

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

Collaborative Language Planning Project:  
Reports and Newsletters

Collaborative Language Planning Project

---

2-5-2023

### Collaborative Language Planning Project: Report 08: Winter 2023

Richard Littlebear

Mizuki Miyashita

Susan Penfield

Madeleine Shek

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/clpp>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---



# CLPP Report 08

## CLPP Joins UNESCO’s IDIL

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the period 2022-2032 to be the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL), with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as the lead UN agency for its organization. This decision followed reports from UNESCO’s International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL) in 2019. One year proved insufficient to raise awareness and make action plans. As part of IDIL, UNESCO created a Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages. Dr. Ofelia Zepeda (Tohono O’odham, University of Arizona) serves on the task force as representative for North America. Dr. Zepeda is also the director of American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI) with whom CLPP consults for several of its activities. CLPP plans to support IDIL through organized meetings and a conference in May 2023 .



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF  
**Indigenous Languages**

### Collaborative Language Planning Project (CLPP)

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS  
Aaniiih Nakoda College (ANC)  
Blackfeet Comm. College (BCC)  
Chief Dull Knife College (CDKC)  
Fort Peck Comm. College (FPCC)  
Salish Kootenai College (SKC)  
Stone Child College (SCC)  
University of Montana (UM)



CLPP is supported by the National Science Foundation DLI-DEL and TCUP grants

BCS-1800617  
BCS-1800820  
BCS-2037470



### Onsite Workshop at BCC

The workshop at Blackfeet Community College was attended by more than 14 individuals, including grade school mathematics teachers, language teachers, and other interested members of the community. The participants also included language workers from Alberta, Canada. CLPP liaisons and language activists from other tribal colleges also attended the workshop; Aaniiih Nakoda College, Fort Peck Community College and Stone Child College were all represented in the group. CLPP continues to facilitate broadened participation in the discipline of language science .

## Onsite Workshop at BCC

CLPP's 3rd onsite workshop was held on October 8, 2022, at BCC. It was collaboratively organized by Iva Croff and Mizuki Miyashita. The day was filled with interesting questions, meaningful discussion, fun anecdotes and stories, and many great ideas. The first session, "How do we acquire language?" was a presentation by Mizuki about language acquisition which informed participants about differences in how children and adults acquire a language. The second session, "Blackfoot Online Dictionary: How do we use it?" was given by Dr. Inge Genee, a professor of linguistics from the University of Lethbridge. Participants learned how useful the online dictionary can be for language teachers as well as for linguists. Training programs for language documentation and revitalization were described over lunch. In the afternoon session, Iva Croff gave a presentation about Plains Indian Sign Language. She discussed ways in which learning Plains Sign can also help with learning spoken language. Charles Kennedy, a teacher at the Cuts Wood Immersion School in Browning, shared his experience learning and teaching the Blackfoot language. Diana Burd, a Blackfeet elder, native speaker, and lifelong language teacher shared some of her teaching methods. Robert Hall, Blackfeet Native American Studies Director for Browning Public Schools, also joined the workshop, and gave a demonstration about using Blackfoot morphology in his teaching methods.

### Linguistics and Language Teaching for Tribal Communities

Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (8:30AM-3:00PM)  
at Blackfeet Community College, Beaver Painted Lodge

**Organizers:** Iva Croff (Blackfeet Community College)  
Mizuki Miyashita (University of Montana)

#### Agenda

The workshop consists of presentations, participant discussions and hands-on activities.

8:30AM-9:00AM	Introduction: Defining Our Goals IVA CROFF
9:00AM-9:50AM	How Do We Acquire Language? MIZUKI MIYASHITA
10:00AM-10:50AM	Blackfoot Online Dictionary: How Do We Use It? INGE GENE
11:00PM-11:50PM	Discussion Session What are our goals? What are our students' goals? What improvement can we make?
12:00PM-1:00PM	Where can we find further training? (During Lunch)
1:00PM –2:15PM	Total Physical Response and Plains Sign IVA CROFF & JESSE DESROSIER
2:15PM-3:00PM	Reflection Time



## Missoula Meeting in November 2022

CLPP organizers had the pleasure of hosting a special public talk by Dr. Richard Littlebear, called “An Epiphany: Ho’etova tseo-hkesohovéxaatameseetsestove!” at the University of Montana campus on November 28th. This was also an opportunity for CLPP members to meet face to face — it was the first time CLPP has met in Missoula since May 2019! Before Richard’s talk, CLPP members reviewed their language work activities of 2022, and discussed plans and

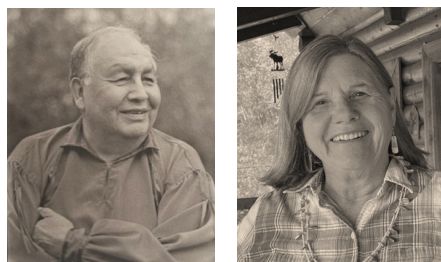


ideas for 2023. The lecture by Dr. Littlebear was attended by many — the room was completely full. He began with the remembrance of the Sand Creek Massacre, a painful, important part of Cheyenne history. Dr. Littlebear also shared stories from his childhood and youth, and his journey from English teacher to Cheyenne language revitalizationist.

Afterward, CLPP members, joined by Dr. Aaron Thomas, UM professor of chemistry, and Annie Belcourt, professor and chair of Native American Studies at UM, discussed and brainstormed possible future collaborations. The working dinner reception was sponsored by the UM Native American Studies department.

## CLPP Lead Members’ Transition

Thank you, Dr. Richard Littlebear and Dr. Susan Penfield for your leadership! CLPP was able to be established because of you! You have shown us how a network across tribal language programs and teachers can be built, and how to begin to create collaborative working relationships. From you both we also learned patience, and that interdisciplinary projects within the fields of language work, especially language revitalization and documentation, take time. You both kindly shared your invaluable experiences with us; listening to your stories has made us stronger as a team. Thank you again so much for leading us this far, and for showing interest in continuing to support CLPP. CLPP is proud to welcome Dr. Sean Chandler and Ms. Iva Croff into the lead member positions. We look forward to CLPP’s next chapter!



### SAIL 2023

The Symposium on American Indian Languages (SAIL) is a conference hosted by the American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI) - one of CLPP’s consultant organizations. This year, it will be fully in-person, held April 13-14 at the University of Arizona. There will be a special session on IDIL, parasessions on language revitalization, documentation, description, and theory, as well as a poster session.



## CLPP members (2023)

### Co-convenors

Mizuki Miyashita (UM PI)  
Iva Croff (BCC liaison)  
Sean Chandler (ANC liaison)

### Consultants

Richard Littlebear (CDKC PI)  
Susan Penfield (UM co-PI)  
Alyce Sadongei (AILDI)

### TCU members

Mina Seminole (CDKC liaison)  
Alicia Tyner (SCC liaison)  
Melanie Sandoval (SKC liaison)  
Michael Turcotte (FPCC liaison)

### UM members

Leora Bar-el  
Irene Appelbaum

### Coordinator

Madeleine Shek

## Editors of this issue

Sean Chandler  
Iva Croff  
Mizuki Miyashita  
Madeleine Shek

## Post-CoLang Conference in Montana

It has already been six months since CoLang 2022 concluded! CLPP will host the Conference on Indigenous Science and Language (CISL), a post-CoLang activity, on May 18 and 19, 2023. It will convene in-person on the University of Montana campus in Missoula. The keynote speaker at CISL will be Daryl Baldwin, the founding director of the Myaamia Center, member of the National Council on the Humanities, and recipient

of the MacArthur Fellowship also known as the “Genius Grant”. He will talk about his experience reviving the Myaamia language from dormancy as well as his efforts in community engagement surrounding health and healing through language. CISL will also include a workshop co-facilitated by Jarrid chiinkwia Baldwin and Tracy Hirata-Edds on communicative interactions and language learning.

*“Why save our languages, since they now seem to have no political, economic, or global relevance? That impression is exactly the reason why we should save our languages, because it is the spiritual relevance deeply embedded in our own languages that makes them relevant to us as American Indians today.”*

— Richard Littlebear (2000) *Just speak your language. Whole Earth, 107, 24-25.*

## Presentation at ICLDC 2023

Another post-CoLang activity will be a presentation about CoLang 2022 at the biennial International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC), hosted by the University of Hawai’i Manoa, March 2-5, 2023. It will convene remotely online. CoLang 2022 organizing committee members Mizuki Miyashita, Richard Littlebear, and Susan Penfield will give a pre-recorded presentation. The recorded presentation will be shown during a scheduled time, followed by a synchronous Q&A. The presentation is about the CoLang 2022 organizers’ efforts to increase Indigenous representation, participation, and leadership at the Montana CoLang.

INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON



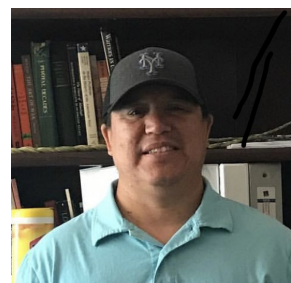
LD&C  
2023

## Ending Note

There seem to be many things happening in everyone’s life. The world is in an ever-changing and challenging situation with respect to many things like health, safety, and economy. We are so grateful for this team of awesome language warriors in CLPP. We look forward to more amazing work this year. -- The editors

# Life's Language Lodge

By Michael Turcotte  
Life's Language Lodge Curriculum Team



Solving a critical need for childcare and revitalizing the Aaniiih and Nakoda Languages. In every action, Island Mountain Development Group (IMDG) is committed to honoring the Tribes' traditional values and cultural heritage. Childcare options on FBIC have been limited, creating a barrier to employee recruitment and retention. IMDG created a plan that addresses the need for childcare and the desire to revitalize Native languages. In 2019, the IMDG Board of Directors passed a resolution supporting the ANA Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance – Esther Martinez Immersion Grant (ANA-NALPM-EMI). The grant was subsequently awarded and IMDG partnered with the Nakoda Aaniiih Economic Development Corporation (NAEDC), a Fort Belknap non-profit corporation, to administer the ANA Grant. In 2020 Life's Language Lodge (LLL) was established.

## “Language is Healing”

Located in Hays on the IMDG campus, LLL is a unique childcare option built upon the languages and cultures of the Aaniiih and Nakoda people. As a language nest, Life's Language Lodge provides language immersion for children 0-5 years of age. This effort will help the FBIC preserve, restore, and maintain Indigenous languages on the Fort Belknap Reservation. LLL has been serving thirty-five students ages 0-7 since August of 2021. Our services are provided from 7:30-5:30 p.m. M-F in an immersion setting. We recently received a Native Language Immersion Initiative grant from First Nations Development Institute to continue curriculum development for both languages and to increase reading proficiency for parents, students, and LLL staff. Curriculum development

for the grant project will focus on past language documentation. The documentation by Alfred Kroeber in the early 1900s provides a vast amount of Aaniiih stories that have not been translated. Raymond DeMallie and Douglas Parks collected the largest database for the Nakoda language, both sources of documentation will influence curriculum development. Transcription and audio formats will provide community resources. Family sessions will be led by LLL staff to assist with literacy in the Aaniiih and Nakoda orthographies. Tribal relations of the Aaniiih and Nakoda is highly influenced by the Aaniiih Flat Pipe. Centuries ago, it was captured by the Nakoda and eventually returned to the Aaniiih people. Both groups committed to longstanding generosity to each other. In 2023, Aaniiih and Nakoda children are acquiring their language within the same education facility. Aaniiih and Nakoda teachers assist each other daily and are upholding the generosity that was facilitated by leaders of the past. They are living the words spoken by past leaders and instilling the understanding in a generation who will be influential in the process of language continuation.

Our language status is similar to most Indigenous groups throughout the United States and Canada. Policies of forced assimilation have resulted in minimal first language speakers. We view immersion as possibly the only method that will result in future intergenerational speaking. The LLL long-term goal is intergenerational speaking to occur for Aaniiih and Nakoda languages.

Linguistics Program  
University of Montana  
Social Science Building  
32 Campus Dr.

Collaborative Language Planning Project is a series of activities conducted by a group of like-minded people who work toward the recognition, maintenance, and promotion of Indigenous languages of Montana and beyond.

## Collaborative Language Planning Project (CLPP)



*CLPP aims to enhance communication among language activists, language teachers, students, and researchers from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in the state of Montana. The participants consist of representatives from the tribal colleges in Montana as well as language activists, teachers and researchers from independent community language programs. Its goals include enriching language revitalization efforts among Indigenous communities, enhancing teachers and activists' training experiences, and encouraging collaboration.*

CLPP - Montana

Collaborative Language Planning Project

Linguistics Program  
University of Montana  
32 Campus Dr.  
Missoula, MT 598122  
USA

E-mail: [mizuki.miyashita@umontana.edu](mailto:mizuki.miyashita@umontana.edu)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE