

Letters and Lines Theme for October

In recognition of the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, October's theme for Letters and Lines is "Reconciliation." Many people do not understand the land acknowledgement statement that many organizations are announcing before events and in written correspondence but it is just one of the Calls to Action that is being honoured. Edmonton is within Treaty 6 territory which encompasses many different Indigenous nations, some that have no written language. For this month, we will be concentrating on Nehiyawewin (the Cree language). The Nehiyawak ᓂᐱᓴᓐᓴᓐ (Cree people) have a beautiful language which has five dialects and is very descriptive. For instance, Edmonton is amiskwaciwâskahikan ᐱᓴᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ or Beaver Hills House. Honey is âmômey ᐱᓴᓴᓐᓴᓐ which literally translates as bee poop.

Below you will find some Nehiyawewin words and phrases that may be used in this month's Letters and Lines. If there are other words that you would prefer to use, we suggest going to creedictionary.com. You can simply type in the English word, and it will be translated into Nehiyawewin and the Cree syllabics. Try translating the word "love" and see how many different descriptions there are. So, have fun with this theme and use it as an opportunity to learn about the Nehiyawak and their language.

- truth: tapwewin ᓂᓴᓐᓴᓐ
- conciliation: kwayskahsatsowin (there is no traditional Cree word for reconciliation)
- amiable, being amiable: meywâtisowin ᓴᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ
- remember: kiskisiwin ᓴᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ
- Every Child Matters: tahto-awâsisak itakimêw ᓂᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ ᐱᓴᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ (literally, every child has value)

"What is reconciliation? Reconciliation is love." Dr. Willy Little Child (Nehiyawin)