



Recognizing the Diversity of BC's First Nations Languages

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Exceptional Diversity

British Columbia is unique within Canada when it comes to Indigenous language diversity. There are 7 distinct language families, completely unrelated to each other. Within these families there are 34 different First Nations languages and at least 93 different dialects (varieties) of those languages. Besides these 34 living languages, at least three languages which were spoken in British Columbia are now sleeping. In addition to First Nations languages, Michif, the language of the Métis people, is spoken here, and Chinuk Wawa (aka Chinook Jargon), a creole language, was once actively spoken. In the context of Canada, BC's languages make up more than 50% of the approximately 61 languages indigenous to this country. Why are regions such as BC's northwest coast so linguistically diverse? In discussing the genesis of the linguistic diversity of the Pacific Northwest, Beck (2000, p. 154) observes that "Nichols (1992, p. 13) refers to such areas as 'residual zones'—regions containing a number of genetically diverse languages that have coexisted for long periods of time in a state of cultural and political equilibrium in which no one group has attained ascendancy over another. Residual zones, she points out, are a "hallmark" of the Pacific Rim (Nichols 1992, p. 22) and most typically arise in mountainous areas and other geographical regions in which numerically smaller individual languages can remain sheltered and relatively autonomous (1992, p. 233-34). These zones are typified by the internal diversity of the languages that exist within them."

Threat to Diversity

While celebrating this rich diversity that is integral to Canada's unique cultural heritage, we must recognize that this diversity is under threat. Our languages are at risk because of the number of speakers who have shifted to speaking English since the time of colonization. This language shift was not by choice, but due to forced assimilation through residential schools and the resulting interrupted intergenerational language transmission. Except for Cree and Anishnaubemowin which both have larger numbers of speakers elsewhere in Canada, the other 32 languages spoken in British Columbia have fewer than 1000 speakers each, with many having fewer than 100 speakers each. The majority of fluent speakers is over the age of 65 (Gessner et al., 2014). Reversing the direction of language shift is urgent and time-sensitive.

The diversity and endangered status of languages in BC was recognized internationally in 2007 when the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages and National Geographic magazine declared the Northwest Pacific Plateau (which includes part of BC) as one of the world's "language hot spots" (Anderson, 2011). A language hot spot can be defined by the density of language family diversity, the overall level of endangerment and the overall level of documentation (Anderson, 2011). There is no question that BC has exceptional language diversity which is at significant risk.



Why Maintaining Diversity Matters

Languages are more than just communication. Maintaining Indigenous languages is one piece of the larger struggle of Indigenous peoples in Canada for social justice as they seek to reclaim their ways of life that were taken away. There are many reasons why Indigenous languages and cultures are important but three reasons stand out (Boechler et al., 2017, p. 16):

1. Language, culture and identity form an inseparable relationship that directly affects the health and well-being of a people. There is a growing body of research that points to the positive effects of strong linguistic and cultural identity on various aspects of health and wellbeing. For example, there are studies demonstrating that language knowledge is linked to improved physical health (diabetes: Oster et al., 2014; Hovey, Delormier & McComber, 2014), mental health (lower rates of suicide: Hallett, Chandler & Lalonde, 2007) and educational outcomes (Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey, 2013).
2. Indigenous language knowledge and use supports Indigenous cultural heritage. The Indigenous languages in Canada are tied to the land and are spoken nowhere else in the world. Unlike the situation for Canada's immigrant languages where one can return to the homeland to relearn one's heritage language, there is no "going back" for Indigenous languages. If this part of Canada's unique cultural heritage is not maintained here, it will be lost forever.
3. Knowing and being able to speak one's heritage language is a human right. This has been affirmed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (United Nations, 2008) to which Canada is a signatory. The calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015, p. 321) also "call upon the federal government to acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights." Maintaining Indigenous languages is a human rights issue that requires immediate action.

Protecting linguistic diversity is also tied to protecting biocultural diversity, as pointed out by Maffi (2011, p.7): "The whole field of biocultural diversity (BCD) has taken shape through the recognition of this 'inextricable link' between language, knowledge, and the environment, and between biodiversity, cultural diversity, and linguistic diversity. Biocultural research has made it clear that protecting and sustaining linguistic and cultural diversity is intrinsically necessary for protecting and sustaining biodiversity and maintaining healthy ecosystems (and vice versa)."

Diversity: How do you Measure It?

First People's Cultural Council (FPCC) has been supporting First Nations communities in their language revitalization and maintenance efforts since 1990. This support has been possible due to various funders including the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) via its Aboriginal Language Initiative. This support has made, and is making, a difference in the status of BC languages. Nevertheless, the funding provided for language work is only a fraction of the amount actually needed to protect and revitalize these languages, particularly given the urgent situation and the linguistic diversity in the province. While acknowledging and appreciating the efforts that have been made by the Department of Canadian Heritage to date, we call on the department to reconsider the formula used to determine regional funding levels.



DCH allocates Indigenous language funding across Canada based on a formula intended to ensure equitable distribution of funds. In addition to a base amount allocated equally per region, funding is determined by the number of occurrences of a language in each region. The number of languages used as a reference is based on the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger (Moseley, 2010) and FPCC's list of BC languages (Gessner et al., 2014). Our primary concern is that the UNESCO list and the FPCC list use different criteria in order to determine the number of languages spoken.

The FPCC list was compiled for the creation of the First Peoples' Language Map of British Columbia (<http://fp-maps.ca>) in 2008 through an extensive consultation process with First Nations communities around the province. The list was developed based on feedback from First Nations people themselves on what they call their languages and dialects, including how they would like them to be spelled. The list was also guided by accepted linguistic criteria on the definition of languages and dialects. In short, dialects are mutually intelligible varieties of a language, meaning that speakers of one dialect can understand speakers of another dialect (like Canadian English and British English). When varieties are not mutually intelligible, they are different languages. It is from this process, respecting both First Nations self-designations and linguistic criteria, that the FPCC list arrived at 34 languages. These 34 languages are a significant portion of the approximately 61 languages we count in Canada (based on Rice, 2016).

On the other hand, the UNESCO list counts 91 living (and 4 sleeping) languages in Canada. In comparing the UNESCO list with other established lists of languages, one can see that in certain cases, individual dialects are counted as separate languages. There are a variety of reasons for doing so. For example, because the goal of the UNESCO list is to provide a mapping of **endangered** languages, importance was placed on the inclusion of dialects that may be particularly endangered (Mary Jane Norris, personal communication). In addition, individual dialects among larger languages with wide geographic territories tend to be counted as separate languages.

The key issue is the different criteria used to compare languages in British Columbia with those in the rest of Canada. If the same principles used for the UNESCO list for other areas of the country were applied to the languages of B.C., we would have more than 90 languages in B.C. alone (based on at least 93 dialects; we do not have an accurate dialect count for all of BC's languages). Ideally, we would prefer to see uniformity across Canada in the enumeration of languages and dialects. This can be achieved through a language naming process led by Indigenous people.

Recommendations for Supporting Diversity

We call on the Department of Canadian Heritage to facilitate a review of Indigenous languages, dialects and their names. This facilitated process should be led by Indigenous people and guided by accepted linguistic principles. The key issues are:

1. In the spirit of reconciliation, undertaking such a review would finally give Indigenous peoples a chance to name themselves, rather than living under the labels ascribed to them by others. Current language lists and maps in use have **not** been developed by



Indigenous peoples and/or Indigenous peoples have not been consulted in their development. Indigenous people must be supported to lead the work both of determining languages and of identifying language status. Indigenous people should control that process and the resulting data.

2. Many of the language names used in current lists and maps are outsider labels. Continuing to use them perpetuates misinformation about our languages from a colonial lens.
3. There is a perception that diversity is a “problem” and that a “one-size-fits-all” approach to language maintenance and revitalization is easier or more practical. However, such an approach denies the existing diversity and homogenizes Indigenous peoples into groups in which they don’t see themselves. A pan-Indian approach challenges the assertion that Indigenous people have diverse civilizations and once again leaves Indigenous people without a voice on a matter that will determine whether or not Indigenous languages will be supported and revitalized.
4. If funding continues to be determined based on enumeration of languages, a review is necessary in order to ensure an equitable distribution of funding across regions. Funding levels need to match diversity levels. Further, we recommend that languages be funded according to their needs without placing priority of one language over another.
5. Co-development of Indigenous language legislation is underway, with first reading of the bill expected in June 2018. It seems reasonable that the names of Indigenous languages should be included as part of the legislation process, whether in the legislation itself or in the accompanying regulations. Therefore, precisely determining those names is of the utmost importance and urgency.

Diversity Must be Recognized

For the last decade, FPCC has been working to gain a better understanding of the diversity in the province. All applicants to our funding programs fill out information about their community with language status details including number of speakers, semi-speakers and learners, and educational opportunities such as preschool, school or adult classes. Because those applying for programs are among the most knowledgeable about these facts, and because these assessments are updated on a regular basis, we believe the data represents the most accurate and up-to-date information on BC’s language diversity. We also conduct independent research to investigate gaps in the data. We report on this data every four years in a *Report on the Status of BC First Nations Languages* (Amrhein et al., 2010; Gessner et al., 2014; Dunlop et al., To Appear in 2018). The diversity of BC’s First Nations languages and cultures is well substantiated; when this diversity is not recognized, we all lose out.

In sum, language is the foundation of a civilization. Indigenous languages and civilizations in BC are remarkably diverse. This diversity must be recognized. The inconvenience of diversity may be why policy makers want us to ignore it, but there are irrefutable reasons why we can’t. It is possible to work with such diversity to maintain all languages in BC. For example, effective measures include coordinated language planning that sets out targeted and accountable goals, comprehensive training and support to reach all communities at the stage they are at, and the

use of technological tools such as Firstvoices.com to permit access to language regardless of where people live.

It is often noted that only three Indigenous languages are viable and therefore those three should be prioritized for investment. However, mother tongue transmission is not the norm for any language, so for those interested in labeling languages as endangered, all Indigenous languages in Canada can be considered endangered. But every Indigenous language has value. Every language is sacred and tied to the land. It's not for outsiders to determine which languages are worthier of investment than others, ultimately deciding a language's fate. Because Indigenous people have language rights, they should decide whether (or not) they wish to maintain their languages, whether those languages have 80,000, 8,000, 800 or 8 speakers.

Understandably, the cost of what it might require in order to revitalize and maintain all Indigenous languages may seem daunting. Nonetheless, one only needs to consider the social and economic costs associated with the interruption of Indigenous language and culture. We have generations of people still affected by intergenerational trauma and concomitant social and health problems. The approach to rebuilding the wellbeing of Indigenous communities is through the development of strong identities and that cannot be achieved without Indigenous languages and the knowledge they contain.

We must protect and promote the diversity of Indigenous languages in BC and we call on all individuals, First Nations community members, First Nations and government leadership, and policy makers at all levels to join us.

Note: In **Appendix A**, we include a comparison of the UNESCO list (Moseley, 2010) with the list of languages in The Canadian Encyclopedia (Rice, 2016) and the FPCC list of BC languages. The full FPCC list of languages (and the communities where they are spoken) is included in **Appendix B**.

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Appendix A: Indigenous Languages in Canada

Language Family	UNESCO 2010	Rice 2016	FPC 2014 (BC languages only)	Comments re: UNESCO
Count	94 incl. 3 sleeping	63	34 + 3 sleeping + Michif + Chinuk Wawa	(Comparison with Rice 2016)
Algonquian	Atikamekw			Dialect? See Eastern Montagnais
Algonquian	Blackfoot (Canada)	Blackfoot (two dialects: Pikanii, Siksika)		
Algonquian	Central Ojibwe	Anishinaabemowin/Ojibwe/Ojibwa (dialects: Algonquin, Central, Eastern, Nipissing Algonquin, Northwestern, Odawa, Oji-Cree/Severn Ojibwa, Sauteaux, Western Sauteaux), Potawatomi/Neshnabémowen, Western Abenaki	Anishnaubemowin	
Algonquian	Eastern Montagnais	Eastern Montagnais: Innu-Aimûn, Naskapi, Atikamekw/Nēhinawēwin/Nehirâmowin)		
Algonquian	Eastern Ojibwe			Dialect? See Anishinaabemowin
Algonquian	Maliseet			Dialect? See Mi'kmaq
Algonquian	Maniwaki Algonquin			Dialect? See Anishinaabemowin
Algonquian	Micmac (Canada)	Mi'kmaq, Maliseet-Passamaquoddy		
Algonquian	Moose Cree			Dialect? See Cree
Algonquian	Munsee (Canada)	Delaware (dialect: Munsee)		
Algonquian	Naskapi			Dialect? See Eastern Montagnais
Algonquian	Northern Algonquin			Dialect? See Anishinaabemowin
Algonquian	Northern East Cree			Dialect? See Cree
Algonquian	Northwestern Ojibwe			Dialect? See Anishinaabemowin
Algonquian	Oji-Cree			
Algonquian	Ottawa (Canada)			Dialect? See Anishinaabemowin



Algonquian	Ottawa (Walpole Island)			Dialect? See Anishinaabemowin
Algonquian	Plains Cree	Cree (dialects: Plains Cree/Nehiyawewin/ ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ, Woods Cree/Nthithawīwin, Moose Cree, Swampy Cree, Northern East Cree, Southern East Cree) and closely related Montagnais (dialects Western Montagnais: Piyekwākamī, Betsiamites)	ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ (Nēhiyawēwin)	
Algonquian	Potawatomi (Canada)			No speakers in Canada?
Algonquian	Saulteau			Dialect? See Anishinaabemowin
Algonquian	Southern East Cree			Dialect? See Cree
Algonquian	Swampy Cree			Dialect? See Cree
Algonquian	Western Abenaki (Canada)			Are there speakers in Canada?
Algonquian	Western Montagnais			Dialect? See Cree
Algonquian	Woods Cree			Dialect? See Cree
Inuit	Aivilingmiutut	Eastern Canadian Inuktitut (dialects Kivalliq, Aivilik, North Baffin, South Baffin, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut)		
Inuit	Inuinnaqtun	Western Canadian Inuktuᑎ (dialects Siglitun, Inuinnaqtun, Natsilingmiutut)		
Inuit	Kivallirmiutut			Dialect? See Eastern Canadian Inuktitut
Inuit	Natsilingmiutut			Dialect? See Western Canadian Inuktuᑎ
Inuit	North Alaskan Inupiaq (Canada)			Dialect? See Western Canadian Inuktuᑎ
Inuit	Nunatsiavummiutut			Dialect? See Eastern Canadian Inuktitut
Inuit	Nunavimmiutut			Dialect? See Eastern Canadian Inuktitut



Inuit	Qikiqtaaluk nigiani			Dialect? See Eastern Canadian Inuktitut
Inuit	Qikiqtaaluk uannangani			Dialect? See Eastern Canadian Inuktitut
Inuit	Rigolet Inuktitut			Dialect? See Eastern Canadian Inuktitut
Inuit	Sigitun			Dialect? See Western Canadian Inuktitut
Iroquoian	Cayuga (Canada)	Cayuga (two dialects)		
Iroquoian	Huron-Wyandot (Canada)	Wendat		
Iroquoian	Mohawk (Kahnawake)	Mohawk (several dialects)		
Iroquoian	Mohawk (Kanesatake)			Dialect? See Mohawk
Iroquoian	Mohawk (Six nations)			Dialect? See Mohawk
Iroquoian	Mohawk (Tyendinega)			Dialect? See Mohawk
Iroquoian	Mohawk (Wahta)			Dialect? See Mohawk
Iroquoian	Oneida (Canada)	Oneida		
Iroquoian	Onondaga (Canada)	Onondaga		
Iroquoian	Seneca (Canada)	Seneca		
Iroquoian	Tuscarora (Canada)	Tuscarora		
Ktunaxa	Kutenai	Ktunaxa/Kutenai/Kootenai	Ktunaxa	
Na-Dene	Beaver	Dane-Zaa/Beaver	Dane-Zaa (Cᑭᑭ)	
Na-Dene	Carrier	Dakelh/Carrier/CB ^h	Dakelh (CB ^h)	
Na-Dene	Chilcotin	Tsilhqot'in/Chilcotin	Tsilhqot'in	
Na-Dene	Dene Suline	Dene Sų́tíné/Chipewyan		
Na-Dene	Dogrib	Tłı̄chọ Yatı̄/Dogrib		
Na-Dene	Gwich'in (Canada)	Gwich'in		
Na-Dene	Han (Canada)	Hän/Han (Dawson dialect)		
Na-Dene	Kaska	Kaska/Danezāgé'	Danezāgé'	



Na-Dene	North Slavey	Dene/North Slavey (dialects Bearlake/Déjine, Hare/K'ásho, Mountain/Shúhta/Shíhta)		
Na-Dene	Northern Tutchone	Northern Tutchone		
Na-Dene	Sarcee	Tsuut'ina/Sarcee/Sarsi		
Na-Dene	Sekani	Tsek'ene/Tse'khene/Sekani	Tse'khene	
Na-Dene	South Slavey	South Slavey/Dene Zhatié/Dene Dhah	Dene K'e	
Na-Dene	Southern Tutchone	Southern Tutchone	Tutchone	
Na-Dene	Tägizi Dene	Tagish	Tägizi Dene	Sleeping
Na-Dene	Tahltan	Tahltan/Tättän	Tättän	
Na-Dene	Tlingit (Canada)	Tlingit	ḷingít	
Na-Dene	Tsetsaut	–	Tsetsaut	Sleeping
Na-Dene	Upper Tanana (Canada)	Upper Tanana		
Na-Dene	–	Witsuwit'en/Babine-Witsuwit'en	Nedut'en / Wet'suwet'en	Missing from UNESCO list
Salishan	Bella Coola	Nuxalk/Bella Coola	Nuxalk	
Salishan	Comox/Sliammon	Éy7á7juuthem/?ay?juθəm-Saʈuʈxw (dialects Comox, Sliammon, Homalco, Klahoose)	Éy7á7juuthem	
Salishan	Halkomelem	Halkomelem (Halq'eméylem, Hul'q'umi'num', Halq'eméylem)	Hul'q'umi'num' / Halq'eméylem / həŋqəmiŋəm	
Salishan	Lillooet	St'át'imcets/Lillooet	Státimcets	
Salishan	–	Lushootseed		Missing from UNESCO list but no speakers in Canada
Salishan	Okanagan	Okanagan-Colville (several dialects)	Nsyilxcən	
Salishan	Pentlatch	–	Pentlatch	Sleeping
Salishan	Sechelt	Shashishalhem/Sechelt	She shashishalhem	
Salishan	Shuswap	Secwepemctsin/Shuswap	Secwepemctsin	
Salishan	Squamish	Squamish/Sqwxwumish /Skwxwu7mesh	Skwxwú7mesh sníchim	



Salishan	Straits Salish	SENĆOŦEN /Saanich/Northern Straits Salish)	SENĆOŦEN / Malchosen / Lekwungen / Semiahmoo / T'Sou-ke	
Salishan	–	Straits (several dialects)		Missing from UNESCO list but no speakers in Canada
Salishan	Thompson	Nłeʔkepmxcín/Thompson	Nłeʔkepmxcín	
Siouan	Assiniboine (Canada)	Assiniboine/Nakota		
Siouan	Dakota	Dakota/Sioux (Yankton, Santee)		
Siouan	Lakota	Lakota (Teton)		
Siouan	Stoney	Nakoda/Stoney		
Tsimshianic	Coast Tsimshian	Sm'alg̱yax/Coast Tsimshian	Sm'alg̱yax	
Tsimshianic	Gitksan	Gitsenimx/Gitksan/Gitksan	Gitsenimx̄	
Tsimshianic	Nisga'a	Nisga'a/Nishga/Nass	Nisga'a	
Tsimshianic	–	Ski:xs/Sgüüx.s/Southern Tsimshian	Ski:xs	
Wakashan	Ditidaht	Diitiidʔaatx/Ditidaht/Nitinat /Nitinaht	Diitiidʔaatx̄	
Wakashan	Haisla	Xenaksialak'ala/Haisla	Xenaksialak'ala / Xa''islak'ala	
Wakashan	Heiltsuk	Hailhzaqvla/Heiltsuk-Oowekyala (dialects Heiltsuk/Bella Bella, Oowekyala)	Hailhzaqvla	
Wakashan	Kwak'wala	Kwak'wala	Kwak'wala	
Wakashan	Nootka	Nuu-chah-nulth/Nootka	Nuuč̱a̱nuł	
Wakashan	Oowekyala	–	Oowekyala/'Uik'ala	
Xaad Kil/ Xaayda Kil	Northern Haida	Xaad Kil/Xaaydaa Kil/Haida	Xaad Kil / X̱aaydaa Kil (Haida)	
Xaad Kil/ Xaayda Kil	Southern Haida	–		Dialect? See Xaad Kil/ Xaaydaa Kil/ Haida
Mixed Language	Michif	Michif	Michif	
Creole	–	Chinuk Wawa/Chinook Jargon	Chinuk Wawa/Chinook Jargon	Missing from UNESCO list



Appendix B: First Nations Languages in British Columbia

There are 7 distinct language families in BC. There are 34 First Nations languages in BC. In addition, **Michif**, the language of the Métis people, is spoken in British Columbia. The trade language (creole) **Chinuk Wawa** (Chinook Jargon) was also spoken in BC in the past but to our knowledge there are no remaining speakers in BC. Sleeping languages include Pentlatch, Tāgizi Dene (Tagish) and Tsetsaut.

Family	Language Group Name ¹	Other Names ²	Dialects ³	# ⁴	Communities Where Spoken ⁵
ALGONQUIAN ⁶	1. Anishnaubemowin	Saulteau Plains Ojibway Ojibway	Saulteau	1	Fort Nelson First Nation Saulteau First Nation West Moberly First Nations
ALGONQUIAN	2. Nēhiyawēwin (ᑭᓵᑦᑲᓵᑦᑲᓵᑦ)	Cree	Plains Cree	1	Blueberry River First Nation Fort Nelson First Nation Saulteau First Nation West Moberly First Nations
ATHABASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT or NA-DENE ⁷	3. Dakelh (CB ^l)	Carrier les Porteurs Takulie Takelne Dakelhne	Nak'albun- Dzinghubun/Stuart- Trembleur Lake (Tl'azt'en, Yekooche, Nak'azdli) Fraser-Nechakoh (Cheslatta, Sdelakoh, Nadleh, Saik'uz, Lheidli) Blackwater (Lhk'acho, Lhoosk'uz, Ndazko, Lhtakoh)	12	Lheidli-T'enneh Band Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation Lhtako Dene Nation Maiyoo Keyoh Society Nadleh Whut'en Band Nak'azdli Band Nazko First Nation Saik'uz First Nation Stellat'en First Nation Takla Lake First Nation Tl'azt'en Nation Tsil Kaz Koh (Burns Lake) Ulkatshot'en First Nation Yekooche First Nation

¹ The "Language Names" are those used on *First Peoples' Language Map of British Columbia* (<http://fp-maps.ca>) and were compiled in consultation with First Nations communities.
² The "Other Names" are names by which the language has been known, today or in the past. Some of these names may no longer be in use and may not be considered acceptable by the relevant community but it is useful to include them in order to assist with the location of language resources which may have used these alternate names.
³ Only dialects spoken in BC are included here. There may be variation in the spelling of dialect names.
⁴ Hashtag # refers to the number of dialects per language.
⁵ Only the First Nations communities in BC associated with each language are listed but many of BC's languages are also spoken in towns and cities across the province.
⁶ The Algonquian family is part of the larger Algic language family.
⁷ The Athabaskan-Eyak-Tlingit or Na-Dene family is part of the larger Dené-Yeniseian language family.



ATHABASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT or NA-DENE	4. Dane-Zaa (Cᑭᑭ)	Beaver Dunne-za danneza Dane-zaa Záágé?	Blueberry River Doig River Halfway River Prophet River West Moberly Lake	5	Blueberry River First Nation Doig River First Nation Halfway River First Nation Prophet River Band Saulteau First Nation West Moberly First Nations
ATHABASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT or NA-DENE	5. Danezāgé'	Kaska Kaska Dena	Lower Post Moose Lake	2	Daylu Dena Council Dease River First Nation Liard First Nation
ATHABASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT or NA-DENE	6. Dene K'e	Dene Dene Tha' Acha'otinne Slave(y)	South Slavey	1	Fort Nelson First Nation
ATHABASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT or NA-DENE	7. Nedut'en / Wet'suwet'en	Babine Lake Babine, Nadot'en Nedut'en Nat'oot'en Wet'suwet'en Babine-Witsuwit'en Bulkley Valley/Lakes District Language	Babine Wet'suwet'en	2	Cheslatta Carrier Nation Lake Babine Nation Takla Lake First Nation Hagwilget Village Council Morisetown Band Office Nee-Tahi-Buhn Indian Band Skin Tye Nation Tsil Kaz Koh (Burns Lake) Wet'suwet'en Nation
ATHABASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT or NA-DENE	8. Tāltān	Tahltan Nahanni	Tahltan	1	Iskut First Nations Tahltan Band
ATHABASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT or NA-DENE	9. Tse'khene	Sekani Tsek'ehne Tsek'hene tθek'ehne	Fort Ware McLeod Lake	2	Kwadacha Band McLeod Lake Indian Band Tsay Keh Dene Band
ATHABASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT or NA-DENE	10. Tsilhqot'in	Chilcotin Tzilkotin	Tsilhqot'in	1	?Esdilagh First Nation Tl'esqox Indian Band Tl'etingox-T'in Government Tsi Del Del First Nation Ulkatchot'en First Nation Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government Yunesit'in Government
ATHABASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT or NA-DENE	11. Tutchone	Tutchone	Southern	1	Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN)
ATHABASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT or NA-DENE	12. Łingít	Inland Tlingit Tlingit	Northern Southern	2	Taku River Tlingit First Nation



KTUNAXA	13. Ktunaxa	Kootenay Kootenai	Upper Ktunaxa	1	Akisqnuq First Nation Lower Kootenay Band St. Mary's Indian Band Tobacco Plains Indian Band
SALISHAN	14. Éy7á7juuthem	Mainland Comox Comox Sliammon	Q'ómox ^w s ʔayʔajúθəm	2	Homalco First Nation Klahoose First Nation K'omoks First Nation Sliammon First Nation



<p>SALISHAN</p>	<p>15. Hul'q'umi'num' / Halq'eméylem / həŋqəmiŋəm</p>	<p>Hul'q'umi'num' Halq'eméylem həŋqəmiŋəm Halkomelem</p>	<p>Hul'q'umi'num' Halq'eméylem həŋqəmiŋəm</p>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aitchelitz Band Beecher Bay First Nation Chawathil First Nation Cheam First Nation Chehalis Indian Band Chemainus First Nation Cowichan Tribes Halalt First Nation Katzie First Nation Kwantlen First Nation Kwaw-kwaw-aplit First Nation Kwikwetlem First Nation Lake Cowichan First Nation Leq'a:mel First Nation Lyackson First Nation MÁLEXEL (Malahat First Nation) Matsqui First Nation Musqueam Indian Band Nanoose First Nation Pauquachin First Nation Penelakut Tribe Peters Band Popkum First Nation Qayqayt First Nation Qualicum First Nation Scowlitz First Nation Seabird Island Indian Band Shxw'owhamel First Nation Shxwha:y Village Skawahlook First Nation Skowkale First Nation Skwah First Nation Snuneymuxw First Nation Soowahlie Indian Band Squiala First Nation Sumas First Nation Tsawwassen First Nation Tsleil-Waututh Nation Tzeachten First Nation Union Bar Band Yakweakwoose Band Yale First Nation
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SALISHAN	16. SENĆOŦEN / Malchosen / Lekwungen / Semiahmoo / T'Sou-ke	Northern Straits Salish	SENĆOŦEN Malchosen Lekwungen Semiahmoo T'Sou-ke	5	Esquimalt Nation MÁLEXEL (Malahat First Nation) Pauquachin First Nation Semiahmoo First Nation Songhees Nation T'Sou-ke Nation Tsartlip First Nation Tsawout First Nation Tseycum First Nation
SALISHAN	17. She shashishalhem	Sechelt sháshishálem	She shashishalhem	1	Sechelt Indian Band
SALISHAN	18. Skwxwú7mesh sníchim	Squamish	Skwxwú7mesh sníchim	1	Squamish Nation
SALISHAN	19. Nłeʔkepmxcín	Thompson Nlaka'pamux Nlha7kápmx	Lytton Merritt Nicola Valley Spuzzum	4	Ashcroft Indian Band Boothroyd Band Boston Bar First Nation Coldwater Indian Band Cook's Ferry Indian Band Kanaka Bar Indian Band Lower Nicola Indian Band Lytton First Nation Nicomen Indian Band Nooaitch Indian Band Oregon Jack Creek Band Shackan Indian Band Siska Indian Band Skuppah Indian Band Spuzzum First Nation
SALISHAN	20. Nsyilxcən	Okanagan	Northern	1	Lower Similkameen Indian Band Okanagan Indian Band Osoyoos Indian Band Penticton Indian Band Upper Nicola Band Upper Similkameen Indian Band Westbank First Nation



SALISHAN	21. Secwepemctsin	Shuswap Secwepemc	Eastern Western Northern	3	Adams Lake Indian Band Bonaparte Indian Band Canim Lake Band Canoe Creek Band Esketemc First Nation High Bar First Nation Kamloops Indian Band Little Shuswap Indian Band Neskonlith Indian Band Shuswap Indian Band Simpco First Nation Skeetchestn Band Splatsin Indian Band Whispering Pines/Clinton Band - the Pelt'iq't People Williams Lake Indian Band Xats'ull First Nation
SALISHAN	22. Státimcets	Státimc Lillooet Statimc Stl'atl'imx Stl'atl'imc Sł'ał'imxəc Stlatliumh Slatlemuk	Upper Lower	2	Bridge River Indian Band Cayoose Creek Band Douglas First Nation Lil'wat Nation N'Quatqua First Nations Samahquam Ucwalmicw Seton Lake Band Skatin Nations Council T'it'q'et Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation Xaxli'p Band
SALISHAN	23. Nuxalk	Bella Coola Nass	Nuxalk	1	Nuxalk First Nation
TSIMSHIANIC	24. Gitsenimx	Gitsanimx Gitxsan Gitksen Gitksan Hazelton	Eastern/Gaanimx Western/Geets'imx	2	Gitanmaax Band Council Gitanyow Band Council Gitsegukla Band Council Gitwangak Band Council Glen Vowell Band Kispiox Band Council
TSIMSHIANIC	25. Nisga'a	Nisga'a Nishga Niska' Nisk'a'	Nisga'a	1	Laxgalts'ap Village Government New Aiyansh Village Government Nisga'a Village of Gingolx Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw



TSIMSHIANIC	26. Ski:xs	Klemtu Southern Tsimshian	Ski:xs	1	Kitasoo Band Council
TSIMSHIANIC	27. Smalgyax	Coast Tsimshian Tsimshian		1	Gitxaala Nation Hartley Bay Village Council Kitselas First Nation Kitsumkalum Band Council Lax Kw'alaams Band Metlakatla Governing Council
WAKASHAN	28. Diitiid?aatx	Ditidaht Nitinat	Diitiid?aatx	1	Ditidaht First Nation Pacheedaht First Nation
WAKASHAN	29. Hailhzaqvla	Heiltsuk Heiltsukvla Haitzaqvla Bella Bella Heiltsuk-Oweek'ala	Hailhzaqvla	1	Heiltsuk Nation
WAKASHAN	30. Kwakwala	Kwakwaka'wakw Kwakiutl	Bak'wamk'ala Kwakwala Gwawaenuk Nak'wala Gutsala Tlatlasikwala Liqwala	7	Da'naxda'xw First Nation Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation Gwawaenuk Tribe Kwakiutl Band Council Kwiahah First Nation Kwicksutaineuk/Ak-Kwa-Mish Tribes K'omoks First Nation Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em Band Namgis First Nation Quatsino First Nation Tlatlasikwala First Nation Tlowitsis Tribe Dzawada'enuxw First Nation Wei Wai Kai First Nation Wei Wai Kum First Nation



WAKASHAN	31. Nuučaañuł	Nuu-chah-nulth Nootka ⁸ Nootkans West Coast Aht	Northern: Chicklisaht Kyuquot Ehattesah Nuchatlaht Mowachaht Muchalaht Central: Hesquiaht Ahousaht Tla-o-qui-aht Southern: Ucluelet Toquaht Tseshaht Huu-ay-aht Uchucklesit Hupachasath	15	Ahousaht First Nation Ehattesah First Nation Hesquiaht First Nation Hupacasath First Nation Huu-ay-aht First Nation Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nation Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations Nuchatlaht First Nation Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation Toquaht Nation Tseshaht First Nation Uchucklesah Tribe Ucluelet First Nation
WAKASHAN	32. Oowekyala/'Uikala	Oowekeno Oweek'ala Heiltsuk-Oweek'ala	'Uikala	1	Wuikinuxv Nation
WAKASHAN	33. Xenaksialakala / Xa''isalakala	Haisla Kitimat Kitlope Northern Kwakiutl	Xenaksialakala Xa''isalakala	2	Kitamaat Village Council
XAAD KIL / XAAAYDAA KIL	34. Xaad Kil / Xaaydaa Kil (Haida)	Haida	Skidegate Masset	2	Old Massett Village Council Skidegate Band Council
Total	34 languages	–	93 dialects	93	–

⁸ This is an outdated name which has been replaced by "Nuu-chah-nulth" (also Nuuchahnulth, nuučaañuł). We have included it for reference purposes for people who may want to look for older resources that could be listed under this name.