

Did You know?

- Language courses, including current authorized locally developed/ acquired language courses, may be used to meet the Alberta senior high school diploma requirements. Up to 25 credits of the 100-credit requirement may be earned in one or more languages.
- A 30-level (Grade 12) language course is accepted for university entrance and is a requirement for some faculties and programs. It may also help students meet the requirements for Rutherford scholarships.

Why Learn Cree?

- Approximately 23 525 residents of Alberta claimed an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue (the language first learned and still understood) in the 2001 Census.
- Research shows that language learning:
 - has a positive impact on other academic studies
 - increases both educational and career opportunities.
- Knowledge of the Cree language can create opportunities for Aboriginal students in a variety of roles in various fields, including education (teachers, administrators), medicine (nurses, doctors, dentists and other health-care providers), social services (social workers, managers) and government positions (managers and executives).

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Nehiyawetan



Photo by Josh Kolay

Learn Cree

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.

Curriculum Handbooks for Parents and *Curriculum Summaries* contain information on what students are expected to learn and be able to do in each subject by grade/course, including Cree. These resources may be viewed and downloaded at www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks.

Where Is Cree Offered?

A number of school jurisdictions offer a Cree language and culture program. For more information, contact your local school jurisdiction. Links to school jurisdiction Web sites can be accessed at www.education.gov.ab.ca/ei/maps.

Student Learning Opportunities

- A number of post-secondary institutions offer Cree language courses as part of a major/minor/focus in various programs; e.g., Education.
- The Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) offers a summer institute for undergraduate or graduate students interested in gaining expertise in the areas of linguistics, language and literacy, curriculum development, second language teaching, and language-related research. For more information, visit the CILLDI Web site at www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/elementaryed/CILLDI.cfm.
- *Language Learning Opportunities for Students* outlines various learning opportunities available in a variety of languages. For more information, visit www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/StudentOpportunities.pdf.

Scholarships and Bursaries

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 the 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.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) offers various bursaries and scholarships to students of Aboriginal ancestry who demonstrate strong academic achievement, community involvement and financial need. For more information, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/edu/index_e.html.

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.