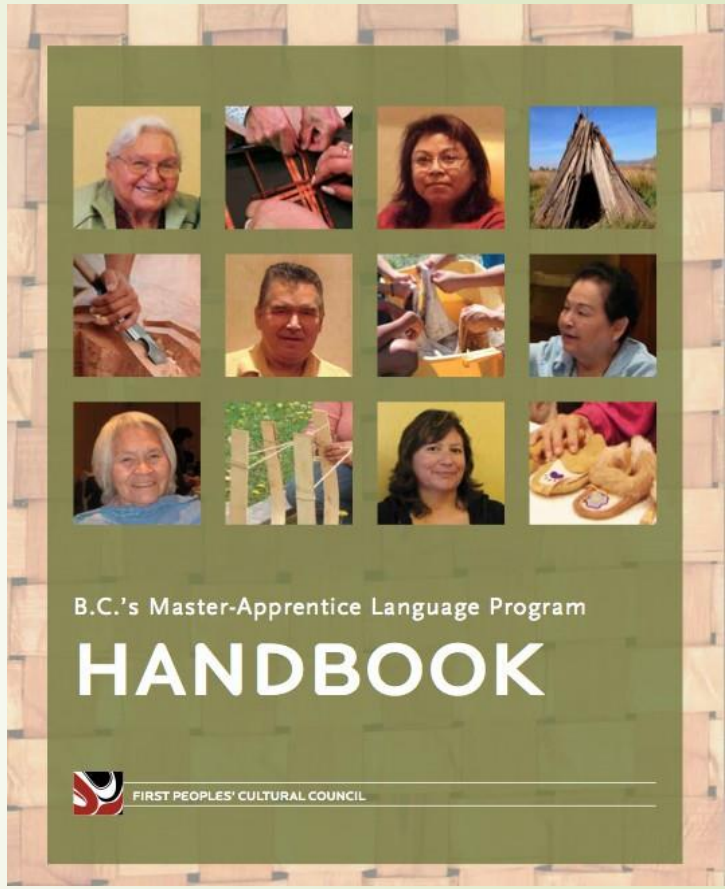


www.fpcc.ca/language/Programs/Language_Policy_Guide

Mentor-Apprentice Program

B.C.'s Master-Apprentice Language Program Handbook
(2010)

http://www.fpcc.ca/language/Programs/Master-Apprentice.aspx



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Thank you!

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