

ALEXIS NAKOTA SIOUX NATION HERITAGE & LANGUAGE

DEPARTMENTAL 2nd QUARTER REPORT

Presented by Eugene Alexis, Director of Language & Liz Letendre, Director of History & Archives

Dated: September 23, 2020

Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Heritage & Language Department 2nd Quarter Report – Dated: September 23, 2020 (26 Pages)

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Contact: Alexis Heritage & Language Mailing: Box 336 Glenevis, Alberta T0E 0X0 Phone: 780-967-3186 General Email: isga@ansn.ca



Otabi Wagicarabi Wagohnabi

Community Prayer / Vision Statement



Wakâ nimi ikum ne

Igibi Wakâ Mne Isgabi ne otab nen igicedaham ne
Wakâ wishodeshi wacigebi abadâ igihamina Xam mne
wicashda daca wicoxagine augihnabina igibasnibdabicin
Wakâ Taupa Agduyami ihnobamina Wakâ daca gare nesh
igiyobamicin Dagugicem ne ?um doshgamin da?a uzhicigebina
wazhike wodegice inimicin

Wakâ ne daca igikubnesh Isgabi duken toxemzhecen itus iginabina taudagizhi âgiyamicin

Wakâ Mne Isga wicashdabi Taucii Tacâ Cade Wanarozi dabage Wash?a hamicin Wazhike ihamicin Dukenag hicedog

We, the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, will protect and promote our cultural and spiritual values. We will strive to live in harmony and respect the Creator and all creation. We will commit to our Isga beliefs and utilize every resource that the Creator has bestowed upon us to empower our people, spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally.

Daca Adocaxa?

Department Information



MANDATE: Under the authority of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Chief and Council, the department's mandate is to promote and maintain the Stoney Language and History of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and to develop Alexis as a bilingual community.

AUTHORITY: The Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Elders are the Knowledge Keepers of the language and history and provide direction, guidance and support to the staff and program.

The Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Stoney Language Program was initially formed in the year 1996 by the authority of the Alexis Chief and Council to teach the language at the school.

To meet community needs, the program expanded and is now operating as the Alexis Heritage & Language Department.

The department is governed and managed in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.

Ish?awimin Wahùcakisa

Elders Advisory





- Tau?i?abi yusbecakebina, makoce nesh awiyabicin.
 Teach and protect the language.
- Dukin nimi wizhanabi yusbecakebicin.

 Provide spiritual and cultural guidance.
- Dukin yusbecakebi wagicarabicin.

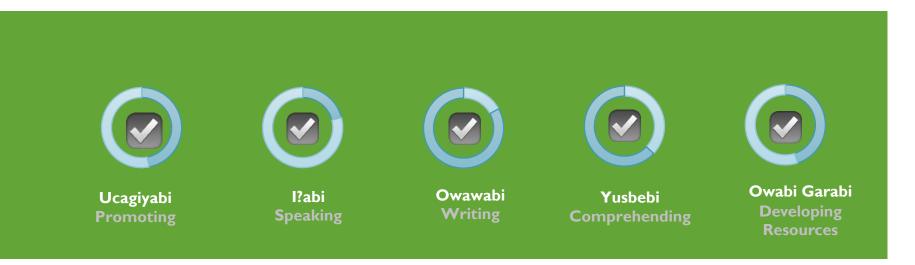
 Provide insight and support on language revitalization strategies.
- Yusbecakebi ca i?abne, ima?ish, gicuzabi gihnaamne, dukin oxem nesh.

 Provide education on language laws and protocols.

Isga I?abi Ihnobicin

Language Revitalization





Our Language program focuses on increasing fluency and literacy (writing system) in the community. We develop resources for professionals and learners. We engage our community through various methods of language revitalization efforts. We are being called to translate more documents for the band and work with programs to incorporate the language in their office spaces. We also have an Alexis Heritage & Language Facebook Page and provide members with word of the day and department updates. Due to COVID19, we began delivering Community Stoney Language Classes online. *(See page 23 for details.)

Tanida Owabi Basnibda

History & Archives





History & Archives focuses on researching, documenting, archiving and promoting our history. We help develop resources for language learners. Our main research projects are to repatriate cultural items that were taken from our people, organizing our collection of historical documents and updating our new data base system. We are being called to do more projects with departments and work with them on a project to project basis.

Duca Canucin Nikubi

Staff – who does what?



	Duca Canucin (Role)	PROFILE		
Cazhe (Name)		Language Category (1st Language / 2nd Language)	l?abi? Language Proficiency	Year
Ish?awinmin (Elders)	Wahùcakisa (Advisors)	Bilingual (Isga /English)	l?abi nohe ca (Fluent)	2002
Eugene Alexis	Isga I?abi Basnibde Director of Language	Bilingual (Isga /English)	l?abi nohe ca (Fluent)	2002
Liz Letendre	Wanigash Daca Igitaubi Igihnabi Basnibde Director of History & Archives	Bilingual (Isga /English)	l?abi nohe ca (Fluent)	2002
Arlene (Brenda) Potts	Isga ?a?abi Owabi Yusbecakebi / Garesa / Yusbebicin Stoney Language Instructor / Literacy Training Leader / Stoney Curriculum Resource Developer & Translator	Bilingual (Isga /English)	l?abi nohe ca (Fluent)	2002
Archie Bruno	Ekenak Awiyaabi Administrative Assistant	Bilingual (English/ Isga)	l?abi yusbenasdi ca (Learning)	2018
Lucas Alexis	Kaucitauci Basnide (Isga I?abi Owabi Hnami) Data Technician (Stoney Dictionary APP)	Bilingual (English/ Isga)	l?abi yusbenasdi ca (Learning)	2018
Alexandra Alexis	Ekenak Awiyaabi Administrative Assistant	Bilingual (English/ Isga)	l?abi nohe ca	2020
Stephanie Alexis	Owabi Wizhakabi Ones'a / Owabi Xdezhe Shune Iyobi Researcher / Alexis Treaty Curriculum	Bilingual (English/ Isga)	l?abi yusbenasdi ca (Learning)	2019

2020-2021 Budget



Shune Uginimi | Funding & Partnerships

Our department operates on funds that are proposal driven on a year to year basis.

Northern Isga Foundation

\$100,000 (YTD)
*Confirmed

Yellowhead Tribal Council
Project Based Funding

\$3,500 (YTD).
*Confirmed

Library Archives of Canada Project Based Funding – Museum Study

\$24,000 (YTD)

*Confirmed.

ANSN Partnerships

Alexis Chief & Council Northern Isga Foundation Yellowhead Tribal Development Foundation

Government Partners

Heritage Canada (Federal) Alberta Education (Provincial) Alberta Conservation (Provincial)

Institutions

Library Archives of Canada Jasper National Park Royal Tyrell Museum Onoway Museum University of Alberta (Anthropology) Heritage Canada (Federal)

Aboriginal Languages Initiative

\$0 (TBD)

*Under Committee review

Alberta Conservation (Provincial)

Project Based Funding – Hunting

\$30,000 (YTD)

*Confirmed

Alberta Education (Provincial)
Innovation in First Nations Education (IFNE)

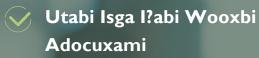
\$93,000 (YTD) *Confirmed

Total operating funds for this fiscal year is \$250,500 *(Tentative - to be revised)

Isga I?abi / Isga Owabi

Language Services





(Community Language Nest Projects)

We engage our Community through Language Nest Projects:

- Band Staff Literacy Training
- Community Language Classes
- Cultural Events (Arts & Crafts)
- Social Media (Daily posts)

Wacigebi Okââ Gizhihnami

(Cultural Outreach)

Our staff is available for Stoney Language and Cultural teachings. Contact our office to book seminars at isga@ansn.ca or phone: 780-967-3186.



🏿 Isga I?abi Owabi Hnami

(Stoney Dictionary App)

Our Stoney Dictionary AP is in its first year of operations.

- 9,000 Stoney words approved.
- 5,000 Stoney words prepared for AP.
- 4,000 Stoney words uploaded to APP (March 2020)



Washu I?am ne Isga ha cage uzhumicin (Translation)

We provide translation services for meetings, program activities and curriculum development.

We are developing resources for learners. We provide books, pamphlets, words and resources for students.



Isga I?abi Wayusbecaki

(Stoney Language Teacher Training)

Our department provides training to Stoney Teachers. We developed the K-12 curriculum for Alexis School and continue to provide Stoney Language resources for our school. Eventually we hope to expand the number of teachers that are fluent and trained in the writing system. YTC is visiting with Alexis to establish a University 9 Credit Course, to go towards your 2nd language degree.



Isga I?abi Yusbecakebi

(Stoney Language Boot Camp)

Due to COVID, Boot Camp is postponed to 2021.

Ope Yusbebi Hupicacarabi

Staff Professional Development



Archival Training	University of Alberta	Utabi Isga I?abi Wooxbi Adocuxami (Community Language Nest Projects)	Isga I?abi Owabi Hnami (Dictionary App.)	Wacigebi Okââ Gizhihnami (Cultural Outreach)
Our staff continue to train in archives. We are tentatively waiting for online training. Our staff will continue training and building capacity in all areas,	Heritage continues to support Alexis School in developing language instructors. This summer, Myra Alexis attended the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute. (CILLDI) in July 2020. Staff will gain expertise in the areas of linguistics, endangered language documentation and revitalization, language and literacy learning, second language teaching and curriculum development, and language policy and planning. This program provides a unique opportunity for our staff to earn university credit while learning about Indigenous languages and culture. We are recruiting Language Teachers. If you are interested please contact Eugene Alexis at eugene.alexis@ansn.ca	All staff required to participate and join weekly staff meetings (as required), as well as monthly PR Day Staff Meeting and Community Meetings. Staff also participate and continue to study Stoney Literacy. We had our third of Community Stoney Language Classes from April to June 2020. All learners attended and continue to develop their capacity. Our next round of Online Community Stoney Language Evening Classes will be starting in October to December 2020.	The dictionary AP is a work in progress. It is becoming a great resource for our Apprentice learners and Master Speakers who are learning how to read and write in Stoney. Eugene Alexis, and Arlene Potts are in charge of the upkeep and spell check of the Stoney words. Our developers, Aviva, assists us with maintaining our dictionary app. For trouble shooting, please email isga@ansn.ca	We have an Advisory Committee in place for the Dictionary project. These consultants will support the Department with various language revitalization projects. We work with our elders to provide language and history services for our community and band partners. We partner with band program on various projects and are available for workshops and professional development activities. For more information contact our office a: Email: isga@ansn.ca Or by phone 780-967-3186.

Wocobiti

Capacity Building



In 2015, we began Literacy Training with Band Staff and continue to provide training:

WEEKLY DEPARTMENT TRAINING SESSIONS

Weekly Department Training Sessions have been suspended due to COVID19. (The ERT will confirm when it is safe to continue.)

PR DAY (STAFF MEETINGS)

Every month, during PR DAY, Heritage & Language provides workshops on language and culture. Due to COVID19, our monthly staff meeting was put on hold. (The ERT will confirm when it is safe to continue.)

EDUCATION - ALEXIS SCHOOL

We continue to assist and evaluate Stoney Teachers / Teacher Aids. Our 3nd training session began in September 11, 2020 and will conclude in June 2021. We also provide cross cultural education for new teachers at the school as part of their professional development.

CROSS CULTURAL + OUTREACH

We offer Language and Cultural services to our band partners and agencies requiring professional development in Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge systems.

We have worked with Lands Consultation and the Yellowhead Tribal Council to provide training and instruction to their staff on various projects.

We are currently providing instruction for the Alexis Youth Log Home Building Project. This projects started in August of 2020 and will commence by December 2020.





Alexis & YTC Partnership







We are pleased to announce a second agreement with the Yellowhead Tribal Council to provide Alexis Stoney Language curriculum at YTC college. This agreement is effective September 2020 and will conclude April 2021.

Due to COVID19, the YTC Stoney Language Program will be hosted online.

Registration is open for Post-Secondary Students to attend from January – April 2021 Semester.

Alexis Heritage & Language has Stoney curriculum for:

- Secondary: K-12
 - Myra Alexis (Elementary)
 - Loretta Mustus Duncan (Junior & Senior High)
- Post-secondary: Stoney 115
 - Instructors: Eugene Alexis and Arlene B. Potts
 - Stoney 125 will be developed this year.

For more information contact Eugene Alexis, Director of Language at eugene.alexis@ansn.ca



Wanigash Ohnabi, Isga I?abi Gici Yusbecakebi

Community History & Stoney Language Online Zoom Classes



We conducted a review on our Stoney Language Program and documented 100 participants.. The following is a breakdown of our findings.

AGE CATEGORY:

- 13-24 10 participants
- 25-34 25 participants
- 35-44 50 participants
- 45-54 15 participants

- 85 participants were from Alexis
- 15 participants were Non-Indigenous
- 100 participants enumerated

Language Proficiency – Based on the 100 participants that were surveyed, proficiency is low.

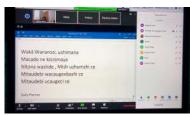
SPRING 2020 COMMUNITY ONLINE ZOOM CLASS:

We hosted our third round of Community Class online. Due to COVID, this round was done online. It was a huge success. We had 23 participants register. This was an Introductory Course to familiarize learners to the writing system and teach them about our history. Classes took place from April to June 2020. Certificates for participants are pending. We had one member residing in Calgary that joined the online class and was very enthusiastic in learning. This course is free for all band members, for now.

Fall session coming up: October - December 2020

This course is FREE for Alexis Band Members. To register email Heritage & Language Office at: Email: isga@ansn.ca





Daca Igitaubi, Cubash Igicubcin Igihnobicin

Repatriation & Research Projects







Repatriation of Alexis Cultural Artifacts

The museum in Washington advised Alexis that due to COVID, the staffing dropped. However, we have been assured that the collection is being looked after. We continue to maintain communications with the Museum and partnership Museums.



Historical Information Database

Alexis in Partnership with the Yellowhead Tribal Foundation has developed a database for genealogy purposes. The database will also be a repository for our Historical Information. We presently have a Post-Secondary Student who's continuing the data input.



Research Projects

- ✓ Community History Time-line
- ✓ Kinship and Genealogy
- ✓ Ish?awimin (Elders)
- ✓ Leaders
- ✓ Treaty Timeline



Feasibility Study Alexis Museum Structure

We received a second round of funding for this project to support the funding for the feasibility study. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the project has been extended.

Isga Owabi Inaabicin Bare Hnami

Resource Development



HISTORY & ARCHIVES PRINT & VITAL RESOURCES Through our History & Archives Program, we are developing a **Currently Available** repository of Historical Information and Resources for community Nakota Language Guide Volume groups and members to access. Kinship Coloring Book We are currently developing a process and system on how to Lands Camp Video manage the following information: The Sacred Child - Poster Book Isga I?abi Boot Camp Video's **Pictures Treaty** Alexis History (PowerPoint) **Community Stories** Leadership Maps Ish?awinmin In Development **Timeline** Sports **Early Literacy Story Books** Kinship Language Video Helpers **Land-Based Dictionary** Language Guide Volume 2 **Alexis Chiefs Alexis Treaty History Curriculum Hunting Land Based Curriculum**

WedezhaTa Yorobabi Unigecin

Hunting Survival Teachings Project



In July of 2020, Heritage & Language began working with the Elders on a project called, "WedezhaTa Yorobabi Unigecin" which means "to help you skin an animal."

This project is designed to engage Alexis Elders with Youth, to teach the youth (young men ages 14-24) about traditional hunting protocols and traditional hunting survival.

Part of the project is to provide Fire Arms Safety Training to provide youth with license to hold a fire arm. II out of 20 participants that registered completed the training on Saturday, September 19, 2020. The next round of training will commence in October (TBA) For more information please contact Liz Letendre at liz.Letendre@ansn.ca





Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Climate & Lakes Project



Heritage & Language is participating in the ANSN Climate Lakes Project. The ANSN Climate and Lakes Project is monitoring, documenting how climate change impacts I) Water quality and quantity on Lac St Anne and Birch Lake and 2) ANSN Culture, language and peoples. The following is a description about the project and deliverables.

Project Overview: Water quality describes the condition of the water, including chemical, physical, and biological characteristics, usually with respect to its suitability for a particular purpose such as drinking or swimming. As the density of human activity increases in areas surrounding aquatic ecosystems, the quantity of chemical, physical, and biological substances within an aquatic ecosystem can change due to run-off or below-ground flow. Therefore, It is important that we monitor and study water quality and how it changes through time and space.

The ANSN Climate and Lakes Project is attempting to build infrastructure and protocols to continuously monitor water quality on Wakamne, ANSN. This work aims to improve water management and support public outreach initiatives which will hopefully encourage the responsible management of private and public lands surrounding Wakamne, AB.

For more information about this project, contact: Hughie Jones, Project Coordinator at ansnclimateandlakes@gmail.com









Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Lakeside Trail Project



Alexis Heritage & Language is providing cultural support and translation services for the Alexis Lake Side Trail Project.

Project Overview: This project is a partnership between the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and TD Friends of Environment Foundation.



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

The project is in the first stage of development. Walkway has been cleared along the lakeside path and we will be advising on trail content and cultural teachings.

For more information regarding this project, please contact: Band Councillor Erwin Letendre at erwin.Letendre@ansn..ca or Rayleigh Conley at rayleigh.conley@ansn.ca





Owabi Xdezhe Shune Iyobi Yusbecakebi

Alexis Treaty Curriculum







ALEXIS HERITAGE & LANGUAGE TREATY KIT:

We have created a Treaty Kit for Alexis that includes:

- 1. Alexis Treaty Research Presentation to Alexis Elders (2019)
- 2. Adhesion to Treaty 6 document adhered to by Hûga Aranazhi (Chief Alexis)
- 3. Alexis Treaty No. 6 Map
- 4. Alexis Land Survey Map (1880)
- 5. Chief's suit, Queens Treaty Medal & British Flag (These items were given to Chief's at signing of Treaty and whenever a new Chief took over.)
- 6. Alexis Treaty Timeline *(Draft initiated)
- 7. Profile on Alexis Treaty Chief's (1877 Present)
- 8. Alexis Treaty Annuity Playlists (1877-1890)
- 9. Alexis TLE Survey Map (1995)

UPDATE ON ALEXIS TREATY CURRICULUM:

1. Alexis Treaty Families Genealogy Map, 2019

- According to the Alexis TLE Research, at signing of Treaty, Alexis had 196 members: 154 members belonged to Hûga Aranazhi and 42 members belonged to Mazapah. From this list, we are tracking the Alexis Treaty Families. We need help validating information from the 1870-1900 period.
- We will be forming a **Volunteer Committee** to help us with assessing and ratifying information. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heritage & Language at isga@ansn.ca

2. Treaty Curriculum

- We recently purchased Treaty Curriculum Binders (K-3, 4-6, 7-9 & 10-12) from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and will be utilizing this resource to develop the Alexis' Treaty Curriculum Program.
 - We received permission from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner to adjust these binders to reflect our History, Culture and Language. Editing has already begun and will hope to consult with community elders (pending funding) to help us build this resource for our school and community.
 - If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heritage & Language at isga@ansn.ca

Assiniboine-French Dictionary (1880) Discovery Project





In January of 2020, we discovered an Assiniboine-French Dictionary, dating 1880. The book was photographed and translating has begun. Father Gerry Strat, OMI – St. Albert to assist us with translating and we are pleased to announce that he has agreed to help at no cost.

Description: This book was written by Catholic Priest, Father Vegreville who was stationed at Lac St Anne during Treaty era (1870's). Father Vegreville titled this book "Dictionnaire Assiniboine Français". The entire book is written in French and we believe it was based on our ancestors vocabulary.

The following is a biography of Father Vegreville retrieved from "The Priests of Batoche." Article accessed online, September 19, 2020 at http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/expositions-exhibitions/batoche/html/resources/proof_priests.php)

• Father Valentin Vegreville OMI (Oblates of Mary Immaculate) was born in 1829 and died in 1903. He served as a missionary in Western Canada (first as Rupert's Land then later as the North-West Territories) for fifty years beginning in the early 1850s. He was an expert linguist in the Cree, Innu (Montagnais), and Nakota (Assiniboine) languages, and wrote several manuscripts about First Nations dialects. The Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC published some of his work. Father Vegreville wintered with the Métis at Batoche in 1881, and was a guest in the Xavier Letendre home.

We will keep you updated on this development of this project.

ARCHIVES

A Call for Community Photo's & Family History



Heritage is collecting old photo's to add to our archives. Contact History & Archives at isga@ansn.ca or call 780-967-3186 to make a submission!

"We are gathering all the stories that makes our people a strong Nation, Wakan has given this vision to us."

"We are putting back pieces of our Nation that was scattered because of all the trauma that our relatives went through."









21 of 24

Upcoming Events - Community Engagement

September to December 2020



WedezhaTa Yorobabi Unigecin - Hunting Survival Teachings Project

(Summer & Fall of 2020)

Date: August 2020 – March 2021 **Location:** Alexis Community Hall

Description: Open to Alexis Youth and Community Members age 14-24. For more information

contact Liz Letendre at liz.Letendre@ansn.ca

Alexis Stoney Language & History - Community Evening Classes (Fall 2020)

Date: October 2020 – December 2020 (Monday's)

Time: 6-8 pm

Location: Online - Zoom Classes

Description: To pre-register, please email isga@ansn.ca For more information contact Eugene at eugene.alexis@ansn.ca

Alexis Stoney Art & Crafts Cultural Classes (Fall 2020)

Date: October 2020 – December 2020 (Wednesday's)

Time: 6-8 pm

Location: Band Hall

Description: To pre-register, please email isga@ansn.ca For more information contact Eugene at eugene.alexis@ansn.ca

Alexis Treaty Families Research Project - Volunteer Committee

Date: Meet Wednesday's

Time: I pm – 4 pm Location: TBA

Description: Open to Alexis Youth and Community Members. For more information contact

Stephanie Alexis at stephanie.alexis@ansn.ca

ALL ACTIVITES WILL FOLLOW COVID SAFETY MEASURES.

ANSN Heritage &
Language will
continue
supporting ANSN
Community
Projects &
Initiatives.

For Partnership Projects, please contact Eugene or Liz. Ishnish

We are moving!



Notice to Alexis Community Members:

We are pleased to announce that the Alexis Heritage & Language Department will be moving into the new Alexis Lands Consultation Office located near the powwow grounds.

Our office will be closed during the week of October 5-9, 2020. However, please be advised that we will be working remote.

If you require further assistance, feel free to contact:

Eugene (eugene.alexis@ansn.ca) or

Liz (liz.Letendre@ansn.ca)

Ishnish!





Alexis Heritage & Language

Language: Eugene Alexis: eugene.alexis@ansn.ca History & Archives: Liz Letendre: liz.Letendre@ansn.ca

780-967-3186

Hours of Operation: Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. *(Please note, due to COVID Safety Restrictions, staff may be working remotely.)

Closed during statutory holidays.

