

Skátne Enionkwaió'ten - Community Language Planning

Creating a five-year strategic plan for language revitalization in Kahnawà:ke

Discussion Questions for Elders – Session 2

Name(s) of participants:

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1. Are there any new activities for Elders you would like to see planned in the community to help you learn/speak the language?

Form an Elders and fluent speakers group/committee to focus on Kanien'kéha language promotion. Tape and record them speaking Kanien'kéha.

2. What is your vision for the language in Kahnawà:ke?

To make and use the language as a living language within the hearts and minds as Onkwehón:we.

3. What message would you give our youth and future generations about our language (Kanien'kéha)?

RESPECT

- 1) Love our language enough to speak it fluently everywhere and to everyone.
- 2) Use full Kanien'kéha names – do not shorten it. You own that name personally, you received your name through baptism or a traditional naming ceremony. Don not insult yourself by allowing this to happen. Your name has a meaning and a lot of thought has been put into it. The time you were born, the weather, your family tree.

IDEAS

- Form an inter-community language revitalization group. Call it “stage 6” (working title)
- Invest your time into restoring and awaken our DNA and cellular memory. It will strengthen Kanien'kéha identity as a whole
- Make learning the language a “hobby”
- Everybody spoke Mohawk back then. Education was the oppressor and still is.
- Language is fundamental to our identity. We all know our silent and sul? language well enough. So now we must add to that.
- We have devalued our language – iah satekani.
- More bilingual conferences with simultaneous translation.
- Fluentforever.com, 100+ names are there
- Start a language fund