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Collaborative Language Planning Project:  
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8-25-2023

### Collaborative Language Planning Project: Report 09: Summer 2023

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# CLPP Report 09

## More trainings in language science!

**T**he Collaborative Language Planning Project (CLPP) newsletter editorial team is happy to share more exciting happenings among our members and collaborators. In this issue, we focus on the conference that our team hosted: the Conference on Indigenous Science and Language (CISL) in May. We also share news about our members' conference presentations on the planning, organization, and results of the Institute on Collaborative Language Research (CoLang), which was held in Summer 2022. This issue also contains brief reports from the interns from Aaniiih Nakoda College on participating in the Symposium on American Indian Languages in Arizona, and a message from our collaborators at the miyaamia language program.

## Congratulations!

**M**elanie Sandoval, our SKC CLPP liaison, has received multiple prestigious awards this year: the Bertha Morton Scholarship, the Knute W. Bergan Scholarship, the Mellon Master's Fellowship, and the Salish Kootenai College Educator Award. Melanie was also featured in the University of Montana's Vision 2023 in one of the student spotlights. Melanie shares her story in this issue's column "Learning and Teaching Seliš and Qlispe".

### Collaborative Language Planning Project (CLPP)

#### PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Aaniiih Nakoda College (ANC)  
Blackfeet Comm. College (BCC)  
Chief Dull Knife College (CDKC)  
Fort Peck Comm. College (FPCC)  
Salish Kootenai College (SKC)  
Stone Child College (SCC)  
University of Montana (UM)



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#### CLPP mailing list

We have an email listserv for sharing information on language-related news and announcements. Anyone can message the entire mailing list. To do so, send your message to [clpp-l@lists.umt.edu](mailto:clpp-l@lists.umt.edu)

Also, if you would like to receive messages sent to this mailing list, you will need to subscribe to it. To subscribe, send an email to CLPP Director, Mizuki Miyashita, at [mizuki.miyashita@umontana.edu](mailto:mizuki.miyashita@umontana.edu)

## CLPP hosts a conference in Missoula

**I**t was a success! On May 18 & 19, 2023, enthusiastic language scholars convened on the University of Montana campus to take part in the Conference on Indigenous Science and Language (CISL).

Over 100 participants were in attendance, and more than 20 Indigenous communities from the US and Canada were represented. More than 25% of attendees are Class 7 educators. A wonderful turnout!

The two-day conference included a keynote speech by Daryl Baldwin, 14 presentations, a panel by CLPP liaisons Sean Chandler, Iva Croff, and Richard Littlebear, and 5 workshops by CLPP members and collaborators.

The conference ended with a session for reflection and evaluations. The anonymous evaluation forms contained many helpful suggestions for the organizers to keep in mind for planning future events, such as including more time for networking, more song, holding sessions outdoors, and shorter days. The evaluation forms also included kind words of positive feedback:

*"This conference was a great networking tool, and reinforced ideas that I have to step up my game. Additionally, I got some good ideas from the presenters." "What an important conference, vital, needed experience. Hope it happens again"*

Indigenous languages cannot save themselves, so it is so vital that we all work collectively through a variety of modalities to do what we can to revitalize, save and preserve our respective languages. The premiere guest speaker, Daryl Baldwin, reminded us of the importance of collaboration, which is to bring together expertise from inside and outside of the community. Melanie Sandoval's plenary, "Salish Language Educator Development (SLED)," shared the history of the Salish language program (see her column on page 5 for more). During her plenary, Aspen Decker brought her 10 year old daughter to give a wonderful demonstration of the results of her teaching Seliš (aka Salish) language to her children. Aspen spoke to the audience in Seliš while her daughter translated into English, and vice-versa.

All conferences regarding Indigenous languages are a lot of work, but they are so necessary and immensely valuable. Every time an Indigenous community loses a first-language speaker, it is more than the language that is lost.



Language plays a vital role in cultural and traditional practices. When we learn collectively what more we can do to save Indigenous languages, we have more energy and new ideas to carry our work forward.

### myaamia language workers give workshop at CISL

One of the workshops at CISL was “Language teaching and learning in myaamia language revitalization” by ciinkwa (Jarri Baldwin) and Tracy Hirata-Edds, who collaborate at the myaamia center at Miami University in language teaching curriculum development. The workshop focused on language teaching drawing from what and how they do when teaching the myaamia language. The audience experienced hands-on activities such as brainstorming with respect to things they might be facing. ciinkwa and Tracy summarize their involvement with the myaamia language revitalization: “Myaamia language revitalization is an archive-based effort designed to strengthen connections among tribal citizens, deepen cultural knowledge, and nurture individual identities. We prioritize language’s role for the user in teaching and learning opportunities. For some, learning ‘about’ the language offers opportunities to connect with others and their heritage as well as begin to explore the language. Others want to learn basic expressions like greetings and partings, which can then further their interests in additional areas, including language of the home, ecology-based language, and traditional storytelling. By focusing on learner interests, we support language goals of the community and newly developing myaamiaataweenki users.”

*“That relationship is built on trust and respect, and many wonderful opportunities beyond language have grown from the relationship.”*  
— Daryl Baldwin (2003:20), *Miami Language Reclamation: From Ground Zero*

### ICLDC 2023 Online

Over March 2-5, 2023, the University of Hawai’i at Manoa virtually hosted the 8th annual International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (ICLDC). The theme this year was “Centering Justice in Language Work”. Many familiar faces were present, including many workshop facilitators from CoLang 2022 in Montana. CLPP founding members Mizuki Miyashita, Richard Littlebear, and Susan Penfield presented a session called “CoLang 2022 in Montana: A Turning Point in Indigenous Representation”. There were over 80 presentations at ICLDC 8. To learn more about this amazing annual conference, see their website at <http://ling.ill.hawaii.edu/sites/icldc>.

INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON



LD&C  
2023

### The next onsite workshop

Since the inception of CLPP in 2018, CLPP onsite workshops have been held at Chief Dull Knife College in November 2018, Fort Peck Community College in May 2019, and Blackfeet Community College in October 2022. The next CLPP onsite workshop will be held in Fall 2023 in Havre, Montana. The workshop will be hosted by CLPP lead member Dr. Sean Chandler. The date and topics of this workshop will be announced in September, 2023.





### CLPP members (2023)

#### Co-convenors

Mizuki Miyashita (UM , director)  
Iva Croff (BCC liaison)  
Sean Chandler (ANC liaison)

#### Consultants

Richard Littlebear (N. Cheyenne)  
Susan Penfield (UM affiliate)

#### TCU members

Mina Seminole (CDKC liaison)  
Melanie Sandoval (SKC liaison)  
Michael Turcotte (FPCC liaison)

#### UM members

Leora Bar-el  
Irene Appelbaum

#### Coordinator

Madeleine Shek

### Editors of this issue

Sean Chandler  
Iva Croff  
Mizuki Miyashita  
Madeleine Shek

## Reflecting on SAIL 2023

The Symposium on American Indian Languages (SAIL) is held annually at the University of Arizona in Tucson. It is hosted by the American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI), an organization that CLPP consults with regularly. This year, nine language workers traveled from Montana to attend SAIL. Mizuki



*Image: Xavier Hawley (left) and Wozek Chandler (right)*

Miyashita, Richard Littlebear, and Susan Penfield presented a session titled “Approaches to Enhancing Indigenous Participation at CoLang 2022”.

Wozek Chandler, ANA Project Director and Xavier Hawley, Curriculum Developer, both at the White Clay Immersion School in Fort Belknap, reflected on SAIL:

“The Symposium on American Indian Language, or SAIL, was a great experience. I always think it’s cool to see different groups of people come together with common goals to discuss a plethora of topics. The people I met at SAIL were nothing but kind and helpful.” -Xavier Hawley

“During my time at SAIL I attended various workshops and presentations. I enjoyed them all but there were a few that stuck with me— “Making a Language Plan” workshop and “Prompts for Creative Writing in Indigenous Languages” workshop, both facilitated by Ofelia Zepeda, were useful to my work. It helped me think outside of the box in terms of activities in language work. In both workshops we were guided by Ofelia to think about our language goals and how we are going to put them into action for our communities. Throughout these discussions, I discovered many others in language work share some of the same conflicts we experience, which created further discussion on ideas of how to mitigate them.” -Wozek Chandler

# Learning and Teaching Seliš and Q̓lispe

By Melanie Sandoval  
Salish Kootenai College

The hope of many of our elders is for the continuation of our languages. Seliš and Q̓lispe dialects in Montana have ten first-language speakers, most who are elders. Over the years, many of us have made it our life's work to learn and teach the language. While we believe the ideal way to revitalize language is within the family, there is great need to learn and teach our indigenous languages through other means.

Currently there are several opportunities to learn the Seliš Q̓lispe language on the Flathead Reservation. People of any age can learn through programs within the tribal entities, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions.

- Nk̓usm Salish language school: Inspired by Maori and Hawaiian language immersion schools and established in 2002, Nk̓usm serves between 30-40 children from many communities, from pre-school to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

- Es K̓w̓almi Nuwewlštn Language Nest: Early Childhood Services created a classroom focused on early childhood experiences in Salish.

- Seliš Q̓lispe Language Apprentice: The goal of the Seliš Q̓lispe Culture Committee Language Apprentice program is to create speakers. Each fall, apprentices are selected to participate full-time in intense daily lessons targeted at increasing language proficiency. Teachers use a fluency transfer system developed by the Salish School of Spokane. This year, we will begin the sixth cohort.

- Salish Language Educator Development: In 2018, the start of the apprentice program coincided with the SLED degree offered at Salish Kootenai College.

Students can choose to work towards a one-year certificate of completion, an associate degree, or a bachelor's degree. Three teachers graduated in both 2022 and 2023 with their bachelor's degrees in Salish Language Education.

- Culture and Language Studies: In consultation and partnering with the Seliš Q̓lispe Culture Committee, a new degree program at SKC was created to ensure that culture and language was also taught. The first cohort is currently taking classes.

We need teachers for all our schools. The Flathead Reservation has seven school districts, each with preschools, elementary, middle and high schools. There are also over thirty tribal Early Childhood classrooms. A handful of the schools in these districts provide one language teacher.

We have come a long way in our journey to revitalize Seliš and Q̓lispe, but there is much more work to do. Sophie Mays, a longtime language teacher who has passed, gave us these words to keep us going: *Ta pistem qeqs čmšqnmíst* We will never give up!



## Ending Note

It is good to learn of so many delightful activities that are taken on by our friends and collaborators. We were happy that CISL was a success. It was great to meet new friends and see old friends again. All the talks were inspiring and there were

certainly many take-home messages from the event. We appreciate everyone who presented and attended. We hope to host the 2nd CISL in 2024!

-- The editors

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32 Campus Dr.

Collaborative Language Planning Project is a series of activities conducted by a group of like-minded people who work toward the recognition, maintenance, and promotion of Indigenous languages of Montana and beyond.

## Collaborative Language Planning Project (CLPP)



*CLPP works to enhance communication among language activists, language teachers, students, and researchers from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in the state of Montana. The participants consist of representatives from the tribal colleges in Montana as well as language activists, teachers and researchers from independent community language programs. Its goals include enriching language revitalization efforts among Indigenous communities, enhancing teachers and activists' training experiences, and encouraging collaboration.*

CLPP - Montana

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