

## Indigenous Languages of Manitoba-Ojibwe Course

The Indigenous Languages of Manitoba offers Cree and Ojibwe courses throughout the year. I attended the Ojibwe one, as I have taught on reserves in Northwestern Ontario and I have many friends who taught me Ojibwe when I was teaching there, and I already had a basic understanding going into the course.

As our school is taking steps to work toward Indigenous perspectives in teaching, Truth and Reconciliation Initiatives, and recognizing the value and contributions of Indigenous peoples to our learning and community, I decided to refresh and upgrade my language and speaking skills in this area so that I could teach and connect with this language.

In this course, taught by Roger Roulette, we examined language structures and frames for speaking, vocabulary, prepositions, pronouns, greetings, weather, community objects, colours, numbers, reading, and translation (English-Ojibwe...Ojibwe-English) each class. Each class was theory and application, with a progressive build of vocabulary. There is a continued Language Lab being offered after Christmas, where skills in communication will be focused on, which I will be attending.

I have connected with a few teachers at our school and we will be doing an Indigenous Storytelling unit after Winter Break. I am comfortable reading any level of Ojibwe, but I prefer reading stories with plenty of pictures that support the teachings of this rich oral tradition.

I just received my certificate for Introductory Ojibwe and it was a pleasure to receive the instruction and reconnect with people, and I look forward to sharing my knowledge with student and families at our school.

I recommend this course to others. The course is quite condensed, 2 evenings per week for 2 hours formal training, with pre and post language /speaking/sharing sessions (informal) after each class or out in the community (try ordering tea, toast and soup at Salisbury House!)

Daga Gaminikwe niti, ozaawakiiz dago naboob.