

Aanii

Introducing Rainbow District School Board's Native Language Teachers



Roselynda Francis n'dizhinikas. I am from the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island. My husband and I have four sons and two of them attend Lasalle Secondary School. In 2003 I received my Bachelor of Education from Nipissing University in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions with a concentration in History. My family and I moved to Sudbury in September of 2008 when I joined the Rainbow District School Board. Since then I have been teaching the Ojibwe language and Native Studies courses at several high schools in the Sudbury area.



Maryann Endanawas n'dizhinikas. I am a fluent speaker and teacher of our Anishinaabe Language in the Rainbow District School Board. I have been an educator for many years with experience teaching various grades and programs. I am a member of Sheshegwaning First Nation, a grandmother, mother and sister to many. I have four children of my own and am a proud grandmother of three.

I have participated in many language initiatives and will continue to teach and support the revitalization of our Anishnabemwin. Anishnabemwin is in each of us, we just need to rekindle the fires that glow, be not afraid to speak and share of what you already know!



Linda Manitowabi is an Anishnaabe from Wikwemikong First Nation but now residing in Sudbury after many years of teaching elementary school in London. Linda currently teaches Ojibwe at Queen Elizabeth and Lansdowne Public Schools. She is a graduate of Laurentian University and Nipissing University where she obtained her Bachelor of Education. She recently finished studying Art Therapy at the University of Western Ontario, which she hopes to use in the healing circles of Aboriginal people. For many years, Linda has been learning about the traditional teachings and ceremonies of the Ojibwe Midewiwin Society and attends Pow-Wows as a jingle dress dancer. Linda is an avid hiker and this interest has led her to travel extensively throughout the world and at the same time, learning and experiencing the life of other Indigenous people in the world.



Stanley T. Peltier is of the Odawa Nation from the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. Stanley and his family live and practice a healthy lifestyle which includes practicing and participating in traditional ceremony. He is a fluent speaker of the Ojibwe Language and imparts a deeper understanding of language derivation that teaches greater cultural understanding/appreciation. This is his first year with the Rainbow District School Board. His intent through his teaching is to augment the existing programs, focusing on interactive oral communication with his students. Stanley has many years of teaching experience in both First Nations and non-Native communities. He has presented internationally on the Aboriginal Perspective of Education (e.g. World Indigenous Peoples Education Conference, New Zealand 2005 and Australia 2008).



Boozhoo, Lissa McGregor ndizhnikaaaz (My name is Lissa McGregor). Waagaaskinaaga ndoonjiba (I am from Whitefish River First Nation). Ndo nakii Espanola miinawaa Massey (I work in Espanola and Massey). Ekinomaagekwe anishinaabemowin (I teach Ojibwe language).

I am very happy to work with the children in the Rainbow District School Board. The two schools I work at are A.B. Ellis Public School and S. Geiger Public School. I teach children as young as Junior Kindergarten up to grade 8. Some of the children I teach take Ojibwe as their core language subject while others take Ojibwe as an elective. It's been a lot of fun so far and everyone is looking forward to a good year with a lot of learning.



Stewart Roy has been teaching Native Language and Native Studies at Manitoulin Secondary and Espanola High School for over 10 years. Stewart finds his work especially pleasing and enjoyable when he meets and teaches students with a genuine effort and interest to want to learn their first language.

"I employ many different learning methods to increase interest in their first language such as storytelling, gestures and body language, arts/crafts and technology. It's always a challenge when I meet students at varied levels of fluency but it's an indication of how sporadic and seldom our Anishinaabe language is spoken," says Stewart. He also believes that the language can be revived and spoken quite effectively, despite there being a minimal number of fluent language speakers left. However, with community and parental support, it can be done. Stewart also keeps busy at his schools by supporting various events and functions, coaching hockey and coordinating talent shows.



My name is Margaret Young and I am originally from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. I am a member and resident of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek (formerly Whitefish Lake First Nation). I have been residing in this community for the past 21 years. I received my Native Language Instructors Training at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. This is my second year of teaching with the Rainbow District School Board. Last year I taught at Wembley and R.H. Murray Public Schools. This year I am starting the language program at the new Walden Public School while continuing the program at R. H. Murray. I am enjoying my time with the children and we are having fun learning the Anishnaabemowin language.



Pearl Waindubence has been teaching the Ojibwe language for at least fifteen years to students from Kindergarten to adulthood. She joined the Rainbow District School Board as an Ojibwe language teacher last year and taught the language program at Manitoulin Secondary School, Little Current Public School and Assiginack Public School. This year, Pearl is teaching students from K-8 at Assiginack Public School. Pearl lives in Sheguiandah First Nation and is a grandmother to sixteen. She really enjoys sports, is a Traditional dancer and attends Pow Wows. She is from the Three Fires Confederacy which consists of the Ojibwe, Odawa and Pottawattami tribes.