



Nisookamig – Red Lake

\$150,000 project support for a master-apprentice Ojibwe language cohort model as part of the Rural Placemaking program in rural Minnesota

Contact

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Nisookamig strengthens Ojibwe language and future community leaders

This community-led model connects learners, fluent speakers and future teachers to strengthen language, culture and belonging across rural northern Minnesota. Launched last year, Nisookamig is intentionally creating a speaker-development pipeline of future teachers, mentors, and cultural leaders while helping restore Ojibwe as a living community language. The long-term goal is to increase the number of highly proficient Ojibwe speakers from **approximately 0.1% to 1% of enrolled tribal members** across the Red Lake, Leech Lake and White Earth communities over the next decade.

Cohort members have found value in the project from the start.

“Since I started the Master Apprentice Cohort program with Nisookamig, I am finally advancing upward in speaking my language after years of experiencing a plateau,” said cohort member Dakamub Janelle Johnson, a Leech Lake band member from Onigum, Minn. “Nisookamig provides a safe space to speak Ojibwe with other learners. Aazhoo-bines (John Daniel) and Bimwewekamigookwe (Serena Graves-Daniel) create connection through their wise, yet humble approach. The advanced knowledge shared through instruction has given me the tools and confidence to apply what I learn and actually speak Ojibwe. I am recommending their programs to others as I know they will succeed in reaching many more eager learners of Ojibwe.”

Photo – see next page



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The first Nisookamig cohort helped launch a new community-led Ojibwe language learning model. Dakamub Janelle Johnson (far left), a Leech Lake band member, was one of the participants.