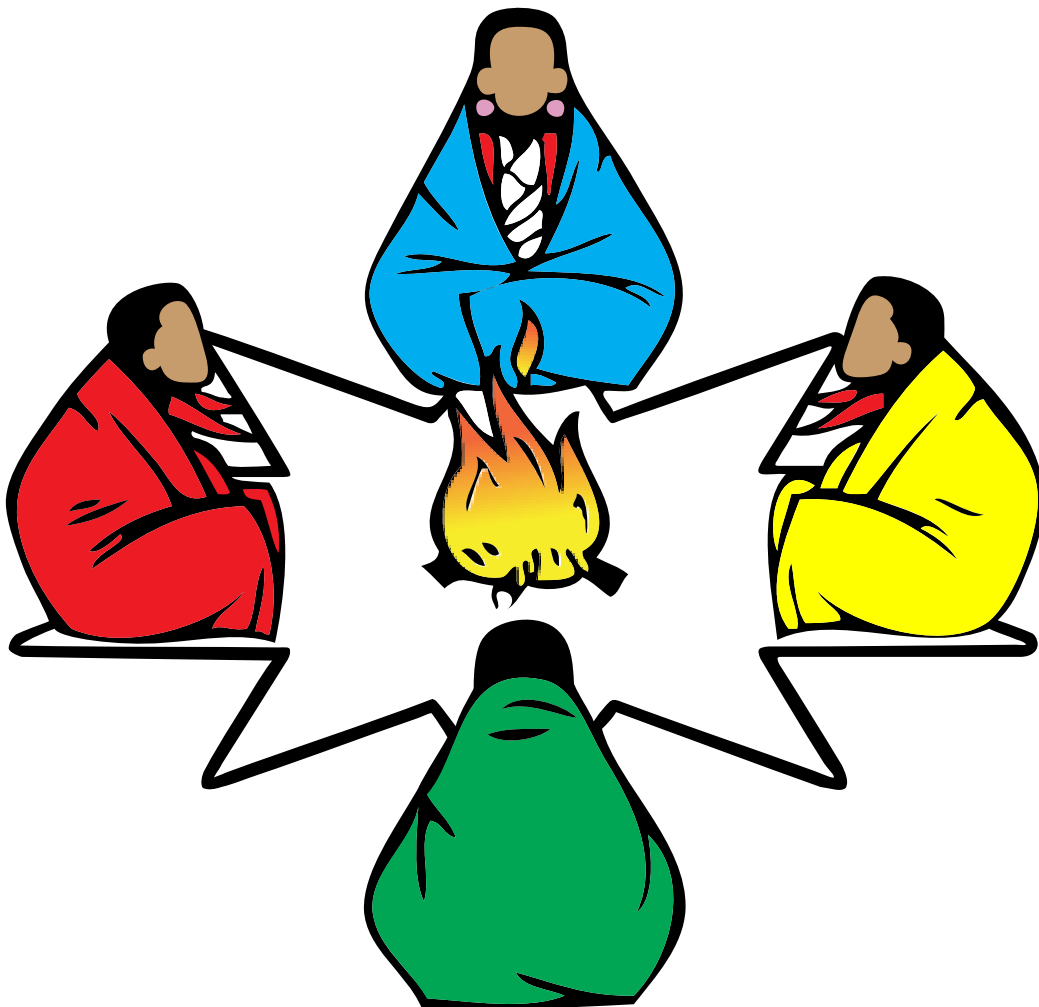


Nk'wusm

Salish Language Revitalization Institute Annual Report 2005/2006 School Year



*Every voice is a link to the
past, present, and future.*

As we at Nk^wusm completed our 2005/2006 school year, it's important to remember why we started this institute just a few short years ago.

Oral tradition has perpetuated tribal cultures for thousands of years. As in every language, concepts and foundational elements of culture get lost in translations from an original language to a secondary language. Without a strong language, tribal cultures miss fundamental concepts of the tribe's worldview.

The Salish are at a critical moment in history. Today, the Salish language is in the hands, hearts and minds of 58 people on the Flathead Reservation. In the past few years, we have lost dozens of fluent speakers. With the passing of every elder, our language level diminishes. In that loss, we lose stories, words, history and ideology—the very basis of what makes us Salish people. The vast majority of remaining speakers are over the age of 65. The youngest people in the tribe whose first language is Salish are in their 50's and there are only a handful of fluent speakers in this generation. The fluency level of Salish people under 20 years of age is 0%.

The Salish language will be lost in less than ten years without a drastic movement to revitalize the language. Bring your wood and add it to this fire. Sit with us around this fire. Help us to stoke this fire and build a strong future for the Salish Language. *Tachini Pete, Director*



*Language is the fire that keeps us alive.
Nk^wusm is building one fire to continue the
Salish language for generations to come.*



Why Immersion?

A tribal language like any other language contains a greater element than just words. Language transfers ideals, ethics, history and education within the worldview of the language user.

An immersion program offers students whole language within a continually relevant context. Children get the maximum exposure to language in a natural environment allowing them to become fluent in a shorter amount of time. Initially Salish will be the only language spoken. As students progress to 3rd grade, English will become part of the curriculum.

It is imperative that we begin developing as many emergent fluent (conversational) speakers from as early an age as possible because of the critically low number of fluent speakers now remaining. Time is of the essence.



*Learning Salish is
ENERGIZING!*

2005/2006 Events

[these are just a few of the events where
Nk^wusm had a presence]

- Elder gathering in April 2006
- Camas Pow-wow
- Mission Pow-wow
- Arlee Celebration
- Eagle Plume Pow-wow
- Western Montana Fair
- Riverfront Park
- Spokane Indian Days
- Kalispel Salish Fair
- Salish Language Camp
- Bitterroot Dig; Winter Dinner; Cutting & Drying Meat.



Increasing Fluency:

Nk^wusm works to increase fluency working with fluent speakers to learn the language in an immersed setting. This process continues the traditional tribal learning models. The organization also:

- Develops curricula including classroom teaching aids, a Salish dictionary and children's stories
- Holds classes for those interested in increasing their fluency
- Recruits Salish language teachers
- Holds a summer immersion class for adult learners
- Continues staff development through participation in language camps and participation in community events and outreach activities.



2005/2006 Operational Highlights

- All position descriptions were organized and updated
- Developed and implemented a staff policy and procedures manual
- Continued with community participation in outreach programs and awareness events
- School reached enrollment of 30 children in ages 3-11.
- Hired new staff, including a curriculum specialist; teacher; and teacher's aide.
- Implemented a new phone system donated by Missoula First Credit Union. The school also received assistance and computers from S&K Technology
- A private donor agreed to provide funding for 2006/2007 for a development director to assist with fundraising needs.
- Continued ongoing participation in major pow-wows, community events, and language camp.



Public Awareness:

Members are constantly seeking new ways to increase the use of language in the community by:

- Producing Salish radio ads and other public relations campaigns
- Hosting annual community dinners
- Presenting and fundraising at local events including powwows and school functions
- Advocating public and private signs printed in the Salish language
- Participating in traditional ceremonies and activities of the Salish people

**2005/2006 School Year
Financial Highlights**
10/1/05 through 5/31/06

REVENUES: \$386,214

EXPENSES: \$348,916

Net Income \$ 37,298

Note: The Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes provides approximately 80% of the operations revenues for Nk'usm . The remaining revenues are through various fundraising events; tribal member contributions; fees; and miscellaneous general contributions made by individuals and organization.

We are especially grateful to the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes for its ongoing support. We are also grateful to the individuals and organizations that support the mission of Nk'usm.

“By remembering the past, Nk'usm will be able to move ahead with honesty, humility, vision, creativity and passion. In reaching out to the community, the organization seeks to bring people together in a proactive manner that is empowering and family friendly. Looking to the future, Nk'usm is dedicated to perpetuating the Salish language through the creation of comprehensive educational programs that involve people of all ages. Through the formation of an Immersion School as well as providing opportunities for others, the group will work to make language acquisition a fundamental cornerstone for community, cultural and personal pride.”

- Excerpt from the Nk'usm Vision Statement



Nk'usm Staff

Tachini Pete, Executive Director
Deborah Snyder, Director of Development
Sophie Mays, Language Specialist
Patrick A. Pierre, Language Specialist
Stephen Smallsalmon, Language Specialist
Arleen Adams, Curriculum Development
Julia Williams, Curriculum Development
Melanie Sandoval, Teacher
Trina Felsman, Instructional Aide
Jenny Fowler, Instructional Aide
Esther Johnson, Cook
Laverne Big Sam, Bus Driver

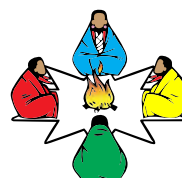
Nk'usm Board of Directors

Chaney Bell, President
Julie Cajune, Treasurer
Melanie Sandoval, Secretary

Tachini Pete, Member
Joseph Pablo, Member

**Tribal Council of the
Confederated
Salish-Kootenai Tribes**

	<u>District</u>
James Steele, Chairman	Arlee
Carole Lankford, Vice Chair	Ronan
Lloyd Irvine, Secretary	Pablo
Ron Trahan, Treasurer	St. Ignatius
Elmer “Sonny” Morigeau	Dixon
Michael “Mike” Kenmille	Hot Springs
Steve Lozar	Polson
Reuben Mathias	Elmo
Jim Malatare	Arlee
Joe Durglo	St. Ignatius



Nk'usm

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