

# Information Communication Technologies

## “Maintaining and Protecting our language”

### **Description:**

The purpose of this conference is to education and facilitate discussion amongst yourselves to develop and use Information Technologies in your communities to: develop economies, preserve culture and language; enhance lifestyles; and to integrate the technologies into daily living.

Today, I will be presenting some ideas about how Information Technology can help to preserve culture and Native languages. The other panel members will also discuss things about their role in using information technology.

The Native languages is the means for passing down culture: it is the essence of the culture. Native languages expresses a lifestyle and a world view. It expresses the spiritual relationship with the earth, with others, and the Creator. It also connects Native identity, Family ties, and Kinship ties.

Various events in our history have stripped the Native language and culture. Because of this, many of our young children do not speak their Native language. This is a major concern for the Elders in First Nations communities. As a Native language teacher at KiHS, I have found that computer technology is a useful tool to enhance teaching of the Native languages. My classroom is in Frenchman's Head. My students were in Keewaywin, Fort Severn, and Slate Falls. Students were able to learn to read and write in syllabics on line.

We can preserve our culture, history and language by:

- recording stories, legends, cultural knowledge of the elders;
- having Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway language sites;
- creating sound files with proper pronunciation of the Native languages;
- creating books or resources for First Nations Schools;
- creating archives of genealogy or family trees of people
- creating archives of the clan systems some of us has forgotten
- creating teaching sites where youth can learn about different cultural teachings:

**Traditionally, Elders were storytellers who educated our people. This was done by telling stories where children and other people would learn about: history, the way of life, values, knowledge and beliefs of the people.**

