



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tłıchǫ Government signs language agreement with Collège Nordique

April 3rd, 2023, Yellowknife – The Tłıchǫ Government has signed an agreement with Collège Nordique for the teaching of the Tłıchǫ language. The agreement will provide more people with access to courses in the Tłıchǫ language and continue its efforts to revitalize Indigenous languages.

For Collège Nordique, working with Indigenous communities is at the heart of its fundamental commitment to “nothing about them without them.”

Agreement with the Tłıchǫ Government

For Tyanna Steinwand, Research Operations Manager at the Tłıchǫ Government, this agreement is an important tool for building community capacity. “I’m hoping that if people see the Tłıchǫ Government and Collège Nordique working together, more people will be encouraged to sign up”.

The agreement between the Tłıchǫ Government and Collège Nordique will, among other things, cover the costs of Tłıchǫ language courses for members of the Indigenous community and train another Tłıchǫ instructor. The training of this instructor, who will then be able to teach Tłıchǫ in the communities, represents one more step forward for the Government and the CNF in their efforts to revitalize the language.

“In our classes, we hear the beautiful, unique accents from the communities, like Behchokò, Gamètì, Wekweètì and Whatì, and Ndı̀q and Dettah. When I hear a different way of saying something, I don’t say that it’s wrong, I get excited! That’s the richness and the celebration that we want to bring to the people,” said Georgina Franki, Tłıchǫ instructor at the Collège.

Collège Nordique is known for its language courses in Tłıchǫ, French, English, and Spanish. The signed agreement is part of Collège Nordique’s efforts in the Truth and Reconciliation process and the revitalization of Indigenous languages, which has a direct effect on the transmission of culture. As a Francophone institution, this relationship between language and culture is very well understood. The College is pleased to see that Indigenous languages are becoming increasingly popular.

Quotes

“We are very pleased with this agreement, which cements our collaboration. For Collège Nordique, this is a partnership that is a testament to our shared commitment to the revitalization of Indigenous languages and reconciliation.”

- Patrick Arsenault, Executive Director, Collège Nordique

“For Indigenous peoples, revitalizing our languages is one of the most critical elements of self-determination and healing. Our language is at the heart of our culture and identity, and the process of learning language is fundamental to building the well-being and the community.”

- Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty

About Collège Nordique

Collège Nordique is a non-profit organization whose mission is to offer post-secondary and continuing education programs and language courses. Its clientele is made up of learners from various communities in the Northwest Territories and around Canada. It is the only organization offering this type of training in French, north of the 60th parallel.

About the Tłı̨chǫ Government

The Tłı̨chǫ Agreement was negotiated by the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. It is the first combined comprehensive land claim and self-government agreement in the Northwest Territories. In 2005, the Tłı̨chǫ Nation ratified the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement, a modern treaty with the Government of Canada. The agreement provides and defines certain rights relating to lands, resources and self-government.

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