00:00:00:14 - 00:00:24:20

Blair Beaucage

You got to be careful what you say around people sometimes because they'll make it happen. Both my parents were that kind of people you always had to be careful what you said around them. Like my dad was like... “Dad, I want to learn the language.” “Good, come on.” “Right now?” “Yeah.” And we went across the road to his mom, to my grandma, and he said “Mom, he wants to learn the language. Talk to us in the language.”

00:00:25:17 - 00:00:35:05

Blair Beaucage

She just started talking the language right there. She only spoke to me all the time like that. It's really nice to hear that all the time.

00:00:36:12 - 00:01:12:14

Marlene Barnes

I was fortunate that I came home and visited with my parents all the time when I was away and they always spoke in the language. My dad always talked to us and he was a big storyteller. When we sat down for any meals that we were having, our table was always like a map. The salt would be this island and this and that, and he'd always like almost draw a picture for us on the table as we're eating.

00:01:12:14 - 00:01:39:03

Evelyn McLeod

I could speak my language at my family, my my sisters and my brother and my aunts and my uncles on both sides of the family. They always spoke Nishnaabemwin. Even now, to this day when we meet, like that's the language that we grew up with. So it's really natural that we, that we start speaking that right away when we see each other.

00:01:39:15 - 00:01:56:14

June Commanda

I used to go visit all my old aunts because everybody, they just spoke the language. They never spoke English. They just expected you... You're a young Nishnaabeg girl. Like, you know, you should know the language.

00:01:56:14 - 00:02:23:00

Tamara Ojeek

What makes me most proud is when I hear my daughters using it without us initiating the conversation or hearing them playing off to the side, not knowing anyone's listening. And we hear them using the Nishnaabemwin words. And that feels so great thinking, like I am creating a difference, even if it's just a few words.

00:02:23:00 - 00:02:42:21

Tory Ojeek

I want them to know who they are as Nishnaabe. I want them to be proud of that. There was a time when I was younger and I wasn't proud of myself because I was Nishnaabe. But now I am and I hope that I can show that to them. And also too, just let them know that I'm learning too, I’m learning with them.

00:02:43:05 - 00:02:54:03

Clayton Hughes

I talk to my mom and my ngookmis and my gram in the language. The learning of the language is important to me because my ngookmis speaks it.

00:02:55:22 - 00:03:09:07

Tamara Ojeek

It's important to me because of who we are and where we come from. To get back there and to be able to speak that with my children and my grandchildren one day just brings me joy, just thinking about it.

00:03:11:02 - 00:03:32:23

Mindy Lariviere

Things happen over generations. Things take a lot of time. And I think, you know, we have a good start. And if we continue on with our children and they continue on with their grandchildren and children, you know, I think we will get there. And like-- like they say, you know, we need to think about the seven generations to come.

00:03:33:03 - 00:03:54:23

Tory Ojeek

It was last summer I had a little family fish fry. You know, when you catch lots of fish, you have a fish fry. And that's that's just what we do here at Nipissing. I cooked all the fish and fries and had it over the fire, and, you know, maybe it's just like a Nipissing thing. You get a nice frying pan. It's just like-- whoa -- it's just feels.

00:03:55:12 - 00:04:20:14

Tory Ojeek

You feel extra Nipissing or something. I don't know. Everybody goes over and my grandma got to eat first. And I remember she looked at me with a smile and she said, “Gekpii nishnaabe-aadziwin.” So she said, “You're finally living the Nishnaabe way.” And I was just like, makes me a little bit emotional, but, like, emotional proud, you know?