

INVESTMENTS IN FPCC HAVE POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT

A 2024 report prepared by The Conference Board of Canada finds that the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) has had significant positive impacts on provincial and national gross domestic product (GDP) and job creation in First Nations communities and local economies as a result of its investments in cultural revitalization, training and skill building.

The report states that the \$48.6 million in grants delivered by FPCC to First Nations organizations and individuals in B.C. in 2023–24 generated an estimated \$91.2 million in GDP in Canada and \$142.3 million in national economic output. FPCC activities generated over \$103.8 million for the Province of B.C. Each dollar of revenue contributes \$1.52 to Canada's GDP and \$1.15 to B.C.'s GDP.

Over the one-year period, FPCC created over 1,800 full-year jobs. These include jobs in remote and rural communities, which not only support local economies but also

encourage career development for B.C. First Nations.

"Without the FPCC funding, we wouldn't have been able to employ as many as we have. What I feel really proud of is the fact that we've been able to build capacity, and with our graduates we've been able to expand Haítzaqv̓la into other programs in our community. I think it's really important for the government to recognize that we need the funding that's available to continue to go forward." – Ĝíwilm̓ǵa Frances Brown, Initiatives Director, Haítzaqv̓ Revitalization (featured right)

Jobs created through FPCC programs provide skilled employment in a time of economic uncertainty in B.C. For example, for the Haítzaqv̓ language revitalization program in Bella Bella and Tse'k'wa National Historic Site in Fort St. John, FPCC funding has provided job opportunities and connections to culture

and language. The funding is also inspiring confidence in others to invest in cultural revitalization programs and infrastructure.

FPCC can only continue our work to support cultural revitalization with long-term and sustainable funding.

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The federal government announced its 2024 budget last spring, and the funding allocated for Indigenous language revitalization in Canada falls far short of what is needed. This shortfall will impact the continuation and growth of language learning and cultural revitalization here in B.C.

“Our cultural revitalization work is a key contributor to the economies of B.C. and Canada. The work of First Nations people is a driver of economic activity, and First Nations people must be included and valued in culturally based economic development.”
– Tracey Herbert, FPCC CEO

We are encouraged by the evidence of the significant economic benefits of FPCC’s work shared in the Conference Board of Canada’s economic report because it demonstrates the

far-reaching impacts of cultural revitalization. We will continue to advocate for the resources needed to invest in First Nations in B.C. and see our languages, arts and cultural heritage thrive.

View the full Conference Board of Canada economic report and FPCC news release on our website at fpcc.ca/media-centre.



(L-R) FPCC staff members Thea Harris, Language Program Manager, Sydney Moore, Language Program Coordinator, Aliana Parker, Language Program Director with Hałtzaqv Revitalization Initiatives Director Ġiwilŋi ġa Frances Brown along with Hałtzaqv Revitalization staff members: Jennifer Squash and Lorena White.



Celebration for the opening of the new language building in Bella Bella.

MENTOR-APPRENTICE PROGRAM RESTORES THE NATURAL CYCLE OF LANGUAGE LEARNING

FPCC’s Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP) supports language apprentices to become mentors to the next generation of speakers. Rosalie MacDonald is a fluent Nedut’en speaker from Lake Babine Nation in Burns Lake, language teacher and 2019 graduate of MAP. She is now mentoring her son, Brian Lacerte, in their first year as a MAP team. Rosalie’s journey from apprentice to teacher and now mentor is an example of the ongoing impacts of language programs such as MAP in First Nations families and communities.

Rosalie was raised by her late grandmother, Marianne Austin, who introduced their language to Rosalie in their home. In her first year as a MAP apprentice, Rosalie was mentored by her mother-in law, Esther MacDonald, and later by her mother, Louise, who was proud that she had the opportunity to teach the language to her daughter.

After completing MAP as an apprentice, Rosalie dedicated her career to teaching the language as an elementary teacher

in Witset, B.C. Now Rosalie teaches the Nedut’en Language Proficiency Degree program at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). She is also completing her PhD in education in the Language and Literacy program and has started MAP with her son Brian as his mentor.

“My hope is not only to be a role model, but also to show others that this [language] can be revitalized at home, in the school and in the community. To encourage learning the language, speaking the language and regaining our cultural identity.”
– Rosalie MacDonald

Rosalie and Brian are currently in their first year of the three-year program, spending 10–15 hours a week in language immersion.

Within a few weeks of starting the program, Brian says he was able to understand and speak a few sentences. He is now inspired to learn more so he can share the language with his peers.

“Seeing my mom teach in the NVIT program, her and my grandma, and hearing them do Zoom meetings every night, I’d always hear the language in my house. And it’s just one thing that really spoke to me after seeing how many people were into it, and I just felt the need to take it upon myself, to teach it to my peers.”
– Brian MacDonald

Rosalie and her family have become role models in the community. Rosalie’s husband, Brian MacDonald, is mentoring their daughter, Marianne, who is enrolled in the B.Ed. program at UBC through NVIT. They show how being involved in language revitalization can encourage others to learn the language, strengthens cultural identity and creates opportunities for connecting and communicating with their Elders.

To read the full story, please visit fpcc.ca/stories.

Funding for MAP is supported by the Department of Canadian Heritage.



Brian MacDonald and Rosalie MacDonald.

Are you interested in strengthening your language fluency?

FPCC’s immersion programs have different options to choose from with the Mentor-Apprentice Program, Mentor-Apprentice Program: Connections and the Youth Empowered Speakers Program.

See which one is right for you at fpcc.ca/map.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS COMMUNITY-CENTRED DESIGNS FOR LANGUAGE RESOURCES

Lydia Prince is a Dakelh/Cree artist, designer and language advocate who is working on her Master of Design at Emily Carr University of Art + Design. With support from the Scholarship stream of FPCC's Individual Artists Program, Lydia's project focused on designing teaching tools for language revitalization and learning.

The focus of her Master of Design work explored different

ways to design learning tools and included testing different designs with peers in her program. The strong connection between First Nations arts and language is clear in Lydia's work, which focuses on designs that are culturally appropriate for tools and learning resources used in teaching a First Nations language. Her design work includes a mobile language app, video game and syllabics flashcards that also function as a spelling game.

"Designing for language reclamation means creating with the awareness of the spiritual and emotional aspects involved in learning your language. These aspects speak to the healing that takes place as you reclaim your language. It's more of a holistic understanding of the process."
– Lydia Prince

Based on participants' responses to different types of visuals and media, such as flashcards and audio experiments, Lydia was "looking at how they picked up the language. Were they engaging with it?"

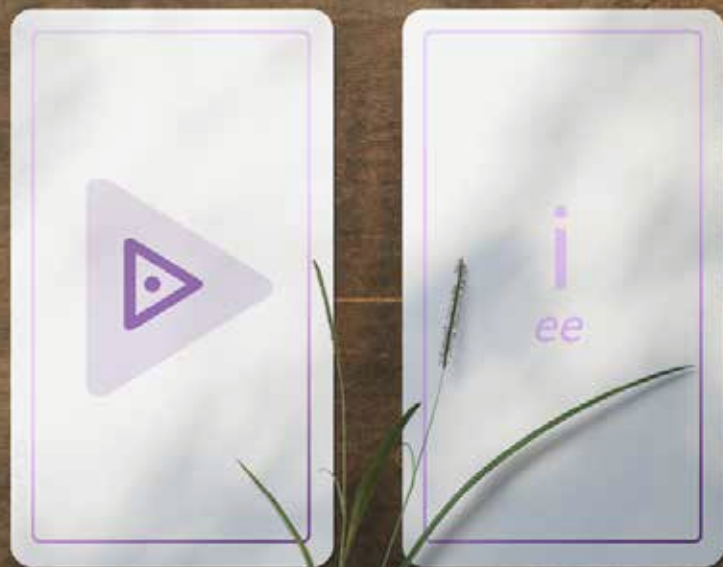
As an artist and designer, Lydia seeks to design "activities that are good for the spirit when you're learning your language and creating positive associations with the language." With this in mind, she also designed a language blanket and stuffed toy as physical symbols of the language. They can "be used in times of distress, anger or when a learner is feeling overwhelmed. They allow the user to be 'wrapped' or hugged by the language and offer comfort during the difficult times in language learning," she explains.

Lydia's work honours the connection of arts and language and the knowledge of First Nations Elders and language champions. She plans to use her work to support the revitalization efforts of the Dakelh and Cree languages.

Read the full story at fpcc.ca/stories. Program funding for this project was provided by the BC Arts Council.



Flashcard samples by Lydia Prince.



YOUTH PROGRAM RECONNECTS HAIDA GWAII'S YOUTH WITH THEIR HERITAGE, CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

On the northwest coast of Haida Gwaii, the Rediscovery T'aalan Stl'ang Haida Gwaii Society has been working since 1978 to reinforce mental well-being and support positive self-esteem through cultural teachings.

The society offers opportunities such as family camps and Xaad kil language immersion and culture camps, as well as annual programs for youth. Program participants learn about forest and ocean appreciation, Haida heritage, language, land stewardship and cultural values from Haida Elders, Knowledge Keepers and staff.

Located in beautiful T'aalan Stl'ang, the "Beach that Has Everything," is a youth program working to reconnect Haida Gwaii's youth with their heritage, culture and Xaad Kil language.

Heritage Toolkit

The Heritage Toolkit provides information and resources for Indigenous communities, nations and organizations interested in learning about Indigenous Cultural Heritage and the types of work involved in protecting, revitalizing and celebrating it. Visit fpcc.ca/toolkits.

Supported by FPCC's Heritage Program, project participants receive traditional knowledge from Elders and Knowledge

Keepers that covers a diverse array of teachings. These include cedar or spruce root weaving, language practices, songs, dances, storytelling, harvesting and food gathering. Furthermore, youth are actively engaged in learning Haida form-line design, painting and beading.

"The significance of this type of work lies in its ability to foster meaningful connections between generations and to preserve cultural heritage. The incorporation of mentorship, apprenticeship and inter-generational learning opportunities ensures the transmission of valuable knowledge from Elders and Knowledge Keepers to the youth. Ultimately, the work aims to create a ripple effect, inspiring ongoing inter-generational learning and fostering a strong sense of cultural continuity." – Gabriel Serdult, Director of Operations

Building skills with Haida youth and their families supports the

society's mission to strengthen the connections between the Haida culture and the natural world. These connections build positive opportunities for youth, Elders and families to share knowledge, language and respect for the land, waters and themselves.

FPCC is honoured to support the Rediscovery Society and Haida Nation in their passionate efforts to connect youth to their cultural heritage and language. For more information on FPCC Heritage programs, please visit fpcc.ca/heritage.

As a part of FPCC's Heritage Program, the Braided Knowledge Grant supports B.C. First Nations revitalization projects that connect arts, language, heritage and culture.

This grant is supported by the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation through the B.C. Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.



Camp participants, provided by Gabriel Serdult.

FPCC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



FPCC staff and language revitalization training participants from the Nedut'en/Witsuwit'en, Gitsenimx, S'halgyax and Nisga'a speaking communities in Kispix, B.C.



Arts workshop at the FPCC Arts Retreat. (L-R) Kelsey Fitzgerald and Edzi'u, FPCC Arts Retreat participants.



Nsyilxcən Mentor-Apprentice Program team Athena Bonneau and laḵlaḵtkw Jannette Armstrong at a MAP training session.



FPCC Language Programs Training co-hosted with the Scw'xwmx Tribal Council, Merritt, B.C.



Gitmaxmakay Nisga'a Cultural Dancers featuring Sim'oogit Naaws Ron Nyce (left) at the Language Programs Training in Prince Rupert, B.C.



FPCC CEO Tracey Herbert with musician Russell Wallace at the 2024 FPCC AGM.



Kym Gouchie at the FPCC Heritage Repatriation Forum.



FPCC Heritage Repatriation Forum, presentation on the Tse'k'wa repatriation project. (L-R) Diane Dejarlais, Alyssa Currie and Laura Webb.



Menásta ti Snewiyelh Texwta7 ti Smén7hem – The Beating Drum of the Unborn History, Dance Group, Skw'xwú7mesh Úxwumixw, at the FPCC AGM.



(L-R) FPCC staff Anna Socha, Cindy Charleyboy and Peter Underwood with facilitator Jaskwaan Amanda Bedard at a 2024 Mentor-Apprentice training session.

Sign up for FPCC news! Join our email list to receive email updates on grants, resources, special projects, contests and more. Visit fpcc.ca/signup.

HERITAGE PROGRAM EXPLORES THE ROCK ART OF KANAKA BAR, ǀǂǂǂǂǂǂǂǂǂ, T'EQT'AQTN

The ǀǂǂǂǂǂǂǂǂǂ Braided Knowledge project connects community members with the opportunity to visit and connect with sacred rock art sites. This research project supports the protection of these important spaces and gives insights into the ski?siye?- ancestors – who left their mark on this land.

From groves of old growth ponderosa pine to Douglas fir meadows, the land of ǀǂǂǂǂǂǂǂǂǂ, also known as the lands surrounding Kanaka Bar, is an area of unique ecosystems not seen anywhere else. In April 2024, a group of community members and researchers spent a week hiking to each of the pictographs and petroglyphs in the area. As cíycetq'ú? Mary-Jo Michell, the Lands and Culture Coordinator, explains, “these are often really special places.”

This project, funded by the Heritage Program’s Braided

Knowledge grant, began with the desire for community members to have the opportunity to visit these sites on a week-long excursion. The immersive week included many observations and a lot of learning.

“We’ve noted that all of the cupule sites, for example, are at fishing spots, which are near larger populations.” The fact that we kept finding more petroglyphs near this old village site on the other side of the river as well – so many of them, all over, speaks to just how many people were in this place and how significant it was... Understanding that this was such a huge centre of activities, hundreds if not thousands of people lived right here.” – nxʷesitnew’t Sean O’Rourke, Director for Lands and Culture

Visiting these sites, learning more about them, recording

their locations and sharing the knowledge and teachings with the community has had a deep impact on everyone involved in this project.

Heritage Resource: New Museum Policy Report

The New National Museum Policy – Position Paper presents the collective position of the FPCC and the British Columbia Museums Association on the urgent need for a new national museum policy that centres on Indigenous rights and autonomy.

For more information, please visit fpcc.ca/nmpp.

“If you realize my ancestors stood here in this exact spot and now, here I am, it’s almost life shifting. We were here, we’re still here and we’re going to stay here.” – cíycetq'ú? Mary-Jo Michel, Lands and Culture Coordinator

The Braided Knowledge grant is supported by the First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation through the B.C. Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. For more information on FPCC Heritage programs, please visit fpcc.ca/heritage.

To read the full story, please visit fpcc.ca/stories.



Smiling faces of the ǀǂǂǂǂǂǂǂǂǂ Braided Knowledge project group on a site visit.

MUSIC PROGRAM SUPPORTS PROFESSIONAL MUSIC PRODUCTION AND ELLSCRIV ALBUM LAUNCH

Lorissa Scriven, performing as Ellescriv, is an alt-folk songwriter from Saulteau First Nation who grew up in the pines of northwest B.C. She received funding through the FPCC’s Music Program to create, produce and roll out the new Ellscriv album, *Wandering the Pine*.

As a little girl, she’d sing for a grove of pines behind her house, and she was wandering them again this spring, gathering moss and pinecones to decorate for her sold-out album release party on June 1st at Cameron Lake Outdoor Education Centre near Hudson’s Hope, B.C. Reflecting her nature-loving spirit, it was not just a stage performance, but a weekend camp-out as well.

The songs of *Wandering the Pine* detail the journey from love lost to love found. “I carried these songs with me as I found my way to my person, and he’s been a big part of shaping these songs into what they are today,” Lorissa says. She’s the singer, guitarist and keyboardist, with her “partner in life and music,” Matt Stanyer, who contributes guitar, bass, drums and background vocals.

As Lorissa grows a life in music, she has been supported by FPCC’s Music Program for the past two years. She is a past participant in the Virtual Performance Pilot 2020–21, Indigifest 2021, the Music Retreat 2022 and the Festival Program Pilot 2023.

With funding from the Creation and Sharing option available for individual artists in FPCC’s Music Program, Lorissa hired industry professionals to work with her through all the stages of her new album – from pre-production to recording, mixing and marketing.

“I don’t know if I would still be doing this type of work if it wasn’t for FPCC’s support. This support has changed my life and connected me to so many opportunities in an area I was finding difficult to navigate on my own.” – Lorissa Scriven

The Music Program, part of the FPCC Arts Program, supports the development of B.C. First Nations music creatives and professionals living in B.C. through grants and training programs. This program, supported by Creative BC and the First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation, offers three areas of funding for artists, recording engineers and music industry professionals. For more information on the program, please visit www.fpcc.ca/music.



Check Out FPCC’s Playlist



Discover the iconic sounds of B.C. First Nations artists with this curated playlist, featuring tracks from talented musicians supported by FPCC. Visit Spotify.com and search for the First Peoples’ Cultural Council.

I? SCQWA?QW?ALTƏT, I? SCMA?MAYTƏT, "OUR VOICES, OUR STORIES" FPCC ARTS RETREAT

FPCC supports B.C. First Nations artists at all stages of their careers. As part of our ongoing efforts to connect artists with mentors, last spring we hosted i? scqwa?qw?altət, i? scma?maytət – Our Voices, Our Stories (in Nsyilxcn) at the En'owkin Centre in Syilx Okanagan territory.

The retreat was built on the foundation of previous music-focused retreats, but it has expanded to welcome artists of all disciplines. The multi-disciplinary retreat gathered 20 B.C. First Nations artists from across the province. Participants exchanged cultural knowledge, learned from mentors, connected with their peers, developed professional skills and shared their artistic talents and practices while gaining a sense of place on the land.

The participants included Arts Program applicants and recipients, many of whom are actively involved in other FPCC-funded arts, language and heritage projects. The retreat provided them with an

opportunity to nurture their creative spirits, network with others in their unique fields and develop their professional talents.

The retreat included a welcome feast, creative workshops, professional development sessions, a private community film screening of *SGaawaay K'uuna (Edge of the Knife)* and a private artists show and share at a popular local venue, the Dream Café.

"My experience at the Arts Retreat has been really amazing. It's allowed me to take a pause from a lot of the project work that I do and put some energy, care and love into where I'm at as a creative individual." – Participant feedback

The FPCC Arts Program supports B.C. First Nations artists working in ancestral and contemporary arts by delivering grants, workshops and programs in their respective activities and by facilitating knowledge transfer, training



Sheri Marie Ptolemy, Samahquam Nation, retreat participant.

and professional development. Events such as the Arts Retreat influence the development of future FPCC Arts programs to meet the unique needs of the artists from these lands.

"It was an honour for the FPCC Arts Program team to clear a path for this unique and powerful experience for B.C. First Nations artists. Lu holtga gagoodm – our hearts are full." – Arlene Deptuck.

For more information on FPCC Arts grants and programs, please visit fpcc.ca/arts.



Participants, mentors and staff at the 2024 FPCC Arts Retreat.

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW FPCC BOARD CHAIR, KWITELUT CARLA GEORGE

In 2024 we welcomed our new FPCC Board Chair, Carla George, Kwitelut i Kwelaw'ikw, Xa'nusa'mega. Kwitelut is a Skwxwu7mesh and Kwakiutl woman. She has lived and worked with her Skwxwu7mesh community for many years, working with children, youth, Elders and in the leadership of various Skwxwu7mesh councils over the past four terms.

Kwitelut was previously engaged in FPCC leadership through her role on the FPCC Advisory Committee. She brought community-focused ideas and issues to the attention of FPCC while advising her community on FPCC programs, research and advocacy.

When reflecting on her new position and the leadership role it comes with, Kwitelut praises the work of those around her and those who came before her at FPCC.

"I am just really grateful to have the opportunity to be the Board Chair for the First Peoples' Cultural Council. I am grateful that Tracey (FPCC CEO) has such great

leadership and has been here for 20 years, for the many Board members for their contributions and the great staff that are doing the work on the ground level." – Carla George, Kwitelut i Kwelaw'ikw, Xa'nusa'mega

Kwitelut has big hopes for FPCC and the future of First Nations languages, arts and cultural revitalization in B.C. She finds it especially empowering to see the next generation engaged in language, arts and cultural revitalization, including families who are supported from the early years in language nests through to post-secondary education.

"When I think about the work happening through FPCC and the many communities that are accessing the funds, doing whatever they can to revitalize their culture, their language, arts or music, it is so empowering for each individual community. When we gather, we feel the presence and connection to all our ancestors."

Together, as we look towards the work ahead, we raise our hands to Kwitelut for her dedication,

service and commitment to FPCC and the communities she serves and welcome her in this new role as Board Chair.

The Board of Directors' mandate is to govern FPCC's operations by setting direction and policy, providing leadership to FPCC and advocating on behalf of members.

Learn more about joining FPCC leadership at fpcc.ca/about-us/governance.



Carla George, Kwitelut i Kwelaw'ikw, Xa'nusa'mega. FPCC Board Chair.

Are you looking for ways to support First Nations cultural revitalization?

FPCC is supported by our key partner, the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, an Indigenous-led registered charity that funds many of our programs and initiatives. 100% of their donors' contributions go towards FPCC programming to support B.C. First Nations language, arts and cultural heritage revitalization. To learn more, visit fpcc.ca.

HÍSWŪŪE (THANK YOU) TO FPCC'S BOARD AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE








The Board and Advisory Committee are pictured here at the 2024 FPCC Annual General Meeting in Vancouver, B.C. The AGM brings together FPCC Board and Advisory Committee members, FPCC staff and program participants to review the year's achievements and plan for the future. We celebrate our honoured Board and Advisory Committee for their dedication and support.

Thank You to the Outgoing Board Chair and Vice Chair

We would like to acknowledge FPCC Board Members Carla Lewis (Chair) and Málágius Gerald Lawson (Vice Chair) for their years of service. When they were on FPCC's Board, Carla and Gerald contributed immensely to First Nations language, arts and cultural heritage revitalization in B.C.



First Peoples' News

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The First Peoples' Cultural Council is grateful to have our home in the beautiful traditional unceded territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ Nation people, in the village of W̱JŌŁŁP. We have an additional satellite office at Tk'emlups, within the traditional territory of the Secwepemc people.

We gratefully acknowledge the funders whose financial support has contributed to our success. Please visit our funding partners page on the website to see the full list: fpcc.ca/funding.