



GEORDY MARSHALL

Geordy Marshall is a Two Spirit Mi'kmaw person from Eskasoni in the unceded lands of Mi'kma'ki. He is 33 years old and is currently working with Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre to develop language and cultural support for the future Mi'kmawey Debert Centre. Geordy Marshall's first language is Mi'kmaw and has spent much of his life studying the language, and is passionate about being part of the language revival. Geordy's passion for the Mi'kmaw language is inspired by his late great uncle Grand Captain Alex Denny, Alex always encouraged those around him to love the language and to be proud of who you are as Mi'kmaw, and so Geordy does every single day of his life.



TOP PHOTO: COURTESY OF MI'KMAW KINAMATNEVEY



MARY SKYBLUE MORIN

Mary SkyBlue Morin is a Michif Language and Cultural Knowledge Carrier and a fluent speaker of Michif Cree & Northern Michif & Ile-a-La-Crosse Michif Languages. She has spoken Michif Cree & Northern Michif languages since childhood translating for her grandmother to various officials in her home community Green Lake Saskatchewan. She is a writer, translator and teacher of the Michif Cree & Northern Michif languages since 2010. She has translated a book and a documentary of Metis stories, as well as done Michif narration on a number of short films.





WILSON BEARHEAD

Wilson Bearhead is a Nakota Elder, fluent Nakota speaker and a member of the Wabamun Lake First Nation in Treaty 6 Territory. Wilson has served as the Chief of his community, Grande Chief of Treaty 6 and Assembly of First Nations Alberta Regional Chief. He began his career in the field of addictions, mental health and support for children in care. Over the years Wilson had dedicated his time, always in service to the community, families, and children, in roles that include Elder at federal corrections agencies, public libraries and in schools. Wilson's grandmother Annie was a powerful, positive influence in his young life, teaching him all of the lessons that gave him the strength, knowledge and skill to overcome difficult times and to embrace the gifts of life. Now Wilson is passing along his language and teachings to his grandson Bud.





ANNIE BERNARD

Born and raised in Fort McPherson, Northwest Territories, Annie Bernard is a citizen of the Tetlit Gwich'in Council and a member of the wolf clan. Annie is the only child of Tabitha Mitchell Kendi Bernard and she is the granddaughter of the late Nellie and Jarvis Mitchell.

Annie Bernard is a mother, teacher, educational advocate and First Nations language champion. She has attended the education journey of youth in both NWT, Alberta and the Yukon. Annie to this date still practises her language and culture of the Gwich'in ways in the Yukon out of F.H Collins Secondary School in Whitehorse with YFNED.

Annie is a former co-chair of the Yukon College's President's Advisory Committee of First Nations Initiatives (PACFNI) propelling indigenization of the Yukon College University, vetting and co-creating Yukon College Programs. As a member of PACFNI, she was a signatory of the colleges and institutes Canada (CICAN) Indigenous Education protocol in 2015.

More recently, she brought her perspective to the Hearing Partnership Project, a Yukon College Initiative spearheading innovative solutions to community learning and supported by the Mastercard Foundation and Rideau Hall Foundation.

On May 18th of 2018, Annie Bernard was awarded an Honorary diploma in Leadership and an Elder Award.

Annie enjoys participating in her traditional culture, including sewing, beading, telling stories, and teaching/making traditional medicines.





KARONHÍ:IO DELARONDE

Kanien'kehá:ka niwakonhwentsò:ten, a'nó:wara niwaki'tarò:ten, tánon Kanièn:ke nitewaké:non.

Hello, my name is Karonhí:io Delaronde, I am Mohawk, turtle clan, and I come from Kanièn:ke.

My biggest passion in life is keeping our language alive and thriving for today's generation and for the next ones coming. When I was around fifteen years old I took it upon myself to become fluent in our language. This was done through the help and inspiration of the many Elders who were around, with each one sharing their unique perspective and history of the language. Through this, I had the opportunity to be a language teacher at the school in my community for about twelve years. It was such an honor to pass down the language to the new generations, and a honor to partner up with new Elders who continued passing down their language-knowledge. I am forever grateful them.

One big dream of mine is to one day create a feature film that is spoken all in Kanien'kéha (the Mohawk language), and to create similar content where people can rewatch scenes to hear the language being spoken in its natural form, through the many emotions that people have, and through the various dialects that are still around. As easily as we turn on a show, movie, podcast, etc. to hear something in English, I want people to have the option to do hear everything in Kanien'kéha too.

Niawenhkó:wa
(Great thanks)





JOHN RAMPANEN

ᓃaasʔaᓵuk

ᓃ aasʔaᓵuk (John Rampanen) is from Ahousaht, Keltmaht, Manhousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht and Finnish ancestry. He currently lives in Ahousaht territory with his wife Waakiituisis (Nitanis Desjarlais) together they have eight children and three nephews that they have adopted.

ᓃ aasʔaᓵuk is currently the elected chief councillor for the Ahousaht Nation and is a language teacher through local universities. He has developed a land-based language immersion program called, “Language, the land and the ocean.”





LUCY ANN YAKELEYA

Lucy Ann Yakeleya is a K'asho Got'ine Dene from Fort Good Hope, situated along the Dehogá/Mackenzie River. She currently lives in Yellowknife which is the capital of the Northwest Territories. Although she attended residential school, she was able to relearn her first language and culture from her parents, who spent much of their lives living a traditional lifestyle on the land. These teachings have served her well as she works as a Dene Language Interpreter/Translator as well as a teacher of traditional sewing and hide tanning.





DARLENE ARCAND

Bachelor of Education, Masters - Education, specializing in Indigenous Language Revitalization

I am from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. Cree ("Y" dialect) is has been my first language. I started teaching my language in the early 1970's and have worked with it in various capacities. I have spent much time with Elder's learning the philosophy of the language and the connection to the environment and all living species.

I believe our language makes us who we are. There is no hierarchy in our language we all speak at the same level, our intellect is not measured by the level of our language unlike English where each profession has its own jargon.

I am Cree, I speak Cree this is all I need to know myself, it is my identity. I do not need clothing or adornments to show that I am a Cree person.





BARBARA A. NOLAN

Nesdotmookiid ("Causer of Language Understanding")

Barbara Nolan is grateful to have survived the attempts by Canada's Indian residential school system to take her Nishnaabe language from her. As a vibrant first-speaker of Nishnaabemwin, Barbara has spent several decades working with a variety of organizations to revitalize the Ojibway/Odawa language, her most passionate method is through storytelling.

Barbara was acknowledged for her passion and dedication with language and culture by the City of Sault Ste. Marie and was presented with the Medal of Merit Award. She was also appointed by the Anishnabek Nation as the Anishnaabemowin Commissioner in December 2020.

She continues to spend time at the Garden River Daycare Centre and as an Elder/Cultural Advisor for Sault College. She is also available for other guest speaking requests.

Barbara is a proud Nishnaabe-kwe, formerly from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, who now resides in Garden River First Nation.





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Innirvik Support Services (2003) Ltd is a 100% Inuit owned and operated company based in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Innirvik was created in 1997 and later merged with another translation business called Nunavut Tusaavut Inc. in 2003. Innirvik now specializes in simultaneous interpretation/video systems, interpretation, translation and transcription services. Innirvik subcontracts independent Inuktitut interpreter/translators and provides translations in both North Baffin and South Baffin dialects of Inuktitut.

