Chippewa Cree Language Preservation Pilot Project Survey Results
Overview

• A 21-item paper survey was designed and revised in January 2014

• The survey was administered to adult tribal members and descendants from February to June 2014

• An electronic version of the same survey was created on SurveyMonkey in February 2014
  – Available on Facebook, SCC Website, and emailed directly to tribal members and/or descendants
Overview, continued

• The goal was to have 600 surveys completed to provide key information for other aspects of the project including:
  – The status of the Cree and Chippewa Languages at Rocky Boy
  – Data to inform curriculum development and lesson plans for participants in the pilot component of the project
  – Topics to be addressed at the Summer Language Camp
Survey Findings

• There were 540 surveys completed—representing 90% of our goal of 600.
• Data categorized in four categories:
  – Demographic information (gender, age, home community, level of education)
  – Usage of and connection to Cree Language
  – Usage of and connection to Chippewa Language
  – Interest in project and comments about survey
Demographic: Gender

- 63.89% (345) female and 36.11% (195) male
## Demographic: Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 to 24</td>
<td>22.59%</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>24.26%</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>18.15%</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>18.52%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64</td>
<td>10.56%</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 or older</td>
<td>0.93%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>540</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographic: Age Groups

- 75 or older
- 65 to 74
- 55 to 64
- 45 to 54
- 35 to 44
- 25 to 34
- 18 to 24
Demographic: Home Community

• All of the local communities/villages/housing sites within the exterior boundaries of the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation were represented.

• Responses also included locations outside of the reservation boundaries as well as locations outside the state of Montana.
RB Communities with 15 or more Respondents

- Box Elder (65)
- Agency (50)
- Haystack (44)
- Bonneauville (43)
- Duck Creek (43)
- Parker School (33)
- Azure Site (24)
- St. Pierre Road (18)
- Parker Canyon (15)
Demographic: Levels of Education

- Less than high school
- High school/G.E.D.
- Two-year college
- Four-year college
- Graduate school
- Vocational/technical training
Education Levels, continued

- 4.63% (25) Less than high school
- 34.26% (159) High school/G.E.D.
- 29.81% (161) Two-year college
- 17.59% (95) Four-year college
- 9.63% (52) Graduate school
- 4.07% (22) Vocational/technical training.
Importance of Having Knowledge of the Cree Language as part of Tribal Identity

83.7% Very important
14.4% Somewhat important
0.9% Not very important
0.9% Not important at all
When you were a child, which family members spoke Cree?
Other Family Members Who Spoke/Speak Cree

• Entire family
• Aunts
• Uncles
• Cousins
• Adoptive parents
• Great Grandparents
Family Members Who Spoke Cree as a Child

- Paternal grandmother: 50.0%
- Paternal grandfather: 40.0%
- Maternal grandmother: 50.0%
- Maternal grandfather: 60.0%
- Mother: 50.0%
- Father: 40.0%
- Brother: 10.0%
- Sister: 10.0%
- Don't know: 10.0%
Other than Family, Who Spoke Cree?

- 74.07% (400) indicated Friend
- 41.67% (225) indicated Co-worker
- 52.59% (284) indicated Teacher
If you do not speak Cree, would you like to learn?
Have you ever taken a Cree Language Class?

- Yes: 73.5%
- No: 26.5%
Have you ever studied Cree on your own?
Do you currently speak Cree?

- Yes: 30.6%
- No: 69.4%
Ranking of Abilities in Cree, where 1 = fluent and 7 = no ability
Top Reasons to Learn Cree (listed from most important to least important)

• Understand history from the Cree point of view
• Family or friends speak Cree
• To read Cree books and documents
• To strengthen my identity as a Native
• Converse with other Cree speakers
• To speak more than one language
• One or more of my ancestors were Cree
• To better understand Cree
• To help keep Cree culture and tradition alive
Interest in Cree Language Revitalization Program

- Very interested: 68.5%
- Somewhat interested: 27.8%
- Not very interested: 2.0%
- Not interested: 1.7%
## Abilities in Chippewa Language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read Chippewa</td>
<td>7.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write Chippewa</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak Chippewa</td>
<td>11.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehend Chippewa</td>
<td>18.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>75.93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Respondents: 540**
When you were a child, which family members spoke Chippewa?
Family Members Who Spoke Chippewa as a Child

- Paternal grandmother: 15.0%
- Paternal grandfather: 10.0%
- Maternal grandmother: 20.0%
- Maternal grandfather: 20.0%
- Mother: 15.0%
- Father: 10.0%
- Brother: 0.0%
- Sister: 0.0%
- Don't know: 60.0%
If you do not speak Chippewa, would you like to learn?
Questions or Comments?