



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. They are offering translation services “off the side of their desks” in order to support your project. 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. What benefit will it offer you? What benefit will it offer the 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 and Reciprocity

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 and the compensation offered may be a key factor in their decision to take on this project. Consider offering an honorarium or contract up front in your request and be willing to discuss appropriate compensation with the translator.

For small projects, FPCC recommends a starting rate of:

\$50 for 1 – 5 words

\$100 for 6 – 10 words

\$200 for 11 – 50 words

Note that the time and effort involved in each project will differ depending on the language and/or the content, so please compensate the translator according to professional standards.

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.