



Taku River Tlingit First Nation Education Department

May 27 2025

Ax xooni (my relatives):

RE: Tlingit Language Plan Update and Opportunities for Upcoming Language Initiatives

I trust that everyone is enjoying the beauty of our Spring and looking forward to family time during the summer.

The Language Working Groups and TRTFN has two streams of language work happening which includes:

- completing a draft of the 5 Year Strategic Tlingit Language Plan and doing community consultations to get citizen feedback. This Language Plan will be presented at a Fall 2025 Joint Clan Meeting.
- hosting children and adult Tlingit language learning Initiatives as outlined in the posters.

This mail package contains several items to update or inform you on a:

- Summary of the Tlingit Language Plan and the Language Survey Results
- Daily Plan for the Children's Tlingit Language Day Camp
- Registration Form for Your Child's Attendance at the Tlingit Language Day Camp
- Beginner Tlingit Language Course in Fall & Winter 2025

If you are interested in having your child(ren) attend the Tlingit Language Day Camp from July 7 – 11 2025, please fill out the registration form and return it to the email below. Also, consider whether you can attend the Beginner Tlingit (adult) language class scheduled for this Fall. You are welcome to call me if you have any questions, require further discussion or information. Gunalchéesh!

Sandra Jack-Mirhashem Khashadehaa, Tlingit Language Project Coordinator

Education Department: TRTFN Five Year Strategic Tlingit Language Plan

Email: tlr.coordinator@gov.trtnf.com

Phone: 867 689 4701 (cell/message)



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation



T'AKU KWÁAN YOO X'ÁTANGI DEIYI

Tlingit Language Plan & Survey Update

May 27, 2025

To respected Tlingit citizens, families and Clans people:

RE: UPDATE TO TRTFN TLINGIT LANGUAGE PLAN & SURVEY UPDATE

Gunalchéesh to the fifty-seven people that responded to the Tlingit language survey mailed to you May 2024. The Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) Education Department is teaming up with the Language Working Groups to develop the **T'aku Kwáan Yoo X'átangi Deiye**. We appreciate your patience as we take steps to draft, consult and approve this plan.

What Does the Tlingit Yoo X'átangi Mean to Us?

Our hearts are eternally grateful to our late elders who have left us with wealth of Tlingit language and cultural knowledge. The Tlingit Language has been dormant in the Taku area for several years. Our ancestors and elders have encouraged us to teach the spoken language to those committing to learn, speak and teach.

In 2024, TRTFN Language Working Groups mailed a language survey to all citizens. We are sharing the highlights to key questions received from **57 participants**. The language survey results will guide language learning opportunities over the next 5 years that will be outlined in the **T'aku Kwáan Yoo X'átangi Deiye**.

Tlingit Phrases and Translations for the Update

Tlingit Yoo X'átangi:

Tlingit Language

T'aku Kwáan Yoo X'átangi Deiye: Taku People's Language Pathway

TLINGIT LANGUAGE UPDATE

Project Mandate:

The First People's Cultural Council (FPCC) funding has been used to establish an Implementation Team and an Advisory Working Group to:

- **Development of the haa T'aku Kwáan Yoo X'átangi Deiyi**

What are the Main Parts to Our Yoo X'átangi Deiyi?

- **Annual Language Learning Projects (2025 – 2030)**
- **Activities for each Project**
- **Project Budgets**
- **Mission, Vision & Value Statements**

TRTFN Language Working Groups:

Implementation Team

Marsha Guneiwti Hotch (Fluent Language Speaker & Teacher)

Brenda Laankadeshk'ei Reeves (UVIC Indigenous Language Graduate)

Sandra Kaashadehaa Jack (Language Learner & Teacher)

Advisory Committee

Violet Shuwatin McKay Simmons (Elder)

Neilatoo.atsien Allan (Language Learner, Teacher)

Michelle Williams (Language Learner & Advocate)

Mariella Daxl'a Wentzell (UVIC Language Learner Graduate)

TLINGIT LANGUAGE UPDATE

What TRTFN Language Revitalization Efforts Have Taken Place to Date?

- Tapes of Elders and ancestral knowledge that have been transcribed. Transcriptions are held at TRTFN Heritage. NVIVO software provides the capacity to search for specific documents.
- TRTFN curriculum developed and credited to our late elder **Mary Seidiyaa Anderson**. Audio available at tlingit-language-instruction.ca & an updated booklet is available at TRTFN.
- Tlingit place name board game & GeoLive Map of TRTFN traditional territory development. Signage has been installed for Tlingit street names on our reserves and beyond to our trails, camps and special areas. trt.geolive.ca
- Students from the Certificate of Indigenous Language Revitalization Program continue to support TRTFN language initiatives.
- TRTFN provision of financial support to COTS to complete two language courses (Atlin & Whitehorse).
- Development of haa **T'aku Kwáan Yoo X'átangi Deiyi**.

Approach for TRTFN Community Consultation

Language Surveys

- Family & Community Support Sessions

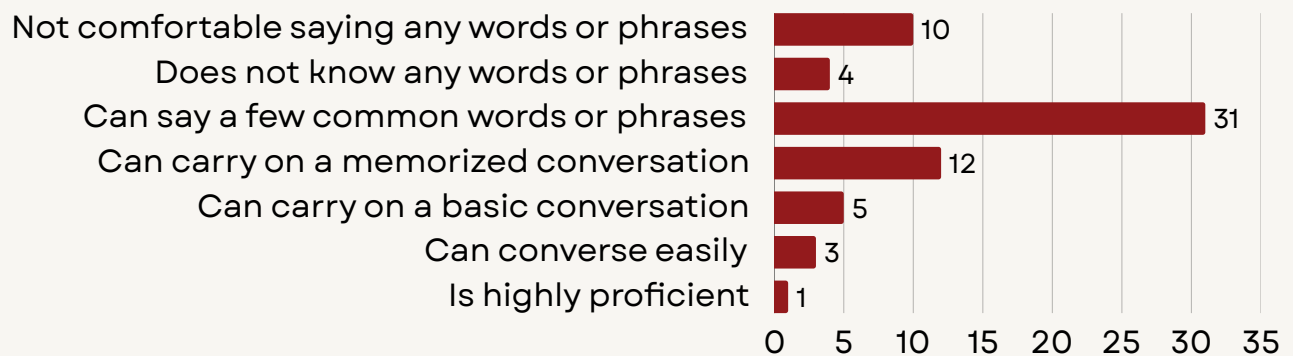
- Open House
- Update Packages
- Elder Meeting
- TRTFN Leadership

Language Working Group Balance

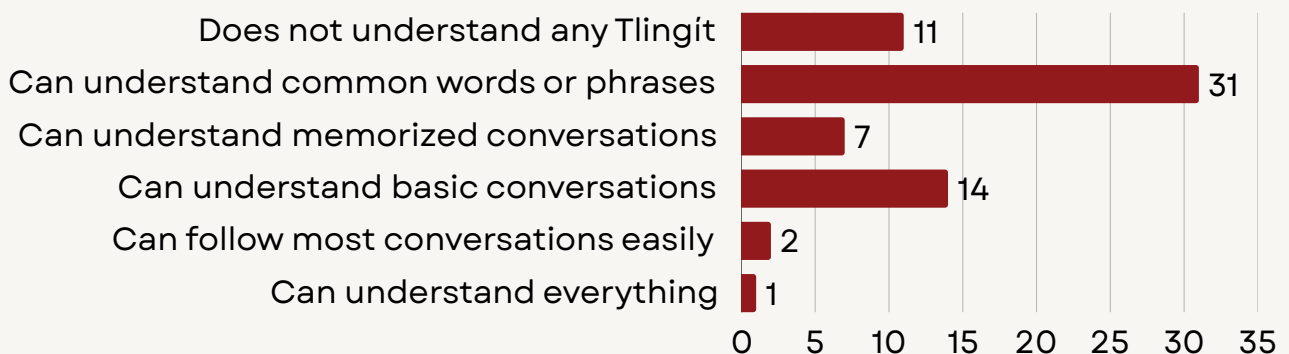
- Clan
- Family

TLINGIT LANGUAGE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

How many people have Tlingit language speaking ability?



How many people can understand Tlingit?



Use of Language at Home

Never	22
Very Little	19
Sometimes	12
Always	9

TLINGIT LANGUAGE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Use of Language **at Work**

Never	26
Very Little	17
Sometimes	6
Always	7
NA	1

Use of Language **at School**

Never	24
Very Little	5
Sometimes	4
Always	2
NA	21

What are people's attitudes and interests toward
Tlingit language in rank order?

- **Being able to speak the language to family and children**
- **Keeping the language and culture alive**
- **Learning language as part of identity**

The level of interest in our language (based
on 57 people's responses)

- **50** were interested in language learning
- **7** were not sure
- **0** were not interested

T'AKU KWÁAN YOO X'ÁTANGI DEIYI

(Taku People's Language Pathway)

Future Training & Employment Opportunities for Tlingit Language

- Learner, speaker & teacher
- Researcher and archives
- Documenter and recording
- Administrator
- Others

Next Steps To Complete T'aku Kwáan Yoo X'átangi Deiye (Taku People's Language Pathway)

- Community consultations & citizen involvement & input
- Presentation of T'aku Kwáan Yoo X'átangi Deiye drafts
- Presenting to Joint Clan Meeting for ratification



**If you have any questions, please contact
the Language Planning Team:**

Coordinator's cell (250) 651 - 2239
tlr.coordinator@gov.trtfn.com



CHILDREN'S TLINGIT LANGUAGE DAY CAMP



Tlingit Yoo X'átangi Lead Teacher:
Marsha Guneiwti Hotch

JULY 7 - JULY 11, 2025

10AM - 4PM

Children from 6 - 12 years

wáasá kuwatee:
How's the weather



awdigaan:
It is sunny

Daily Programming Activities:

- Tlingit language learning for people, animals, plants and environment
- Field trips to explore special Tlingit areas and practice Tlingit vocabulary
- Learning how to respond to questions

Registration of Children required by July 3, 2025

Sandra Jack-Mirhashem
Tlingit Language Coordinator



(867) 689 - 4701

tlr.coordinator@gov.trtn.com

Children Drop off & Pick up:
Tlingit Family Learning Centre



Taku River Tlingit First Nation Education Department

Children's Tlingit Language Day Camp July 7 – 11 2025 Tlingit Family Learning Center

Registration Form

Child Information

Name of Child: _____

Birthday: _____

Start Date:

Finish Date:

Parent/Guardian Information

☐

Mother

☐

Father

Name: _____

Address: _____

Place of Work: _____

Residence Phone:

Work Phone:

Parent/Guardian Information

☐

Mother

☐

Father

Name: _____

Address: _____

Place of Work: _____

Residence Phone:

Work Phone:

Alternate Emergency Contact Person if You Cannot be Reached
(Contact person and number must be local)

Name: _____ Telephone Number/s: _____

Name: _____ Telephone Number/s: _____

Health & Wellness Support

Does Your Child have any Illness, Disability or Medical Concerns? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please Specify: _____

Does Your Child have Allergies? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please Specify: _____

Is medication required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What medication is required: _____

Please provide instructions and use of medication: _____

Times for medication to be given: _____

Consent for Local Walks and Bus Rides

I hereby give permission for my child _____ (name of child) to go for local walks and be transported via bus with Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) registered driver for prearranged tripstrips as part of the Tlingit Language Day Camp activities. TRTFN will ensure the safe delivery of the child(ren) to and from the Tlingit Family Learning Center facilities.

Signature of parent or guardian

Date



BEGINNER TLINGIT LANGUAGE COURSE

T'aku Tlingit Yoo X'átangi

September - December 2025 (TBC)

TFLC Boardroom

**This community language course will be open to the community
and employees of TRTFN.**

What will we learn?

- Greeting Phrases & Question Phrases
- Kinship Terminology
- Tlingit Action Words (verbs)
- General Vocabulary & Orthography

Participants can attend class in person or join via zoom two times per week for 1.5-hour sessions. **Zoom link will be provided.**

Transportation will be provided upon request

Sandra Jack-Mirhashem
Tlingit Language Coordinator



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THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY



