

# Prince Albert Grand Council Language and Culture

## A FINAL THOUGHT...

*Language is the expression of our culture and our land. We cannot have one without the others. We cannot describe our culture and our land if we do not have language. (Queensland Indigenous Languages Advisory Committee, 2006 )*

TO HAVE ANOTHER LANGUAGE IS TO POSSESS  
A SECOND SOUL.

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**PAGC Education:  
Language & Culture**

*We are the ones who have to teach our children.  
"Nuhni nuheskenę hádónílten dézq."  
Elder Agnes Alphonse - Black Lake First Nation*

### **Vision & Mission Statement**

In recognition of the Inherent and Treaty rights to education for First Nations, and founded on the Philosophy and Practice of our First Nations Schools, the Prince Albert Grand Council promotes the following Vision and Mission for Education, specifically Language and Culture.

### **Learning is a Life-Long Process**

Our First Nations people are unique and worthy of the best possible quality education we can provide.

We shall promote a comprehensive bilingual and bicultural education for our people with respect to their diverse languages and cultures.

We shall recognize and promote the pride in cultures, languages, and values among our First Nation people.



Running the dogs.  
Photo courtesy of Otto Fietz.



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# What is our role?

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- To develop language and culture programming curricula in collaboration with the First Nations.
- Assist with planning and organizing staff development activities for language and culture teachers.
- Maintain regular school visits and provide support for the language and culture programs in the schools/ community.
- Advise language teachers in schools regarding professional growth.
- Develop and produce literature, workbooks and other relevant teaching resources for the language and culture programs, as needed.
- Identify and compile templates to assess and evaluate speaking, reading and writing in the language programs.
- Provide on-going support in curriculum actualization, unit/lesson planning and teaching strategies.
- Upon request, facilitate professional development activities on language and culture programming.
- To provide translation services for Elders, as needed.
- Upon request, attend cultural events and cultural camps.

## Why It Pays To Be Bilingual

Being bilingual provides a variety of perks. Aside from giving you the ability to impress your latest love interest by reciting poetry, being bilingual also pays dividends-monetarily, cognitively and culturally. Here's why:

### **Cognitive Advantages of Being Bilingual**

Bilingualism is known to:

- Increase cognitive development and abilities.
- Improve metalinguistic skills.
- Advance verbal and spatial skills.
- Augment memory skills.

Bilinguals are better multitaskers-Studies show that bilinguals tend to perform better than monolinguals on exercises that require blocking out distractions and switching between two or more different tasks. This may have important, long term benefits as evidence also suggests that bilinguals' increased use of two language systems may protect them against Alzheimer's.

### **Bilinguals Often Make More Money**

Knowing more than one language is a highly marketable skill, and often commands higher pay to boot.

### **Bilinguals Are Often Bicultural**

Bilingualism essentially equals biculturalism. Bilingualism allows access to two separate cultures and increases cultural understanding and compassion. In addition, bicultural youth who can draw resources

from both the Indigenous community and mainstream society are best situated to enjoy educational success.

Modified from: <https://voxy.com/blog/2011/02/why-it-pays-to-be-bilingual-infographic/>

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Language is at the core of cultural identity.



Wollaston Lake Culture  
Camp 2014

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