

## Template 10: Official Language Policy

Name of First Nations Government  
or Tribal Council:

Title of Official Language Policy:

Law, Act or Bylaw identification:

Date and location enacted:

Amendments, if any:

### **Preamble:**

#### **Statement:**

[State the general mission statement about the language or language related issues. See Chapter 2.]

#### **Philosophy and Value of Language:**

[State the philosophy and value of the local language for the community.]

#### **Background on the Community Language:**

[Provide a brief background statement about your language.]

#### **Purpose:**

To revive and restore the [Name of First Nation's language] as the primary language of communication, education, ceremony, government and businesses within the territory of the [Name of First Nation].

#### **Definitions:**

[Name of Language] means the original language...

[Name of Language Authority] refers to the authority for the [name of language] language.

[Name of Territory, Community] refers to the lands now held under the First Nation, any and all lands that will be added to the First Nation and any lands that will be held by other means.

[First Nation's language term for community member or individual.]

#### **Application**

**Official Language Status:** [Statement of the official language and its application.]

**Language Rights of Community Members/Citizens:** [State the language rights of citizens of the First Nation/ community members.]

**Language of First Nations Government:** [State the duty or responsibilities of the First Nation's government to protect, promote, use and encourage the usage of the language in government activities, law and policies.]

**Language of Public Institutions:** [State the duty or responsibilities of the public institutions to protect, promote, use and encourage the usage of the language.]

**Language of Business and Commerce:** State the duty or responsibilities of businesses and commerce to protect, promote, use and encourage the usage of the language.

**Language Authority:** [Recognize or state the duty or responsibilities of the Language Authority or local governing or policy body to protect, promote, use and encourage the usage of the language, and to plan and implement language activities for the community.]

**Writing System:** [State the endorsed writing system (orthography) for the language, or recognize the responsibility of a Language Authority or local governing or policy body to develop or endorse a writing system.]

**Indigenous Knowledge and Intellectual Property:** [State the copyright or ownership over Indigenous knowledge, including cultural activities, relation to the land, ceremony and tradition that would be used with the language. State the responsibility of a Language Authority or local governing or policy body to maintain a cultural resource database of all materials related to language and culture that are the Indigenous knowledge for the community.]

**Language Protocols:** [State any protocols for partnerships with external agencies and organizations, language departments and communities.]

**Related Policies to Language Planning and Activity:** [State any related language policies, such as a cultural resource or information management, or digitization policy.]