

Indigenous Language Submissions

Original Submissions to Bridge Naming Engagement

kīwētin

North Wind

From the submissions:

- A Cree word meaning north to connect with historical settler crossings, e.g. Clark's Crossing and bridges

kisiskaciwan

Fast Flowing River

From the submissions:

- There is a lot of history about the province of Saskatchewan. Knowing that the province received the name originally from the Cree word Kisiskaciwan. A beautiful Cree word described as fast flowing Saskatchewan River.

wāwāhtēwa

Northern Lights

From the submissions:

- Wawatay; aurora borealis; northern lights represents a blending of colours (race) that contributes to healing. Making the heart whole and Peace of Mind.
- Whether connected to stories of the souls of ancestors or lights guiding us to the afterlife, the Northern lights evoke a presence honoured by Canada's First peoples and admired by sky-gazers of all ethnic origins today. The new bridge, at the North end of the city, spans the river as the lights span the sky. The name suggests the hope and togetherness that light our way as a larger community.

kīsik

Sky

From the submissions:

- We all live together under one 'roof' or rather one "living" sky. Kisik is the Cree word for sky (according to an online Cree dictionary, I am not Cree or Aboriginal).
- Encompasses the Aboriginal sentiment of appreciating the sky, and its importance in Aboriginal culture, belief and daily life. It also follows upon the Province's license plate slogan of "Land of the Living Skies," so it would be generally accepted as something that makes Saskatoon stand apart.

tatanka

Buffalo

From the submissions:

- Because buffalo travel far and wide to find a great place to live, roam and flourish and Saskatoon is that place.

- Tatanka, which means Buffalo, contributed immensely to Aboriginal history. The new bridge and roadways connected to it are located where the buffalo roamed proud and free
- As great herds of buffalo passed through this area, many nations gathered to hunt and herd them over the cliff, for their survival in that era.
- The buffalo are very important to Aboriginal people. It brought people together by providing food, clothing, tools, etc. for many people. With Wanuskewin's campaign to bring the buffalo back, I felt that this name would be fitting.

mikisiw ostikwān

Eagle Head

From the submissions:

- In English meaning eagle head, the representation of the eagle in both the Metis and First Nation culture. The eagle symbolizing power and strength, the creators messenger of good news. The eagle head spreads the good news of unity of all nations. It represents the four directions on the world: East South West and North and the four races of colors yellow black red and white. If you know the medicine wheel you will come to understand the true beauty of the eagle and the head where you can hear the wise words of the elders.

asayatiwak

Community, they gather

From the submissions:

- "They are together."

miyo-wāhkōhtowin

Good Relations

From the submissions:

- Pronounced: "My-a-waka-tow-in." This is a Cree word meaning "good relationship". It is what we are striving for as we build bridges between peoples and to a better future working and living together in this beautiful land. It is the main desired result of the TRC. The word is not too difficult to pronounce & it sounds pleasant when put with the word "Parkway". Thank you for considering my suggestion.
- In the spirit of reconciliation I was reading from the OTC website and found the Cree word for reconciliation, from Chief Wilton Littlechild, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which he said means having good relations. I think we need to do a better job of using Nehiyawak words to bridge our society and honour the strength of the language, and the spirit of the people.
- The word "wahkohtowin" is a Plains Cree word meaning a good relationship with the Creator and with one another. I think it would be an excellent name for the commuter bridge because it reflects the spirit and intent of the Treaties and honors the relationships that were made between the Creator, Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Reconciliation is at the heart of this word and it would serve as a reminder to all of us that our lives and futures are bound together.

- Tansi. The Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program is a bilingual/bicultural program created to address the loss of language and culture for the Plains Cree People. We are the Pre K Cree, Kindergarten Cree, Grade two English and Grade Five Cree from Confederation Park Community School. The name we are submitting is Wahkohtowin which means kinship in the Cree language. It is the seventh teepee pole of the Cree teepee pole teachings. All the poles or teachings are interconnected. By following the principles of respect: kinship is an important aspect in building trust and loving relationships within family. This word describes Confederation Park School, as we strive to build keys to success: respect, responsibility and positive relationships. These four grades worked together to create bridges in their classrooms using popsicle sticks and masking tape. This exercise brought the different grades together to collaborate and also create new friendships. So by choosing this name we wish to honor the Residential school survivors by understanding and doing actions for reconciliation. Like the new commuter bridge will unite Saskatoon as a community the name Wahkotowin will ensure that the Residential School survivors will not be forgotten by Saskatoon.

niwâhkômâkanak

All Our Relations

From the submissions:

- As an Aboriginal person I can speak for many when saying we are strong family people. We are forgiving and loving people. Our spirits are guided by our tradition, culture and language. "Niw_hk_m_kanak is invoked at the beginning and the end and acknowledges 'all our relations.' When used this way, the expression means not only the living ones, humans, animals, plants, but also the non-living and those who live in the world not bound by time, the Other-Than-Human-Beings, as well as our ancestors and also the future generations Looking forward and beginning to reconcile differences I believe Niw_Hk_M_Kanak would be a name that encompass, family, a binding of all people, togetherness and the removal of separate entities. The word Niw_Hk_M_Kanak means all my relations. Niw_Hk_M_Kanak Crossing. Because Cree, Saulteaux and Métis refer to words differently I would suggest seeking Elder advice and approval of the correct spelling.

wâhkôhtowin (Cree); waahkoomiwayhk (Michif)

Kinship

From the submissions:

- Kinship defines us. To call this The Kinship Bridge calls forth the idea of us all belonging, of us all being connected. I like the idea that a bridge is not only a means to cross something, to get from point A to B, but that it also, metaphorically speaking, 'bridges' the past (where one begins), the present (the act of crossing), and the future (the destination). This bridge embraces our past, but also the potential of future. The English translation needs to accompany this. I am Métis and I love that my heritage is one of connection and independence.
- Tansi. The Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program is a bilingual/bicultural program created to address the loss of language and culture for the Plains Cree People. We are the Pre K Cree, Kindergarten Cree, Grade

two English and Grade Five Cree from Confederation Park Community School. The name we are submitting is Wahkohtowin which means kinship in the Cree language. It is the seventh teepee pole of the Cree teepee pole teachings. All the poles or teachings are interconnected. By following the principles of respect: kinship is an important aspect in building trust and loving relationships within family. This word describes Confederation Park School, as we strive to build keys to success: respect, responsibility and positive relationships. These four grades worked together to create bridges in their classrooms using popsicle sticks and masking tape. This exercise brought the different grades together to collaborate and also create new friendships. So by choosing this name we wish to honor the Residential school survivors by understanding and doing actions for reconciliation. Like the new commuter bridge will unite Saskatoon as a community the name Wahkotowin will ensure that the Residential School survivors will not be forgotten by Saskatoon.

tānisi

Hello

From the submissions:

- Hello, Bienvenue, Tanisi. We need to have an indigenous greeting that rolls off our Saskatoon tongues just like Hello and Bienvenue. Would it not be wonderful if we greeted all individuals with all three salutations? By naming the bridge with this simple salutation, it will provide an awareness to the Aboriginal language and will make Tanisi a more commonly used greeting in our community.

māmawi – together; māmawinitowin – doing together

Together

From the submissions:

- Māmawinitowin is Cree for a community living within a community. I think the meaning of community is people coming together, just as a bridge connects two areas of the city. What a better way to honour the aboriginal people than to use a word in their language.
- Once upon the river shores of abundant lands, a family approaches the waters, bathing in lively skies of a refreshing new moon night. “How shall we cross?” asks somebody. “After journeying thus far, how about first celebrating?” Unanimously, gatherings of sticks and stones begin. Chosen by each, the earthly gifts are then placed in the middle. “What will ignite the flames?” “Gather round, this fire, like that North Star guiding those home, is to honour all ancestors and generations, as one family.” Everybody surrounds while silently bowing inwards, inhaling and exhaling. A voice speaks, “Imagine what this fire may be; feel the essence, smell the ash, taste the smoke, hear the sparks, see further than colours. After just long enough, an awesome blaze breathes into being, playfully dancing as cheers ring out. Eventually, each settles among the grounds, resting into dreamland. Waking to sunshine, the family recalls the river, “What about staying on this side?” “What about swimming over?” “What about making something to float?” “What about building a way for anybody choosing here to cross?” In agreeance, somebody starts to: survey an area, honour the space, envision designs, forage for materials, and so on. After much devotion with gratitude for such an incredible family, all is ready for crossing completely.

As the beings approach the next bridge beyond the river, someone asks, "How now shall we cross?" A presence then states, "How about thru ways altogether?"

tawāw

Welcome

From the submission:

- Cree word. Thinks its applicable
- tawâw C<î.° VII lots of room (EC)
- tawâw C<î.° VII it is open, it is an opening; there is room, it has room (CW)
- tawâw C<î.° VII it has an opening (EC)
- tawâw C<î.° IPC come in, you're welcome; there's room (CW)
- tawaw C<î.° VP It is open. It has a hole in it. (MD)
- tawaw C<î.° VII there is space (EC)

kohkom

Grandmother

From the submissions:

- The Kokum Bridge: The Kokum SPANS the generations. The Kokum provides intergenerational STABILITY and SUPPORT.

wītaskēwin

Peace

From the submissions:

- Peace is a word that commemorates all peoples & is one that we should all use regularly!
- We need peace between east and west in this city
- With all that has gone on with the First Nations people in the country it's time for all Canadians to come together in peace!
- I believe peace is something that we all hope for; from within ourselves as well as between people.
- 6000 years of history have graced this land with diverse Indigenous groups, and newcomers alike. Our blessing has been and will always be sharing, helping, and understanding each other of those that have passed before us, those that are here now, and those that will be here tomorrow.

kiyānaw

Sharing / us

From the submissions:

- I want to nominate my son's name Keyano. Keyano is a Cree word that roughly translated means "sharing". As people in Saskatoon and in Saskatchewan are always sharing their good natures & their positive outlook with everybody they

meet. With this new bridge we will be better able to share more of our city and our province with more people.

kiskisiwin

Remembering

From the submissions:

- It is the Cree word for Remember. It is so important for people to remember this tragic injustice that bestowed such a proud people and understand how it trickled through generations and is still affecting children today. For those who are lacking understanding as to why it is still relevant even though these children were not present at the time. It is still painful, and still very emotional and valid. To remember how far we have come and remember how important it is to be respectful and pull together as human beings to prevent anything even close to this indignity from happening to anyone ever again

kiyām

It's okay

From the submissions:

- kiyam - a Cree word that is very important to the spirit of the native culture means so much ...a very peaceful...healing word.

nanāwihitowin

Healing

From the submissions:

- The name embodies the coming together of the community and its surrounding areas and its support of the Reconciliation Canada project.
- Nanatowihitowin in Plains Cree is the concept of healing together

nikīwān

Going home / I go home

From the submissions:

- Going Home

miyo-pimātisiwin

The good life

From the submissions:

- Cree word depicting 'living the good life'

mistasiniy

Buffalo Stone

From the submissions:

- Further Reading: <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/in-1966-a-sacred-aboriginal-rock-was-blown-up-to-make-way-for-a-man-made-lake-now-divers-search-for-reminants>
- Legendary boulder that once stood near outlook, said to be a man who was raised among the buffalo but could not become one nor be one of the people. He never the less became the great stone mistasini revered by the Cree.

kākīsimo

Pray in the traditional way

From the submissions:

- I recently attended Cree classes at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge, and while I learned very little of the language, I grasped a better understanding of how their language represented a proud and honest people. I myself, am non-aboriginal. I learned that another word to them for 'pray' is ayimika (hope I spelled it correctly). This word means to pray from a book, as in a church. Kisimo is missing the accent over top of the first 'i', but I don't know how to type one in. I feel it is an appropriate choice, as we all have our own way to pray from the heart, it is very meaningful, and easy to pronounce by all. Hopefully, in the future, people (children especially) will ask what the word means, and where it originated. People of all cultures and religions should be pleased.
- Our aboriginal friends should be proud that it was their word, to be shared by all. They are all about pride, nature, spirit, and sharing. This word is a great contribution to any language. Simple and elegant.

shakamohta, sakamotā

Connection

From the submissions:

- Shakamohta is the Michif word for "connect." This bridge will connect two pieces of land separated by a river, but the spirit of the bridge and its name will also connect Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples together in reconciliation. Language has power, much of our culture is kept safe in language - by honouring the Michif language in this way, we could be opening up further dialogue about the importance of respecting and maintaining Indigenous languages. Using the Michif word for "connect" is also appropriate because historically the Métis people were created out of a connection between Indigenous women and French men and their language is a bridge/a connection between French and Cree.

āniskotāw – links it

Bridge – links it

From the submissions:

- Not only is the bridge connecting two bodies of land. But it (can) symbolize the connecting of two or more people and cultures. Coming together as one for something better.

asokanihkēw – he makes a bridge

He Builds a Bridge

From the submissions:

- The word is Cree (online Cree dictionary) to mean he/she builds a bridge or fords a river. I like that it has literal and symbolic meaning, as I hope we are building bridges and crossing as a society to a better place. I also like that while an Indigenous word, I think it will be easy to say in English and catch on with non-Indigenous speakers. It is five syllables, and while 11 letters is long, that is 1 less than the word Saskatchewan.

nikamotān – let's sing

Sing Together

From the submissions:

- Let's sing together. I thought a hopeful joyous name would be nice.

papāmohtēw – s/he walks about**Travelling****From the submissions:**

- She or he is walking or traveling everywhere. This word is the epitome of what the new bridge represents, a new connection whether it's local, regional, provincial, or national travel. <http://www.firstvoices.com/en/Cree-Saulteau/word/b5453ae08a60d113/She+or+he+is+walking+or+traveling+every+where>
- You can learn to say it here, too!

wīci-atoskēwin**Work together****From the submissions:**

- Wichatoskewin needs to happen, for our future generations have to live and work together. It means working together. The survivors need to be remembered and validated.
- The Aboriginal people have fought long to have equal rights. To have their treaties acknowledged and put in place. Now they can finally move on and work together with Canadian people. To feel they belong and stand united.
- More than ever we need to work together to support our Indigenous people's inherent roles and responsibilities to our communities as teachers of our children and the next generation.

yahkōhtēwin – walking forward**Forward****From the submissions:**

- While we rely on the past for memories and teaching. We are always moving forward. No matter which way a person travels on the bridge they are moving forward to someone or something.

manitohkēwin**To see sacred power in a concrete form****From the submissions:**

- spiritual communication in Cree

miskamāso / miskāsowin**Finding oneself****From the submissions:**

- I came up with the name that means "finding oneself"

nīsohtēwak**Two walking together/twins/Walk in twos****From the submissions:**

- "They walk together in twos"

pimaham

Travelling down river

From the submissions:

- "Pimaham" is a Cree word meaning "s/he travels down the river" (source: <http://www.creedictionary.com>). As such, it seems particularly suited for the name of a bridge. This nomination responds directly to the TRC's Call #79 by "integrat(ing) Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices into Canada's national heritage and history." Using a Cree word as the name of this major infrastructure project would also help raise awareness surrounding the need to preserve and celebrate Indigenous languages and cultures.

taskamanwa

They are shortcuts / they go across / shortcut

From the submissions:

- The "Taskamanwa" Bridge, Taskamanwa is a Cree word for "short cut", this word I feel embodies the purpose of the bridge, which is to be a short cut for people going from one side of the river to other side in the north end of the city. It is a Cree word, so it is a nod to the Cree language. I felt naming after a historical figure would cause tensions and be rather challenging as we shouldn't single out the great man/woman of history. It took many people to get where we are today, no person could have done it on their own and shouldn't honor the select few. This name I want to be plain and simple, but not a normal word for community. I wanted it to resemble the aspects of connection, that our connection has been given a shorter path. It is simple and I know doesn't fully fulfill the call to action as other names would but I hope that you take the time to consider the name I have chosen.

āsowahētān

Bridge – let's cross it

From the submissions:

- It is the Cree word for a crossing over a river and relates a Treaty 6 traditional language to the built form directly and simply.
- Let's cross the bridge. We will all be crossing together

asokan

Bridge

From the submissions:

- Asokan is the Cree word for bridge, which can be taken literally or figuratively but signifies a bridge between all cultures and races.
- I like that it has literal and symbolic meaning, as I hope we are building bridges and crossing as a society to a better place. I also like that while an Indigenous word, I think it will be easy to say in English and catch on with non-Indigenous speakers.

- Using a Cree word for bridge symbolizes both our desire to bridge the gaps between settler and Aboriginal people and our respect for the heritage and language of our Aboriginal neighbours.
- As we are working to bridge the gap of racism, we are also bridging the east and west side of Saskatoon.

kāsīnamākēwin

Forgiveness

From the submissions:

- According to Wikipedia "Forgiveness is the intentional and voluntary process by which a victim undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offense; let's go of negative emotions such as vengefulness, with an increased ability to wish the offender well." It's time to start the healing process and start to grow and flourish as a culture. Forgiveness Bridge can stand for so much more and can connect to each and every one of us. In our lifetime each of us has had to grant forgiveness whether it be something small or large. Forgiveness enables a person let go and grow. This quote is very powerful. We must all learn from this quote. Past wrongs cannot be changed, but should never be repeated. Healing and forgiveness may bring peace of mind for everyone so we may move to a more positive future for all peoples. Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.

miywāsin

It is good, nice, beautiful

From the submissions:

- Mīwāsin is a Cree word that translates to "It is Good".

sīwayi-kiyāmēwan

Sugary Peace

From the submissions:

- Saskatoon meaning "sweet berry" and Wanuskewin meaning "being at peace with oneself," so merging these ideas I came up with "Sweet Peace" and the closest translation back into Cree of a place of sweet peace that I could find is "Siwayi Kiyamewan."

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amelanchier_alnifolia#Cultivation_and_uses

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wanuskewin_Heritage_Park

<http://www.creedictionary.com/>

mīnisa / misāskwatōmin

Berries / Saskatoon Berries

From the submissions:

- Sâskwatōn is a word in the language of the first peoples of the area, the Cree. It is the proper noun of the locative Misâskwatōminiskâhk which means 'the place of many berries'. While the area of Sâskwatōn was a meeting place of the Cree for some 6,000 years before contact, it still captures the sentiment of Saskatoon as a

meeting place for peoples, their cultures, commerce, and industry. The Sâskwatôn Bridge will be a way to connect the citizenry to our past, our future, and to each other. I think bridging Indigenous-settler experience and creating a society free from barriers to equal access to political, cultural, and economic resources is one of the most important challenges we face as a multi-ethnic municipality in the 21st century. The importance of including Indigenous peoples, culture, and knowledge in addressing these challenges is tantamount to our success as a city. Thank you for your consideration.

papēyātik

Carefully

From the submissions:

- Papayatik is the Cree word for peace. Open communication between "the settlers", the First Nations people and the Metis is required to achieve reconciliation. The wrongs of the past must be identified and efforts must be made to move forward. It is through reconciliation that all people in our wonderful city, province and country will be able to learn from the past in order to work together towards a bright and promising future, a future where we all live in harmony and everlasting peace.