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**MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTENTION** Senate **DATE** July 14, 2010  
**FROM** Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP **PAGES** 1/1  
**RE:** Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: First Nations Language Centre (SCUP 10-52)

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At its July 7, 2010 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal for the creation of the First Nations Language Centre as a Research Centre based in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**Motion**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the First Nations Language Centre within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences as a Research Centre for a five year term.

encl.

c: T. Perry



## OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH

Norbert H. Haunerland, Ph.D

Associate Vice-President, Research  
Professor of Biological Sciences

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**ATTENTION Sarah Dench, Secretary  
Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)**

FROM Norbert Haunerland, Associate Vice President, Research

RE First Nations Language Centre

DATE June 25, 2010

Attached is a proposal from Dr. T. Perry, for the establishment of the First Nations Language Centre.

I recommend approval as a research Centre according to Policy 40.01. Once approved by SCUP the proposal should be sent to Senate and the Board of Governors for information.

## Motion:

That SCUP approves the "First Nations Language Centre" as a Research Centre for a 5 year term.

Dr. Norbert Haunerland  
Associate Vice-President, Research

## Attachment

C: T. Perry, Chair, Department of Linguistics  
L. Cormack, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



Received by

JUN 15 2010

Vice President Research Office

MEMO

Paul McFetridge  
Associate Dean  
Arts and Social Sciences

778-782-4957  
[mcfet@sfu.ca](mailto:mcfet@sfu.ca)

ATTENTION Dr. Mario Pinto, VP Research  
FROM Paul McFetridge  
RE Propose for First Nations Languages Centre

DATE June 9, 2010 TIME 1:43 PM

Attached is a proposal for a research centre in First Nations languages. This proposal has the support of the Office of the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences.

This Centre will provide an important component of research and development underpinning the University's longstanding efforts in First Nations language education and revitalization. The Centre will serve as point of partnerships and communications with First Nations communities and a locus of expertise on language education, curriculum and research in applied linguistics of First Nations languages.

The proposed Centre is allied with Goal 1.5 *Increase our International, First Nations and interdisciplinary exposure* of the University's 3 Year Plan.

cc. Dr. Lesley Cormack, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Dr. Tom Perry, Chair, Department of Linguistics



Prof. Thomas A. Perry, Chair  
 DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS  
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**MEMORANDUM**

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<b>ATTENTION</b>	Lesley Cormack, Dean	<b>DATE</b>	June 9, 2010
<b>FROM</b>	T. Perry, Chair	<b>PAGES</b>	1
<b>RE:</b>	Proposed First Nations Language Centre		

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Lesley,

Attached you will find a proposal to establish a research centre in First Nations languages, which is intended to build on 1) the core of expertise in this area in the university and 2) the experience derived from 20 years of working with First Nations communities in support of their language revitalization efforts through our presence in Kamloops.

As you know, the Linguistics Department will continue to offer the First Nations language programming across the province and beyond after the wind-up of offerings in Kamloops. The courses we provide are only one part of the picture in language revitalization efforts of First Nations communities, however; there is an important research and development piece that must accompany anything we do through academic programming. This part of the work has been facilitated informally through our personnel in Kamloops in the past. We now need a more research-oriented institutional arm to carry on such work, with a broader mandate. This centre is intended to serve that purpose; it has the potential to become a significant factor in this field in Canada.

We request your approval of this proposal and ask that you recommend the establishment of this centre to Senate.

T. Perry

# **First Nations Language Centre**

## **Simon Fraser University**

### **Background**

SFU has developed a strong reputation among First Nations communities over the past 20 years for its active participation in community efforts to revitalize traditional languages. This is a complex task, as the languages themselves are all insufficiently documented to some degree. Much of this activity has come through the Kamloops program of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, both in the form of university-level language courses offered in communities, and in the form of research that serves and supports the communities' own language revitalization programs. These two dimensions of the university's activities across the province and in the Yukon are strongly complementary; both are key elements of language revitalization programs.

The university is now winding down the Kamloops site and most of its course offerings. The language programming, which has largely been funded by the communities themselves as part of their language revitalization efforts, will continue. In order to do so effectively, the research and development component of this activity will need to continue. It is for this reason that a First Nations Language Centre is being proposed.

This initiative is in line with the objectives of the University's planning. It will in particular enhance the University's partnerships with First Nations communities, as called for in the current three-year plan, and reflects the call to provide "research that is developed by and informed by First Nations peoples." in the First Nations Strategic Plan of 2007 (p. 13). The collaboration with communities to produce this research will be a key feature of this Centre.

A listing of initial membership for the Centre is found in the Appendix (p. 7)

### **Goal**

This proposal recommends the establishment of a First Nations Language Centre housed within the Simon Fraser University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The First Nations Language Centre will

- Maintain and develop ongoing partnerships with First Nations Communities engaged in language revitalization efforts.
- Provide academic support for community-based efforts to revitalize seriously endangered languages in First Nations communities throughout British Columbia and neighbouring areas.

- Offer research expertise with a focus on First Nations language revitalization theory and practice in communities; support language curriculum development, and facilitate research in the applied and descriptive linguistics of critically endangered languages.
- Facilitate communication between First Nations communities and the university.

## **Objectives**

Using an integrated approach to research in language revitalization, the objectives of the First Nations Language Centre will be to collaborate with specific First Nations language communities and their organizations to

- Support local First Nations language learning in a safe environment while maintaining high academic standards, in collaboration with First Nations community organizations.
- Work in concert with academic programming in First Nations languages offered by SFU to improve effectiveness and impact of this programming
- Deliver support for local First Nations language learners and instructors by facilitating language curriculum design, language course and lesson planning, student assessment, and evaluation formats as part of the centre's focus on research in language revitalization
- Conduct collaborative research on best practices and locally practicable solutions in First Nations language revitalization and maintenance;
- Enable, attract and conduct collaborative research with First Nations communities in applied linguistics of First Nations languages, including, e.g. pedagogical grammars of First Nations languages, standards and methods of assessing First Nations language proficiency, and multimedia design and online delivery of First Nations language learning.
- Attract graduate students doing research in various fields relevant to First Nations languages and linguistics, community language revitalization, language planning and documentation;
- Facilitate networking and collaboration among First Nations language learners of diverse languages to share successes, challenges, learning and teaching methodologies, research projects and results.

## **Scope of the Centre's Activities**

Through its Kamloops program, SFU has provided First Nations language programming to learners in the Secwepemc Nation (the host Aboriginal Nation) and Aboriginal communities throughout BC and beyond since 1990. The following languages and partnerships have been represented:

- Secwepemctsin (Eastern and Western\*) Dialects) – in partnership with Tk'emlups FN, Skeetchestn FN, Esk'etemc FN and Northern Secwepemc Tribal (Council/Cariboo-Chilcotin Weekend University)

- Upper and Lower St'at'imcets (Lillooet and Mount Currie dialects) – in partnership with Upper St'at'imc Language and Culture Society and Lil'wat FN/Mt. Currie
- Dakelh (Carrier)\*) – in partnership with Weekend University, Williams Lake
- Nuxalk (Bella Coola)\*) – in partnership with Nuxalk FN
- Hilzaqvla (Heiltsuk – Bella Bella)\*) – in partnership with Heiltsuk College and Bella Bella Community School
- Xaad Kil (Haida – Massett Dialect)\*) – in partnership with Old Massett Village Council and Xaad Kilh Guusuu.u Society
- Nlakapmxcin (Thompson) – formerly in partnership with
- Northern Tutchone - formerly in partnership with Selkirk FN, Yukon
- Upriver Halq'emeylem (Sto:lo)\*) – in partnership with Sto:lo Nation
- Downriver Halkomelem – in partnership with Katzie First Nation
- Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) – in partnership with Tsilhqot'in National Government and Weekend University, Williams Lake
- Southern Tutchone – in partnership with Yukon Department of Education
- Kaska – in partnership with Yukon Department of Education
- Tlingit – in partnership with Yukon Department of Education
- Han – in partnership with Yukon Department of Education

Through the Kamloops program to date, some 250 students from 13 of the above languages have graduated with the SFU Certificate in First Nations Language Proficiency, and with various other First Nations language and linguistics credentials, including a BA with Joint Major in Linguistics and First Nations Studies, or Joint Major in Anthropology and Linguistics, or with Postbaccalaureate Diplomas in Linguistics. A large number of these graduates come from rural areas throughout BC and the Yukon, from geographic and social environments where students are typically disadvantaged in gaining access to university education.

In addition, SFU Kamloops faculty have been active in research ,and have been able to attract research funding to Simon Fraser University from SSHRC and smaller public and private funding organizations:

- SSHRC Standard Research Grant – Secwepemc language discourse (2006-2009), M. Ignace (with S. Russell, Ron Ignace and Mona Jules) - \$ 95,000
- Haida Toponymy – supported by the Hans Rausing Foundation for Endangered languages (2006), M. Ignace – ca. \$15,000
- Tsilhqot'in Practical Grammar (S. Russell, Ed Cook and Mariah Myers) – supported by the Vancouver Foundation (\$15,000).

First Nations communities who have worked with SFU faculty have been able to attract grants towards language documentation and materials development, as well as curriculum development. Some examples are:

- Sm'algyax Practical Grammar – M. Ignace and M. Anderson, UNBC – supported by Aboriginal Language Initiative Funding (ALI) to the Tsimshian Tribal Council, SSHRC funding to Dr. Anderson and School District 52 funds.

- Secwepemc language CD ROM and learning guide (M. Ignace) – supported by Aboriginal Language Initiative Funding (ALI) to Secwepemc Cultural Education Society
- A variety of First Nations K-12 language curriculum documents by M. Ignace and/or S. Russell in collaboration with local fluent speakers and elders (Secwepemctsin, Haida, Sm'algyax, Nuxalk, Heiltsuk) – supported by local school districts, ALI and BCLI funding and other sources.

Most of these projects have involved SFU undergraduate and/or graduate students as collaborators and research assistants.

Although SFU Kamloops was the pioneer institution in providing access to First Nations language learning among Aboriginal learners, especially in their home communities, various programs and courses in First Nations language teaching and learning have come to exist since the mid 1990s. Notably, the University of Victoria has recently established a programme in Aboriginal language revitalization in partnership with Enowkin Centre, and the University of British Columbia has articulated its offerings (mainly limited to Musqueam and some Kwakwala) into a First Nations Language Program.

The particular strengths of SFU Kamloops with regards to First Nations language teaching and research have been:

- ✓ **The very breadth and depth of local First Nations partnerships and language groups who have collaborated with SFU and who have produced graduates with the SFU FNLP certificate and some other credentials;**
- ✓ **The unique capacity of SFU faculty to work directly in and with a large number of First Nations languages to assist local learners, develop materials and curricula, and conduct applied and academic research leading to notable output in theses, academic conference presentations, academic publications and applied works, such as First Nations language curriculum materials.**

With the restructuring of the Kamloops program, management of SFU's aboriginal language offerings across the province will be carried out by the Linguistics Department in Burnaby, with the administrative support of the First Nations Studies office. The research and development activities of the proposed centre are important prerequisites for the continued success of these offerings, as is the community liaison that is a by-product of the community-based research done by members of the proposed centre. The courses offered in communities by the Linguistics Department, in turn, will support the efforts of the centre to become a catalyst in language preservation within communities. This is a clear case where teaching and community-based research each contribute strongly to a commonly held goal. The academic program and the Centre will complement each other and will together



provide important support for communities who want to preserve and enhance their cultural legacies, for which traditional languages are key.

There are two dimensions to the proposed Centre's activities that carry on this established trajectory of service to communities, coupled with academic research and training. To do so, the Centre should become known as:

- A focal point for research and training for the support and revitalization of Western Canada's aboriginal languages, and a funnel for funding in support of such activities, coming from agencies at all levels.
- A partner and resource for First Nations communities interested in proactively initiating activities aimed at preserving and revitalizing their traditional local languages. These may include curriculum development, community language program organization and delivery, training for language teachers, and brokering university-credit language courses tailored for the community by SFU's Linguistics Department.

Funding for these activities will come from external sources, from various Federal and private agencies to band council funding in the communities themselves. The SFU Kamloops program has established a track record in this connection that can be carried forward by the Centre.

It should be noted that various granting agencies that support First Nations language revitalization in British Columbia – especially those provided through the First People's Heritage, Language and Culture Council of BC – will be likely supporters of the Centre's activities in materials development and documentation.

### **Development Plan**

A plan to broaden and intensify the ability of a First Nations Languages Centre at SFU to attract funding should focus on the following points:

- 1) Network and liaise with First Nations communities and community organizations throughout British Columbia to encourage and engage further community contracts for First Nations language revitalization projects.
- 2) Develop a communications strategy to promote the First Nations language Centre via website and print materials.
- 3) Provide assistance to First Nations communities and organizations (where needed) to resource First Nations language projects.
- 4) Provide assistance to existing CFL faculty to secure grants in liaison with SFU's ORS.
- 5) Lobby the BC Ministry of Advanced Education towards additional funds to enable First Nations language revitalization work throughout BC through Simon Fraser University.

It is expected that the activities of the Centre would be underwritten by grants and contracts as for any other centre. The Centre's activities in the community will be self-financing. The contribution of the Centre to instructional activities in communities will be through a planning, development, and coordinating role using expertise and experience not available in local communities. The costs of the community activities themselves will be financed by the communities or grants received by them.

## **Conclusion**

The planned continuation of SFU's First Nations language program throughout the province in the wake of the discontinuation of the Kamloops program provides a particular opportunity for the University to focus and enhance the research activity related to the problem of First Nations language revitalization. This Centre is intended to build on the momentum in this area that has developed in connection with the Kamloops program over the past 20 years. The continued program of language instruction in communities will complement the work of this Centre, since neither instruction nor research alone will have the impact on the erosion of traditional linguistic skills that communities desire. First Nations language are so close to extinction that it takes both initiatives in order to retrieve and re-invigorate the traditional languages of these communities. This Centre will provide the research initiative needed to maintain the momentum SFU has achieved over the past two decades.

## **Appendix: Founding members**

Alderete, John. Associate Professor, Linguistics Department

Gerds, Donna. Professor, Linguistics Department

Ignace, Marianne. Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Mellow, Dean. Associate Professor, Linguistics Department

Perry, Thomas, Associate Professor, Linguistics Department

Russell, Susan, Lecturer, Linguistics Department

*Terms of Reference*  
*First Nations Language Centre*

Statement of Special Purpose

The purpose of the First Nations Language Centre is to conduct research into and provide academic support for community-based efforts to preserve and revitalize First Nations languages. In so doing, the Centre will bring expertise in First Nations language revitalization into First Nations communities throughout British Columbia and neighboring areas as well as facilitate descriptive and applied linguistic research into critically endangered languages. A further goal will be to facilitate communication between First Nations communities and the university.

Membership

Members of faculty at Simon Fraser University who have academic expertise in First Nations languages may become members of the Centre. Colleagues from outside the university and retired members may be appointed as corresponding members for a specific term. All invitations to become members will come from the Steering Committee (see below).

Statement of Internal Governing Procedures

The Centre will be governed by a Steering Committee, made up of members of the Centre. The Steering Committee will be appointed by the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences and will consist of at least five members. The chair of the Linguistics Department and the Director of the First Nations Studies programs will be members of the Steering Committee by virtue of their respective offices.

Operational responsibility for internal governance of the Centre lies with the Centre's Director, who develops Centre policies in consultation with the Steering Committee and manages the activities of the Centre. The Director will chair the Steering Committee.

Two advisory boards consisting of leading members First Nations communities or academics with interest in the Centre's mandate will also provide guidance to the program of the Centre. Membership in these boards will be at the invitation of the Steering Committee, subject to the approval of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The Chair of each advisory board will be elected annually by and from the members of the board:

1. A **Community Advisory Board** will include prominent members of First Nations communities who have an abiding interest in the preservation of their communities' culture and language, and who are willing to give advice to the Centre and act as advocates for language preservation and revitalization in their own communities and beyond.
2. An **Expert Advisory Board** will include First Nations language authorities, teachers, elders, and others who are considered by their communities to be leaders in the work of preserving and revitalizing their community's language, and who are actively engaged in that work. This Board will also include some academics from outside SFU who have expertise in this area and who actively conduct research and support community projects in this area.

#### Appointment of Director

The Director will be appointed by the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, upon a nomination by and from the Steering Committee of the Centre. The term of appointment would normally be for a three-year period, renewable upon mutual agreement.

#### Identification of the Applicable Status under R 40.01

The First Nations Language Centre is identified as a Research Centre in the sense of R40.01, reporting to the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

#### Centre's Obligation to Comply with University Policy

The First Nations Language Centre will comply with Simon Fraser University policies in all its activities.

April, 2010



# Library Course Assessments

The Library participates in the course approval process for new courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. By Senate motion (S.93-11) "no new course should be approved by Senate until funding has been committed for necessary library materials." A Library review should be conducted after new course proposals have been approved by the department or school curriculum committee, before being considered by the Faculty curriculum committee. New courses will not be approved at the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) or Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) until a Library review has been completed. Even if the department states that no new library resources are required, a report from the Library is required to confirm this view.

To submit course proposals for review by the Library, forward the following materials to Gwen Bird, Associate University Librarian, Collections Services:

- course proposal forms
- complete course outline
- reading list created for the course, if any
- date of Faculty curriculum committee meeting (or other deadline for library report)

An assessment will be done to evaluate whether the Library's holdings and present collection development activities are adequate to support the new course. If no new library resources are required, the course will be added to the appropriate list below indicating the library is adequately resourced to support the course.

If additional library resources are required, a full report will be created and linked below, and the associated costs will be identified. The costs may be one-time, to fill gaps in holdings, or ongoing, for example, to start new journal subscriptions, or sustain book collecting in areas not now included in the Library's collection scope. If costs are attached, the department or school is asked to transfer the required funds to the Library's materials budget. Questions about the process can be directed to [Gwen Bird](#).

## No Additional Library Resources Required

Unless otherwise indicated, these courses require no additional library resources based on a course location of SFU Burnaby. In many cases, if the courses were to be offered at SFU Surrey or Vancouver or as off-campus courses, additional Library costs might be involved. Please contact Gwen Bird for details.

Centre for Education on Research and Policy

Centre for Research on International Education

Centre for Research on Sexual Violence

Centre for the Study of Gender, Social Inequities and Mental Health

Centre for the Study of Public Opinion and Political Representations

Centre for Workplace Health and Safety

B.Sc. in Biomedical Physiology (School of Kinesiology)

BISC 413, 830, 831, 832, 833

BUS 427, 801, 824

CMNS 357

CMPT 375, 626, 628, 627, 781, 828, 895, 896

DEVS 801

EASC 601, 602

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First Nations Language Centre

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GEOG 318

GERO 410, 413

Graduate Diploma in Public Health Practice

GSPP 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 827, 828, 829

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Jack Austin Centre for Asia Pacific Business Studies

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WL 330

WS 350

**Completed Library Course Assessments**

BUS 467, 489

CRIM 436, 380, 458, 459, 480, 481

ENSC 280

HSCI 8XX

HSCI PhD and ILIAD

IS 324/813

MA in Humanities

Archived Library Course Assessments