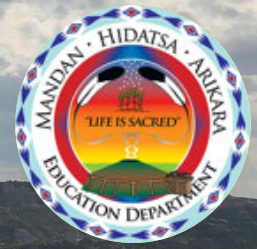




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# CULTURE & LANGUAGE DIVISION



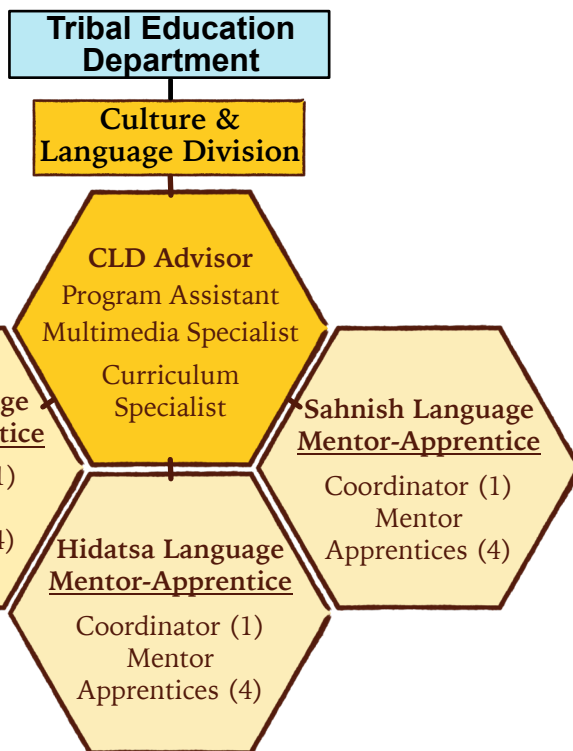
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SEPTEMBER 2018 ~ NEWSLETTER

## Help us grow the next generation of fluent speakers



## Creation of the Culture & Language Division



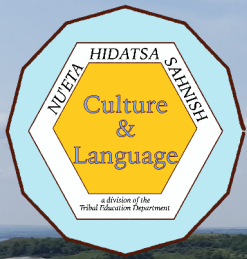
This is the first MHA Nation's Culture & Language Division (CLD) Newsletter. We're excited to share with you an update on our activities and goals projects. To the left is the CLD organizational chart

**Background:** In 2017, the MHA Nation's Education Committee gave the Tribal Education Department the directive to develop and manage a New Culture & Language Division.

In April 2018, the budget for the CLD was approved. In May the first administrative staff began to be hired, and by the end of July the first Mentor-Apprentice cohort began to be hired.

- Initial Tasks (continued on page 3)**
- **Staff:** Continued hiring of administrative staff and Mentor-Apprentice staff.
  - **Culture & Language Survey:** Development and distribution of a comprehensive survey to assess the vibrancy and statuses of the Nu'eta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish languages. This survey has been included with the mail-out of this Newsletter.  
 \*\*Please complete the most important pages 1 & 2 (front & back) of the survey and return it in the prepaid and addressed envelope. Requests for additional copies can be sent to the Tribal Education Department.
  - **Collaboration** with ongoing Nu'eta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish culture & language programs & projects.
  - **Status of the Nu'eta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish Languages' Report:** Begin research to investigate all language and culture resources.





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# Community Events Spotlight



## Community Events Bring Language Advocates, Tribal Elders, and Leaders Together

by Tony Lone Fight

“Help us grow the next generation of fluent speakers,” was the message attached to terracotta pots of delicate succulent plants. This message is at the heart of a series of meetings between the staff of the Culture & Language Division (CLD) of the Tribal Education Department and MHA Nation community members and elders. About 70 attended these three meetings held in August and September

In these meetings, Young Wolf introduced a few of the plans for language preservation and revitalization projects and collaborations. Among these are the Mentor and Apprentice program, that has four apprentices and 2 mentors for each of the Nu’eta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish languages. These apprentice cohorts are working to become fluent and be our next language and culture teachers

Currently, there are two Sahnish (Arikara) Apprentices (Judith Danks and Thomas Plenty Chief, Jr.) and two Hidatsa Apprentices (Mary Baker and Jayli Fimbres), as well as the Sahnish (Arikara) Coordinator (Margaret Landin). Young Wolf is looking forward to when the program is fully staffed and encouraged those interested to apply with the MHA Nation Human Resources Department.

MHA Nation chairman Mark Fox, who attended the August 28th Community Dinner event, expressed his support for the Culture & Language Division’s effort and hopes that in his lifetime all the MHA Nation’s languages will once again become “prevalent” on the reservation and that he’ll hear it from the halls of the tribal office to any convenience store.

Tom Abe, tribal elder said, “we should all be speaking our native languages,” and hoped that there could be more ways to use the language in day-to-day to living.



Above: Ed Hall



L to R: Jayli Fimbres, Mary Baker, Carol-Ann Fredericks-Newman, Arvella White, & Tom Abe

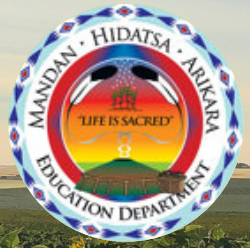


Above L to R: Amy Mossett, Dora Gwin, & Lila Gwin



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# Investing in our Cultures & Languages



## REQUEST FOR MENTORS

If you are or know of fluent Nu'eta, Hidatsa, or Sahnish language speakers, please consider helping our Mentor-Apprentice program by becoming a fluent speaker consultant or employee of CLD.

*Help us grow the next generation of fluent speakers!*

**Call for NOMINATIONS to recognize past and current teachers and educators of the Nu'eta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish cultures & languages**

1. Submit **ONLINE NOMINATIONS** at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RNQQGDT>

2. **CALL, WRITE, EMAIL** or come **VISIT** the Culture & Language Division

Contact information on page 4

### Activities Update

- Collaboration with the Chairman's office for the Summer Youth Language Learning Internship.
- Co-sponsorship of the School Backpack Supplies.
- Co-sponsorship of the Arikara Community Action Group/Three Tribes Arts & Education Program course and artist grants.
- Mentorship collaboration with the Hiráaca Language Preservation program.
- Sahnish Mentorship collaboration with the Arikara Cultural Center and White Shield Arikara language Instructor.
- Mentorship collaboration with the Nu'eta Language Initiative.
- Pursuing collaborations with and supporting ongoing Nu'eta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish culture & language programs & projects.
- **Community Events:** August 28th Lunch and Dinner at the Tribal Administrative location to introduce the new Culture & Language Division & request for community support
- **Community Events:** September 24th Bismarck Elder Lunch and to introduce the new Culture & Language Division & request support from fluent speakers (event pictures at top of the page).
- Ongoing request for nomination for the recognition of past and current language teachers.
- Co-sponsor of the upcoming Tribal Education Department's Culture is Cool Events.

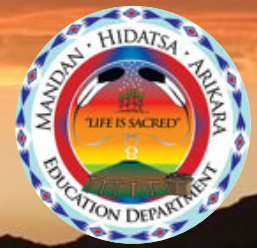
### Initial Tasks (continued from page 1)

- **Status of the Nu'eta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish Languages' Report:** Begin research on all Nu'eta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish resources, projects, programs, and persons involved in language revitalization & preservation work. These resources will be organized in a Contact Directory and Culture & Language Resource Database.  
  
\*This research is integral to understanding the resources available to support future language revitalization and preservation projects, grant writing, and making educated statements and decisions regarding the status and resources for our cultures and languages.
- **Grant Planning:** Begin research on potential grants and possible collaborators for grants regarding the preservation and revitalization of our languages.
- **Education Collaborations:** Meet with the educational entities on the Fort Berthold Reservation to ensure collaborative projects and pathways of support are developed.
- **Developing a 5 year Language Revitalization and Preservation Strategic Plan.**
- **Launching the Culture & Language Division website.**



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# Upcoming Events & Calls for Support



## Scheduled Events

- 10/8 Indigenous Peoples Day
- 10/13-14 Hiráaca Language Preservation Summit
- 10/17-18 Tribal Education Dept: Harvard Campus Visit
- 10/24 Three Clan Night: New Town High School
- 10/25 Culture & Language Division Event - Recognition of the past and current language & culture teachers & educators
- 11/7 Tribal Education Dept. Culture is Cool @ White Shield School
- 12/4 Culture Night at New Town School

Please contact the CLD to:

- Add any event flyers and dates to our Newsletters or to invite our staff to participate in your Culture & Language events/activities!
- Provide any suggestions, comments, and/or questions.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Royce Young Wolf (Freeman), CLD Advisor**  
Email: rkfreeman@mhanation.com

Office #: 701-627-4113

Location: 1 Minne Tohe Drive, (Old Clinic), New Town  
Mailing: 404 Frontage Road, New Town, ND, 58763

## CLD Team Members

- Tony Lone Fight, *CLD Media Specialist*
- Margaret Landin, *Sahnish Coordinator*
- Judith Danks, *Sahnish Apprentice*
- Thomas Plenty Chief, Jr., *Sahnish Apprentice*
- Jayli Fimbres, *Hidatsa Apprentice*
- Mary (Price) Baker, *Hidatsa Apprentice*

## Ongoing Job Search

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Curriculum Specialist | Nu'eta Coordinator  |
| 4 Nu'eta Apprentices  | Hidatsa Coordinator |
| 2 Hidatsa Apprentices | 2 Hidatsa Mentors   |
| 2 Sahnish Apprentices | 2 Sahnish Mentors   |



**Special Request for all Hidatsa language advocates/ teachers/educators to participate in the upcoming**

## *The Hiráaca Language Preservation Summit*

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 13th and Sunday Oct. 14th  
Preliminary times are 8am-5pm

**Where:** Mandaree Elder's Center, Behind West Segment Hall, Mandaree, ND

**Contact:** (701) 759-3276

Topics regarding the multiple Hidatsa language writing systems and the need for a unified writing system will be presented.

## Future Monthly Newsletters

■ **Online Newsletter Content:** This is the first and only mass mailing of the newsletter. Future newsletters will be available online through the Tribal Education website. You can request hardcopies to be mailed to you by contacting the Culture & Language Division.

\*As the Division hires more staff for each of the languages Mentor-Apprentice groups, Nu'eta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish, there will be additional contents included in the online newsletter: **such as language learning themes, guides for being revitalization advocates, ways to encourage our families to use the language in our everyday lives, everyday language phrases and audio guide.**

■ **October Newsletter Theme: LANGUAGE WRITING SYSTEMS:** what is a writing system (orthography); why can they be simple and complex?; how many writing systems do each of our languages have?; Does the MHA Nation have any "recognized orthographies for each of our languages?; and writing system guides

■ **New Culture & Language Logo Spotlight:** The story and cultural representations of the logo.

■ **CLD Team Members Introductions:** learn about our new staff, their goals, and projects they are working on!