Anishinaabemowin App

The Wikwemikong Heritage Organization (W.H.O.) is a non-profit organization situated in Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. The W.H.O. is committed to the preservation and enhancement of Anishinaabeg Culture through education and the participatory cultural opportunities with both Native and Non-Native people.

In its language revitalization initiatives the W.H.O. is currently conducting elder interviews. Its goal is to preserve our stories, history and language. The W.H.O. also for the last 3 years, have been conducting monthly language gatherings. Its goal is to preserve our words related to the topics that are being discussed at each gathering. In the past, some of the topics that were discussed involved words used in weather, hunting and fishing, gardening and farming, just to name a few. From these gatherings and elder interviews, all data/information collected was and will be used to develop books and language learning resources.

Other language revitalization initiatives the W.H.O. been working on include, Cultural Immersion Camps, Language Classes and the development of a full Immersion School.

To date the Wikwemikong Heritage Organization has developed over 50 language learning resources ranging from books, audio resources to videos. Sales and interest within Wikwemikong for the W.H.O.’s language learning resources has dropped significantly. Less than 1% of sales came from Wikwemikong, the bulk of the sales came from other First Nations throughout Ontario and the United States.

Another alarming trend was the lack of participation in the language classes and in the Cultural Immersion Camps. This prompted the organization to refocus its strategy. The organization determined that in order to motivate and create interest in its language revitalization strategy, they had to go where everybody is at and that is to go online and use modern technology to promote the use and to learn the language.

This was the bases in the development of the Anishinaabemowin App. The App is a new language learning tool designed to teach the Language of the Three Fires Confederacy (Ojibwe, Odawa & Pottawatomi). The App will enable people to hear and learn the Anishinaabe Language in the comforts of their home or on the go, anytime anywhere. The App is available in two platforms, Apple (itunes) and Android (google play).

Key features of the App include;

- Gorgeous colorful graphics
- Over 500 Audio files by fluent speakers
- Learn section – Over 500 audio files, words & phrases (record and play back your voice)
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- Games section – 3 Levels (easy, medium, hard)
- Fun Quizzes – Listening Quiz, Speaking Quiz, and Reading Quiz
- Flashcard Program – dynamic motion featuring Advanced Algorithm / Spaced Repetition
- Songs (with lyrics in Phonetic English and Anishinaabe)
- Culture Notes
- Speech / Recording / Playback – perfect your accent by comparing with native speaker
- A short video (with text explanation)
- 50 click-able traditional images (with a page of explanatory text)
- Customized with pictures of community members
- Search-able database of 1,000 click-able audio files (with text)
- Track student progress – Point-scoring system automatically sends score to your email
- Credits page

The Wiikemikong Heritage Organization is currently involved in the development of its second Anishinaabemowin App and the development of an online portal where people can access the Anishinaabe language and to complement the development of Anishinaabemowin App 2.