

# Update: Cree Initiative



### Recent Progress:

- The very first Scriptures to be published by the new Oji-Cree translation project have been completed and are being used in the church at Kingfisher Lake.
- In the past quarter, work was done on the new Oji-Cree translation of Mark and Luke.
- Spring 2018 Update from the Cree Initiative.

- For the Naskapi language, 2,215 verses were team-checked. Psalms and The Book of Bible Promises were reviewed and corrected and both are ready for publication.
- The Swampy Cree project now has full-time translation facilitators on-site in northern Manitoba.



### Stories of impact:

#### Oji-Cree community commits to Scripture engagement—in the midst of a disaster

During the Kingfisher Lake vacation Bible school Scripture engagement event, the community lost access to drinking water, sewage treatment and regular access to groceries. The team and the community carried on the vacation Bible school despite these great difficulties.

At the end of the week, the host Bishop Lydia Mamakwa shared a meaningful allegory that reflected the astounding and admirable priorities held by many community members. She pointed out how the local and regional government quickly reacted to, and addressed, the emergency situation in the community—and rightfully so! But she urged her people to consider that, in the broad scheme of things, the community was right to also not neglect the spiritual (John 4:12) by continuing the vacation Bible school during a time of crisis.

### Pray for your people:



- Lord, we **pray** for healing for Bill, the project manager, as he recovers from an accident with a chainsaw. Please be with his wife Norma Jean as she supports him in his recovery, and continue to bless the language project, even while Bill is out of commission.
- Lord, we **pray** that you would guide the potential intern who might be working with the Naskapi speakers. We also **pray** for the students that showed interest in serving with this initiative; please bring the right people together.
- We **pray** for Matthew and Caitlin Windsor as they have just had their second child. Please enable good progress to be made completing the Naskapi books of Exodus, Psalms and The Book of Bible Promises. Please equip and unite the team as they work.
- Dear God, we **pray** for the Kingfisher Lake team. Give them success and let Your Word speak to the hearts of those who read it.



### Current Goals:

- Print all the Naskapi portions of the Old testament, and make them accessible.
- Build capacity in the Naskapi, Oji-Cree, and Swampy Cree communities for Bible translation and Scripture engagement.
- Hold a week-long mother-tongue translators training session and a Scripture engagement workshop in Guelph, Ontario, this April.
- Prepare and host consultant-checking workshops at the Kingfisher Lake Oji-Cree and Kawawachikamach Naskapi communities.

- Explore the need for translated Scriptures in Swampy Cree
- Train and support local Swampy Cree translation staff
- Help develop Swampy Cree language resources, such as their school staff and Swampy Cree curriculum.
- Publish one book of all completed Oji-Cree Scriptures, to be used in church services.
- Continue translating in the New Testament into Oji-Cree, and training translation staff.
- Help to develop Oji-Cree language resources, such as their dictionary and Oji-Cree curriculum



### Quick Facts:

**Purpose:** Equip local First Nations people as they do Bible translation and promote the use of God's Word in their heart languages.

**Potential population impact:** 100,000 people.

**Number of languages served:** At least five related Cree languages

**Geographic area:** Canada.

**Focus ministry:** Bible translation, language resource development, training of local mother-tongue speakers.

**Start date:** 2015

**Projected end date:** 2024

**Remaining Ministry Year need (to August 2018):** \$80,545



*Thank you for supporting the Cree initiative.*

*The book of Isaiah describes the impact of your involvement:*

*"Yes, grass withers and flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever"*  
Isaiah 40:8 (NIV).

