

Ideas for communities to promote language use

Here are some ideas for including Aboriginal language in your community activities during Aboriginal Languages Month.

- Organize a night of traditional activities like storytelling, drum dancing, games and singing.
- Have an Aboriginal language lunch in the community hall. Plan some traditional games, like string games, or Arctic or Dene games.
- Set up an Elders' room (space) in the band or community office. Have tea and bannock available. Encourage community members to drop in and talk to the Elders.
- Celebrate the Elders in your community.
- 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 a quiz on Aboriginal languages in the NWT.



Celebrate Aboriginal Languages Month

- 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.
- Encourage your band or hamlet council to put up signs around town in the language of your community. Several communities in the NWT have street signs in the language of that community.
- Work with the community learning centre to plan language classes for the community.
- Ask Elders to tell stories on your community radio. In one community they hand out stories ahead of time at the Northern store and Coop. People can read along with the storyteller.
- Organize a *Mystery Reader* program on the radio. Recruit volunteers to read stories. The first person to identify the reader wins a prize.
- Have a fun night of Aboriginal games.

