



N'Amerind (London) Friendship Centre
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NEWS RELEASE

Oneida Language Revitalization Project

London, ON - October 8, 2018

Oneida Language Revitalization Project Grant Award Notice September 17, 2018

The N'Amerind friendship Centre is pleased to announce that we have received confirmation on the Application to Indigenous Culture Fund (ICF): Project Grants for Organizations: Short-term project-submitted May 15, 2018.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Ontario Arts Council's Indigenous Culture Fund and the assessment panel. The Indigenous Culture Fund (ICF) was created to support First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, culture and way of life. The new fund is administered by Indigenous staff members at the Ontario Arts Council (OAC). <http://www.arts.on.ca/grants/activity/indigenous-culture-fund>

This grant decision was made by an assessment panel of community members who have broad knowledge and diverse cultural backgrounds and regional perspectives. They carefully reviewed our request in the context of the ICF's purpose, priorities, and ICF program assessment criteria.

We also take this time to acknowledge our ancestor's efforts in keep our language and ways alive and to thank the combined efforts of staff at both The N'Amerind Friendship Centre, The Cultural Resource Program and Nokeekwe, for their passion, knowledge and skills to work as a team for this important endeavor.

The following is an overview of the project.

This Oneida Language revitalization project will be delivered in three levels: Beginner, intermediate and immersion. These three programs will run concurrently. We plan to provide the urban aboriginal community the opportunity to learn and use the Oneida Language. An opportunity that may not be an option to them due to

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various barriers: Social, economic, transportation, etc. As the majority of Oneida Language classes are being offered on the Oneida settlement and not easily accessible to members outside the community.

The beginner Level course is a six week course with 5-7 hours per week of in class instruction. It will give participants exposure to the root model method and word construction, introduce them to the Oneida writing method and sentence structure. Participants will also gain some basic reading, writing and speaking skills in the Oneida Language. We plan to deliver this 6 week course at regular intervals from September through June to as many people as possible.

The intermediate level will be a 12 week course with 6-8 hours of in class instruction per week and will have regular assessment, written and oral. In the intermediate level we plan to give participants the ability to construct words, using the root model method, create simple sentences and the ability to ask and answer questions on limited subjects. Participants will be able to give basic descriptions of different people and their physical or mental states in the Oneida Language. During this course participant will be encouraged and supported to adopt and develop study habits and methods necessary to facilitate aboriginal language acquisition. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to read, write and converse with some competency and be prepared to move to the next level. We plan to deliver the intermediate course 3 separate times between the months of October and July.

The immersion level course will run for 10 months (October - July) and consist of 3-4 hours of in class instruction, 5 days per week. Oneida will be the primary language used in this course with some English instruction. The focus on the immersion program will be to build on the skills introduced in the first two programs, with the intended learning outcome for participants to be able to carry a conversation with a native speaker, using past, present and future tenses. Students should be able to read, write and retell short stories in their own words. Ideally, students will have developed study habits and begin self-directed learning

A four-week instructor training is proposed for graduated participants who meet desired qualities and are interested in advancing their own skills and providing instruction at the beginner and intermediate levels.

If you would like more information about this project please contact Ron Hill, Cultural Resource Coordinator (519)672-0131 or rhill@namerind.on.ca

