



BC College of Teachers

Information on Establishing a First Nations Language Authority

In October 1993, the Council of the BC College of Teachers approved policy for the recognition of First Nations Language Authorities. Once established, the language authorities may recommend proficient speakers of their language for a First Nations Language Certificate. This allows First Nations persons to teach in BC schools while holding valid BC certification. This decision was a response to encourage and assist proficient speakers to work in the schools and pass the language on to new generations.

There are now more than 25 language authorities in BC. As there can only be one authority for each language, please inspect the list of language authorities on our website to determine whether an authority already exists for your language. If there is an established authority, you should direct speakers of your language to the appropriate language coordinator.

If no language authority exists for your language, you will need to establish one. The first step is to pass a resolution at your tribal council stating that the tribal council will be the language authority for your language. Having done that, you need to write to the BCCT requesting recognition of your language authority. This letter must include:

- 1. A copy of the Tribal Council resolution** designating the Language Authority (or a request from another body acceptable to the College designating a particular Language Authority).
- 2. An official mailing address** and telephone number for the Language Authority.
- 3. The name of a coordinator (contact person)** with whom the College can interact regarding applications for the First Nations Language Certificate.
- 4. Original signatures** of persons who will sign the individual recommendation for the First Nations Language Certificate. (Please include clear printed names and ancestral First Nations names, if any). These are the people who will decide whether an applicant is fluent in the language and culture.

A sample outline for an application letter is attached. Once the College has received this information, the Council of the College may recognize the recommended language authority and add the name of the language authority to the list contained in Policy P2.B.11 of the College.

Once your language authority is recognized by the College Council, you will be responsible for recommending individuals for certification as teachers of its language and culture as well as for determining whether an applicant is fluent in its language and culture. You will need to assist the applicant in putting together an application. It requires them to complete information about their background and experience; and it requires you (or the language coordinator) to complete a form attesting to the person's proficiency. Please refer to the application for a First Nations Language Teacher's Certificate on our website, www.bcct.ca under *forms and publications* for information regarding the application process.

Sample Letter

Concerning Establishing an Official Language Authority for a First Nations Language

Beverley Maxwell, Director of Certification
British Columbia College of Teachers
400-2025 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 1Z6

Dear Ms. Maxwell:

I would like to inform the B.C. College of Teachers that the *{insert name of First Nations/Band Council}* have agreed, at a meeting held on *{insert date}*, that the *{insert name of appointed Language Authority}* will be the local Language Authority for certification of the *{insert name of language}* language.

Please be advised that the following person is nominated as the official Language Coordinator, and all correspondence and telephone communications should be addressed to this person.

{Name of Nominated Language Coordinator}
{Address & Postal Code}
{Phone and Fax Number, including Area Code}
{E-mail Address}

The following are official signatures of persons authorized by the *{name of appointed Language Authority}* to make recommendations to the College.

{name of authorized signatory}

{name of authorized signatory}

{name of authorized signatory}

{name of authorized signatory}

For all recommendations for certification, the language coordinator's signature and at least *{*number}* other authorized signatures will be required. Please advise me at your earliest convenience when the Council has considered this application to have the *{name of appointed Language Authority}* recognized as the official Language Authority for the *{name of language}* language.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: Tribal Council Resolution



BC College of Teachers

List of Language Authorities

recognized by the BC College of Teachers for certification purposes:

Language	Mailing Address	Language Coordinator	Tel./Fax/E-Mail
Athabaskan	Yinka Dene Language Institute RR #1, Site 12, Comp. 41 Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0	William J. Poser, Acting Executive Director	T: (250) 562-6279 F: (250)-562-8206 E: wposer@cstc.bc.ca
Coast Salish	First Nations Education School District 72 (Campbell River) 425 Pinecrest Rd. Campbell River, BC V9W 3P2	Marion Harry	T: (250) 830-2330 F: (250) 830-2329
Gitksanimx	Gitksan Language Authority Box 155 Hazelton, BC V0J 1Y0	Sadie Harris	T: (250) 842-6222 F: (250) 842-6288 E: sharris@cmsd.bc.ca
Halq'emeylem	Mr. Joe Hall, Executive Director Community Development Sto:lo Nation Bldg. #1, 7201 Vedder Road Chilliwack, BC V2R 4G5	Joe Hall, Executive Director	T: (604) 858-3366 F: (604) 824-5226
Heiltsuk	Bella Bella Community School Society General Delivery Waglisla, BC V0T 1Z0	Elizabeth Brown	T: (250) 957-2396 F: (250) 957-2455
Hul'qumi'num' (Cowichan Dialect)	Cowichan Tribes Quw'utsun Syuw'entst Lelum' 5744 Allenby Road Duncan, BC V9L 5J1	Philomena Pagaduan Coordinator	T: (250) 715-1022 F: (250) 715-1023
Hul'qumi'num (Snuneymux ^w Dialect)	Snuneymux ^w Hul'qumi'num Language Authority c/o Anne Seward Elders Language & Cultural Coordinator 669 Centre Street Nanaimo, BC V9R 4Z5	Anne Seward	T: (250) 753-3481 F: (250) 753-3492
Huu ay aht	Ms. Stella M. Peters, Councillor Huu ay aht (Ohiaht) First Nations P.O. Box 70 Bamfield, BC V0R 1B0	Stella M. Peters	T: (250) 728-3414 F: (250) 728-1222 E: huyuayht@island.net
Ktunaxa	Ktunaxa Language Authority 7468 Mission Road Cranbrook, BC V1C 7E5	Don Maki, Director of Traditional Knowledge and Language	T: (250) 417-4001 F: (250) 489-5760 E: dmaki@ktunaxa.org

Language	Mailing Address	Language Coordinator	Tel./Fax/E-Mail
Kwakwala	Kwakwala Ni'Nogad Language Authority c/o Colleen M. Hemphill, Coordinator P.O. Box 2477 Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0	Colleen M. Hemphill; Mary Hunt	T: (250) 949-9433 F: (250) 949-9677
Liq'wala/Kwakwala	Liq'wala/Kwakwala Language Authority School District 72 (Campbell River) 1480 Dogwood St. Campbell River, BC V9W 3A6	Greg Johnson Coordinator	T: (250) 830-2330 F: (250) 830-2329
Musqueam	Victor Guerin, Language Coordinator Musqueam Indian Band 6735 Salish Dr. Vancouver, BC V6N 4C4	Victor Guerin, Language Coordinator	T: (604) 263-3261 F: (604) 263-4212 E: vguerin@ musqueam.bc.ca
Nisga'a	Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Language Authority Committee Box 219 Aiyansh, BC V0J 1A0	Mrs. Irene Griffin, Chairperson	T: (250) 633-2601 F: (250) 633-2367
Nlaka'pamux	Ms. Debbie Abbott Executive Director Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Box 430 Lytton, BC V0K 1Z0	Amy Charlie, Coordinator	T: (250) 455-2711 F: (250) 455-2565 E: nlakapumux@nntc.ca
Nuu-chah-nulth	Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council PO Box 1383 Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M2	Francis Frank Coordinator	T: (250) 724-5757 F: (250) 723-0463 E: francisf@nuuchahnulth.c g
Nuxalk	Nuxalk Nation Council School District 49 (Central Coast) Bag 130 Hagensborg, BC V0T 1H0	Lela Walkus Coordinator	T: (250) 982-2691 F: (250) 982-2319
Okanagan	Delphine Derickson, President Okanagan Language Association c/o En'owkin Centre Green Mountain Rd., Lot 45 RR #2, Site 50, Comp. 8 Penticton, BC V2A 6J7	Ms. Jeannette Armstrong, Executive Director	T: (250) 493-7181 F: (250) 493-5302 E: enowkin@vip.net
Old Massett Haida	Sharon Matthews Haida Language & Culture Coordinator Old Massett Village Council P.O. Box 6 Massett, BC V0T 1M0	Ms. Sharon Matthews, Haida Language & Culture Coordinator	T: (250) 626-5110 F: (250) 626-5630 E: haidalan@island.net

Language	Mailing Address	Language Coordinator	Tel./Fax/E-Mail
Scw'exmx dialect of Nle'kepmxcin	Scw'exmx Language Authority Nicola Tribal Association P.O. Box 188 Merritt, BC V0K 2B0	Mandy Na'zinek Jimmie	T: (250) 378-4235 F: (250) 378-9119
Sencoten	Saanich Language Authority c/o Curtis Olsen, Coordinator Box 368 7449 West Saanich Road Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1R3	Curtis Olsen	T: (250) 652-2214 x223 F: (250) 652-6929 E: c.olsen@sisb.shawbiz.ca
Shuswap	Mona Jules, SCES Language Coordinator Secwepemc Cultural Education Society 355 Yellowhead Highway Kamloops, BC V2H 1H1	Louella Jules	T: (250) 828-9750 F: (250) 372-1127
Skidegate dialects of Haida language	Skidegate Haida Language Authority c/o Diane Brown, Language Coordinator 165 Third Avenue Skidegate, BC V0T 1S1	Diane Brown T: (250) 559-4436	T: (250) 559-4496 F: (250) 559-8247
S'malgyax T'simshian	Ms. Vera Henry, Language Coordinator S'malgyax T'simshian Language Authority Comp. 92, Site 19, RR #3 Terrace, BC V8G 4R6	Vera Henry	T: (250) 842-6222
Spi7uy Sqweqwlut.s	Ms. Shirley Robbins SSLC Language Coordinator Cariboo Tribal Council 17 South 1 st Ave Williams Lake, BC V2G 1H4	Ms. Shirley Robbins	T: (250) 392-7361 F: (250) 392-6158 E: smspax_n@yahoo.ca
St'át'imc	Upper St'át'imc Language and Culture Authority P.O. Box 1420 Lillooet, BC V0K 1V0	Beverly Frank Marilyn Napoleon	T: (250) 256-7523 F: (250) 256-7119
Tsilhqot'in	Joan Gentles, Language Coordinator Tsilhqot'in National Government 102 - 383 Oliver Street Williams Lake, BC V2G 1M4	Joan Gentles Coordinator	T: (250) 392-3918 F: (250) 398-5798
Ts'msyen Sm'algyax	Ts'msyen Sm'algyax Authority 138 1 st Ave. W. Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1A8	Ernest G. Hill, Chairperson Deborah Jeffrey, Co-Chair	T: (250) 627-8782 F: (250) 627-1938