

Me7 Texwtuxwtsínem-kt Secwépemc Language Proficiency Certificate Western Dialect Communities 2021-22



Like other Indigenous languages in BC, the western dialect of the Secwépemc language is critically endangered, with fewer than 50 fluent first language speakers still among us, all of them elderly. The western dialect Secwépemc communities invite new learners to an adult immersion program called **Me7 Texwtuxwtsínem-kt** (we will learn to speak straight/accurately). It is offered through a partnership with Simon Fraser University and funding through the First Nations Education Steering Committee.

The Tke mlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) will host **Me7 Texwtuxwtsínem-kt** at the Language & Culture Department classroom in Kamloops, BC. This program is a 1,000 hour immersion program for adult second language learners of the Secwépemc Language. The long-term objective is to create fluent speakers willing to teach and with the ability to pass the language on to future generations. In addition, this program is structured as a cohort program with two university courses in the summer term, four in the fall term, and four in the winter term. Students are expected to attend the Fall and Winter Terms full-time - Monday to Friday, 9:00 - 3:00.

Program Objectives:

- increase proficiency and fluency in the Secwépemc Language among participants, from complete beginner to mid-intermediate level
- strengthen intergenerational use of language, from home to community and work place
- prepare for career in language and culture revitalization
- support the reclamation of Secwépemc identity
- guide, provide and protect the Secwépemc cultural identity
- build relationships with language mentors and elders
- provide participants with an opportunity to begin or continue post-secondary education and receive a certificate

Language Goals:

- converse with fluent speakers on several subjects, common situations and events (for example: describing family and friends, locations, weather, actions, mental state, personal possessions)
- describe people and objects, where and how they are located, colour and number
- talk about situations in past, present and future tense
- explain and describe Secwépemc culture and protocols
- gain fluency to teach other beginner learners within community language programs
- reach an intermediate-low to intermediate-high level on the ACTFL proficiency scale

Curriculum (what to expect):

Me7 Texwtuxwtsínem-kt is accredited through the Indigenous Language Proficiency Certificate Program at SFU with a focus on the western dialect. All courses are transferrable to an undergraduate degree.

Summer Term (May to July 2021):

- INDG 332 Ethnobotany of BC First Nation (taught 50% in Secwepemctsin)
- remote (online) instruction with small groups of field excursions
- INLG 158 Secwepemctsin Immersion I
- remote (online) instruction with small groups of field excursions

Fall Term (Sept. to Dec. 2021):

- INLG 130 Practical Phonetics and Orthography of Secwepemctsin
- INLG 133 Beginner Secwepemctsin I
- INLG 134 Beginner Secwepemctsin II
- INLG 258 Secwepemctsin Immersion II

Winter Term (Jan. to Apr. 2022):

- INLG 200 Introduction to Grammar of Secwepemctsin
- INLG 233 Beginner Secwepemctsin III
- INLG 234 Beginner Secwepemctsin IV
- INLG 335 Special Topics: Secwépemc stories

Each course is approximately 80 hours of in-class time. Some courses will contain assignments, including final projects. Each term includes a final oral exam. All courses are taught only in the Secwépemc Language with zero English.

What You Will Learn:

- How to give instructions
- How to explain the rules of a game
- How to talk about what you learned, what you like to do, and where you've been
- How to greet others
- How to tell time, dates, weather, and have conversations about them
- How to talk about historical events
- How to ask questions and for help
- How to ask for directions, order off a menu, talk about your weekend
- How to narrate and explain about a cultural event
- And much more!

COVID Notice: *If BC policies, SFU and participating First Nations policies allow, field excursion will be offered live. Program requirement: students must have access to a device and internet.*

How To Apply:

Contact your local language coordinator or language department:	
Jessica Arnouse, Language Coordinator Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Phone: 778.362.1481 Email: jessica.arnouse@kib.ca	Louella Jules, Language Coordinator Skeetchestn Indian Band Phone: 250-373-2493 ext: 218 Email: language@skeetchestn.ca
Charli Fortier, Language Manager Simpcw First Nation Phone: 250.672.9995 ext. 256 Email: Language.Manager@simpcw.com	Cody Williams, Language Coordinator Spi7úy Squqlút.s Language & Culture Society Phone: 250.267.9925 Email: language@nothernshuswaplanguage.com

Application Deadline:

Friday, April 30, 2021

You will receive an interim acceptance letter within 7 days, if approved. The official SFU letter could take 4-8 weeks.

Program Begins:

Monday, May 10, 2021

See INDG 332 Ethnobotany of BC First Nation Course Outline

Cost:

Tuition is free for Secwépemc Nation Members, with priority to those training to become Secwépemc Language Teachers.

We strongly encourage participants to apply for funding through their Secwépemc community, as well as other scholarships and bursaries, to help cover living and accommodation costs.

Due to limited resources for staffing and classroom space, a maximum of 15 applicants may be chosen for the program.