

LANGUAGES MATTER!

Celebrating International Heritage-Language Day Webinar

Heritage, Identity, and Intergenerational Transmission

Thursday, March 5, 2026

9:00–10:30 am PST // 12:00–1:30 pm EST

Online | Open | Free

Register & Join : <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/0bd3b5bd-bdee-4f92-9156-bd87f3284efc@a7ee9abb-4885-492e-b331-a6fa051a39bb> PASSCODE : 6Tj3TF9F

Meeting ID: 249 619 902 70912 | Passcode: 6Tj3TF9F



Supported by: **Canadian Commission for UNESCO**

Languages are living worlds of memory, meaning, and identity — shaping us as we shape them. Marking UNESCO's International Mother Language Day, this international webinar affirms the vital role of heritage languages and linguistic diversity in sustaining our shared humanity.

- 9:00 - Welcome** – Agnieszka Pawłowska-Mainville, Global and International Studies, UNESCO Chair in Living Heritage and Sustainable Livelihoods, UNBC
- 9:05 - Opening remarks** – David Schimpky, Director of Secretariat, Canadian Commission for UNESCO
- 9:10 - Plenary Speaker** – Dr. Yvonne Pierrero, Dakelh Elder, knowledge keeper, & Founding Member of the Carrier Linguistic Society, whose lifelong dedication to the Dakelh language & cultural practices has strengthened Dakelh living heritage in BC.
- 9:25 – 10:30 – Panel Discussion**
moderated by John Mainville, Project Supervisor and Extension Specialist, Aleza Lake Research Forest
- Elizabeth Alvarez Alfaro** – a Costa Rican-born linguist and educator based in Vancouver focusing on heritage; founder of the Casa de las Américas Heritage Society
- Ami Hagiwara** – Japanese Language Instructor, Winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award
- Erica Hernandez-Read, MA** – Lead Archivist, UNBC Northern BC Archives, with 20+ years experience on participatory and community-archiving approaches to knowledge building.

*Why are languages important?
How are language and heritage related?
What challenges do language transmission face today?
How can parents, communities & institutions support language transmission better?*