

## Results to Date

The immersion education experiences of other Native communities, such as Kahnawake, Atahm's Lake, and the Hawaiians, have provided strong inspiration for Mi'kmaq and Maliseet language educators. With that inspiration and the training received from St. Thomas University, several First Nations communities in the Maritimes have begun immersion at the pre-school and primary levels.



*For more information, please contact:*

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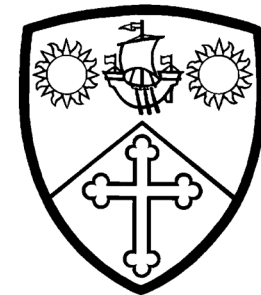
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## Certificate Programme

*in*

## NATIVE LANGUAGE IMMERSION TEACHER TRAINING



**St. Thomas University**

The first programme of its kind in Canada, this Certificate Programme in Native Language Immersion Teacher Training was developed at St. Thomas University as the result of deep concern about the rapid decline in the Maliseet and Mi'kmaq languages. In the Fredericton area alone, there are virtually no Maliseet speakers under the age of thirty-five, and in many communities, both Maliseet and Mi'kmaq, the only fluent speakers are over sixty or seventy years of age. Ironically, some of the greatest language loss has occurred where there have been regular Native language programmes in the public schools.

In 1994, Native language teachers in New Brunswick began to hear about the success of the Mohawk language immersion programme reversing both language loss and academic failure rates. It was at that time that they decided to begin collaborating with the Chair in Native Studies at St. Thomas University and with Dorothy Lazore, one of the founders of the Mohawk Immersion Programme.

Since universities had played a prominent role in training Native teachers to teach only in English, it was felt that the universities could and should take an active role in reversing that trend, by training Native teachers to teach in their mother tongue. To address this need, thirteen university courses in Native language immersion teaching have been developed over the last several years. As of April 2000, these courses were formally approved by the St. Thomas University Senate as a Certificate Programme in Native Language Immersion Teacher Training.

At present, the programme is being taught in two locations, one in Fredericton, New Brunswick (Maliseet and Mi'kmaq) and another at Eskasoni, (Cape Breton) Nova Scotia (Mi'kmaq). The first graduates of the programme will receive their certificate in 2002.

Until other universities begin developing similar programmes, we feel that our programme could be easily molded to meet the needs of other Native languages. At present, only the linguistics and immersion courses within the programme are specifically oriented towards the two languages of the Maritimes. Since many other universities already have comparable linguistics courses in other languages, it would not be difficult to tailor this programme for other language groups. We welcome inquiries from both universities and Native communities and organizations.



## Courses Offered

- A. Introductory/Foundation Courses
  - Native Language Immersion Teaching I
  - Theory and Practice in Native Language Immersion Education
- B. Skills Development
  - Methods in Immersion Teaching
  - Curriculum Planning for the Immersion Classroom
  - Methods for Teaching Adult Immersion
  - Immersion for Kindergarten
  - Practicum
- C. Linguistics
  - Maliseet/Passamaquoddy Phonology
  - Mi'kmaq Phonology
  - Maliseet/Passamaquoddy Verbs
  - Mi'kmaq Verbs
  - Maliseet/Passamaquoddy Morphology
  - Mi'kmaq Morphology
- D. Immersion Courses
  - Maliseet/Passamaquoddy Literature and Writing
  - Mi'kmaq Literature and Writing
  - Maliseet/Passamaquoddy History
  - Mi'kmaq History

\* All are half-credit courses

