FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL

Part 1: Revitalizing First Nations Languages, Arts, Cultures and Heritage

Presented by: Magie-Mae Adams, and Glenn Jim

Outline

- Introduction to First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Overview of Program Strategies
- Strategic Integration of Community Language, Arts, Cultures and Heritage

FPCC Overview

Organizational Vision

First Nations languages, arts, cultures and heritage in B.C. are thriving. The knowledge and worldviews expressed through First Nations languages, arts, cultures and heritage are valued as essential to our collective well-being and human rights.

Current Context

20+ funding streams supporting community-led projects for:

- **204** First Nations
- **34** languages & **90+** varieties
- Indigenous artists & arts & heritage organizations

Value Creation

- Training and professional development
- Coaching and mentorship
- Networking and engagement
- Resources and tools
- Research and advocacy
- Job creation in communities

BC Organizations Supporting First Nation Languages

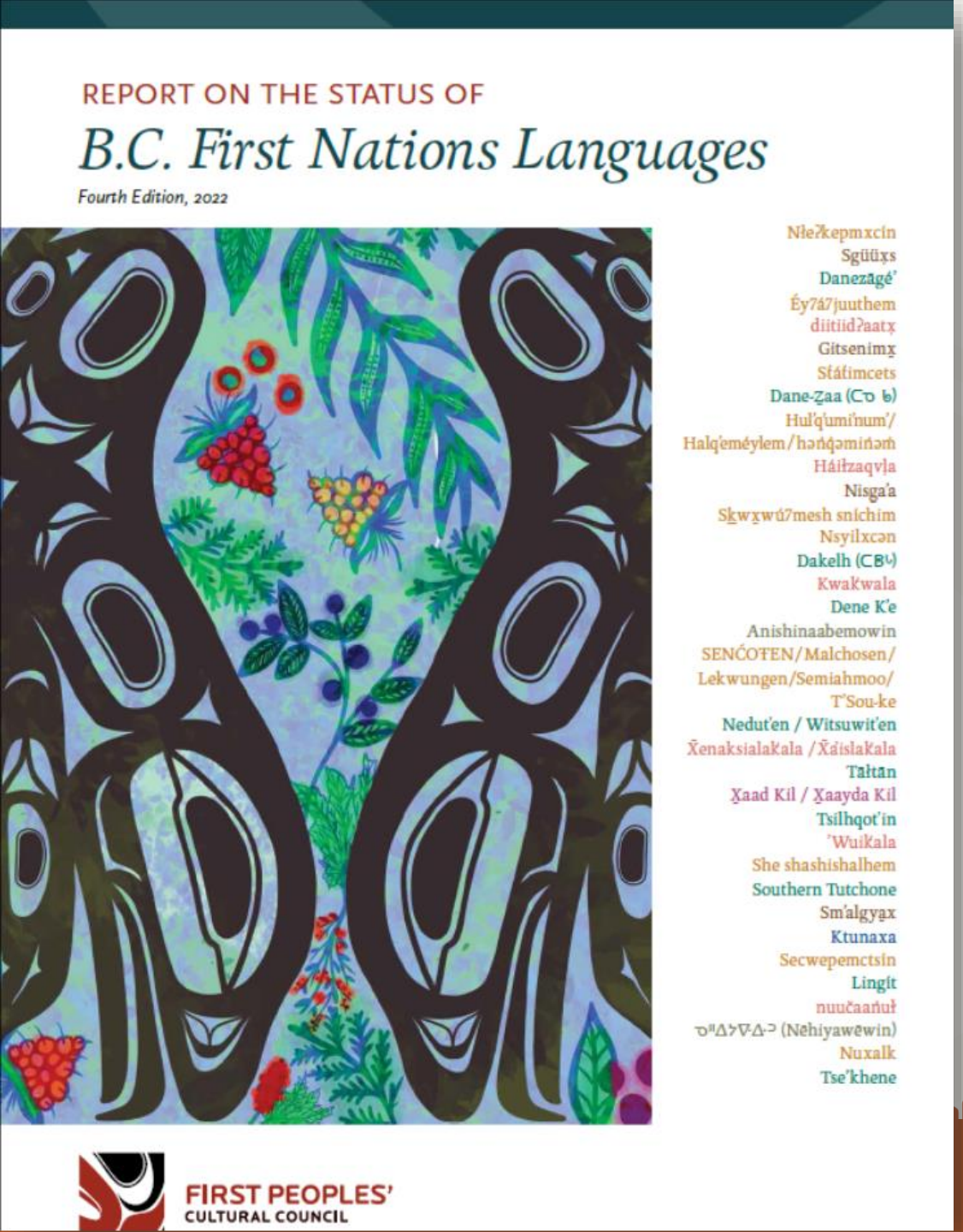
First Nations Education Steering Committee

- Supports First Nation students
- Advances First Nations education in BC
  - Kindergarten to Grade 12
  - Post-Secondary

First Peoples' Cultural Council

- Supports community-based revitalization of First Nation language, arts, and heritage
- This includes:
  - Pre-school
  - After-school
  - Adults of all ages

Language



What are assessments used for?

- Can be used as an advocacy tool
- Can be used to educate the general public
- Can be used to support the community mobilization
- Important for our individual indigeneity to see the reclamation taking place

Language Program Strategies

- Language Technology Program
- Language Revitalization Planning Program

"Another success … is the tremendous untapped potential for connecting our language assets with learners."

- Doig River FN FirstVoices team

Immersion Programing

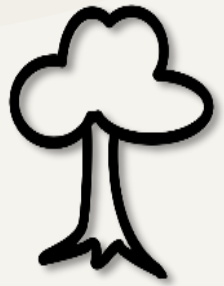
- Mentor-Apprentice Program
- Youth Empowered Speakers
- Reclaiming My Language

"Learning the language has been a dream of mine for many years but I never knew how to make that dream into a reality."

- YES Apprentice

Open-Strategy Program

- Pathways to Language Vitality



Example of eligible community-led projects:

- Adult language immersion programs
- Language Nests
- Language documentation
- Resource and materials development

Arts

Arts Programs

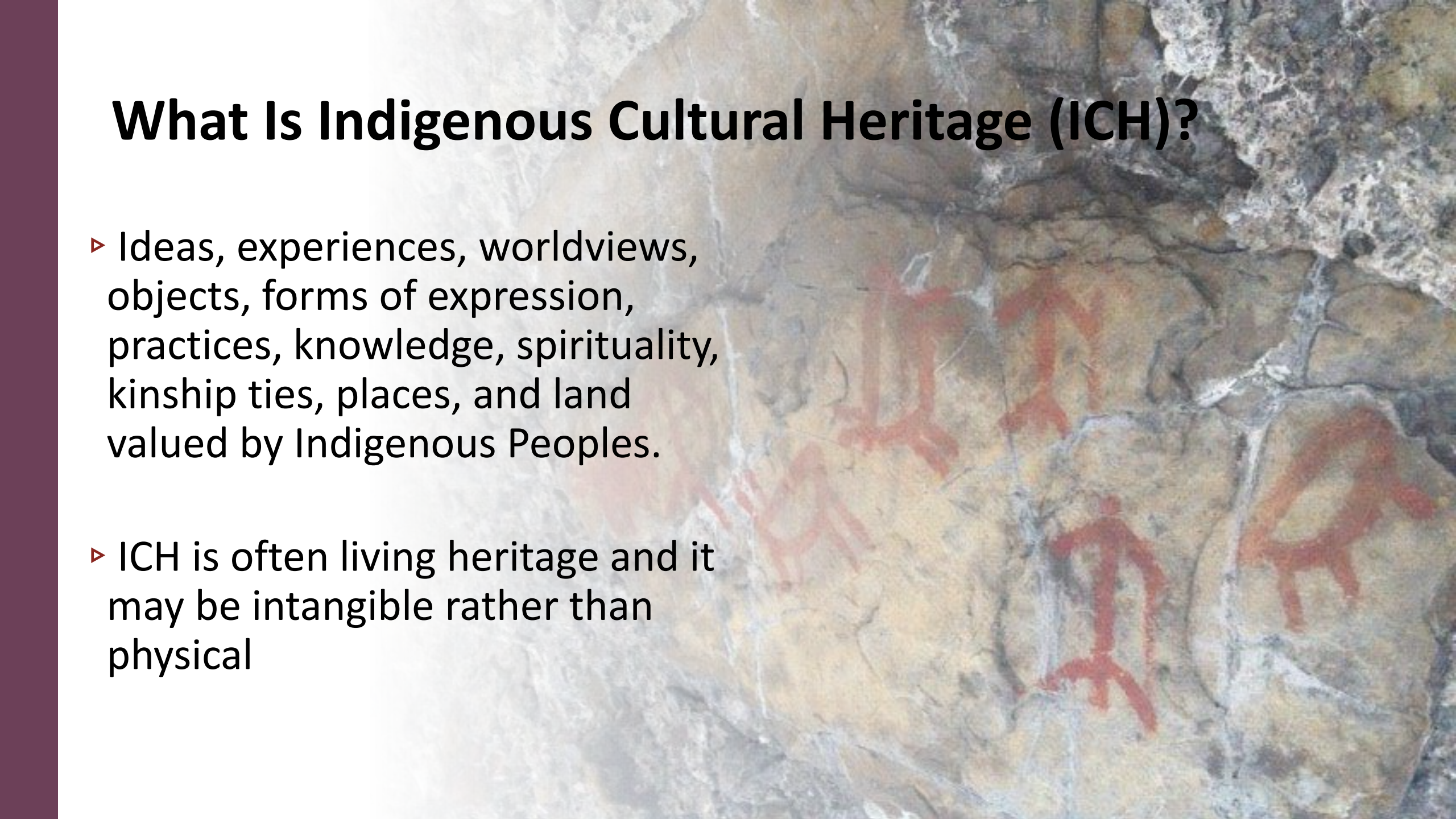
- Organizations & Collectives
- Individual Artist Basket
- Indigenous Music Basket

Heritage

What Is Indigenous Cultural Heritage (ICH)?

- Ideas, experiences, worldviews, objects, forms of expression, practices, knowledge, spirituality, kinship ties, places, and land valued by Indigenous Peoples.

- ICH is often living heritage and it may be intangible rather than physical



Heritage Program Strategies

- Expression Of Interest: Repatriation of Ancestors And Cultural Treasures
- Braided Knowledge Grant
- Heritage Stewardship Program
- Heritage Infrastructure Program

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Part 2: Strategic Integration of Languages, Arts, Cultures and Heritage

Presented by: Magie-Mae Adams, and Glenn Jim

How do we make *projects* within Arts, Language, and Heritage sustainable for us or for future generations?

Sustainability for First Nation Language, Arts and Heritage –
A Wholistic Approach: Differentiating Revitalization and Reclamation

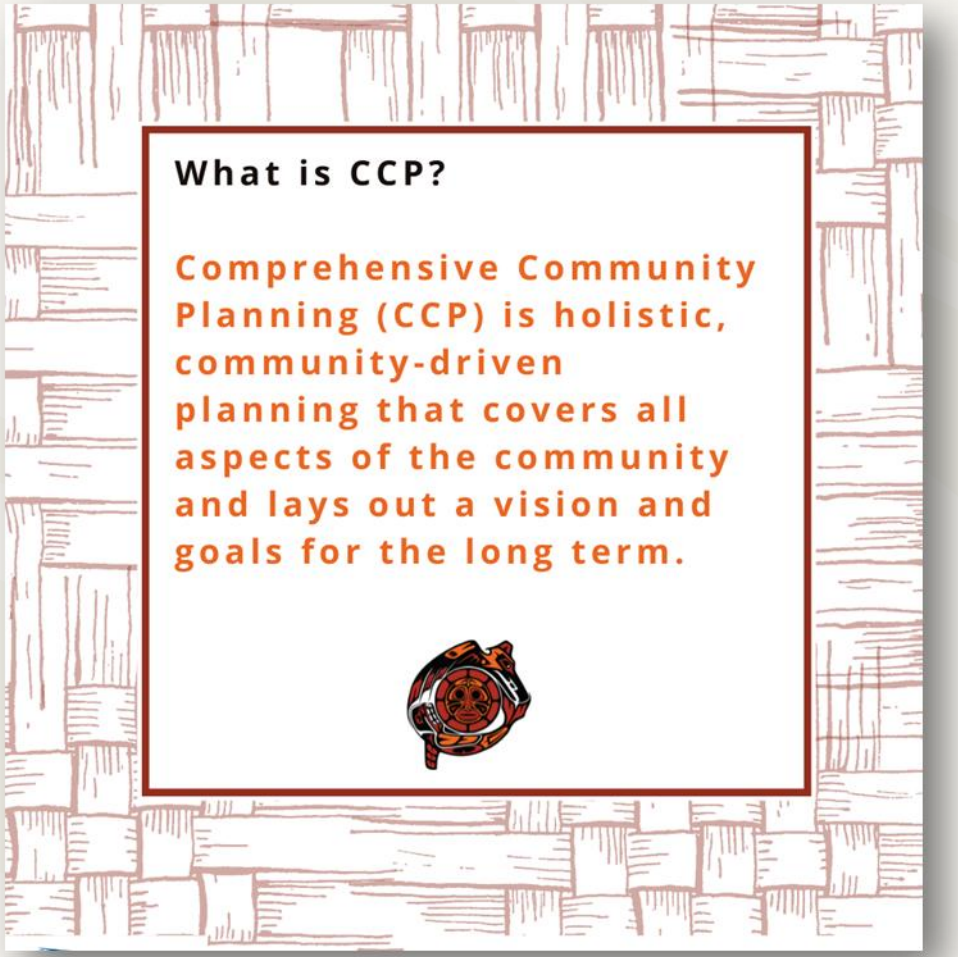
Revitalization as:

"Breathing new life into the language [arts and heritage]…increasing the number of speakers, increasing the domains in which the language [arts and heritage are] used, and promoting intergenerational transmission."
(Leonard 2011: 141)

Reclamation as:

"A much larger social process of claiming—or reclaiming—the appropriate cultural context and sense of value that the language [arts and heritage] would likely have always had if not for colonization." (ibid.)

Leonard, Wesley Y. 2011. Challenging "Extinction" through Modern Miami Language Practices. American Indian Culture and Research Journal 35(2): 135-160.



Is cultural revitalization listed as a strategic priority?

Within a:

- Comprehensive Community Plan
- Land Use Plan
- Economic Development Plan
- Education Plan
- Language and Culture Plan
- Health and Wellness Plans, etc.

Strategic Planning for Revitalization of Language, Arts and Heritage

Shift communities from the ***'standard approach'*** of siloed projects, and reacting to language, arts, and heritage loss…

…to an **integrated plan-based model** of proactively building a future for the vitality of these areas.

Why Strategic Planning?

- ✓Outcomes
- ✓Costs
- ✓Expertise
- ✓Advocacy
- ✓Implementation

Standard Approach vs. Wholistic Approach

The ‘standard approach’

- ×Decision making
- ×Development agenda
- ×Development
- ×Indigenous culture
- ×Resources

A wholistic approach

- ✓Self-determination
- ✓Systems approach
- ✓Cultural context
- ✓Strategic orientation
- ✓Community mobilization

Self-Determination

Syilx Okanagan Language Declaration

"We, the *Syilx Okanagan* Peoples have spoken our nsyilxcən language since time immemorial, and we are responsible for the protection, revitalization and advancement of our nsyilxcən language."

– excerpt from the Syilx Okanagan Language Declaration

Those who have been able to assert decision-making control have significantly increased their chances of sustainable development.

Governance - *Systems Approach to Strengthening Capacity*

Standard Approach

Project

- Space
- Knowledge Holder
- Materials
- Orientation
- Schedule/timeline

Wholistic Approach

Cultural Context

- Grounded in Culture and Tradition
- Incorporating values that are important to community can help guide the work

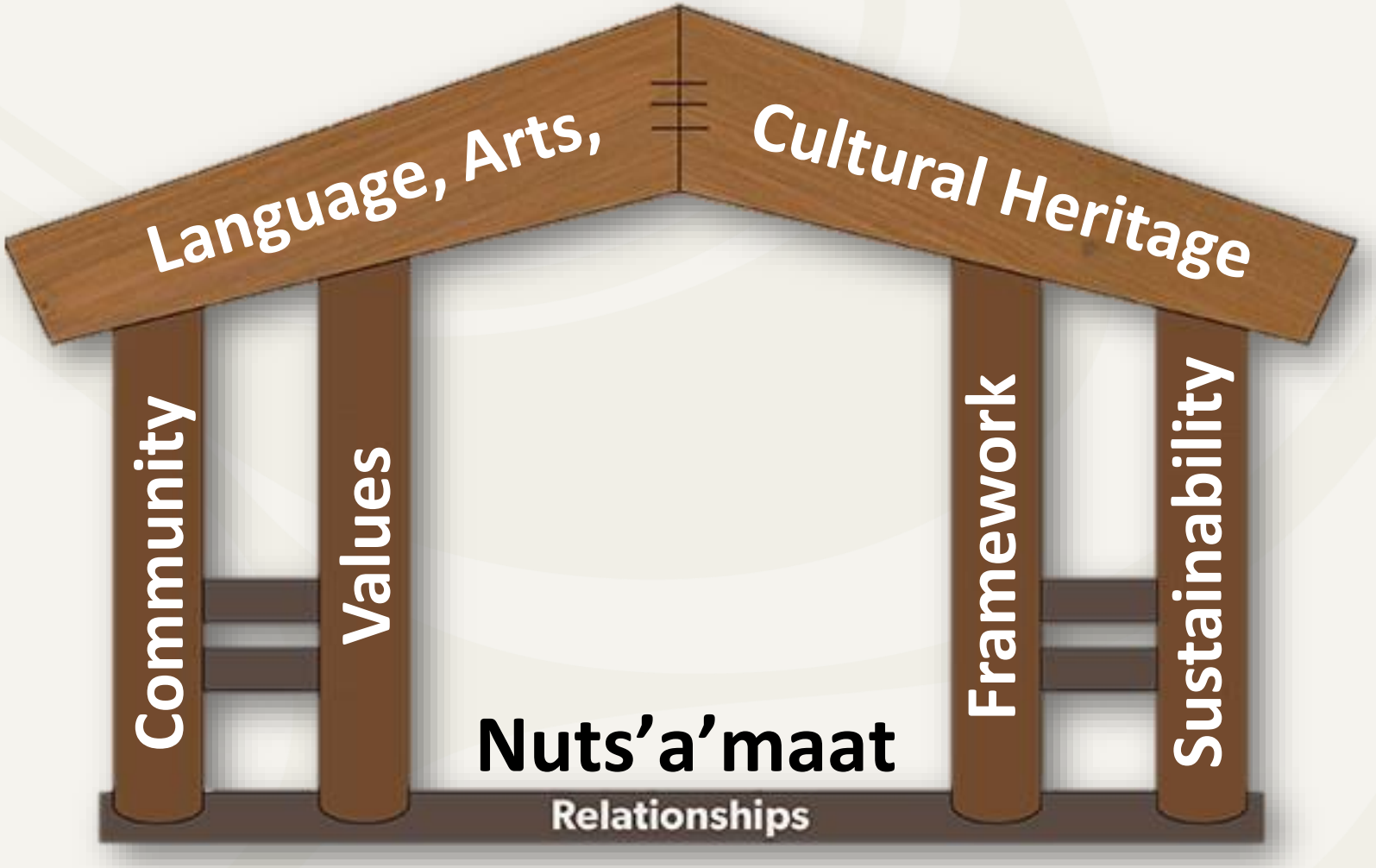
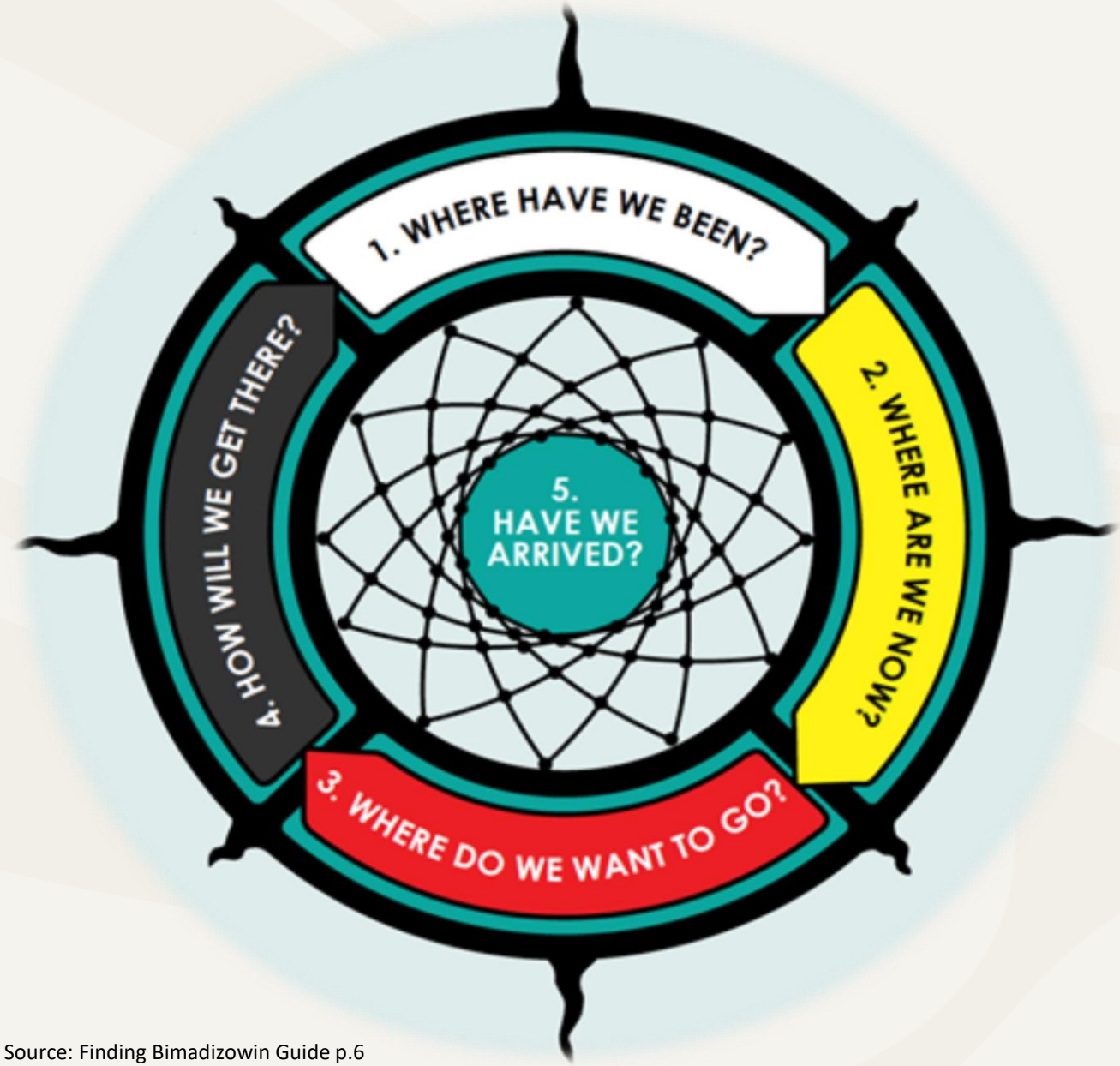


Image credit: Camosun College, https://camosun.ca/indigenization-four-corner-post-model



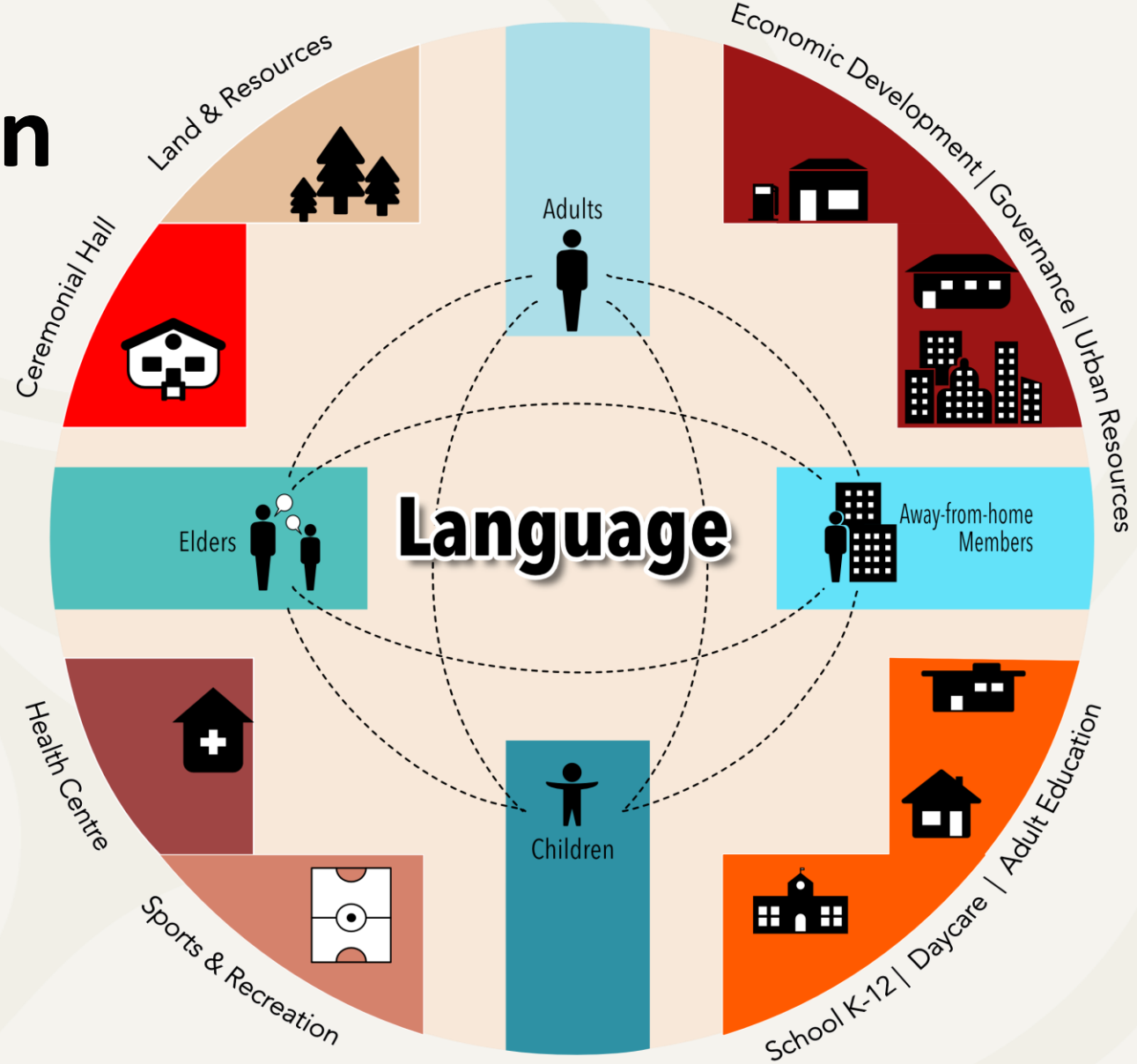
Strategic Orientation

Empowers community to focus on the strategic decision-making, and long-term vision of the Indigenous language, arts heritage.

Image Source: Finding Bimadizowin Guide p.6

Community Mobilization

- Language, arts & heritage across all domains
- Mobilize the community towards the reclamation of their Indigenous language, arts heritage



Planning for Cultural Revitalization

Status Assessment	Community Mobilization	Research
Connect with FPCC	**Knowledge Holders & Speakers**	Identify Goals
Leadership Advocacy	Integrate Cultural Revitalization	Strategic Planning

Cultural Revitalization should be viewed as a continuous process without a final stopping point.

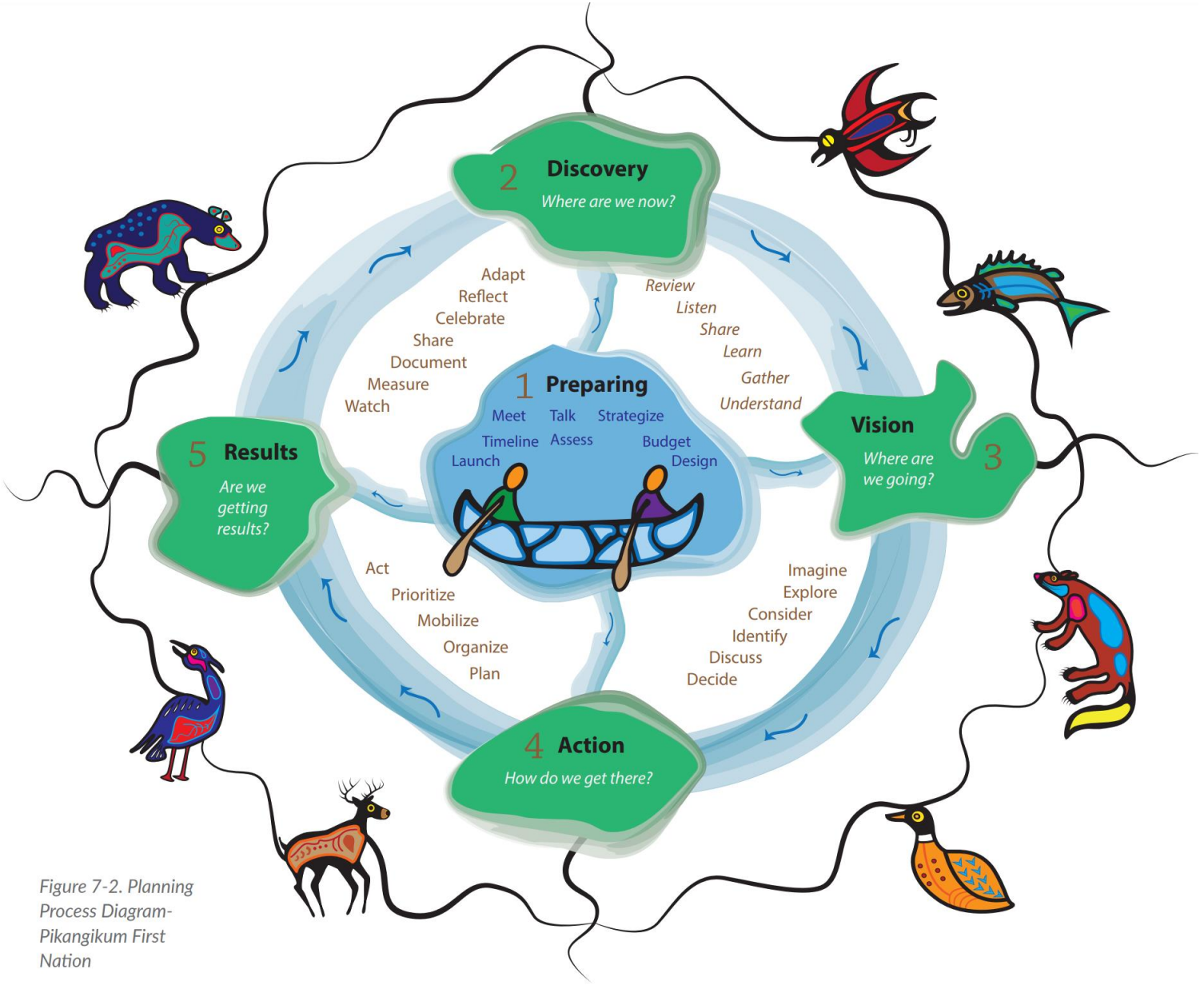


Figure 7-2. Planning Process Diagram- Pikangikum First Nation

Next Steps

Leadership / Administrators

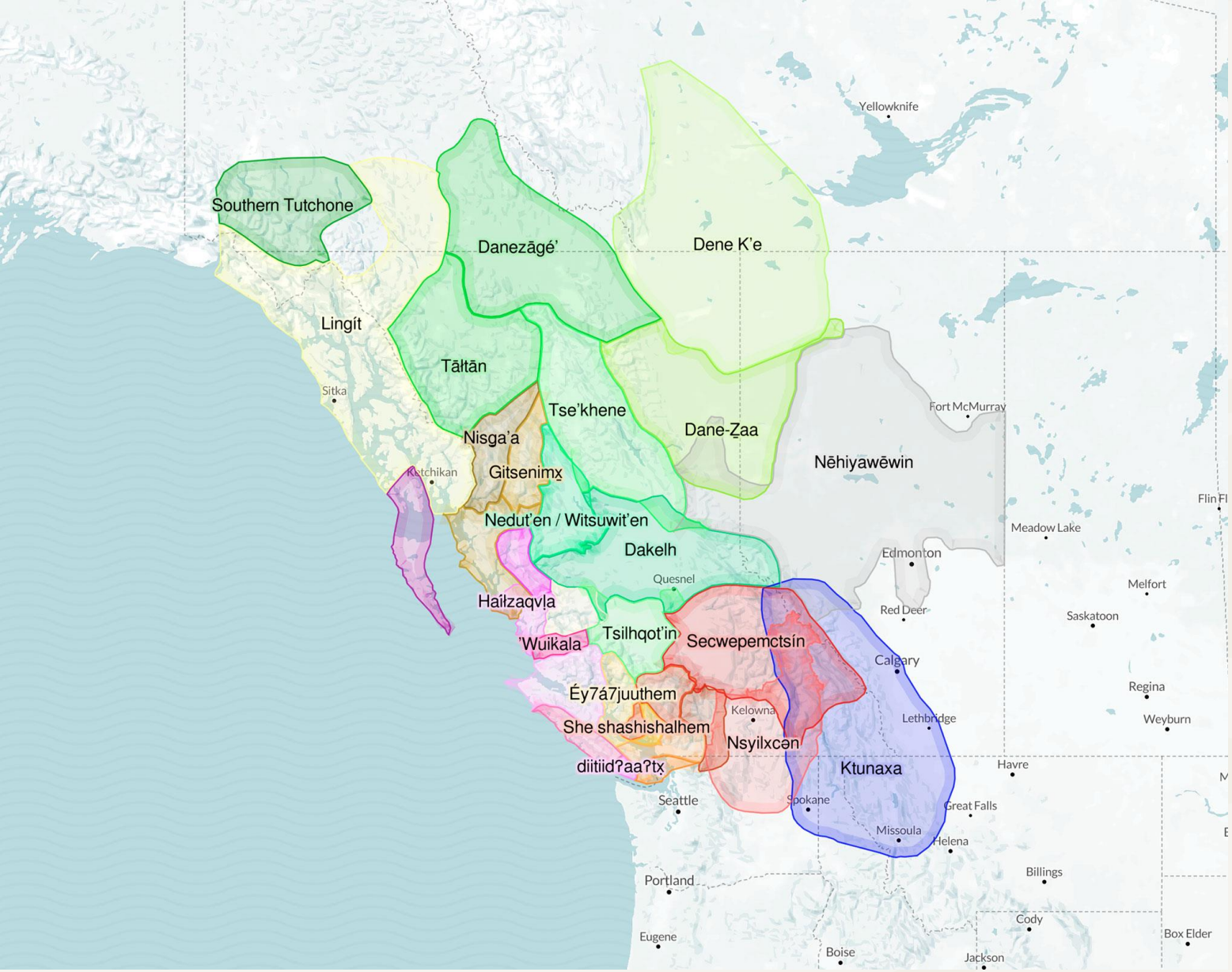
Leadership Advocacy	Identify Community Champions
Band Council Resolution	Create Advisory Committee
Declaration for Cultural Revitalization	Connect w/ FPCC
Cultural Revitalization Department	Invest in Human Capacity

Further Learning on Strategic Cultural Revitalization!

Reflections on Strategic Integration

- Authentic Indigenous histories need to be told in Indigenous voices; that's how we will move forward
- First Nations language, arts, cultures and heritage are interwoven; support is needed across all sectors
- Indigenous cultural heritage in Canada is integral to UNDRIP
- Critical for the health and wellness of Indigenous people

Dialogue, Questions, Responses



Knowledge Sharing, Locally & Globally

First Peoples' Map of BC

maps.fpcc.ca

FirstVoices

firstvoices.com

Contact Information & Resources

General: info@fpcc.ca

FPCC Website: fpcc.ca
Sign up for News: fpcc.ca/signup

FPCC Grant Portal: fpcc.ca/login

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Resources

- FirstVoices – www.firstvoices.com
- First Peoples' Map of BC – www.maps.fpcc.ca
- FPCC Language Planning Toolkit – https://language-toolkit.fpcc.ca/

References

- Cornell and Kalt (2007). Two Approaches to the Development of Native Nations One Works, the Other Doesn't. Rebuilding Native Nations: Strategies for Governance and Development, Chapter 1, pages 1-33
- Gessner and Parker (2021). Language Planning: Planning a Future for Your Language, https://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/SILL/SILL9.pdf
- Native Nation Institute, University of Arizona (2021). What is Native Nation Building? https://nni.arizona.edu/what-native-nation-building
- Okanagan Nation Alliance (2021). Syilx Okanagan Language Declaration, https://www.syilx.org/about-us/syilx-nation/4918-2/