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# MALS PROTOCOL

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# **Manitoba Aboriginal Languages Strategy (MALS)**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers**

As spoken by one of our Northern Cree Elders, the late Madeline Spence, “Nobody knows everything, but everybody knows something.” Based on this teaching, the MALS Grandparents are strengthened by their familiarity with one another and so is their advice and support to MALS.

#### **Definition**

MALS Grandmothers and Grandfathers are fluent in their Aboriginal language. Grandparents are spiritual, respectful, wise, and kind while displaying cultural pride, knowledge of history and cultural change. Grandparents must have a willingness to share, teach, and encourage others to learn and maintain the language. A Grandparent must respect the confidentiality when working with others. Grandparents are recognized in their community for being role models while encouraging positive and healthy way of life. Grandparents envision the future while acknowledging the past and present.

#### **Purpose**

MALS Grandmothers and Grandfathers will revitalize, retain, and promote the survival of Aboriginal languages in Manitoba and are supported by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers (MALS Leads).

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers will work in partnership with MALS Membership to counsel, advise, and mentor others. Grandparents will share their knowledge in ancestral languages, cultures, true histories, wisdom, and spirituality. Grandparents will assist in language development by continuing to instill and advance language in all capacities.

**MALS Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers represent each of Manitoba’s Aboriginal language groups and consist of the following:**

Wanbdi Wakita (Dakota)  
Catherine Moise (Denesuline)  
Don Robertson (Cree)  
Stella Neff (Cree)

Nelliane Cromarty (Ojibwe-Cree/Island Lake)  
George Fleury (Métis)  
Florence Paynter (Ojibwe/Anishinaabemowin)  
Martha Peet (Inuit)

**Meetings**

Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers meetings will be held up to four times per year. These meetings will be held separately from membership meetings to provide opportunities for Grandparents to share stories, experiences, history, and language.

Costs related to Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers meetings will be shared by MALS Partners.

**Term**

The Grandparent will remain a member of the Council as long as he/she is able or until such time as he/she chooses to cease to be a member of the Council. When a Grandparent is unable to attend a meeting he/she will send an alternate.

## **Indigenous Knowledge Keepers (MALS Leads)**

**Purpose:**

The Leads provide leadership and direction to MALS Membership and seek advice from the Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers, ensuring their advice and knowledge is integrated into the MALS activities. Indigenous Knowledge Keepers hold, understand, respect, and share First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, worldviews, languages, traditions, and cultures.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Leads will facilitate, update, and report on MALS work plan activities, ensuring the Partnership Agreement is implemented. They will advocate on behalf of MALS partners, explore financial resources needed for MALS activities, and co-develop all MALS documents required for funding.

**Lead Partners/Organization:**

Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre  
Indigenous Languages of Manitoba  
Manitoba Education and Training- Indigenous Inclusion Directorate  
University College of the North

**Meetings:**

MALS Leads meet and prepare prior to Membership and Grandparents meetings.

## **Membership**

### **Purpose**

MALS Membership will share, plan and promote teaching, and learning resources for Aboriginal languages and cultural programs to ensure interconnectedness of the MALS work plan. Members will work in collaboration with the MALS Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers and participate on MALS working groups on behalf of their organization.

### **MALS Roles**

MALS membership representatives participate in meetings, provide support and assist in the implementation of MALS actions and strategies.

### **Meetings**

The organization hosting the meeting will invite two MALS Grandparents who will be compensated for their travel, expenses, and honouraria based on the host rates. If required, all costs for English translators will be covered by the host organization.

Grandmothers or Grandfathers will receive correspondence at least one week prior to MALS meetings.

## **Oskapesahk (Helper/Contractors)**

### **Definition**

The Oskapesahk assist with all tasks pertaining to MALS as requested by membership.

### **Purpose**

Oskapesahk ensure tasks are completed as required by MALS Leads and provide assistance when asked. They will review and approve all documents pertaining to MALS.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Oskapesahk are responsible for the preparation and distribution of MALS information packages. They will ensure all documents required for MALS meetings are organized and ready for distribution. The Oskapesahk will be available to answer all questions in regards to MALS when requested.

## **Representatives**

Brandon University

Frontier School Division

Indigenous Languages of Manitoba Inc.

Manitoba Education and Training- Indigenous  
Inclusion Directorate

Manitoba First Nations Education Resource  
Centre

Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre  
Inc.

Manitoba Inuit Association

Manitoba Métis Federation-Louis Riel Institute

Northlands Denesuline First Nation

Opaskwayak Cree Nation

Red River College

School District of Mystery Lake

Seven Oaks School Division

University College of the North

University of Manitoba

University of Winnipeg

Winnipeg School Division

## Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers Translations

Language	Nation	Grandparent	Grandmother	Grandfather
Anishinaabemowin	Ojibwe	Aanikoobijigan-Grandparent/Great Grandparent	nookomis	mishoomis
Ansininemowin	Ojibwe Cree	Ohtanikomimaa-Great Grandparent; connect of one level to the other.	ohkomimaa	omisoomimaa
Dakota	Dakota	Ocinye-The ones who are older. Otukahe-The ones who are first.	kunsi	unkan
Denesuline	Dene	Ne che-Grandparent	Ne tzoneh	Ne tziyeh
Ininimowin/Nihinowé	Cree	chápán-Grandparent anaskóchápán-Great Grandparent; connecting generations.	nohkom	mosoom
Inuktitut	Inuit	amauq	anaanatsiaq	Ataatatsiaq
Michif	Metis	Naashkopichikun-Maintaining everything; Gathering Information; knowledgeable.	noohkoom	mooshoom