

## Blackfoot workshop

According to the Endangered Language Project, there are only 2800 people in the world who speak Niitsipowahsin / Blackfoot (<https://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/bla>). In this workshop, I demonstrate how we work to revitalize the language in the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

The Mioohpokoiiksi website(<https://sites.google.com/view/mioohpokoiiksi/home>) was created during the pandemic with Elders (Kaaahsinooniiksi), Traditional Knowledge Keepers (aaawaahskataiksi) and educators (áíssksinima'tstohkiiksi), to support teaching the Blackfoot language to children. The work-up to the website started with the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit teams of the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division having monthly meetings. The First-Nations, Metis, and Inuit Support Workers (FNMI), following the guidance of Annette Bruised Head, the FNMI District Principal at the time, set up training for the Support Workers to receive Traditional Games certification from the International Traditional Games Society (<https://www.traditionalnativegames.org/>).

The approach to language learning is based on traditional ways of knowing, with an emphasis on storytelling, traditional games, and multimedia tools such as elder recordings and links to language learning material already in existence. Mioohpokoiiksi is designed to be accessible to students and teachers, with a range of resources. Although this website alone will not create fluent speakers, Mioohpokoiiksi goal is to inspire lifelong Blackfoot language learning.

A recent development is the Aikomotsiipohtoo'pa family language nights, in which Blackfoot families from Father Leonard Van Tighem School came to language nights to learn Blackfoot as a family.

The presentation will begin with a brief introduction, and will then demonstrate a family language lesson for the audience, utilizing the resources available on the website.

- Website overview
- Mioohpokoiiksi story – Blackfoot words and sentences, symbols, traditional knowledge
- Game introduction moving camp (Blackfoot version of telephone game)
- Play moving camp, using the words from the Mioohpokoiiksi story.

The participants will learn some Blackfoot language through a Traditional Game and story.