

Submission to 52<sup>nd</sup> Algonquian Conference

Marie-Odile Junker, Claire Owen, Yvette Mollen, Mimie Neacappo, Delasie Torkornoo

**Presentation title:** The Online Learning Platform for Algonquian Languages

**Description (Abstract):**

More than ever, technologies and products for language revitalization are in demand. Technology can play a vital role in supporting Indigenous language teaching and learning. Through collaborative participatory action research with our Indigenous partners, we have been developing online language learning activities for East Cree ([lessons.eastcree.atlas-ling.ca](http://lessons.eastcree.atlas-ling.ca)) and Innu ([lessons.innu.atlas-ling.ca](http://lessons.innu.atlas-ling.ca)) since 2006. Until recently, these tools aimed to improve the literacy of first-language (L1) speakers: adults who speak their Indigenous language and can read in English/French, but who are not familiar with the standard orthography (Innu) or the syllabic writing system (Cree). Over the past two years we have been working on several key new developments, in terms of both technology and content/pedagogical considerations. These include:

- reprogramming the platform for accessibility on all mobile devices
- integrating content from each language's online dictionary ([dictionaries.atlas-ling.ca](http://dictionaries.atlas-ling.ca))
- creating supporting documentation: pedagogical guides for users, and an administrative guide for content creators
- designing new activities and features to also meet the needs of second-language (L2) learners, which are quite different from the project's initial L1-focused goals
- exploring the potential for expansion to other Algonquian languages such as Blackfoot

We will present a brief history of the project and our approach; recent developments, including a demonstration of online activities (particularly those newly created for L2 learners); pedagogical applications of these tools; and our challenges and successes throughout the project.

Finally, we wish to note that since its inception, this project has provided work and training opportunities for Indigenous educators/speakers.