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## **Considerations for Seeking Translations in First Nations Languages**

Thank you for contacting First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) about translations into First Nations languages. FPCC does not manage translation projects, so we encourage you to have a conversation with the translator about the project before beginning. Here are a few good practices to consider when you contact the translator(s) about your project.

### **Clear Communication**

First Nations language speakers and learners are busy people with families, jobs and community responsibilities. Please have patience and respect the demands on their time. You can help the translation process by being clear from the beginning about:

- Exactly what you want translated
- Why you want to translate it into that language
- How it will be used
- How you anticipate working with the translator on this project

### **Respectful Intentions**

Before contacting a translator, consider why you are seeking to translate this content. How will it benefit language revitalization and the language community? Also consider the content you want translated. Recognize that some concepts do not translate well into other cultures and languages as they may represent ideas or worldviews that are different than the values of that culture.

### **Acknowledgments**

It is good practice to credit the source of the language knowledge that is shared with you. Discuss with the translator what appropriate acknowledgment would look like and where it would be shared. Recognize that every First Nations language in B.C. has multiple varieties; you may be getting a translation into only one variety.

### **Compensation**

It is important to compensate the translator appropriately for their work. If you wanted to translate something into French, Japanese or another majority language, you would have to compensate a translator; the same applies for translation into First Nations languages. First Nations language speakers are experts in high demand; be prepared to discuss appropriate compensation with the translator. Also note that the time and effort involved in each project will differ depending on the language and/or the content, so respectful compensation will vary according to each project.

For small, simple projects, FPCC recommends a starting rate of:

\$50 for 1 – 5 words

\$100 for 6 – 10 words

\$200 for 11 – 50 words

### **Reciprocity**

Respect and reciprocity are important values in First Nations cultures. Consider sending a card or small gift in the mail as a gesture of thanks and respect for the knowledge that is shared with you. Also consider exploring with the translator additional opportunities for reciprocity – other than monetary – that could lead to positive relationships and shared benefit for both you and the language community.

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**COMMITTED TO THE REVITALIZATION OF B.C.'S ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES, ARTS AND CULTURES**