

# Media Release



FILE HILLS QU'APPELLE TRIBAL COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 15, 2023

## FILE HILLS QU'APPELLE TRIBAL COUNCIL TO CELEBRATE INAUGURAL “LANGUAGES IN OUR LANDS” WEEK MAY 2023

**(Treaty 4 Territory)** The File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council's Lands, Resources, Environment, & Stewardship (FHQTC-LRES) Department will recognize its first-ever annual *Languages in Our Lands Week* from May 8-12, 2023.

*Languages in Our Lands Week*, supported by the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council's 11 Member Nations' Leadership, Language Keepers, and the Lands, Resources, Environment & Stewardship's Youth Advisory Council, aims to raise awareness of the critical state of First Nations' languages and the urgency to take measures to ensure their preservation and revitalization.

In establishing this celebratory week, the FHQTC-LRES drew inspiration from the United Nations' International Decade of Indigenous Languages. Proclaimed in 2019, this ten-year initiative supports the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages and acknowledges the vital role they play in contributing to the rich cultural fabric of Nations around the world.

Since time immemorial, First Nations have collectively been stewards of their ancestral territories' lands, water, and environment. Our Natural Laws teach us that we are of our languages, and we are of our lands. Recognizing this intrinsic connection further strengthens the cultural identity of First Nations peoples.

Throughout *Languages in Our Lands Week*, FHQTC-LRES will dedicate individual days to celebrate the 11 Member Nations' five distinct languages – Cree (nêhiyaw), Lakota (Lakhóta), Nakoda (Nakon), Saulteaux (Anishinaabe), and Dakota (Dakhóta).

As advocates for the environment, the department will also plant trees on Treaty 4 Grounds Reserve 77 in honour of their languages, acknowledging its ties to the land and the importance of climate action.

FHQTC-LRES encourages Citizens, businesses, organizations, and governments across Treaty 4 Territory to recognize our united purpose and partake in *Languages in Our Lands Week* by engaging in an act that celebrates language's connection to the land.

**For more information, please contact** – Shannon Thomson, FHQTC Director, Lands, Resources, Environment & Stewardship department. [Shannon.thomson@fhqtc.com](mailto:Shannon.thomson@fhqtc.com)

