



From: The Language Revitalization Project Management Team

To: Members of White River First Nation

3 September 2019

RE: Status of ongoing language revitalization projects

Dear members of White River First Nation,

At present, several language revitalization projects are being funded. This letter contains details on two of these projects, plus some information on how you can learn more from the people leading the projects

Douglas Joe is putting together a series of language learning videos and training youth on how to record and edit videos of their own. The second page of this newsletter is a message from DJ about his work. DJ has also shared a couple photos and these are on the third page.

Teresa Vander Meer-Chasse is creating a booklet in both Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone on hunting, tanning, and tailoring. The fourth page of this newsletter is some details direct from Teresa on her work. Teresa has also shared her contact info if you would like to learn more.

If you would like to know more about what is happening with WRFN's language revitalization project, please contact project manager Cody Sharpe at 306-380-8275, cody@codysarpe.ca, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cody.sharpe.106902.

Regards,

Cody Sharpe
Rebecca Roberts
Crystal Shimoon

The Language Revitalization Project Management Team

Message from Douglas Joe

Hello Everyone!

I am working on two projects the first project is doing two tutorial videos in both languages of our traditional territory, Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone. These videos will have both English, Upper Tanana or Northern Tutchone subtitles, depending on the video.

The other project is a 5-day workshop that is aimed at the youth and to teach them about how to shoot interviews. Once they have learned how to do this we will go out to an elder's place and ask for them to share a story in either their traditional language or English and then later add subtitles to the videos.

I want these language tutorial videos to be in as many hands as possible and by doing this I do believe that if we share these videos via YouTube, Facebook and other social media websites it will help us reach the younger members.

I am doing this because I think it is important to keep our languages alive and I can contribute to this by sharing my knowledge of videography with the youth. Also, at the end of the 5-day workshops each student is given a film kit that they get to keep. This includes tripods, cellphone rig, lights and video editing software.

The language tutorial videos, I have already done the recordings and in the process is editing them and then working with a language expert to transcribe each video to add the subtitles in each language. I would say this project is about 85 percent done

The 5-day workshop with the youth is finished recording and had an awesome time with them. I will mail out all the film kits to the ones that attended. I need to start editing these videos and then also hire a language expert to help transcribe these videos into each language. This is about 70 percent done.

This next month I am going to edit the videos for both projects and finish them. I am very excited to be part of this revitalization of our language and also like to have anytime of feedback or if you have any questions or concerns please email at creativecrowmedia@gmail.com

It is up to us to bring back our ways.

~ Thank you,

~ DJ



Message from Teresa Vander Meer-Chasse

What I am doing:

I am creating a booklet, using Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone languages, to document traditional hunting patterns, hide tanning techniques, and the creation of traditional clothing.

Why am I doing it/benefits to community:

There are many reasons why this project is important but the main one is that it is an interactive and creative way to use our languages to teach and learn. Our traditional clothing has changed over time and documenting it while using our languages is an extremely important process in preserving culture and revitalizing our languages. This booklet is for all of White River First Nation's members use.

Progress in my work:

I am currently doing research in regards to language, how to write language, and anything I can find on Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone clothing. I have gathered images of old style clothing to show identified participants. I have begun reaching out to folks within the community to be interviewed and have started interviewing.

What's next:

I hope to be doing more interviews come September and October. After which time I will begin to write the booklet, ensuring the booklet to be complete and printed for my March deadline.

How folks can be involved:

Any member of White River First Nation wanting to volunteer their time and expertise is more than welcome to become involved. I am also gathering images of traditional clothing or images of past and present members hunting/trapping or skinning/tanning hides. All images would be credited to the photographer and may be used in the booklet. My email address is tsvc@live.ca.