

First Peoples' Cultural Council

(First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council)

MANDATE

- » Protect, revitalize and enhance First Nations' heritage, language, culture and arts.
- » Increase understanding and sharing of knowledge, within both First Nations and non-First Nations communities.
- » Heighten appreciation and acceptance of the wealth of cultural diversity among all British Columbians.



WHO WE SERVE

As a unique First Nations' led Crown agency, we serve 203 B.C. First Nations, 34 language groups, 61 dialects, and a number of First Nations arts, cultural and educational organizations. The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) promotes and celebrates the diversity of languages, arts and cultures of British Columbia's First Nations. The board and staff recognize that pride in languages, arts, songs, dances, wisdom and traditional knowledge contributes to the health and optimism of First Nations individuals and communities, and benefits all citizens of B.C.

WHAT WE DO

- » Facilitate opportunities for First Nations communities in B.C. to receive funding for language and arts projects.
- » Advise government on programs and issues related to First Nations languages, arts and culture.
- » Offer a network of information and opportunities to First Nations artists and language champions.
- » Offer advice and assistance to First Nations funding applicants.
- » Develop programs and community development resources to encourage the revitalization of First Nations languages, arts and culture.
- » Facilitate relationship-building opportunities between government and non-governmental entities and First Nations experts.
- » Educate and share information with people in B.C. about First Nations languages, arts and culture.
- » Advocate for B.C. First Nations languages, arts and culture.
- » Provide training in language revitalization, archiving and immersion programs.
- » Work in partnership with First Nations communities to revitalize and archive First Nations cultures and languages and restore literacy and fluency in First Nations languages.
- » Generate revenue by providing professional consulting services related to art and language revitalization in B.C., Canada and around the world.

HIGHLIGHTS OF INITIATIVES

- » **FirstVoices Mobile** – There will soon be more than 15 interactive dictionary/phrase apps for the iPod, iPad and iPhone. The apps contain text, audio, image and video content and are available as free downloads from the iTunes store.

- » ***Our Living Languages*** – We are pleased to be working with the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) on a First Nations languages exhibition. Our Living Languages is unique, as it presents our languages in a modern and vibrant context. It was inspired by the belief that robust expressions of First Nations' identities are key to the health and well-being of First Nations and all British Columbians. B.C. First Nations' community members have been involved in the approach and content from the start, when the FPCC and the RBCM signed a Memorandum of Understanding in February 2013. The exhibition, opening June 21, 2014, and continuing for three years, recognizes the history of colonialism, but visitors will come to understand the importance of language diversity and the renewed future for First Nations' languages and cultures.
- » ***Aboriginal Youth Engaged in the Arts*** – This new pilot project supports local initiatives that connect youth aged 15-24 with established artists through residencies, community-based workshops and collaborations in any artistic discipline. Priority is given to projects that implement new youth engagement, especially in underserved, often remote communities.
- » ***FirstVoices Chat*** – This indigenous language texting app for iPad, iTouch and iPhone provides custom keypads capable of texting in over 100 Indigenous languages in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. FirstVoices Chat is available as a free download from the iTunes store.
- » ***Cultural Protocols and Arts Forum*** – FPCC hosted this workshop for approximately 80 artists, cultural leaders, and community and representatives to share and discuss work already done to define and articulate cultural protocols and concepts of protection, with a particular focus on supporting the current practices of artists working in all disciplines (visual, music, dance, storytelling, media, etc.).
- » ***Best of BC Tech Showcase*** – Staff from FirstVoices were invited to participate in the Best of BC Tech Showcase organized by TED Talks and the BC Innovation Council. Approximately 50 participants attended from all over the world.
- » ***Endangered Languages Project (ELP)*** – In 2011, Google.org contacted the FPCC to request our participation in this global initiative to create an online collaborative network for language champions. The FPCC chairs the governance committee of the ELP website, which now hosts over 3,000 languages from around the world.
- » ***Mentor Apprenticeship Program (MAP)*** – Training for this program, which matches a fluent First Nations speaker with a language learner, was made more widely available. Training sessions were offered to MAP teams which are currently not in our funded programs. This revenue generating endeavour allowed us to share training, resources and capacity development with many cultures, in a variety of geographic areas.
- » ***Language Learning*** – Since 2010, the number of communities that have recordings in their languages has increased from 31% to 65%, and the number of semi-fluent speakers has increased from 8.2% to 9.3%.