

Cultural Survival



Promoting the rights, voices, and visions of indigenous peoples

March 2009

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Inviting Language Advocates from Throughout Indian Country:

Cultural Survival and the National Alliance to Save Native Languages invite your tribe, language advocates, educators, elders, and youth to participate in the second annual National Native Language Revitalization Summit this May 11th-13th in Washington D.C.

On Tuesday, May 12, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian will swing open its doors to language revitalization stakeholders for an inspirational day of learning and sharing the successes of the Native language movement. This crucial event, *From Code Talkers to Immersion: Native American Language Summit*, will feature a keynote address by Darrell Robes Kipp, a renowned leader in language revitalization; a series of panels and trainings; cultural entertainment; language demonstrations; short films; and a special appearance by Code Talkers.

This year's summit is dedicated to all Native American Code Talkers, and is being held in honor of the passage of the Native American Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008. We will commemorate the distinguished service of our Code Talkers who have become American heroes for using their Native languages to defend freedom around the world. NMAI is showcasing its Code Talker exhibit for this important event, and will host a reception to honor our Code Talkers at NMAI that evening.

The final day of the summit, Wednesday, May 13, will feature a language impact day on Capitol Hill where language advocates will gather to educate Congress on the importance of investing in Native language programs, specifically, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act. Advocates will take to The Hill to defend and seek increased support for federal funding for Native languages. The National Alliance to Save Native Languages will coordinate Hill visits and secure meetings for summit participants with their Congressional delegations.

Pre-Summit training sessions are planned for Monday, May 11, and will feature opportunities to strengthen fundraising skills, as well as locate Native language materials in national repositories. Cultural Survival is inviting all participants to pre-register for these training sessions by contacting Jennifer Weston at 617.441.5400 x15 or by visiting www.cs.org/programs/elc/program

The National Native Language Summit is a must for all tribal communities that are interested in revitalizing and maintaining their languages. This event is the only one that brings stakeholders to our nation's capitol, and to Indian Country's greatest symbol of cultural renaissance, the National Museum of the American Indian. We urge you to participate and get involved in the single most important issue facing Indian country today, the struggle to hold on to our identity, our culture, our languages.

For more information visit: www.cs.org/programs/elc/program.

We look forward to seeing you in May!

Sincerely,

Ryan Wilson (Oglala Lakota), The National Alliance to Save Native Languages and Cultural Survival

Jennifer Edwards Weston (Hunkpapa Lakota/Standing Rock Sioux), Cultural Survival program officer