00:00:03:22 - 00:00:36:17

Jules Armstrong

Both my grandparents were speakers and my mother wasn't. So it skipped that generation and... for all the reasons that it did. And there's not just one reason. Many of us have the same reason why it skipped that generation. I want to change that. I want to be the change in my children's life and in my grandchildren and great grandchildren's life so that they can have it to carry as well.

00:00:37:02 - 00:00:49:20

Tory Ojeek

There's nowhere else in the world you can go and get this language. You know? I can't go over to Europe and find this, you know, it's right here. Our teachers are just down the road.

00:00:51:15 - 00:01:03:09

Blair Beaucage

We have very, very specific words for this land right here. And we have very specific stuff. And then the way we say things is specific here. “Ooh! Ndoo-giikaj” - a little bit cold today.

00:01:04:19 - 00:01:20:03

Brady Penasse

Being Nishnaabe and picking up the things that were left behind from our ancestors, who we are as a people, is in our language. So if that is gone, then we're losing a big part.

00:01:21:08 - 00:01:30:05

Christina River-Beaucage

Everybody is understanding that we need this back, that in order for us to be whole as our spirits, we need that part of our spirit back.

00:01:31:09 - 00:02:00:08

Mindy Lariviere

Our language is not a language that has dictionaries upon dictionaries. We don't have the resources to be able to retract it in any way. Like if one wanted to go and learn their language. Our languages is within our elders, the ones that still have it and are able and young enough to be able to have the energy to teach it to our teachers, to our children.

00:02:00:12 - 00:02:13:05

Mindy Lariviere

And, you know, we're just we're just running time right now, like trying to see if we can do something to revitalize it without burning out our speakers.

00:02:13:05 - 00:02:40:03

Tory Ojeek

A lot of that knowledge is, you know, is right here. And, you know, building a relationship with our grandmas and our grandpas in the community and our aunties and our uncles is so important because they're our books. That's who... that's where we find our knowledge.

00:02:40:09 - 00:03:05:21

Geraldine McLeod

Gaa-maajtaayaan kinoomaagziyaan gaanage ngikendziin zhaagnaashiimwin. I didn't know English when I started school. Nooj go aandiidok dash gaa-zhibii… gaa-maajii… Just like you people. Gaan ngikendziin eyaawaad nishnaabemyeg naa? Mii geniin naasaab… Opposite. Nakeyiing gaa-zhwebziyaan.

00:03:05:21 - 00:03:11:00

Geraldine McLeod

Aandiidok naa pii gaa-maajii-zhaagnaashiimwaad ngikendziin. I don't know when I learned to speak English.

00:03:12:14 - 00:03:44:17

June Commanda

I remember going to Duchesnay at the school with some of the elders, and some of the things we did was find words for new things that our grandmothers have, like computers. And how do you say telephone? There's no words for that. So we'd work on making words and how you make new words for language, is you describe it.

00:03:44:17 - 00:04:09:09

Geraldine McLeod

Ndoo-ntamgoz i go maa pane bi-zhaayeg ketin go kwejtooyeg gi nishnaabemyeg g-chi-piitenminim bekish dash… um… kina wiijiiwndiyang kina ji-nishnaabemyang. Go together to learn the language.

00:04:09:09 - 00:04:24:19

Mike Sawyer

But one thing that was really important about what my mom was always trying to instill was always, have those language warriors. Always have the next generation. At least keep that language alive.

00:04:24:19 - 00:04:34:15

Blair Beaucage

I guess we're faced with a fork in the road. The language was taken once before, but it's still here. If we don't do anything now, we let it go.

00:04:35:14 - 00:05:08:14

Scott-McLeod Shabogesic

I'm hoping to see a solid foundation of learning our language in the next ten years. We have recently passed the Anishinaabe Governance Agreement, which allows resources to flow and be directed and focus on language and culture. It gives us the authority to make the decisions on how that's going to look and to set our goals and really have some milestone that we want to achieve over the next ten years.