

VIRTUAL & AT HOME LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM IDEAS

There are lots of ideas for language projects that can be implemented while COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions are in place. This document includes **projects you can do while physical distancing, working from home** tips, and **technologies** you can use to stay connected, while working apart.

The health and safety of everyone involved in FPCC programs, communities and especially our Elders, is of the utmost importance to us. All FPCC projects must follow current physical distancing guidelines as stated by the [BC Health Officer](#).¹ In addition, FPCC requires that people currently working on projects have no physical contact with Elders (unless you live in the same house) and no in-person gatherings.

We are here to help! If you need to adjust a project plan to meet these requirements, please contact us! For a complete list of program staff contacts please visit our [Staff](#)² page.

Projects for physical distancing

Here are six types of projects that can be done safely!

1. Complete a Language Resource & Equipment Inventory

An inventory is a list of all the language resources and equipment that you have in your community. The inventory includes details about the type of resource and where it is stored. It allows you to identify what you have, which informs planning decisions. See the PDF hyperlink [\[PDF\]](#)³ for guidelines. When you complete your inventory, consider sharing it with us so we can make it available for others.

Resources and Equipment Inventories that could be considered:

- ☐ Inventory technical resources such as: audio / video recording equipment, computers, laptops, tablets, software, transcribing or digital conversion tools etc.
- ☐ Inventory documents that have been developed for your language such as: classroom materials, books, curricula, websites, CDs, tape or video recordings, etc.
- ☐ Resources that support digitization of existing audio, video and textual language resources: Digitization Equipment List (Recommended) [\[PDF\]](#)⁴, Digitization Technician Job Description Sample [\[PDF\]](#)⁵

Before beginning your program, you must agree to abide by the FPCC Language Programs Guidelines for COVID-19. Please email us at info@fpcc.ca for a copy of the COVID-19 Program Guidelines.

1 <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

2 <https://fpcc.ca/about-us/staff/>

3 https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Creating_an_Inventory.pdf

4 https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Digitization_Equipment_List_2020.pdf

5 https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Digitization_Job_Template_2019.pdf

2. Develop Materials and Resources

During this time of physical distancing, there is a great opportunity to create language learning materials and documentation that can be used by teachers and learners in your community. You probably have lots of ideas for language resources you would like to create.

Documentation can involve a variety of platforms including audio, video, digital and written language documentation. Create resources and materials that can be used to simplify or facilitate instruction and language learning, for example:

- ☐ Develop materials that support the transmission of language and culture and/or lessons for learning the language, for example: Lesson plans, language exercises, games, drills, flash cards, CDs, video tapes, teaching manuals, language books, wordless stories, etc.
- ☐ If you are a language speaker, now is a great time to work on documenting your language. You can record lists of words related to a theme, your favourite stories or songs, cultural teachings or even instructions for household activities like doing laundry or making coffee. These recordings can then be turned into useful language learning resources.
- ☐ If you have cassette tapes with recordings of speakers, you can digitize them to preserve them and make them easier for sharing. The [Digitization Toolkit](#)⁶ (developed by [Indigitization](#)⁷ at UBC) includes information on project planning, best practices, metadata and description and more.
- ☐ Consider phone calls or even video chats with your fluent language speaker and talk with them to gather and record the words you need for the resource.

3. Video and Audio Recording

The FPCC FirstVoices initiative offers lots of how-to articles. Although most of the articles are specific to FirstVoices teams, there is information that you may find useful if you are recording the language.

Visit the FirstVoices knowledge base for an overview of what is available:

<https://wiki.firstvoices.com/>

Video and audio topics:

- ☐ Audio Equipment: <https://wiki.firstvoices.com/display/FIR1/Learn+about+audio+recording+equipment>
- ☐ Setting Up Your Space and Equipment: <https://wiki.firstvoices.com/display/FIR1/How+to+set+up+a+recording+space+and+audio+equipment>
- ☐ Making recordings: <https://wiki.firstvoices.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=447447051>
- ☐ Editing Audio in Audacity: <https://wiki.firstvoices.com/display/FIR1/Edit+audio+quality>

⁶ <https://www.indigitization.ca/toolkit/>

⁷ <https://www.indigitization.ca/>

FPCC is developing additional videos to assist with learning new technologies. We will be loading new videos as they become available on our [FPCC YouTube channel](#).⁸

4. Language Planning

We know that language planning is a collective process. You can host meetings from a distance on your smartphone, tablet or laptop, allowing groups of people to stay connected virtually with voice and video. See the all-in-one [Guide to Language Planning and Policy](#)⁹ to brainstorm more ideas and find draft templates [here](#).¹⁰

Examples of planning activities include:

- ☐ Virtual team meetings for planning.
- ☐ Research and summarize the history of language work in your community.
- ☐ Research various language revitalization approaches.
- ☐ Complete a comprehensive language status assessment (see links to guides and templates above).
- ☐ Complete other community analyses (e.g. language attitudes survey, learning interests etc.)
- ☐ Create a group for your language team on Facebook – these can be private or public.
- ☐ Utilize social media opportunities to increase community engagement and promotion.

5. Nourishing Language in the Home

The handbook [Language for Life: Nourishing Indigenous Languages in the Home](#)¹¹ is a resource that provides practical strategies, tools and activities to guide families as they learn and speak their language together.

Here are some additional resources and methods to help bring Indigenous language into the home:

- ☐ [Ten Points for Language Learning](#)¹²
- ☐ [A Visual Model of the Mentor-Apprentice Program](#)¹³
- ☐ Here's what you can do to bring language to your environment:
 - **Speak your language!** Use what you know. If you know a word for something in your language do not use the English word!
 - **Create a safe environment** to learn and use your Indigenous language. Even if family members do not understand, say it in the language first so family get accustomed to hearing your language being spoken.

8 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtMOhFLY9g3gWSJQrNWpGQ>

9 https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/FPCC_Policy_Guide_2013.pdf

10 <https://fpcc.ca/resource/a-guide-to-language-policy-and-planning-for-b-c-first-nations-communities/>

11 <https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/FPCC-LanguageforLife-190318-WEB.pdf>

12 https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FPCC_MAP_10PointsForLanguageLearning.pdf

13 https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FPCC_MAP_VisualModel_2016.pdf



- **Reach out to community members** and ask for help as language revitalization is a group effort. Practice with other learners and fluent speakers, connecting by phone, FaceTime, Skype, Zoom.
- Designate a language-only time at home. This could be during a specific activity such as mealtime or at bedtime. Activities could include reading a 'wordless' book, cooking, playing games, creating a family tree, writing or translating together, exercise routines, meditation or prayer. You can find templates in the [Language for Life](#)¹⁴ handbook.
- Use [FirstVoices](#)¹⁵ (see #4 above) to explore games, songs, stories and words.

6. Social Media Activities

During this time of physical distancing, there are many ways you can keep up connections with your language team, friends and family. Here are some creative ideas to get you started:

- Create a YouTube channel and encourage the sharing of language videos.
- Hold language contests on social media that give others an opportunity to share and create art, storytelling, karaoke, flash cards, etc.
- Create a theme for each week that could guide what you learn or talk about.
- Virtual walkabouts are another way to connect:
 - Option 1: Using your smartphone or tablet, guide your virtual viewers on a nature walk enjoying the scenery or harvesting foods / medicines. This is a way to keep connected to each other, the land and our languages.
 - Option 2: Instead of a 'live' virtual walkabout, consider recording your walk or activity. Record what you see, take pictures and record the name or phrase in the language and share it online!

¹⁴ <https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/FPCC-LanguageforLife-190318-WEB.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.firstvoices.com/>

Working from Home Tips

Many organizations have asked employees to work from home for the duration of the physical distancing restrictions. If you are a community who needs to adjust a project plan to meet physical distancing requirements, please contact us.

- ☐ All grant recipients have the option to request to adjust their project plans to include the cost of devices and internet access to support the work of language revitalization.
- ☐ It is not business as usual for any of us, so consider adjusting your project plan to include an honorarium for a tech-savvy person who shares the same household with a language champion who may need technical support.

For those who may be new to remote work, here are some helpful tips:

- ☐ [23 Essential Tips for Working Remotely](#)¹⁶
- ☐ [9 Tips to Be Productive When Working at Home During COVID-19](#)¹⁷
- ☐ [12 Handy Tips for Running Better Remote Meetings](#)¹⁸

Options for Staying Connected while Physical Distancing

Technology can help you to connect with others from a distance. Some popular options for connecting by live video that are low cost or free to use are Zoom, Facebook Messenger, Skype, Facetime and WhatsApp.

1. Zoom

- ☐ There are four Zoom meeting plans to choose from but the two most popular are Basic (free) and Pro (\$20 per month). With Basic, you can host up to 100 participants in one virtual gathering but only for a maximum of 40 minutes. With Pro, you can host virtual gatherings for up to 24 hours. While both options support people calling into the meeting with their phones as well, it's important to note that the meeting leader will need to start the meeting over the internet.
- ☐ To use Zoom, simply click on the 'Sign Up' button on the [pricing page](#)¹⁹ and set up your account. Once you're signed in, you will be able to start a new meeting, schedule a meeting and/or join one.
- ☐ If you want to schedule a meeting for a later time, click the 'Schedule' button and you will be asked for the date and duration of your meeting. After clicking the 'Schedule' button, you will be provided with a Zoom Meeting invitation that can be sent out to your participants. On the date and time of the meeting, participants will click the link in their invitation and join everyone else in the meeting.
- ☐ Additional tutorials and information on how to use Zoom can be found [here](#).²⁰

¹⁶ <https://www.inc.com/lindsey-pollak-eileen-coombes/remote-work-home-productivity-communication-self-care-morale-team.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bryanrobinson/2020/03/14/9-tips-to-be-productive-when-working-at-home-during-covid-19/#6c1fdb315a38>

¹⁸ https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/remote-meetings-tips?utm_campaign=GLOBAL%20English%20FCN&utm_source=hs_automation&utm_medium=email&utm_content=85053704

¹⁹ <https://zoom.us/pricing>

²⁰ <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started>



2. Facebook Messenger

- ☐ Another option for hosting a virtual gathering is Facebook Messenger, where you can video chat with groups or one-on-one with friends.
- ☐ To video chat, open a group, or one-to-one conversation in Messenger, and tap the video icon.
- ☐ Learn more about how to use Facebook Messenger [here](#).²¹



3. Using Skype for Virtual Meetings

- ☐ [Skype](#)²² is well-known for its free video conferencing and calling service. Skype's features include audio and video calling, messaging, screen sharing, recording and live subtitles at no cost.
- ☐ Using this program, you can host a video or an audio conference with up to 50 people. For more information, refer to this comprehensive [beginners guide to using Skype](#).²³
- ☐ [Generate your free unique link](#)²⁴ with one click, share it with participants and enjoy unlimited meetings with Skype. There are automatically a full set of features available. Your meeting link does not expire and can be used anytime.

4. Facetime

[FaceTime](#)²⁵ is an app that supports video and audio calling between Apple devices, including iPhone and iPad. Other smartphone devices will have a similar option. Apple's FaceTime app works on Wi-Fi, so it can make free internet-based calls anywhere you have a Wi-Fi connection.

Facetime allows you to have a [group conversation](#)²⁶ with up to 32 people. The tile of the person speaking gets larger automatically, so can keep track of the conversation.

- ☐ There are two ways to FaceTime. One option is to start a group facetime call from the facetime app:
 - Go to Settings > FaceTime, and make sure that FaceTime is on.
 - Open FaceTime and tap the Add button  in the top-right corner.
 - Enter the name of your contacts, phone numbers, or emails.
 - To start your FaceTime call and tap Audio or Video.
- ☐ The next option is to start a group FaceTime call from the Messages app. In a group conversation in Messages, you can start Group FaceTime right from the group conversation. Follow these steps:
 - Open Messages and start a group conversation. Or go to an existing group conversation.
 - Tap the contacts at the top of the group conversation.
 - Tap FaceTime , then start your call.

21 <https://www.facebook.com/help/messengerapp/1414800065460231?helpref=topq>

22 <https://www.skype.com/en/>

23 <https://mashable.com/2014/07/09/skype-for-beginners/>

24 <https://www.skype.com/en/free-conference-call/>

25 <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204380>

26 <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT202724>

5. WhatsApp

- [WhatsApp](#)²⁷ Messenger is a free messaging app available for smartphones. WhatsApp uses your phone's Internet connection to let you message and call individuals or groups. Using WhatsApp you can send and receive messages, calls, photos, videos and Voice Messages.
- WhatsApp [messaging options](#)²⁸ include:
 - Group Chat: Start a large or a small group chat where you can share messages, photos, and videos with up to 256 people at once. You can also name your group, mute or customize notifications, and more.
 - [WhatsApp Web](#)²⁹: Send and receive WhatsApp messages directly from your computer.
 - WhatsApp keeps you logged in, so you do not miss any messages.
- See WhatsApp [Frequently Asked Questions](#)³⁰ for more information.

We are here to help!

FPCC staff are here to support you to find tools and strategies to continue your language work while we all work together apart.

Contact us if you need assistance, have questions or just want to know if your ideas are safe. For a complete list of program staff contacts please visit our [Staff](#)³¹ page.

27 <https://www.whatsapp.com/>

28 <https://www.whatsapp.com/features/>

29 <https://web.whatsapp.com/>

30 <https://faq.whatsapp.com/>

31 <https://fpcc.ca/about-us/staff/>