

It will help you and make you a happier person.

RITA: So, it's coming. Oh, yeah, because language is our culture.

MATTHEW: I know there's a strategic plan that's in place right now where they want to have our language as the first language here in Wiikwemikoong.

RITA: Yeah. I think it's; I think it's important you know, and it would help you and make you a happier person.

MATTHEW: Brian Peltier come here and he's giving a teaching on the fire and the creation story, and there's a resident here who's kind of she's got dementia, but when she was sitting out there, and she knows the language too, so she speaks it and understands it. Just a different person switched on. I was just real shocked just to see how they were so in tune with Brian speaking the language.

And I just felt that as just like, wow, like that language, so... you can feel it, even if you don't understand it. I just hear it's; you speak that language, there's a different way of living.

Fuddy: And the Grandfather Teachings, it was good too.

Fuddy: Honesty, wisdom, bravery.

Rita: Truth. [Annishnabeekmoyan]

Fuddy: [Annishnabeekmoyan]

Rita: [Annishnabeekmoyan]

JAMES: When we say our prayers, we'll say it in the Indian language and like we do smudge and that's always after the prayer, we smudge. We'll put tobacco down for, you know, if somebody is not feeling good, we'll pray for them and then we'll put tobacco down.

MATTHEW: And then on Wednesdays, we kind of go, we'll use, work with the sage and cedar and then we'll go to the front, and we'll put our tobacco down. So, that's an opportunity for them to be with their own thoughts and speak their/our language and, you know, they put that they put that prayer down for themselves, whatever it might be. So, I just let them do what they need to do by offering it down by the apple tree that we have [Annishnabeekmoyan] as we say in the language.

FRED: It's not a novelty that's going to wear out. It's a regular part of the activities with the seniors here. He's made it part of our culture to be active. We do smudges and we have cedar tea. You need to do those things, or you forget. So, I'm glad we're doing it.

JAMES: Yeah. And that's what we're going... we're going to teach each other. We're going to go out picking medicine that we have been taught. We have lost it... since we were kids we're... you know we didn't pay any attention to it because our mother and father were always there and

they were the keepers of the knowledge of the medicine. But we want to know now and we all say, ah we wish we would learned more about it and now, now it's happening now.

FRED: Yeah, I'm in the drum group. Yeah. I enjoy that. I think that's the first real opportunity I've had at it. So, it's been great. He's teaching us songs and we sang at the Pow Wow. So that notoriety is like just, wow, we, we're only beginners, you know, and we still get to do something like that.

MATTHEW: You know, we started off with drumming, finding a teacher,. I remember, just about a month ago, we're playing on the big drum and we were all in sync. And for like three four beats two beats. It's almost as though time just stood still as we're playing. And I just felt this overwhelming gratitude and I just like Holy Smokes, I thanked all those guys who were there. And that lasted for like an hour. Just the spirit of that drum. All our energies working together. Like I understand what that, I'm going to slowly understanding what that drum's for, especially playing with, with people. This is using our physical energy into and putting it into - because you can, you can do all sorts of things in this life. You need people to help you out though. And I remember in that moment, I was just like, wow.