



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL

Strategic Integration of Languages, Arts, Cultures and Heritage

Facilitated by: FPCC Revitalization Planning Coaches w/ support from Sandra A. Martin Harris, We'es Tes

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Outline

- Welcome and opening
- Introduction to the First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Strategic Integration of Community Language, Arts, Cultures and Heritage



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Join at menti.com use code 6926 2910

Mentimeter

What is your favourite cultural/traditional activity?

Waiting for responses ...



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BC Organizations Supporting First Nation Languages

 <p>fnesc</p> <p>First Nations Education Steering Committee</p>	 <p>FIRST PEOPLES' CULTURAL COUNCIL</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports First Nation students • Advances First Nations <u>education</u> in BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten to Grade 12 • Post-Secondary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports <u>community-based</u> revitalization of First Nation language, arts, and heritage • This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-school • After-school • Adults of all ages



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How do we make *projects* within Arts, Language and Heritage sustainable for us or for future generations?



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Sustainability for First Nation Language, Arts and Heritage –

A Wholistic Approach: Differentiating Revitalization and Reclamation

Revitalization as:

“Breathing new life into the language [arts and heritage]...increasing the number of speakers, increasing the domains in which the language [arts and heritage are] used, and promoting intergenerational transmission.”

(Leonard 2011: 141)

Reclamation as:

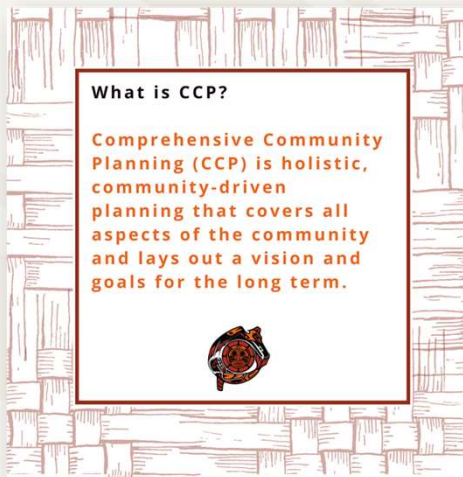
“A much larger social process of claiming—or reclaiming—the appropriate cultural context and sense of value that the language [arts and heritage] would likely have always had if not for colonization.”

Leonard, Wesley Y. 2011. Challenging “Extinction” through Modern Miami Language Practices. *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 35(2): 135-160.



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Setting the Stage for Strategic Thinking



Where might cultural revitalization be listed as a strategic priority?

What plans or decision-making processes are already established?



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**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF
B.C. First Nations Languages**
Fourth Edition, 2022

Nl̓m̓kəp̓m̓x̓c̓in
S̓q̓ú̓t̓is̓
Danez̓ng̓é
E̓y̓t̓a̓/j̓a̓uth̓em
d̓i̓it̓id̓/̓a̓at̓x̓
G̓it̓sen̓im̓x̓
S̓t̓á̓t̓im̓c̓ets̓
Dane-Zaa (C̓o̓ b̓)
H̓u̓l̓q̓um̓in̓em/
H̓al̓q̓em̓y̓em/̓h̓al̓q̓em̓it̓am̓
H̓á̓l̓n̓a̓q̓y̓la
N̓i̓q̓a̓'a
S̓e̓w̓y̓w̓/̓m̓esh̓ s̓n̓ich̓im̓
N̓y̓i̓l̓x̓c̓an̓
D̓ak̓el̓ib̓ (C̓B̓)
K̓w̓a̓l̓w̓a̓la
D̓ene̓ K̓é̓
An̓ish̓ina̓ab̓em̓ow̓in
S̓EN̓C̓O̓T̓EN̓/̓M̓al̓ch̓os̓em̓/
L̓ek̓w̓ung̓em̓/S̓em̓i̓ah̓m̓oo̓/
T̓'S̓os̓ k̓e̓
N̓ed̓u̓fen̓ / W̓is̓u̓w̓it̓em̓
X̓en̓ak̓s̓i̓ak̓ala̓ / X̓á̓n̓i̓ak̓ala̓
T̓á̓it̓em̓
X̓aad̓ K̓il̓ / X̓a̓y̓y̓la̓ K̓il̓
T̓sil̓h̓o̓q̓'em̓
W̓u̓l̓k̓ala̓
S̓he̓ s̓h̓a̓sh̓i̓sh̓al̓hem̓
Southern̓ T̓ut̓ch̓one̓
S̓m̓i̓l̓q̓y̓x̓
K̓un̓a̓ta̓
S̓ec̓w̓ep̓em̓c̓h̓in̓
L̓ing̓it̓
m̓us̓C̓a̓nt̓ul̓
ᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ (N̓eh̓iy̓aw̓em̓in̓)
N̓ux̓alk̓
T̓s̓'e̓k̓h̓ene̓

**FIRST PEOPLES'
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Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages

- Can be used as an advocacy tool
- Can be used to educate the general public
- Can be used to support the community mobilization
- Important for our individual indigeneity to see the reclamation taking place

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What's next after it's listed as a priority? Here is one example...

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Planner Key Actions

Use *effective* revitalization strategies

Identify community champions

Work from a trauma-informed lens

Create an advisory committee

Create a language/cultural revitalization plan

Connect with FPCC!



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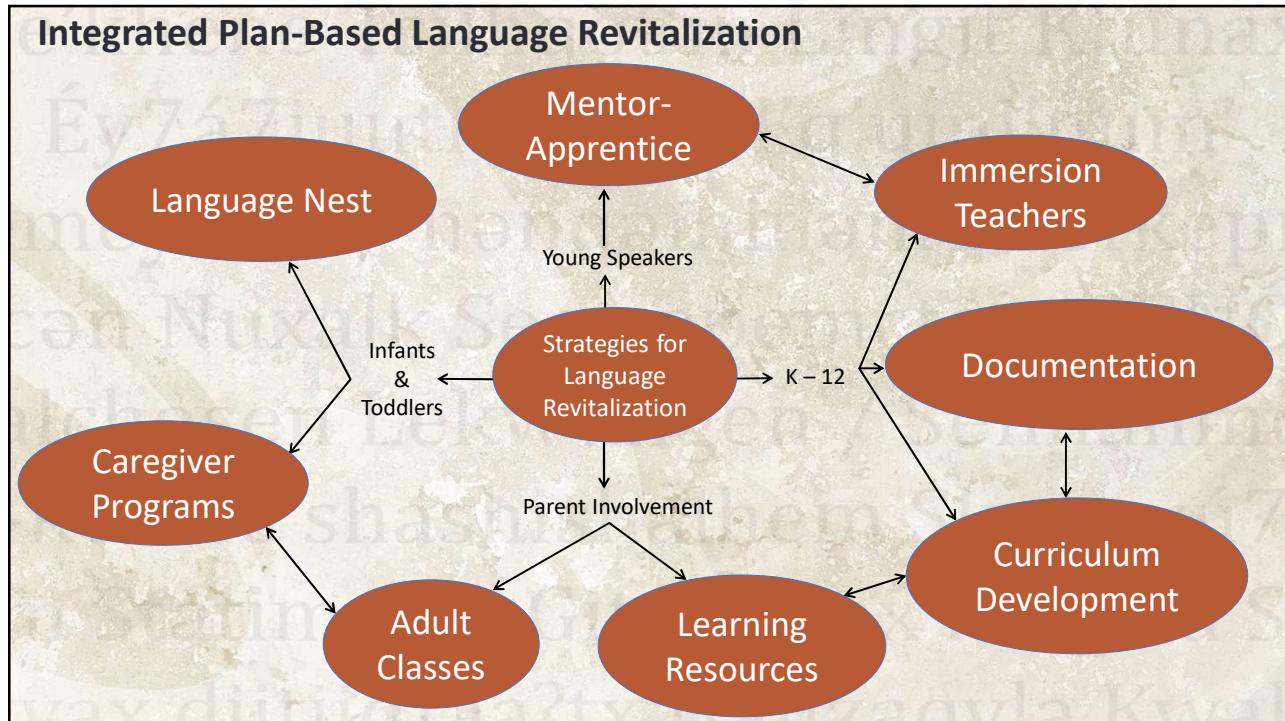
Strategic Planning for the Revitalization of Language, Arts and Heritage

Shift communities from the *'standard approach'* of siloed projects, and reacting to language, arts, and heritage loss...

...to an **integrated plan-based model** of proactively building a future for the vitality of these areas.



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Why Strategic Planning?

- ✓ Outcomes
- ✓ Costs
- ✓ Expertise
- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Implementation



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Standard Approach vs. Wholistic Approach

The 'standard approach'

- × Decision making
- × Development agenda
- × Development
- × Indigenous culture
- × Resources

A wholistic approach

- ✓ Self-determination
- ✓ Systems approach
- ✓ Cultural context
- ✓ Strategic orientation
- ✓ Community mobilization



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Self-Determination

Syilx Okanagan Language Declaration

“We, the *Syilx Okanagan* Peoples have spoken our nsyilxcən language since time immemorial, and we are responsible for the protection, revitalization and advancement of our nsyilxcən language.”

– excerpt from the *Syilx Okanagan Language Declaration*

Those who have been able to assert decision-making control have significantly increased their chances of sustainable development.



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Effectively Integrating within the CCP

Theme in CCP

- Language and Culture Revitalization

Example of Goals for Language Revitalization

1. Develop language proficiency/fluency in adults and children
2. Documenting and recording the language
3. Making the language easily accessible
4. Developing language resources
5. Language Infrastructure



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Effectively integrating within the CCP

Theme


- Language and Culture Revitalization

Goal 1

- Develop language proficiency/fluency in adults and children

Strategies to achieve the goal!

- Language Camps
- Mentor-Apprentice Programs (MAP)
- Youth Leadership Program
- Alternative adult language learning programs
- Reclaiming my Language: a course for Silent Speakers / Healing Programs
- Language Nests
- Home Immersion Program



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Governance - Systems Approach to Strengthening Capacity

Standard Approach

Project Space

 Knowledge Holder

 Materials

 Orientation

 Schedule/timeline

Wholistic Approach

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Governance

Role	Responsibility
Chief and Council	Provide leadership and political advocacy.
Administrator	Guide and evaluate the direction, strategy, oversight and support in streamlining operations, policy, and resources.
Advisory Group	An advisory group is put together to get opinions, to consult, or to inform, and to ensure you are on the right track. Meetings will be less frequent.

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Technical Staff

Role	Responsibility
Program Coordinator	Planning and coordination of a program and its activities, ensuring implementation of policies and practices, and maintaining budget and tracking expenditures/transactions.
Planner	Organize and participate in planning meetings. Facilitating the exchange of information and ideas between community members for the development of a language plan.
Working Group and/or Language & Culture Department	A working group is usually made up of the administrators, a coordinator, technicians, and admin support and maybe some others that you bring in for specific tasks like facilitating, or conducting assessments etc. Meetings will be more frequent.



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External

Role	Responsibility
Community	Involve the community as much as possible. Staff meetings, Chief & Council meetings, many community meetings (often targeted to specific demographics or focusing on specific topics) both on- and off-reserve.
Partners	Promote partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and help to redress the harms of colonization by building equitable, mutually beneficial relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations.



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Cultural Context

- Grounded in Culture and Tradition
- Incorporating values that are important to community can help guide the work

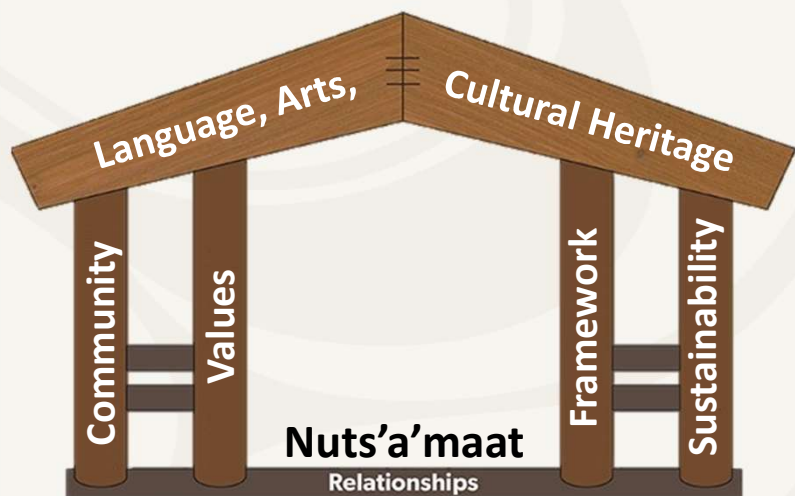
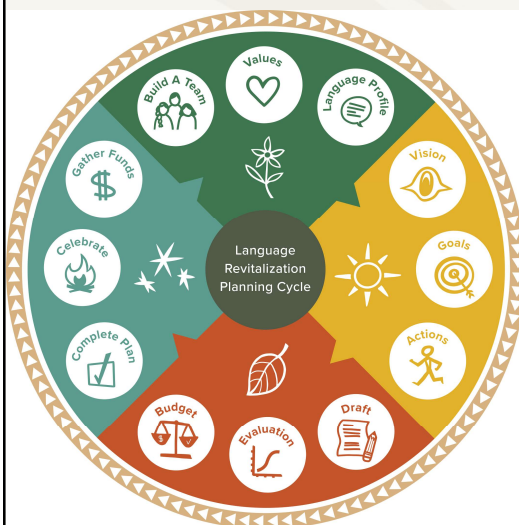


Image credit: Camosun College, <https://camosun.ca/indigenization-four-corner-post-model>



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Working from a Cultural Context



- Opening and closing protocols ex: prayer, or song, words of intention
- Introductions for key people/guests etc.
- Cultural protocols and practices (i.e., smudging, cedar brushing)
- Uphold lateral kindness (no tolerance for bullying)



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Strategic Orientation

Empowers community to focus on the strategic decision-making, and long-term vision of the Indigenous language, arts heritage.

Image Source: Finding Bimadzowin Guide p.6

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What is Language Revitalization Success?

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Success within Language Revitalization

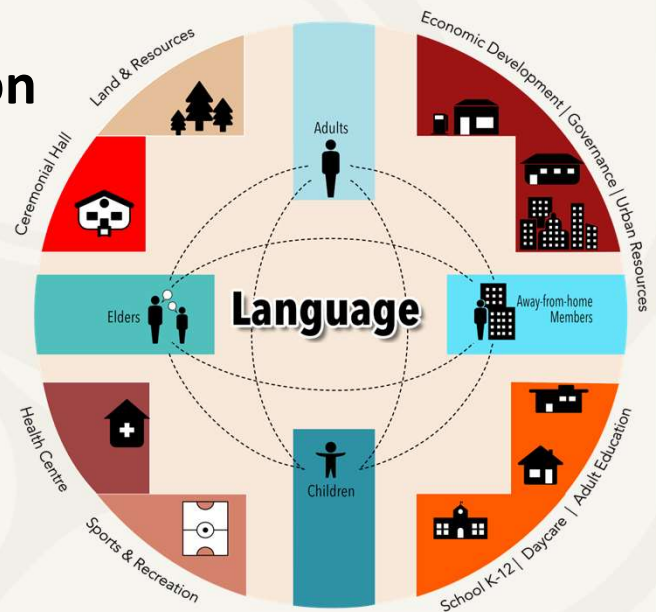
- Can be individualistic
- Varied, evolving and often small leading toward growth
- Not an end point but a process
- A multigenerational process never reaching a final end point
- Find successes little or big



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Community Mobilization

- Language, arts & heritage across all domains
- Mobilize the community towards the reclamation of their Indigenous language, arts heritage



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Importance of Community Engagement

- Brings the community together
- Builds momentum
- Respects transparency, collaboration and openness
- Integrates inter-generational knowledge and perspectives
- Welcomes input, guidance and advocacy



Gitxsan CCP – Language Goals 2012-2017

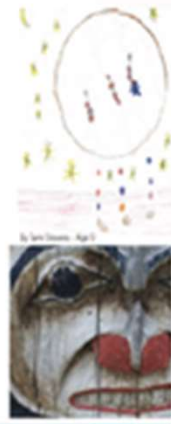
Program areas: in Gitxsanimx / Sm'alyax

Lifelong learning

Context

Gitxsanimx has a daycare and a Headstart program at GRES. There is also a successful STABLES program in the community. The First Nations High School is also located in Gitxsanimx. All Gitxsanimx elementary students attend public schools at New Hazelton or John Field school, where both French and Gitksaning are taught.

The lifelong learning section addresses three goals. The first goal is that all community members have access to learning opportunities. The second goal is to create more youth focused educational activities. The third goal is to promote more opportunities for use of Gitksaning language and Gitksan culture in community events.



Planning for positive change: community development areas



Kispiox CCP – translated into Gitxsanimx̓!



Summary of community development goals (2012-2017)

Below is a summary of the 23 community development goals for Kispiox.

Health and well-being	Community facilities, housing and communication technologies
<p>1. Dim hoogagam did'iyrah' dip ndilhi dagagat ah' las trap.</p> <p>2. Dim ganla sayt goodnhiw' g'at ant' wilaah' wila jigig'N gaw'hn g'gat ah' naag'at dim at ma'ah'it dim wila looh' sig'gat i am dim w'it dit.</p> <p>3. Dim xaisw'ah' nah' needi am-mith' wila dib'it dim i' h'ameow'at'.</p>	<p>7. Dim ama jig'aprah' huw'ip h'a naag'at Mda'itw'at' dim 'i' ganla aaj'ah' gab'hi huw'ip dim jig'aprah'.</p> <p>8. Dim G'ah'N w'ip gal't'ap dim w'it sayt good'ah' g'at las bu'z'. Dim sayt' good'ar' ip' ip'it' naa dim i' w'ih' ant' amah'asw'at' dit. Tun dim wila suw'laaks'rah' g'a'yim'git.</p> <p>9. Dim Faa dim w'it sayt'ah' hu' h'e'naad' galdim' w'ak' gan'hi w'ida' anoo'ya' p'w'ig'as'at'.</p> <p>10. Needim di ad'w'ah' ip'it' naah' hasag'at dim y'wet' ip'it' das.</p> <p>11. Sgi dim ganla' asidag'w'at' w'ila w'ih' ag'agam' t'i'ut'w'at' las trap.</p> <p>12. Ho'oh' g'ag'odim' w'it hoog'agam' g'uh' w'ip' anah'at'it' las gal' trap.</p>
<p>1: Elders are able to age with dignity in our community and be surrounded by their family</p> <p>2: Support health promotion in the community by offering learning opportunities in traditional Gitksan approaches to healthy lifestyles</p> <p>3: Support families who are facing challenges with harmful substance use, family violence and mental health</p>	<p>7: Improve housing conditions and increase the number of housing units to meet community need</p> <p>8: Provide a cultural gathering place for community members to hold community events and celebrate Gitksan culture</p> <p>9: Recycling services are provided to community members</p> <p>10: Transportation around Kispiox is safe and accessible</p> <p>11: Communications technology is current and improves communication abilities of community members</p> <p>12: We are proud of our well utilized facilities</p>
Sustainable jobs and businesses	
<p>4. Dim hoog'agam' h'ameow'at' dip' n'ah'it' hu' w'it' w'ip' suw'laaks'at' w'at' w'it' gal' x'at' ah' h'ine' dit.</p> <p>5. Sgi dim ganla' he'em' ah' las'at' t'i'w'it' dim ganla' ig'ah' dit' q'at' dip' 'ndit' y'ak'w'it' h'ak'g'at' las' t'at'. Ah'N' w'ih' g'ag'adim' w'ood'w'it' j' nee' ja' w'it'm.</p> <p>6. Needim di am' g'ik' y'ik'it' dim ga' h'ah'at'at'it'; h'eh'it' g'ag'w'at'it'.</p>	
<p>4: Support members in training and career planning</p> <p>5: Support and celebrate Gitksan business and successes in Kispiox</p> <p>6: Diversify local economic opportunities</p>	

Goal 15. Dim ganla sayt' hu'u'et'w'ah' g'at dim las'w'at' dit' w'ila jag'ah'N' g'w'ah'N' g'ig'at' ah'N' 'nak'w'at'.

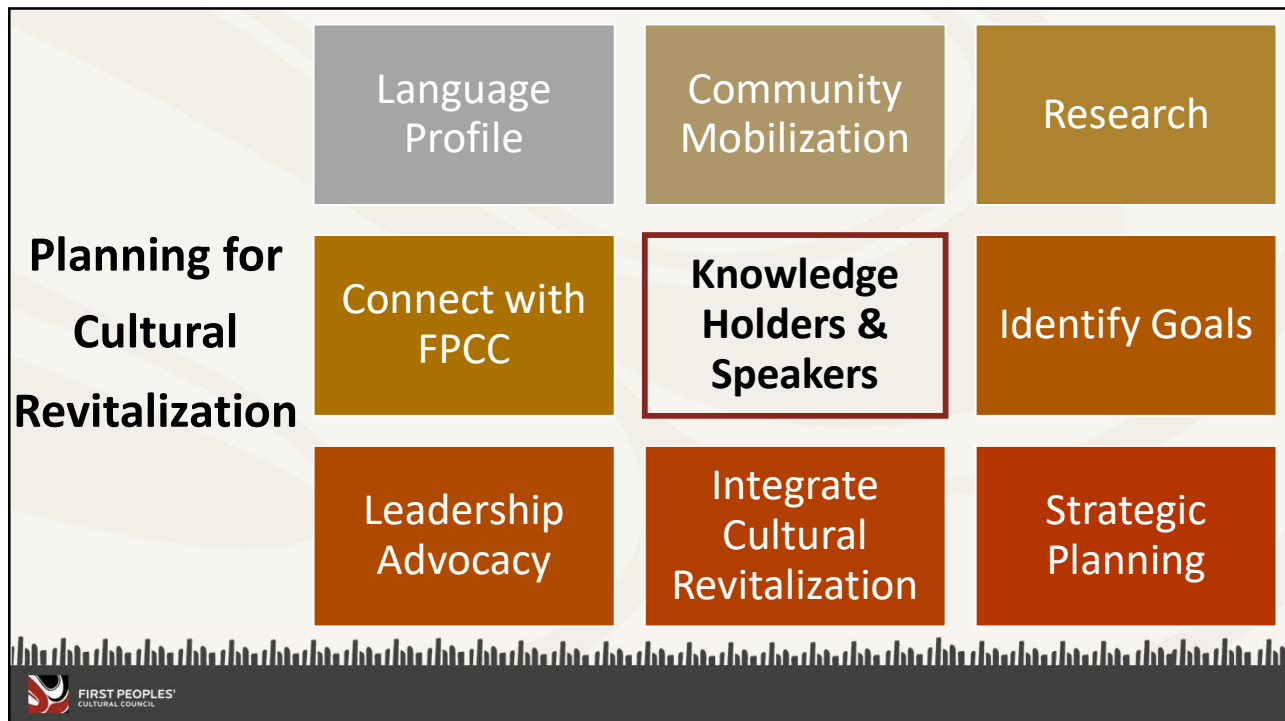
(Provide more opportunities to learn about Gitksan culture)

Strategic direction 15.1: Identify what types of traditional learning community members would like to access (e.g., traditional medicines)

Strategic direction 15.2: Explore the development of an intergenerational Gitksaning immersion program.

Strategic direction 15.3: Provide opportunities to learn and practice Gitksaning.

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We invite you to pull from the Nations innate knowledge in long-term planning

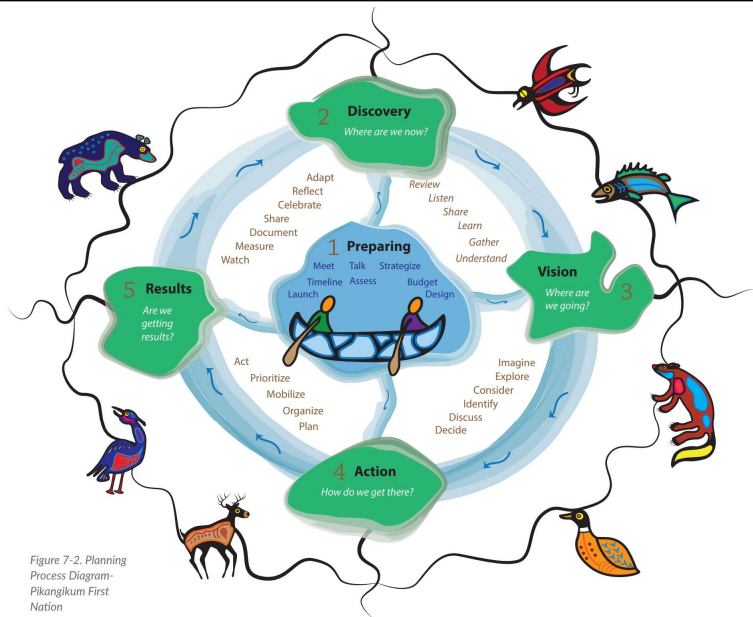


Figure 7-2. Planning Process Diagram- Pikangikum First Nation



Next Steps

For Leadership / Administrators/Coordinators/Planners

Leadership Advocacy	Identify Community Champions
Band Council Resolution	Create Advisory Committee
Declaration for Cultural Revitalization	Connect w/ FPCC
Cultural Revitalization Department	Invest in Human Capacity

Further Learning on Strategic Cultural Revitalization!



Cultural Revitalization Final Reflections

- Authentic Indigenous histories need to be told in Indigenous voices; that's how we will move forward
- First Nations language, arts, cultures and heritage are interwoven; support is needed across all sectors
- Indigenous cultural heritage in Canada is integral to UNDRIP
- Critical for the health and wellness of Indigenous people



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Stay informed and spread the word!



- Subscribe to our newsletter <https://fpcc.ca/signup/>
- Spread the word about the funding and support available!
- The Mentor-Apprentice Program is currently accepting applications (*closing October 23*)



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**Knowledge Sharing,
Locally & Globally**

First Peoples'
Map of BC
maps.fpcc.ca

FirstVoices
firstvoices.com

Language Planning Toolkit
language-toolkit.fpcc.ca/

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Contact Information & Resources

General: coaches@fpcc.ca

FPCC Website: fpcc.ca

Sign up for News: fpcc.ca/signup

FPCC Grant Portal: fpcc.ca/login

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Resources

- FirstVoices – www.firstvoices.com
- First Peoples' Map of BC – www.maps.fpcc.ca
- FPCC Language Planning Toolkit – <https://language-toolkit.fpcc.ca/>

Video Links

- SXEDƧELISIYE's FIRE WITHIN SENĆŦEN AUDIO-VISUAL defence <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCgksTcLUDxn-PkBCwzTkHA/videos>
- Leanne Hinton, What is Language Revitalization Success? <https://youtu.be/qNIUJxri3QY>

References

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- Okanagan Nation Alliance (2021). Syilx Okanagan Language Declaration, <https://www.syilx.org/about-us/syilx-nation/4918-2/>



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