



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL



Youth Empowered Speakers (YES) Program

2027-28 Funding Guide



Q&A Session

 Thursday, September 17, 2026

 12:00-1:00 p.m. PT

[Register Here](#)

Application Deadline:

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Please retain this Funding Guide in your files. If your application is approved for funding, the information contained in this guide will be a useful resource.

Note:

This document is optimized for accessibility purposes.

How To Use The PDF Audio Reader?

Desktop

If you would like to use an audio reader for this PDF on a PC, open the PDF in Adobe Acrobat Reader, navigate to the “View” menu and select “Read Out Loud” to activate the text-to-speech feature, allowing the document to be read aloud to you; you can choose to read the entire document or just the current page depending on your preference.

Key steps:

- **Open the PDF:** Open your PDF file in Adobe Acrobat Reader.
- **Access the “Read Out Loud” option:** Click the “Menu” at the top left corner and in the drop down select “View” > “Read out loud” > “Activate read out loud”.
- **Activate Read Out Loud:** Select “Read Out Loud” and choose whether to read the entire document or just the current page.

Mobile phone

Please use your mobile settings to convert text to speech for a PDF. Below is a link on how to change the settings in your devices.

iOS devices - [click here](#)

Android/Google devices - [click here](#)

A Note on Health and Wellness

Tcwemstwallhkálap - “you folks take care of one another” in Ucwalmícwts

The health and safety of everyone involved in FPCC programs, especially Elders and those with health concerns, is of the utmost importance to us. As you plan your project, please take extra care during cold and flu season to minimize the spread of illness.

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Introduction

Program Overview

Learn your language while working towards a rewarding career in language revitalization!

The goal of the Youth Empowered Speakers (YES) program is for Youth to learn their language while preparing for a career in language revitalization in one of three streams:

1. **Stream 1: Early Childhood Immersion Educator** for ECE students.
2. **Stream 2: Language Immersion Teacher** for BEd. students.
3. **Stream 3: Community Language Revitalizationist** for students in a post-secondary program relevant to their intended career in language revitalization.

The program provides paid work internship opportunities along with Mentor-Apprentice language learning. See Hinton (2022) for details about this method. The aim of Mentor-Apprentice learning is to facilitate the development of fluent speakers where a “mentor” (a fluent speaker of a language) is paired with an “apprentice” (learner). It is a one-on-one immersion method where Mentor and Apprentice spend time together doing everyday activities using the language at all times.

Applicants can choose to apply to do either 100 hours, 200 hours or 300 hours of Mentor-Apprentice language learning per year in this 10-month program.

This program is made possible with funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage as a result of the Government of Canada’s Indigenous Languages Act, and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation through the Province of British Columbia.

For useful information and resources to include in your Mentor-Apprentice home-based learning, click on the links below:

[Mentor-Apprentice Handbook](#)

[YES Program Page](#)

[Mentor-Apprentice Digital Toolkit](#)

Direct your inquiries to:

Beckie Wesley , Language Program Associate	
Mailing Address	1164 -B Stellys Cross Road Brentwood Bay, B.C. V8M 1H3
Telephone Cell	(250) 652-5952 Ext.119 (250) 883-1793
Email	yes@fpcc.ca
Website	www.fpcc.ca

A phone or virtual appointment can be booked with one of the program staff using the following link: [YES Online Booking Page](#)

The YES Program staff are available Monday – Friday during regular business hours.

YES Program Streams

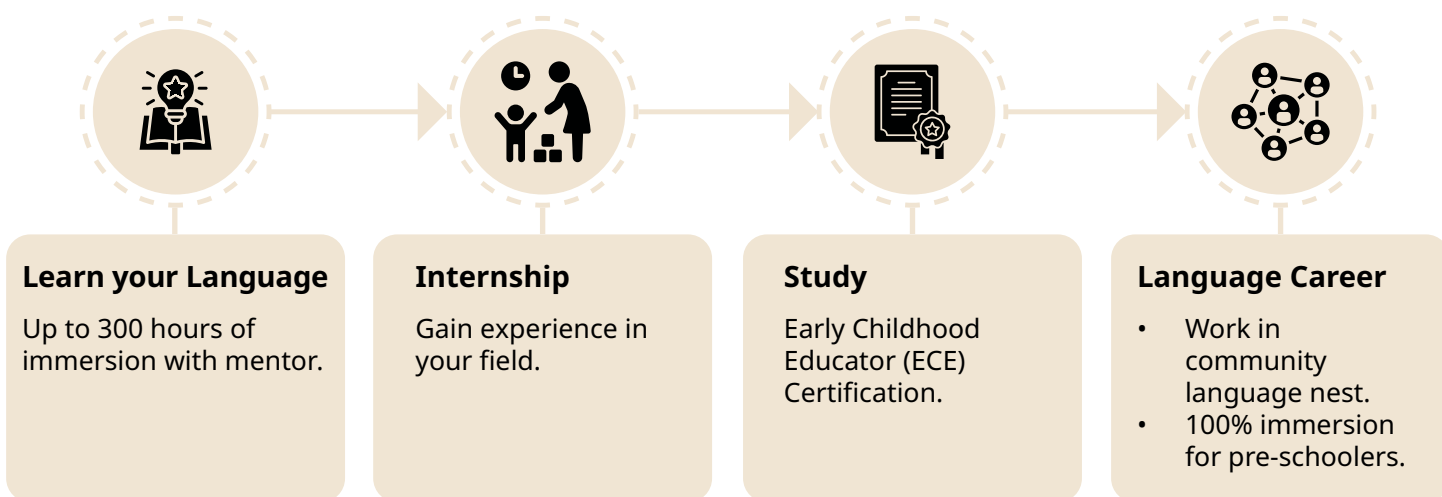
The YES program is for B.C. First Nations post-secondary students ages 18–35 and provides training and paid work internships to pursue your career in addition to Mentor-Apprentice language learning.

The goal of the program is for Youth to learn their language while preparing for a career in language revitalization in one of three streams:

Stream 1: Early Childhood Immersion Educator

For students in ECE programs

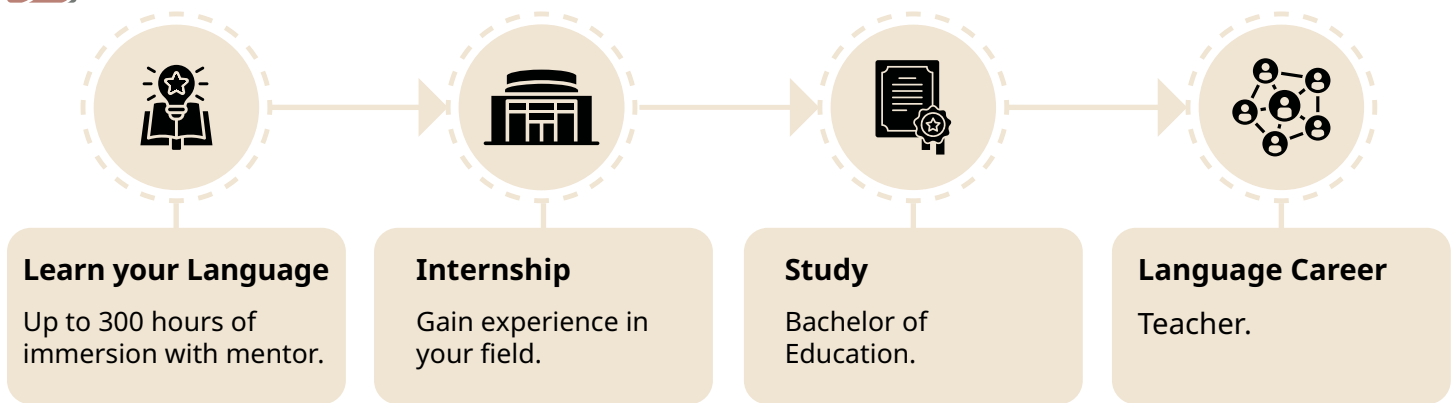
In this stream, Youth develop their language proficiency while studying to be Early Childhood Immersion Educators (ECEs). Youth will complete a minimum of 100 hours (maximum 300 hours) in Mentor-Apprentice style (MAP) learning over the year. When not in school, Youth will spend 10 hours/week in Mentor-Apprentice learning and 20 hours/week employed by their community working in preschool facilities and preparing for a preschool immersion language nest. The Community Internships give the Youth the opportunity to have hands-on experiences. Community organizations that are paired with Youth, must be committed to exposing the Youth to valuable work experiences in the youth's field of interest.



Stream 2: Language Immersion Teacher

For students in BEd. Programs

In this stream, Youth develop their language proficiency while studying to be language immersion teachers (Bachelor of Education). Youth will complete a minimum of 100 hours (maximum 300 hours) in Mentor-Apprentice style learning over the year. During the summers, Youth will spend 10 hours/week in Mentor-Apprentice learning and 20 hours/week employed by their community preparing resources which will assist with current and future teaching needs. The Community Internships give the Youth the opportunity to have hands-on experiences. Community organizations that are paired with Youth, must be committed to exposing the Youth to valuable work experiences in the youth's field of interest.



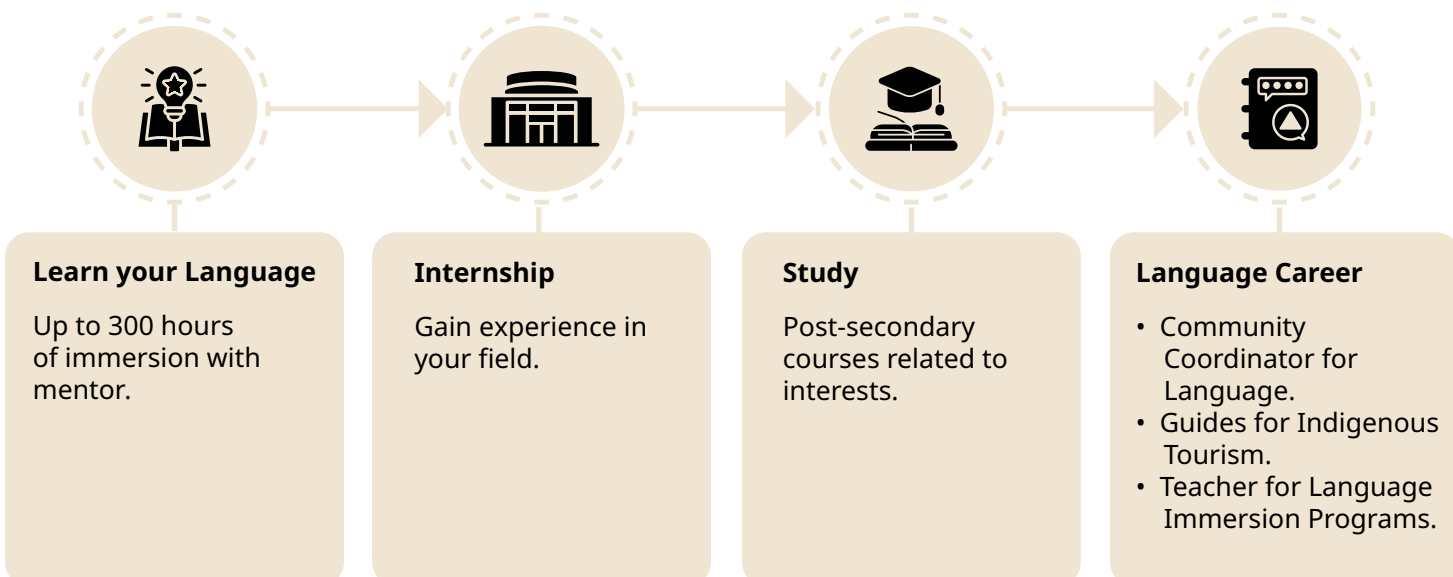
Stream 3: Community Language Revitalizationist

For students in a post-secondary program preparing for a career in language

In this stream, Youth develop their language proficiency while gaining skills for a variety of community-based career options in language revitalization. Youth will complete a minimum of 100 hours (maximum 300 hours) in Mentor-Apprentice (MAP) learning over the year. When not in full-time school, there is an internship of 20 hours/week for 4-months employment working in their area of study in their community (typically this takes place May through August when the Youth is on a break from school). The Community Internships give the Youth the opportunity to have hands-on experiences. Community organizations that are paired with Youth, must be committed to exposing the Youth to valuable work experiences in the youth's field of interest.

Examples of supported fields of study for Stream 3:

- Project Management
- Technology & Web development
- Visual Arts, Graphic Design, & Music
- Administration and/or Bookkeeping
- Indigenous Planning Programs
- Tourism
- Teachers Aid/Education Assistant
- Child and Youth Care
- Wellness/Health/Healing programs
- Adult Immersion Programs
- Fluency/Immersion in partnerships with universities



Program Details

Program Overview and Eligibility

A Youth may apply with more than one mentor (to a maximum of three mentors), with the hours being split between mentors. Mentors can have one apprentice within the MAP/MAPC or the YES Program. This ensures our Elders and language speakers have the time and energy to support the apprentice, alongside their other commitments. Occasionally, the committee reviewing applications will make an exception and allow a mentor to be on multiple grants as long as the person's total grant hours do not exceed 400 hours. These exceptions are generally made when the mentor is the only or one of the only, fluent speakers in a community where multiple learners wish to apprentice.

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) adult immersion programs are not intended to replace employment, rather the honoraria serve to remove barriers to participation (for example, childcare or driving costs or leaving work early are mitigated by receiving honoraria). Further, the honoraria serve to motivate and recognize and appreciate the time taken by the team.

Please note: The funding total will remain the same regardless of the number of mentors.

Eligibility

The Youth must be:

- From a B.C. First Nation and living B.C.
- Learning one of the [36 First Nations languages in B.C.](#) funded by FPCC.
- Age 18-35.
- Demonstrate a commitment to share the language with others.
- Applying with 1-3 fluent speaker as a mentor(s).
- Proof of post-secondary acceptance letter provided by June 25, 2027.

Funding Overview

For each stream, funding covers both the Mentor-Apprentice Hours and the Work-Term Funding.

Mentor-Apprentice Funding Paid directly to the Youth and their mentor	Work Term Funding Paid to the employer (community organization)
• Mentor stipend: \$40/hr • Apprentice stipend: \$25/hr • Related program costs (panel evaluation honoraria, travel to orientation, tech grant)	• Internship wage: \$25/hr + 15% benefits • Administration: 10% administration fee to the employer
Outcome: Increased language proficiency	Outcome: Relevant work experience

The total amount per team is up-to \$32,320, plus an additional travel grant to cover travel and accommodation expenses for the Mentor-Apprentice team to attend the mandatory workshop.

Funding is distributed as reimbursement of work, upon submission of required reporting by YES participants. Payments will be based on approved budget expenses only.

*Note: All grant recipients, Mentors and Youth, will be issued their payments as grants. As grants are considered taxable income, all grant recipients, will receive a T4A form at the end of the calendar year.

Description	Details of Cost	Maximum Amount Payable
Youth Apprentice Honorarium	\$25.00 per hour Up to 300 hours depending on if the Youth chooses to do 100, 200, or 300 hours a year	Up to \$7,500.00
Mentor Honorarium	\$40.00 per hour Up to 300 hours depending on if Youth chooses to do 100, 200, or 300 hours a year Teams with more than one mentor will split their hours between their mentors.	Up to \$12,000.00
Evaluation Sessions	\$150.00 per panel member (up to x3) \$50.00 for refreshments Maximum total per evaluation \$500 Evaluations are completed after every 100 immersion hours. (Max 3x per year)	Up to \$1,500.00
Community Internship	\$25.00 per hour + 15% benefits* Up to 320 hours Administration 10% of youth Internship *Paid through community organization	Up to \$10,120.00
Additional* Technology Stipend	A one-time stipend may be granted as needed for recording devices, microphone, laptop, etc. Receipts must be for the current school year and must be submitted for approval before being reimbursed. *Must be applied for in addition to other funding	Up to \$1,200.00
Maximum Total Grant Amount		\$32,320.00

Funding Details

Funding Term

This program runs from May 1, 2027 – March 1, 2028. During the program interim reports will be required to be submitted on the FPCC Grant Portal. Report due dates will be determined based on the individual Youth's plan for completing language immersion hours. All final reporting for all program participants is due March 1, 2028.

Each grant is provided for one year (10-month program) at a time. The program year ends March 1, 2028. Only one year of funding can be guaranteed at a time. However, participants may be eligible to apply for additional years of funding.

Funding Availability:

Funding for the YES program in 2027-28 is dependent on confirmation of funding from FPCC's funders. Submission and acceptance of a grant application does not guarantee funding in this program. FPCC will make every effort to confirm funding for the 2027-28 year as early as possible to support all approved applicants, but please be prepared for delays in the funding confirmation and delivery process.

We recognize that language revitalization requires long-term, sustainable funding. FPCC continues to advocate for guaranteed, ongoing funding from all levels of government and we are looking forward to that becoming a reality in the near future. At this time, the YES program can only offer funding for one program year, but we invite applicants to reapply for additional years of the program.

Reporting:

Language Learning Assessment Tool	100-hour Reports	Final Report
This is for apprentices to self-assess their language learning • Completed before beginning hours • After all immersion hours are completed for the year	These are submitted after every 100 hours completed, up to 300 hours. • 100-hour Report Due January 1 • 200-hour Report Due February 1 • 300-hour Report Due March 1 After every 100 hours Youth arrange a presentation of learning to 3 fluent speakers in their community and report on the presentation in the 100-hour report. (FPCC staff will assist applicants if they have questions about who to list for this).	Due March 1

Program Workshops and Ongoing Support

YES in-person regional Orientation Workshop tentative 2027 dates:

First Year YES teams are required to attend this mandatory in-person orientation. The in-person regional orientation workshop must be completed before the Youth begins their language immersion hours. During the 2-day orientation teams will learn about the Mentor-Apprentice method, provided with examples of activities and best practices that are proven to work for completing these hours, as well as reporting guidelines and deadlines. It is recommended that the mentor lives no more than 30-60 minutes from the apprentice.

Teams will be invited to register in January 2027 at the training location nearest to them.

- Friday April 30, 2027 - Sunday May 2, 2027
- Friday May 14, 2027 - Sunday May 16, 2027
- Friday May 28, 2027 - Sunday May 30, 2027
- Friday June 11, 2027 - Sunday June 13, 2027

Accommodation, travel and food grants will be provided (following FPCC Travel Guidelines).

Attendance is required for all teams.

We offer the following supports to create a strong ability to learn language and succeed in the program:

- One-on-one coaching throughout the year with a MAP coach who is a graduate of the program.
- Monthly optional drop-in online webinars and peer support.
- Mandatory in-person orientation workshop.
- Workshop materials.

Applying

Applications are to be created and submitted through the [FPCC Grant Portal](#). To apply, you must create or use an account on the [FPCC Grant Portal](#).

Once logged in, find the Youth Empowered Speakers Program Application, and follow the steps there. Please refer to the criteria below:

Application Assessment Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by FPCC staff and may be reviewed by an external review committee with experience in language revitalization. The review process includes pre-screening for eligibility as well as an in-depth review for program fit and suitability.

1. **Letter of Intent**

Strong applicants demonstrate a commitment to their language that extends beyond this program.

- Has the Youth demonstrated a commitment to learning?
- Do the Mentor and Youth live within a reasonable distance of each other, or will significant travel time (45 minutes+) be required for them to meet in person?
- Have they carefully considered the time commitment required?

2. **Community Letter of Support**

Applications must include one letter of support from the community for the team.

- This letter is ideally written by a respected community member.
- It is better to ask someone who is not closely related to the Mentor and Youth (i.e., not a spouse or immediate family member) to write this letter.
- Letter should speak to the strength of the relationship between the Mentor and the Youth or probable success of the team in meeting their goals.

3. **Resumes & Biographies**

Applications must include one resume and biography from the Youth. A biography from the Mentor(s) must also be included. Applicants could include information on cultural knowledge or previous engagement with their language, and outline any community-based, academic, or professional experiences.

- Is the Mentor a fluent speaker? If not, please explain what their language proficiency is, and why the Youth is choosing them as a Mentor (for example, there are no fluent speakers living near them, so they are applying with an intermediate speaker as their Mentor).
- Does the Youth have the motivation and time to complete the hours and to complete the reports?

4. **Language Learning Goals**

- Does the Youth demonstrate an understanding of the Mentor-Apprentice method and purpose?
- What are the Youth's short- and long-term goals for language?
- Do the proposed activities align with the Youth's long-term goals for language?
- Has the Youth identified specific language outcomes to be achieved through this grant?

5. **Specific intentions to pass on the language**

This program aims to renew the intergenerational transmission of the language. Strong applicants demonstrate a clear commitment to pass the language on to family members, children, and/or other community members. For example:

- Is the Youth becoming a teacher or ECE (Early Childhood Education) worker?
- Does the Youth demonstrate a specific plan for sharing language?
- Are there young children in the home who will benefit from increased language exposure?

6. **Schedule**

- Does the schedule meet the 100 hours over 10-month requirement?
- Is the schedule balanced (sessions should not be too short or too long)?
- Does the schedule match the lifestyles of the Mentor and the Youth, is it realistic?
- Does the schedule match the activities they are planning (e.g., land-based activities need to occur during daylight hours, not in the evenings)?
- Does their current work schedule allow for their learning schedule? The Mentor-Apprentice method requires a significant commitment of time. In many cases, it is best if the applicants plan to take some time off from their work or other commitments in order to complete the hours.

7. **Past and current community involvement**

Strong applicants demonstrate involvement in their community, through language projects, cultural events, or other initiatives.

- Has the Youth had prior language-learning experience?
- Has the Youth demonstrated a commitment to contributing to the language revitalization work in the community?
- Has the Youth demonstrated a commitment to their community?

8. **Internship Contact**

Applicants must provide contact information on the application for a potential supervisor(s) from a community organization, daycare or school who agrees to support the applicant's internship work term.

9. **Proof of Enrollment**

Documentation, usually a letter you can download from your post-secondary institution's website, is required as part of the application. Proof of enrollment is due June 25, 2027.

Application Deadline

The application must be submitted by **October 15, 2026, 4:30 p.m.**

YES Application support

If you wish to receive feedback on your application, please submit your application by October 1, 2026, two weeks prior to the closing deadline, **(October 15, 2026)** and reach out to request feedback. FPCC Language Program staff will provide feedback on your application so that you may revise and resubmit before the final deadline

Submit requests for feedback to: yes@fpcc.ca

Please submit your application online through the [FPCC Grant Portal](#).

Application Review Process

1. **Applications will be reviewed** in October, 2026. Applications will be reviewed by FPCC staff and may be reviewed by an external review committee with experience in language revitalization. The review process includes pre-screening for eligibility as well as an in-depth review for program fit and suitability.
2. **Applicants are notified** about their application status in October or November, 2026. Shortlisted applicants are offered a conditional acceptance and must complete a few additional steps (see below) before being accepted into the program. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified about the reason they were not accepted and offered feedback on how to strengthen their application.

Shortlisted Applicant Requirements

Applicants with strong applications are shortlisted. This is a conditional acceptance. Detailed instructions will be sent to applicants who make the shortlist. Shortlisted applicants will be accepted into the program once they complete the following:

Dates may be subject to change, tentative dates:

- Applicants will be notified about the status of their application in October or November 2026.
- Fill out the Language Learning Assessment Tool, by November 4, 2026.
- Complete Personal Information Forms, by November 4, 2026.
- Sign the Funding Agreement by November 24, 2026.
- Register for and attend MAP Orientation Workshop with your mentor (due date TBD, likely early 2027)

Note: the above due dates may be subject to change; if adjusted, you will be notified.

Detailed instructions will be sent to applicants who make the shortlist. Applicants whose applications are not accepted will be sent an explanation of why, and recommendations if they wish to apply in the future.

We look forward to supporting you with your language journey! If you have any questions about your application, we are here to help. Please reach out to us via email at yes@fpcc.ca or via the main office phone at 250-652-5952 ext. 119.