

You are invited to join us for the fourth in-person Language Advocacy Day Canada (LAD24) event, proudly hosted by the Language Access Coalition of Canada (LACC). This inspiring gathering of language advocates and service providers will take place at the esteemed [Native Women's Association Centre](#) in Gatineau, Quebec, on **February 21, 2024**, coinciding with [International Mother Language Day](#), and followed by a virtual day of action on Canadian Language Advocacy Day, February 22nd, 2024.

Founded in 2021 to advance linguistic equity and inclusivity across Canada while fostering understanding and cooperation among diverse linguistic communities, the LACC has been playing a pivotal role in promoting Canadian language diversity. February 22nd, [Canadian Language Advocacy Day](#) (LAD) is envisioned as an annual platform for celebrating the rich, multilingual Canadian tapestry. This year's focus is on language revitalization, both on the profound histories and vast knowledge of Indigenous languages as well as the efforts to promote mother languages in newcomer linguistic communities. Against the backdrop of the [International Mother Language Day](#), participants will engage in enlightening discussions that underscore the critical need for access to and preservation of all languages while interacting with a vast network of language advocates and service providers addressing the industry's changing needs and emerging opportunities.

As we gather to honour and cherish the linguistic wealth of our communities, LAD24 promises to be a day of not only reflection and appreciation but also our collective commitment to fostering an inclusive, multilingual Canada.

Join us for this unique, by-invitation opportunity to be a champion of language access and advocate for an inclusive, linguistically diverse future of Canada!

#LAD24 

LANGUAGE ADVOCACY DAY

Theme: Language Keepers – Celebrating Newcomer and Indigenous Language Revitalization and Preservation

"Language Keepers" is envisioned as an event dedicated to celebrating the rich tapestry of linguistic diversity in Canada through the revitalization and preservation efforts of Canadian Indigenous and newcomer languages. As we embark on a collective journey to celebrate language preservation and revitalization, we believe that we are contributing to a world where every language is a cherished piece of our shared human heritage. This year we are focusing on the profound significance and impact of linguistic heritage of particularly mother languages while fostering an atmosphere of appreciation, understanding, and dialogue on shared, common ground.



Overview:

Language Keepers, a collective journey towards the preservation of our Canadian linguistic and cultural diversity, will unfold as a dynamic and deep exploration of various elements showcasing the beauty and resilience of languages. From engaging with visual displays and discussions, opportunities for networking and story sharing amongst interpreters, translators, cultural workers, and language advocates to participation in vibrant cultural workshops, *Language Keepers* promises to offer a unique and immersive experience for all participants.

Key Themes:

- *Celebrating Linguistic Diversity*: Acknowledging and embracing the multitude of languages spoken by newcomers and Indigenous communities. Recognizing the cultural richness embedded in each language as a testament to humanity's diverse narratives.
- *Revitalization Efforts*: Showcasing successful initiatives aimed at revitalising endangered languages. Highlighting the role of technology, education, and community involvement in language revitalization.
- *Cultural Exchange*: Facilitating cultural exchange through language workshops, storytelling sessions, and interactive displays. Encouraging attendees to actively participate in language-related activities, fostering a sense of connection with different linguistic traditions.

Highlights:

- *Exhibition*: LACC partner, [Canadian Language Museum](#) established in 2011 to promote an appreciation of all of the languages used in Canada and of their role in the development of this nation, will share one of their traveling exhibits promoting an appreciation of all the languages spoken in Canada and of their role in this nation's development.
- *Panel Discussion*: Renowned linguists, educators, and community leaders will engage in enlightening discussions on the challenges and triumphs of language preservation.
- *Language Workshop*: Interactive workshop led by Indigenous language experts, will provide attendees practical insights into the beauty and nuances of various languages.
- *Technology and Language Discussion*: Exploration of technologies as a friend and a foe to language services, access, and preservation, inclusive of language-learning apps, digital archives, and online platforms.
- *Community Involvement and Advocacy*: Opportunities for attendees to actively participate in discussions about collaborative initiatives, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for language access and language preservation.

Language Keepers is honoured to host esteemed panellists and moderators who have played pivotal roles in language preservation, access, and revitalization. Their experiences and insights will inspire and encourage recognition of the importance of linguistic diversity in shaping a harmonious global society. This event will serve as a reminder that we all, as language keepers, hold the key to unlocking the door to a future where the echoes of diverse voices will reverberate with pride and resilience.

OVERVIEW

DATE	February 21, 2024
VENUE	At Native Women Association of Canada , 120 Promenade du Portage Gatineau, QC J8X 2K1 Description
TIME & EVENT FORMAT	<p>8:30-12:00 pm (BALLROOM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30-9:15 am: Networking and Breakfast • 9:15- 9:30 am Opening of the Canadian Language Museum Exhibition • 9:30-9:45 am: Indigenous Elder Opening Ceremony/ Sage • 9:45am-10:00 am: Contextual Overview (15 minutes) – Panelist Introduction (moderator + STREAMING + Interpretation) • 10:00-11:30 am: Facilitated Panel Discussion (+ STREAMING + Interpretation) • 11:30-12:00 pm: Open Panel Discussion with audience (Interpretation) • 12:05-12:15am: Thank you and closing of the YouTube streaming <p>12:15 - 1:15 pm Lunch break (BALLROOM)</p> <p>1:15-2:45 pm (2nd ROOM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Art Workshop (for up to 15 registered participants) • After 2:45 all participants joining together in the ballroom <p>1:15-2:45 pm (BALLROOM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working advocacy session (moderator) – discussion about opportunities and challenges in language service industry, the role of LS providers, the role of technology, how to address the AI challenges (regulation?), how to mobilize and organize. <p>2:45 – 3:45 pm (BALLROOM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of discussion and deciding on next steps going forward (workshop participants to join) <p>3:45 – 4:30 pm Afternoon coffee, fruits... and, the end. (BALLROOM)</p>