

The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. Presents

Sharing Aboriginal Stories

Learning about the Sundance

With

Kimberly Loftus

ni kiskîhtîn oma nipâkwîsimowin osici Kimberly Loftus

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Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op

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Sharing Aboriginal Stories: Learning about the Sundance with Kimberly Loftus

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Learning about the Sundance

By

Kimberly Loftus

The translations provided adhere to the Cree sound system within Standard Roman Orthography. There are no capitals in Standard Roman Orthography as each word is equally important so there is no emphasis on any one word. The macron "â" or line above each letter signifies a long sound.

The "p" sounds like a "b"
The "t" sounds like a "d"
The "k" sounds like a "g"
The "c" sounds like "ch"
The "a" sounds like "u"
The "â" sounds like "aah"
The "ê" sounds like "ay"
The "î" sounds like "ih"
The "î" sounds like "ee"
The "o" sounds like "oh"
The "ô" sounds like "ooh"



My name is Kimberly Loftus and I am from
Sakimay First Nation.

ni wîhôwin ôma Kimberly Loftus êkwa nîya osici Sakimay
First Nation



I am a student at the Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-Op.
ê kiskinwahamâkosîyan Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op



I do not know a lot about my culture language and history
but want to learn.

namoya nikiskîhtîn mistahi osici ôma nêhiyaw sihcikêwin
maka ni nohte nikiskîhtîn



I am researching the Sundance.

ni nitonîn nipâkwîsimowin



My research was on the internet and in the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre library.

Niki nitonîn kiskihtamowin ê apacihtayan mahtaw apacihcikan êkwa Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre ayamihcikîwikamik



I learned that the Sundance is an important traditional ceremony.

ni kiskîhtîn ê mistiyihtakwahk oma nipâkwîsimowin



It happens in the summer season.

îspayik mana ka nîpihk



It is a ceremony of sacrifice.

ê ayamahk ôma



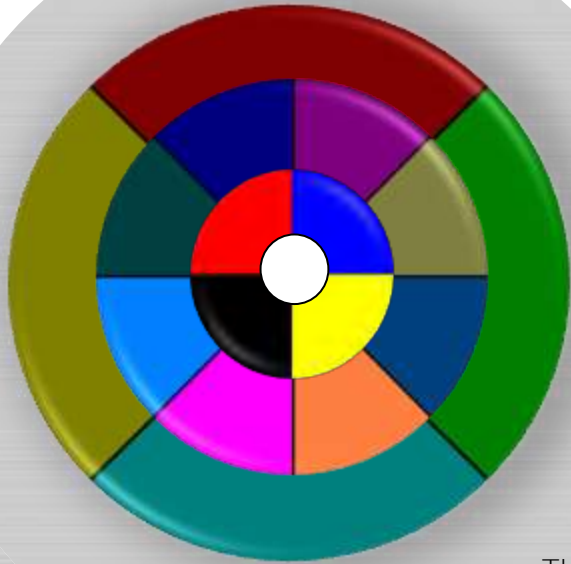
Sometimes it is done by someone who has made a vow to dance if their prayers were heard.

asotamok ayisînôwak ka nîmihtocik



I hope to learn more someday about this tradition and others in my culture.

ni pokosîhtân ki tahtowîy ka kiskihtaman ohi nêhiyaw
osihcikêwina



The creators of these stories were part of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network's **Circles of Intelligent Knowledge Program.**

Sharing Aboriginal Stories (SAS) of literacy, language, culture and the adoption of Aboriginal life-long learning with literacy as a cultural tradition are a result of their participation in the program. Contact the SALN If your community and or group are interested in holistic literacy programming or are interested in Aboriginal Literacy.

The **Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. (SALN)** is a non-profit community-based organization

committed to:

- Providing access to resources regarding Aboriginal Literacy.
- Advocating with government and agencies for better programming.
- Encouraging membership and participation.

OUR GOALS:

Taking our lead from numerous community consultations, including the Gathering in 2002, the SALN has committed itself to the following goals:

- Increase awareness of the value, importance, and uniqueness of Aboriginal Literacy in Saskatchewan.
- Increase support for cultural and community-based sustainable Aboriginal Literacy programs.
- Promote and support curriculum, instructional methods, and assessment processes based on Aboriginal values and ways of knowing.

WHAT IS ABORIGINAL LITERACY?

Aboriginal Literacy (First Nations and Métis) is a learner-centered approach to life-long learning that honours the inter-connectedness of all aspects of creation, for growth, personal empowerment, community development, and self-determination.

Aboriginal Literacy encompasses first languages, Elder involvement, culture, and community in a holistic development approach to unify mind, heart, body, and spirit.