

# First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council



2000-2001  
Annual Report



## ***VISION***

The First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council will be recognized as the major source for current and accurate information on the state of Aboriginal languages in British Columbia while continuing to provide program co-ordination and funding for Aboriginal language and culture preservation and enhancement.

## ***MISSION***

Provincial legislation (the *First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act*) establishes the mission of the Council as follows:

- To provide funding to cultural and language programs.
- To support and advise government on initiatives, programs and services relating to Aboriginal heritage, language and culture.
- To advise government on the preservation and fostering of Aboriginal languages and other aspects of cultural development of Aboriginal peoples throughout British Columbia.



## ***VALUES***

The First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council is guided by the following principles:

- Program access will be available throughout British Columbia for qualifying individuals and groups.
- Program decision making will be open and transparent.
- Program delivery will be efficient and accountable.
- Language program delivery will seek to maximize language group co-ordination and co-operation.



# Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee for the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council is composed of representatives from each of the Tribal Councils in the province. The Council's Board (referred to as Council Members) is composed of nine members drawn from this Advisory Committee, an Urban Representative, a Government Representative and a Corporate Representative. There is also a non-voting seat for a representative from the First Nations Education Steering Committee's language sub-committee.

## **Tribal Council**

Alliance Tribal Council  
Cariboo Tribal Council  
Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council  
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council  
Council of the Haida Nation  
Fraser Canyon Tribal Administration  
Gitksan Treaty Office  
Haisla Nation  
Heiltsuk Band Office  
Kaska Dene Tribal Council  
Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council  
Kwakiutl District Council  
Lillooet Tribal Council  
Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council  
Nicola Tribal Association  
Nisga'a Nation  
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council  
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council  
Okanagan Tribal Council  
Oweekeno-Kitasoo-Nuxalk Tribal Council  
Shuswap Tribal Council  
Sto:Lo Nation  
Tahltan Tribal Council  
Treaty 8 Tribal Association  
Tsilqot'in Tribal Council  
Tsimshian Tribal Council  
Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs

## **Representative**

Chief Joseph Norris  
Elizabeth Pete  
Judy Clement  
Chief Maureen Luggi  
Lois Rullin  
VACANT  
Elmer Derrick  
Tim Bilou  
Rhoda Bolton  
Emma Donnelly  
Mary Jimmy  
Sandra Sewid  
Susan James  
Chief William Cranmer  
Mandy Jimmie  
Chief Jacob McKay  
Debbie Abbott  
Wendy Gallic  
Pauline Terbasket  
Monica Walkus  
Chief Ron Ignace  
Mark Point  
VACANT  
Diane Bigfoot  
VACANT  
Debbie Leighton-Stephens  
Ron A. Mitchell



# Board of Council Members

## Executive Council

*Chairperson* - Chief William Cranmer

*Vice Chairperson* - Chief Ron Ignace

*Treasurer* - Wendy Gallic

*Secretary* - Mandy Jimmie

## Council Members

Pauline Terbasket

Monica Walkus

Elmer Derrick

Chief Jacob McKay

Lois Rullin

**Urban Representative** - June Clearsky

**Government Representative** - John Harper

**Corporate Representative** - Vacant

**First Nations Education Steering Committee** - Debbie Leighton-Stevens

*\*non-voting seat\**

## Staff

The First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council has a staff compliment of 8 employees with a new Executive Director hired this year. Please contact the office if you have questions in regards to this annual report or any inquiries in general:

First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council  
Lower Main  
31 Bastion Square  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 1J1

Phone: 250-361-3456

Fax: 250-361-3467

Email: [info@fpcf.ca](mailto:info@fpcf.ca)

[www.fpcf.ca](http://www.fpcf.ca)



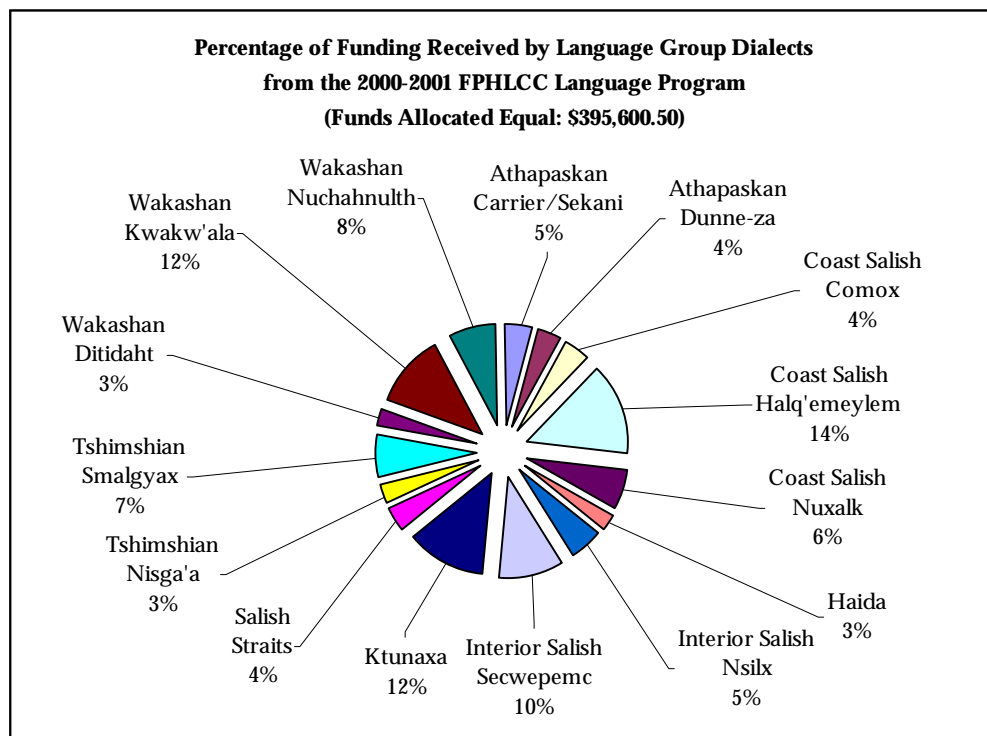
# FPHLCC Language Program

The First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program was established through the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act, which was enacted in 1990 by the Provincial Government. The program was initiated to assist the Aboriginal Peoples of British Columbia in the preservation and enhancement of their languages. Since 1998 the amount of funding has decreased leading to destabilization of language planning at a community level. The objectives for the 2000/2001 funding were to:

- Increase the number and quality of language projects in First Nations communities
- Increase community and individual participation in First Nations language activities
- Support long-term strategies aimed at revitalizing and maintaining First Nations languages
- Increase the number of speakers, improve fluency, assure intergenerational transmission and enlarge the sectors in which First Nations languages are spoken.

Fifty-six proposals were submitting totalling \$1,818,069. Twenty-two grants, totalling \$395,600 were awarded to projects which demonstrated strategies and promoted intergenerational transmission of language and participation of community speakers.

Inconsistency and reduction of provincial funding has limited the First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council's ability to develop much needed long-term strategies for language resuscitation in British Columbia.



Language dialects not receiving funding from the 2000-2001 FPHLCC Language Program include: Tligit, Southern Tsimshian, Gitxsan, Haisla, Heiltsuk, Oweekeno, Squamish, Cowichan, Songish, Semiahoo, Sishiatl (Sechelt), St'at'ime (Lillooet), Nlakapmx (Thompson), Wet'suwet'en, Tsilhqot'in, Slavey, Kaska, Tahltan, Cree.



# Aboriginal Language Initiative

On June 19, 1998, the Minister of Canadian Heritage announced the creation of a four year Aboriginal Languages Initiative (A.L.I.) for the preservation, protection and teaching of Aboriginal languages within Aboriginal communities. The Minister has allocated \$20 million over a four year period for three groups of Aboriginal languages: First Nations languages, Inuktitut and Michif. Funding for each of the three language groups will be coordinated and administered by different Aboriginal organizations.

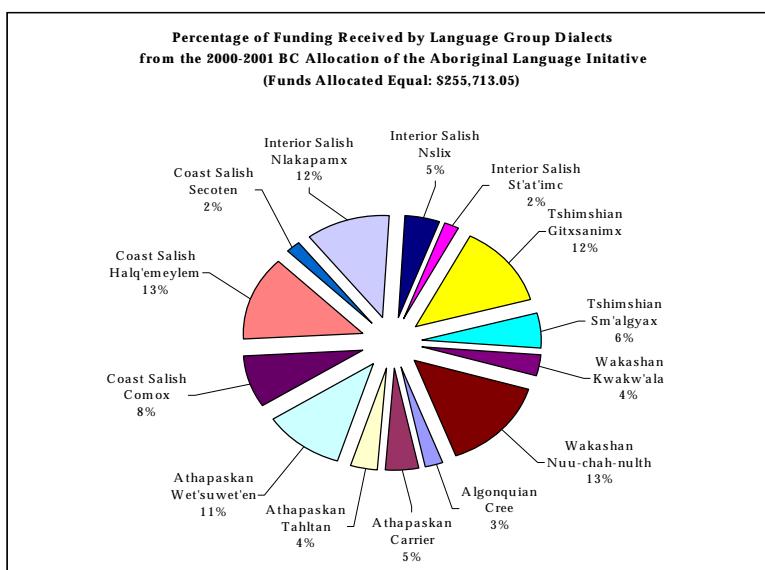
Canadian Heritage has indicated that the objectives of the funding are to:

- (I) Increase the number and quality of First Nations languages projects in First Nations communities;
- (II) Increase the number of communities and individuals involved in First Nations language activities; and
- (III) Support the development of long-term strategies for the revitalization and maintenance of First Nations languages.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is administering the funding for First Nations languages. The AFN has contracted agencies in its 10 national regions to deliver the A.L.I. The First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council has been contracted by the AFN to administer the program in the BC region.

British Columbia is home to over 30 languages. Due to the vast diversity between languages and the limitations on funding (approximately \$250,000 annually), the FPHLCC is focusing on language projects displaying cooperative efforts among communities.

During the 2000-2001 Call-for-Proposals, the FPHLCC received over 40 proposals totaling \$1,464,233. The BC portion of the ALI funding enabled 21 projects throughout BC to be funded.



Language Dialects who did not receive funding during the 2000-2001 ALI Program include: Tlingit, Haida, Southern Tsimshian, Haisla, Nisga'a, Heiltsuk, Oweekeno, Squamish, Cowichan, Songish, Semiahoo, Sishiatl (Sechelt), Secwepemc, Tsilhqot'in, Sekani, Dunne-za (Beaver), Slavey, Kaska, Ktunaxa.



# Aboriginal Arts Development Award

The Aboriginal Arts Development Awards program, with the support of the BC Arts Council, assists emerging Aboriginal artists and/or arts organizations with projects that contribute to their professional and creative development, and/or the transmission of traditional arts skills.



Aboriginal Arts Development Awards are meant to assist Aboriginal artists with the following:

- advancing their artistic skills;
- gaining the recognition of their peers (artists who work in the same artistic tradition);
- developing a history of public presentation (not necessarily in publicly-funded venues), and
- devoting more time to their professional artistic activity.

The application deadline for the AADA program was November 30th, 2000. This year there were 56 proposals submitted, for projects involving both traditionally based and contemporary/experimental practice in all disciplines; visual arts, literary arts, theatre, media arts, dance, and music. A total of \$304,328 was requested. From the 56 applications, 30 were awarded grants.

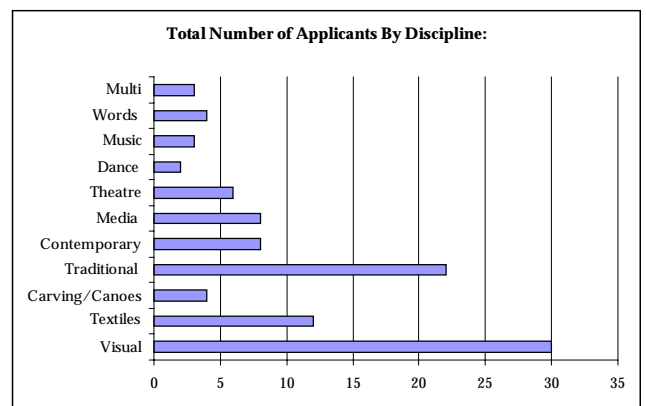
The original list of applications was reviewed, to determine if any of the artists and projects were eligible for other programs of the BC Arts Council. This is done to avoid the automatic segregation of First Nations applicants, into one small program. This process often works toward fulfilling one of the original goals of facilitating Aboriginal artists' access to professional levels of funding.

The adjudication committee met from February 26th through March 1st, 2001. Selection of this jury is guided by the following considerations; areas of expertise, Nation-al and geographical representation, gender, age, and an ability to respectfully consider both contemporary experimental work and traditionally based practice. This year the committee consisted of;

- George Littlechild (Cree), painter and mixed media artist who currently lives in Victoria
- Barbara Marchand (Okanagan), an artist and arts educator who lives in Vernon, and
- Cease Wyss (Salish), media artist who lives in Vancouver

The proposals were presented to the committee, and the evaluation process facilitated by Cathi Charles Wherry, Special Projects Coordinator..

The number of applications and limited funds required that the jury sharply focus on the objectives of program: the creative or professional development of emerging First Nations artists, and/or the support and transmission of traditional arts skills and knowledge.



# First Peoples' Cultural Foundation

In 2000, the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation (FPCF) was registered as a non-profit charitable society. The purposes of the society are to generate funds through charitable donations and other activities which will be “*dispensed by the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council*”;

- (a) to preserve and enhance Aboriginal heritage, language and culture;
- (b) to increase understanding and sharing of knowledge, within both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and
- (c) to heighten appreciation and acceptance of the wealth of Aboriginal cultural diversity.

A provincial proclamation was issued by the Province of BC designating October 14, 2000 as Aboriginal Languages Day in B.C. The FPCF produced language festivals in six communities on October 14 including Vancouver, Campbell River, Cranbrook, Hazelton, Kamloops and Prince George. The focus of the festivals was to educate the public on the diversity of Aboriginal cultures and languages in BC and the importance of preserving these languages, many of which are in danger of becoming extinct. The FPCF solicited sponsorships from corporations, government agencies and foundations to assist in producing the festivals, evening cultural event and the dinner.

## **Evening Cultural Event**

*Since Time Immemorial: An Evening of Aboriginal Performance* was the name of the evening cultural event planned for the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver on October 14. The venue was changed to the Vogue Theatre in late September due to the City of Vancouver civic strike.

The program presented at the Vogue Theatre included performances by recording artists Ulali, contemporary dancers Jerry Longboat, Michelle Olson and Yvonne Chartrand, traditional dancers the Nisga'a Ts'amiks Dancers, actors Marie Clements and Eric Schweig, and MC Tantoo Cardinal. Performers interpreted how languages continue to be a vital link to Aboriginal cultural heritage and an integral bond between traditional expressions and modern interpretations of storytelling, theatre, music, song and dance. At the beginning of the program, two representatives of Vancouver area First Nations — Bob George and Gail Sparrow — welcomed the audience to their territory.

## **BC Aboriginal Languages Day Festivals**

Six free public festivals were produced on October 14 in Vancouver, Campbell River, Cranbrook, Hazelton, Kamloops and Prince George. Programming included storytelling (Aboriginal languages and English), drumming and singing, dance presentations, language demonstrations, author's readings, arts and crafts activities, exhibitors, etc. Venues included museums, college campuses, a big house, and community centres. Each regional partner received a \$5,000 grant from the FPCF to produce their festival.

## **Campbell River**

The Campbell River Indian Band described their event as a “great success.” Speakers and performers included an elders singing group from Gwa sa la (Port Hardy) who sang hymns in their language, storytellers, and youth dance groups from the area. MLA Glen Robinson made an appearance and spoke at the festival. The response from the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community was very positive.





### **Cranbrook**

The Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council was the regional partner for the Cranbrook Festival. They presented Ktunaxa storytelling, presentations by local leaders on the importance of Aboriginal languages, singing, traditional games, and exhibits.

### **Hazelton**

The Gitksan Native Education Centre organized an event-filled day for their community that included learning centres. Each learning centre featured activities such as learning the clan systems (children coloured their own clan crest), Gitksan storytelling, crafts, traditional games, Gitksan songs, and traditional foods. Many people who attended suggested that the event become annual.

### **Kamloops**

The Secwepemc Cultural Education Society worked closely with the Chief Atahm School's language committee to present the Kamloops festival. The festival featured storytellers, dancing, elders, games, singing, exhibits, videos, and traditional foods. The Chief Atahm School representatives included elders as well as students who are in the language immersion program.

### **Prince George**

The staff of the First Nations Department at the University of Northern B.C. coordinated the Prince George Festival. They invited nearby First Nations communities to participate and raised a significant amount of money in addition to the Foundation's grant. The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, UNBC and Canadian Heritage sponsored this regional festival. The festival involved 14 display tables with representation from 10 different language groupings, four Aboriginal storytellers, an ethnobotanist offering hands-on presentations, and three singing groups.

### **Vancouver**

The Vancouver festival took place at the Vancouver Museum, a major cultural centre in Vancouver. Programming for the Vancouver Festival was focused in three main areas: an outdoor Main Stage with music and dance performances; the Orientation Gallery with opening/closing ceremonies, readings, and storytelling; and the Backyard Biodiversity Room with children's activities. In addition, there were information booths in the Museum lobby, First Nations food concession at the entrance, outdoor games in the courtyard garden, and video screenings (related to First Nations language and culture). The FPCF, with support from the festival sponsors, offered free admission to the museum all day as part of the festival.

