



## **HONOURING INDIGENOUS VOICES**

THE CIRCLE'S ONGOING DEMONSTRATION  
OF COMMITMENT TO LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION



June is National Indigenous History Month in (so-called) Canada, and June 21st marks National Indigenous Peoples Day — a time to pause and reflect on the profound contributions of Indigenous peoples to the work we all care about: protecting our climate, stewarding our lands and waters, upholding human rights, and safeguarding the health and safety of women and children. Their wisdom is not a resource to be extracted, but a living inheritance that guides our work at The Circle deeply and our leadership as Indigenous women, and for us all; if we are willing to listen.

In that spirit, we are proud to share the ongoing work of our organization in centering Indigenous Language Revitalization as a core priority and carrying the good work and wisdom of September 2025 AMG Gathering forward.

### **LISTENING IN CIRCLE: WHAT WE CARRIED HOME FROM THE AMG 2025**

*Adapted from a harvest by Dawn Foxcroft, facilitator, Language Revitalization Sessions*

Language carries more than words — it carries memory, healing, and identity. At September's All Members' Gathering, two workshops brought Indigenous cousins and funders together around this truth. What began as a space for sharing recommendations became something richer: a genuine circle where stories were told side by side, and where community wisdom met the responsibility of those who hold resources.

The recommendations that emerged deserve to travel further than the room where they were spoken. We share them here — not as a checklist, but as an invitation:

- Commit to long-term, permanent funding that reflects the true historical cost of what was taken
- Welcome Indigenous people into decision-making roles — and increase their presence
- Conduct in-person community visits, in collaboration with each community

- Let Indigenous ways of knowing shape grant design, valued equally alongside settler academia
- Invest in Indigenous organizations building pathways for Indigenous talent
- Dedicate at least 10% of grant funds to language, as a meaningful starting point
- Reduce reporting burdens — communities have vital work to do
- Recognize that language is deeply rooted in healing, and support wellness accordingly
- Prioritize multi-year agreements, and take time to learn the languages of the communities you serve
- Talk to each other

If these recommendations stir something in you — whether you are a funder, a community member, or both — we encourage you to carry them into your next conversation, policy considerations, grant decision making, or gathering.

## ABOUT OUR FACILITATOR

This circle was hosted by taaʔisumqa, Dawn Foxcroft, from ćišaaʔath (Tseshaht First Nation), one of the nuučaaʔuł Nations along the west coast of Vancouver Island. A UVic grad with a Master's of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization (2016), Dawn serves as Language Manager for her Nation — working alongside elders, adult learners, and the Tseshaht Language Team to develop intensive programs, teaching tools, and recordings. She reminds us that time is of the essence: most fluent Nuuchahnulth speakers are now in their 70s and 80s.

Learn more about Dawn's work at the [ćišaaʔath Language Program](#) and explore their resources on [First Voices](#).