

# *So You're Planning to Start a **CREE** Language Program?*

## **Information and Resources (December 2006)**

What provincial curriculum and resources are available to support a Cree language and culture program?

### ***Provincial Programs of Study***

The following provincial programs of study are available:

- Cree Language and Culture Twelve-year Program, Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Cree Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 4–5
- Cree Language and Culture 10–20–30

Current provincial programs of study may be viewed and downloaded at [www.education.gov.ab.ca/k\\_12/curriculum/bySubject/aborigin/default.asp](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/aborigin/default.asp).

*Curriculum Handbooks for Parents* and *Curriculum Summaries* contain information on subjects, programs and courses available in Alberta schools. For more information, visit [www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks).

### ***Learning and Teaching Resources***

Available resources include:

- *Pakân (Cree Grade 6): Student Book*, 1999
- *Pakân (Cree Grade 6): Activity Book*, 1999
- *Cree 7: Student Reader*, 2001
- *Cree 7: Teacher's Guide*, 2001
- *Cree 7: Communication Activity Book*, 2001
- *Cree 7: Flashcards*, 2001

Note: Guides to implementation for the Cree Language and Culture Twelve-year Program and for grades 4–5 of the Nine-year Program are under development.

To obtain a copy of the Cree authorized resource list, visit [www.education.gov.ab.ca/k\\_12/curriculum/bySubject/aborigin/general.asp](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/aborigin/general.asp).

Alberta Education's Authorized Resources Database is a searchable database of all authorized resources and may be viewed at [www.education.gov.ab.ca/lrdb](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/lrdb).

To order authorized learning and teaching resources, contact the Learning Resources Centre at [www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca](http://www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca).

### ***Assessment Support***

Teachers may find the following assessment tools useful:

- benchmarks for grades 6, 9 and 12
- performance standards for Grade 4
- performance standards for Grade 5 (under development)
- classroom assessment materials for Grade 4
- classroom assessment materials for Grade 5 (under development)

### **Questions? Contact:**

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## ***Program Supports***

- *The Common Curriculum Framework for Aboriginal Language and Culture Programs: Kindergarten to Grade 12*, June 2000
- Various digital resources are available on the LearnAlberta.ca Web site at [www.learnalberta.ca](http://www.learnalberta.ca).
- *Our Words, Our Ways: Teaching First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learners*, 2005
- *Connection: Information for Teachers* is a newsletter that provides updates of interest to teachers and is available at [www.education.gov.ab.ca/connection/default.asp](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/connection/default.asp).

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Services Branch staff work closely with school jurisdictions and band authorities across Alberta; e.g., First Nations, Métis and Inuit projects, professional development opportunities.

## ***Professional Development***

The Intercultural and Second Languages Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association has several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that may interest language teachers. For more information, visit [www.islc.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.islc.teachers.ab.ca).

Various professional development opportunities for language educators can be found at [www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/ProfDevl.asp](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/ProfDevl.asp).

Certificated teachers of Aboriginal languages, who are planning to take a summer post-secondary language and culture program, may be interested in the Language Teacher Bursary Program. Teachers of Aboriginal languages, whose language of study is only available in Canada, are eligible to apply for a \$2500 bursary. For more information, visit [www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=874](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=874).

The Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) offers a summer institute for teachers and for undergraduate and graduate students. For more information, visit their Web site at [www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/elementaryed/CILLDI.cfm](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/elementaryed/CILLDI.cfm).

Further information regarding language learning and professional development opportunities is available at [www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/EducatorOpportunities.pdf](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/EducatorOpportunities.pdf).

## ***Student Learning Opportunities***

A number of post-secondary institutions offer Cree language courses as part of a program or are recruiting individuals with language skills; e.g.,

- various education faculties offer a major/minor/focus in Cree (University of Alberta, University of Calgary)
- undergraduate programs in nursing, medicine, dentistry and social studies allow Cree-language options.

Students who are enrolled in either of the last two years of a recognized teacher-preparation program, and who are preparing to teach languages other than English in Alberta schools, including an Aboriginal language, may be eligible for a Languages in Teacher Education Scholarship. Each year, the Deans of Faculties of Education nominate students meeting local academic criteria for one of 13 annual awards of \$2500 each. For more information, visit [www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=875](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=875).

Information regarding language learning opportunities for students is available at [www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/StudentOpportunities.pdf](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/StudentOpportunities.pdf).