

Update: Cree Initiative CANADA



Summer 2019

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Progress

- Oji-Cree: The team worked on the book of Mark, a mobile app, and a booklet of Scripture verses to be used in church services.
- Naskapi: The team worked on typesetting and layout for the book of Psalms, and organized workshops on Bible Text and Context, and Biblical Exegesis.
- Eastern Swampy Cree: The team continued discussion about partnership with the All Nations Bible Translators.
- Western Swampy Cree: Wycliffe Canada translators, Martin and Alice Reed, have moved to Northern Manitoba to facilitate the organization and work on this language. They hope to soon begin a series of children's books.
- James Bay Cree: The team continues to dialogue with local leaders in order to hold a translation workshop.
- Woods Cree, Plains Cree, Northern Alberta Cree: Progress was made on the "Creetalker" project, which aims to create recordings of the 1862 Western Cree Bible. Recordings of the New Testament are nearly complete.

Stories of Impact Testimonies from the Oji-Cree

During a church service, respected Christians took the microphone to give testimonies about what God is doing in their lives. One young woman shared how she was rediscovering her faith, and working to serve her community through the local church. She is also making a renewed effort to speak her language, Oji-Cree. She encouraged the children in the crowd to make use of their language, and to fight against losing it.

Testimonies like these are always given in their heart language because language issues and spirituality are tightly connected for the Oji-Cree people. Matthew Windsor, a Wycliffe staff member working with the Oji-Cree, explains, "This is why we are supporting their efforts to bring the Bible into their own language—so they can follow Jesus as God created them, as Oji-Cree people." It is encouraging to hear community members excited about this work.

Even outside of church, people are excited about this work. When Matthew spoke on the community radio about the translation project, people called in with questions. One listener asked, "Why aren't we using this translation more on the radio? I can't understand the Cree Bible, but I can understand the Oji-Cree version when I hear it." Another caller asked, "Why can't we just do some fundraising to hire more translators?"

Pray with us

- We thank you Holy Spirit, for moving among these Cree peoples, and helping them bring the Word of God to their communities in their language.
- Dear God, we ask that you provide for these Cree language groups. Please bring in new Oji-Cree Mother Tongue translators, and provide the computer equipment that the Naskapi team needs to translate your Word. Please meet the health and childcare needs of the Naskapi team, so they can continue to pour their energy into this important work. Create a hunger and thirst in all Cree language groups to want God's Word and to work toward providing it in their own language. Amen.

Quick facts

Potential population impacted
100,000

Number of languages
At least five related Cree languages

Focus ministry
Bible translation, training

Geographic area
Canada

Timeline
2012-2024

Current Goals

- Oji-Cree: Publish portions of Scripture; help create Oji-Cree language development resources.
- Naskapi: Create an online Interactive Language Course that will help with literacy and provide training.
- Western Swampy Cree: Continue developing relationships with local leaders as well as building capacity in the church to identify and train translators.
- Other Cree languages: Continue ongoing initiatives as mentioned above.

Thank you for supporting the Cree Initiative. You are helping Cree people translate the Word of God into the language that speaks to their hearts. We hope you are encouraged by the impact of your gift.



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