

ZIIBIWING WILL REMAIN OPEN ON MICHIGAN INDIAN DAY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

E-Noodnagan
A Bi-Weekly Electronic Publication
from the Ziibiwing Center

**Waabibagaa Giizis
(Moon of the Leaves
Turning Color)**

ANISHINAABEMOWIN SYMPOSIUM

The Anishinaabemowin Symposium took place at the Ziibiwing Center on Friday and Saturday, September 7th and 8th, 2018. The Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department (ALRD) put on this event to “promote the importance of Anishinaabemowin in our community.” In addition to the ALRD, sponsors for the event were the Ziibiwing Center and the Tribal Libraries through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal community was invited to come and “learn about the importance of revitalizing our language” and to provide some answers to the questions of “Why learn it?” or “When would I use it?”



*L to R: Back Row: Gerard Sagassige, Isabelle Osawamick, Carrie Heron, Carrie Wemigwans, Larry Kimewan, Margaret Flamand, Yvette Pitawanakwat
Front Row: Ashaawnee Sprague, Delores Trudeau, Harvey Trudeau*

Harvey Trudeau and his wife Delores are Ojibway from Northern Ontario, Canada. Anishinaabemowin is Harvey’s first language. He practices traditional and cultural ceremonies and

is a former Chief of the Sagamok First Nation. His wife Delores is fluent in Anishinaabemowin and a retired teacher. Gerard Sagassige is a member of the Curve Lake First Nation. He has been a teacher of the language, the culture and the spirit of the Anishinaabek in workshops and camps for over 30 years. All three have resumes of accomplishments that require more time and space than is available here.

These speakers graciously shared teachings and experiences that portray why and how our language is a necessary and inseparable part of a complete picture of Anishinaabek culture, life and spirit. They spoke about the history of the language and the language/spirit connection that continues on into infinity. This connection is an integral part of ceremony and prayer to the Creator who gifted that language to the Anishinaabek. In addition, medicinal knowledge and effectiveness involves the use of the Anishinaabek names of those medicines along with the proper physical and ceremonial handling of them.

The concept of having “damaged spirits” was offered as a cause for a resistance to learning the language that many experience; the thinking that it’s difficult to learn this language or it’s not important. When healing occurs, it was proffered, we begin to open ourselves to learning and overcoming these thoughts and the learning comes to us easier. It was suggested that we treat each other kindly as we learn because we’re in our infant stages of revitalization. It was suggested that perhaps the attitude of “*Let’s go learn together*” (“*Kina maamwi okinoomaagzidaa*” translation Isabelle Osawamick, Language Outreach) in a fun way, would be a beneficial stance from which we more easily and quickly move forward. The presenters gave so much more than can be touched on in these few lines. A quick start to revitalizing the language might be to use the words we know where we can, as often as we can, and then add to our language knowledge as we can. The ALRD has many options to help. Contact Isabelle Osawamick, Language Outreach Specialist, at 989.775.4110 or iosawamick@sagchip.org for information. Miigwetch to all who were involved in the Anishinaabemowin Symposium. **A’yungwaamaazin! Be determined! Kina go ndo nowemaaganak. All my relations.**

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For more information call (989) 775-4750 or visit us at www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing

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