



CREE INITIATIVE | Canada

SUMMER 2024 UPDATE

Team member Marianne sets up a beautiful display at a community gathering with Naskapi language materials and translated Scriptures. (L) A Naskapi speaker, Daniel, reviews the first draft of the book of Daniel. Please pray for forward progress with Bible translation and checks! (R)

*Pseudonyms used



STORIES OF IMPACT

An opportunity to share about Bible translation

This past quarter, Oji-Cree translator and team member Yvonne was invited to speak about her work in the Cree Initiative at the Bible Translation Conference, a global forum about Scripture translation. What an opportunity! Yvonne shared about her desire for her community to be able to understand the Word of God in their own language. She explained:

"We are just trying to get the word out there for young people [about] having a better understanding of the Bible in Oji-Cree. Bible translation helps us to understand the meaning—the true meaning—of what the Word is trying to say to us."

We thank God for Yvonne's presentation and her faithful involvement in Indigenous-led Bible translation in Canada. Join us in praying that her words from this presentation would lead many individuals to support and pray for translation work among Cree people.

A young woman's growing faith

This summer, Wycliffe member Caitlin Windsor started meeting with a young Oji-Cree woman, Lena*, in the Kingfisher Lake community. Lena reached out after realizing that the last time she ever felt right and happy was as a little girl, going to church with her grandmother.

This woman has had a hard life. Yet, she seems to have a real desire to read God's Word and earnestly seek Him. Together, Caitlin and Lena have read through multiple books of the Bible, while also sharing about their own stories and daily lives.

There is a sense amongst the Oji-Cree team that God is at work in Lena's life. Please pray for this woman and her young family. May these times of fellowship and studying Scripture encourage her to commit herself wholeheartedly to the Lord.



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Published the Epistles of John in Oji-Cree.** Join us in celebrating this great milestone!
- **Improved and shared Oji-Cree audio Scriptures.** John's Epistles and the Gospel of Mark were edited last quarter. It is encouraging to hear that Oji-Cree people are listening to these Scriptures!
- **Published the Oji-Cree prayer book.** Final approvals were given and this resource was formatted and published digitally. We hope it blesses the prayer life of many Oji-Cree speakers.
- **Contributed additional works to the Oji-Cree story collection.** Last quarter alone, 750 photos, 43 journals and 30 cassettes were digitized, and the team translated 10 Oji-Cree cultural texts. These selections are a wonderful way to celebrate the Oji-Cree community's culture and language.
- **Published and dedicated the book of Exodus in Naskapi.** Praise God! The book was finally placed in the hands of people who have waited for so long.
- **Worked on other Old Testament Scriptures in Naskapi.** The first draft of 1 Samuel and chapters 1-15 of 2 Samuel are complete. The book of Judges is in the process of being consultant checked.
- **Expanded Naskapi language development goals.** The involvement of Marianne, the new Naskapi Cultural Development Officer, has been a great help to the team. She is developing goals to promote and celebrate the Naskapi language.
- **Provided training opportunities for translators.** This included training on material digitization for two interns, and a publishing course for another team member.
- **Held a successful Bible translation workshop in Guelph.** This gathering brought together Indigenous Bible translators from different parts of Canada, for mutual learning, encouragement and support.



UPCOMING GOALS

- Recruit new Cree team members to advance Bible translation, literacy and language development efforts.
- Finish reviews and publish the Gospel of John in Oji-Cree. The team check was entirely finished last quarter, and consultant checks are underway.
- Finish editing selections for the Oji-Cree story collection before compiling them for publication. These selections include texts about local history, legends and traditional knowledge.
- Complete the formatting and typesetting of the Naskapi-English dictionary.
- Finish the audio version of the book of Psalms in Naskapi. The next priority is to record and edit Psalms 123-125.
- Make progress on reviews of translated Naskapi Scriptures. This includes team checks for Job Deuteronomy, 1 Samuel, Daniel and Joshua, and consultant checks for Judges. Unfortunately, these steps are on pause due to lack of qualified staff.



PRAY WITH US

- It is with deep sadness that we share that two youth in Kingfisher Lake died by suicide in the past six months. These deaths have deeply shaken the Oji-Cree community. Please pray for those grieving, for crisis workers in the area, and for God's protection over this community.
- For Indigenous youth. May they come to encounter the hope available in Christ.
- For ongoing translation and reviews. May God grant the Cree Initiative teams perseverance.
- That God would raise up new Oji-Cree and Naskapi translation team members who are passionate about God's Word. The current team requires support and the lack of trained personnel has caused delays.
- That God's Word would bring peace, comfort and healing to these communities.