



YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION
Language, Culture, and History Department

Wiilideh Yati
Learning Booklet

Reprinted June 2024

All rights reserves; The Yellowknives Dene First Nation reserves all rights of all translation and intellectual property. Information not to be used in disrespectful, derogatorily manner or mislead interpretation.



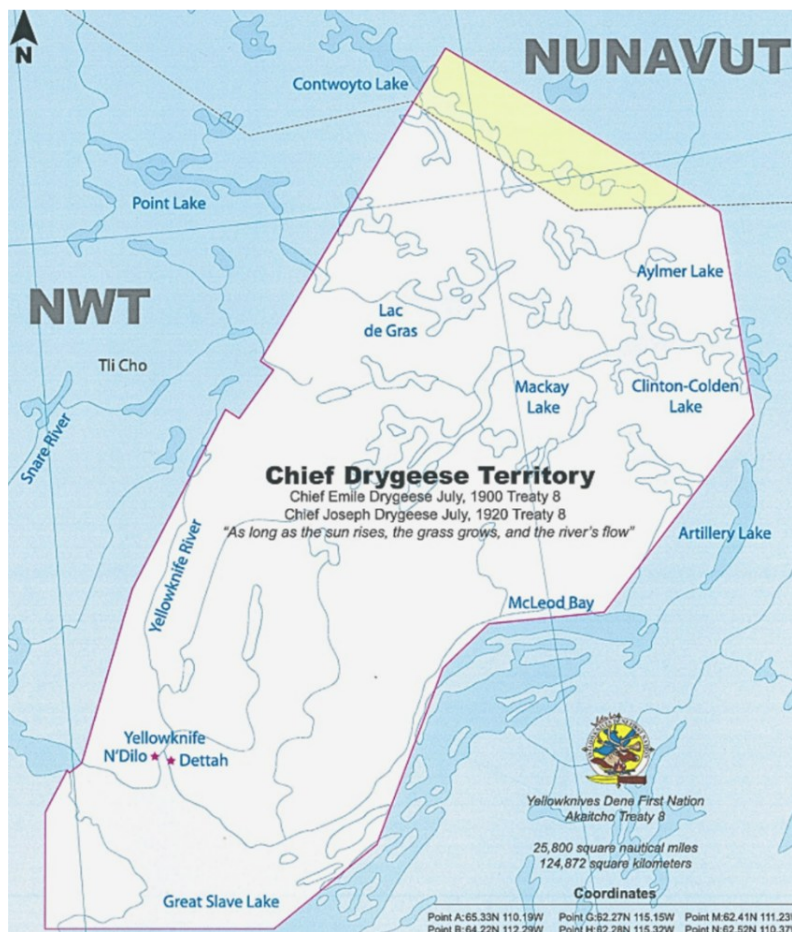
Yellowknives Dene First Nation Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation within our Chief Drygeese Territory of Treaty #8 as we have used and occupied this area since time immemorial.

We honour our Yellowknives Dene People as caretakers of this land especially to the Elders past, present, and emerging as they are traditional knowledge holders to pass on our heritage, culture, and ancestral languages Tetsôt'iné and Wìlìdeh to the younger generations.

Mahsì cho

*“sa daàza, deh nìlì eyts'ò t'oh dehshe”
“as long as sun shines, the rivers flows, and grass grows”*





Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Language, Culture, and History Department

Welcome to YKDFN Language, Culture, and History Department.

Our objectives are:

- ❖ Revitalize, preserve, and strengthen our ancestral Wìlìideh and Tetsòt'iné languages,
- ❖ Continue practicing our cultural traditions and spirituality,
- ❖ Preserve our heritage.

Our languages contain knowledge customs, skills, and cultural values that is an integral part of our identity, health, and culture of our communities and is to be passed down for generations. If we lose our language, then a part of our culture and history is lost. By the same measure, when language is preserved, the traditions and customs continue living in the hearts and minds of those who understand it.

Our goals are to revitalize, maintain, and preserve our languages and traditional knowledge through community partnerships, teaching programs and activities. Our programs will foster resiliency by engaging community members in interactive learning methods that will develop and increase language level skills, as well grow positive lifelong habits and attitudes.

In working within our objective and goals, we are pleased to share this Wìlìideh Yatı Learning Booklet, created from YKDFN Traditional Knowledge and Language Holders participation. This will help Learners to start their language journey and we will have more resources available to share soon. For now, we wish you well - Nets'ą́ą!!

Mahsì Cho:

YKDFN Traditional Knowledge and Language Holders,
Canadian Heritage ILC, and Akaitcho Territory Government

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada

For any inquiries, please feel free to contact us:

Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Language, Culture, and History Department
#502 K'watıa Tılı, Dettah, NT
PO Box 2514, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8
Tel. (867) 920-4089 Email lchadmin@ykdene.com

Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Language, Culture, and History Department

Wiliideh Yatı Learning Booklet
Table of Content

	<i>Pg.</i>
Vowels	6
Consonants	6
Numbers	7
Colours	8
Weather	9
Seasons	10
Weekdays	11
Months	12
My Body	13
My Family	14
Feelings	15
Greetings	16
Conversation	17
Helpful Phrases	18
Helpful Words	18

Wiilideh Vowels

Vowels	a	e	i	o
Phonology (Speech sounds)	ah	eh	ee	oh

Wiilideh Consonants

Consonants (Special Characters)	Word Examples		Phonology (Speech sounds)
Glottal Stop ʔ	ʔah Heʔe	Nets'aʔiʔa T'eʔehdaà	Ah, Uh
Nasal ŋ	Dŋ Tŋ	ŋhndah Semŋ	Sound from nose
Low Tone à	Abà Amà	Ladà Shìh	The tongue is close to the bottom of the mouth
Low Tone with Nasal à̃	Mì Xatò	ìwhà̃ Sò̃mbak'è	Sound from nose with tongue close to the bottom of the mouth
Bar L ɬ	ɬò Tɬ	ɬiwe ɬèt'è	Tip of tongue out under front teeth and air flows out on sides
Click k'	Ch'oh Det'òcho	Wek'e Xok'e	Suction sound made in the mouth like Tsk, Klik, Ch', Ts', T', Kw'

Numbers

One (1)	Ìlè
Two (2)	Nàke
Three (3)	Tai
Four (4)	Dì
Five (5)	Sìlài
Six (6)	Ek'ètai
Seven (7)	Ìòhndì
Eight (8)	Ek'èdì
Nine (9)	Ìòòtò
Ten (10)	Hòònò
Eleven (11)	Hoònò daats'ò ìlè
Twelve (12)	Hoònò daats'ò nàke
Thirteen (13)	Hoònò daats'ò tai
Fourteen (14)	Hoònò daats'ò dì
Fifteen (15)	Hoònò daats'ò sìlài
Sixteen (16)	Hoònò daats'ò ek'ètai
Seventeen (17)	Hoònò daats'ò ìòhndì
Eighteen (18)	Hoònò daats'ò ek'èdì
Nineteen (19)	Hoònò daats'ò ìòòtò
Twenty (20)	Naènò

Colours

Red		Dek'o
Orange		Jìek'ò làani
Yellow		Dekwo
Green		Ìt'òḡ
Blue		Dèht'è
Pink		Dzèhwà
Brown		Ejiedoò
Black		Dezọ
Grey		Dehbaa
White		Degoo

Weather

It is hot	Edii
Very hot	Edii dïi
It is cold	Edza
Very cold	Edza dïi
It is raining	Chọ at'ı
It is windy	Nıhts'ı nàtso
Sun is shining	Sa daeʔa
Lots of snow	Zhah ı

Seasons

Winter

Xok'e

Spring

Tɔts'ì

Summer

Ɓik'è

Fall

Xat'ò

Weekdays

Sunday	Edàidzèè <i>Holy day</i>
Monday	Edàidzèè k'èè <i>After the holy day</i>
Tuesday	Nàkedzèè <i>Second day</i>
Wednesday	Taidzèè <i>Third day</i>
Thursday	Dìdzèè <i>Fourth day</i>
Friday	Ɓiwedàidzèè <i>Fish eating day</i>
Saturday	Edàidzèèt'ò <i>The day before holy day</i>

Months

January	Edàidzèècho Zaà <i>Big celebration month - we celebrate the first month of the year</i>
February	Sanek'òq Zaà <i>Short sun month - it is a short month</i>
March	Det'òcho Zaà <i>Eagle month - it's the month the eagle returns to the north</i>
April	Sadatlo Zaà <i>Sun dancing month - it is related to Easter, the morning of Easter the sun dances</i>
May	Tòts'ì Zaà <i>No snow on ice month – all the snow melts off the ice</i>
June	Eyè Zaà <i>Egg month - this is the month we pick seagull and duck eggs</i>
July	Sòqmba Nàzhèe Zaà <i>Treaty time month - Treaty money is given out this month</i>
August	Dzèndèa Zaà <i>Little celebration month - a gathering before everyone goes their own way</i>
September	Łiwe Datèe Zaà <i>Hanging fish month - we prepare for winter with dryfish</i>
October	Ehzhòdzèè Zaà <i>Ghost month - we pray for the dead</i>
November	Ehdzo Nìzhee Zaà <i>Setting traps month - they start setting traps month</i>
December	Taàti Zaà <i>Praying at night month - midnight mass</i>

My Body

Head	Sekwì
Hair	Sekwìghà
Ears	Setziikwò
Face	Senì
Eyes	Sendaà
Nose	Setsì
Mouth	Sewà
Throat	Sek'à
Shoulders	Segòòt'à
Arm	Segòò
Hand	Selà
Fingers	Selàkw'ò
Back	Senòkwò
Stomach	Sembò
Legs	Sedzaà
Knees	Seehgò
Feet	Sekè
Toes	Sekèkw'òà

My Family

My Mother	Semq
My Father	Setà
My Family	Sèot'ɪ
My Mom and Dad	Semq eyɪts'q Setà
My Older Brother	Sɪnde
My Younger Brother	Sechɪ
My Older Sister	Semba
My Younger Sister	Sedè
My Daughter	Seti
My Son	Sezha
My Baby	Sebebià
My Grandmother	Setsɪ
My Grandfather	Setsèe
My Grandma and Grandpa	Setsɪ eyɪts'q Setsèe
Woman's Grandchild	Sechàa
Man's Grandchild	Sekwɪ
My Uncle	Seʔeh
My Aunt	Semq̄q̄
My Niece/Nephew	Sehsah̄
My Husband	Sedq̄q̄
My Wife	Sets'èke

Feelings

Happy

Winàà

Silly

Weghọ sịdì

Shy

Enèjọ

Sad

Weghà gots'eèdì

Scared

Dejì

Mad

Ìch'è

Greetings

Good morning K'omqòdòqò ho|z|

Good afternoon Dzeqè tan| ho|z|

Good evening Xèhts'q ho|z|

See you later Nets'a|q|

Thank you Mahsi

Thank you very much Mahsi Cho

Conversation

My name is (Your Name)	Sɪ (Your Name) siyeh
What is your name?	Edàaniyeh?
How are you?	Edàanet'e?
I am doing fine, and you?	Esah't'è-le, ako nɪ?
Good, and you?	Nezɪ, ako nɪ?
Not good, and you?	Nezɪ-le, ako nɪ?
How can I help you	Edàani nets'àhdɪ ha?
Where are you from?	Adɪ gots'ɔ anet'e?
I am from (Place Name)	(Place Name) gots'ɔ aht'e
<i>Place Name:</i> Dettah	T'èʔehdaà
<i>Place Name:</i> Ndilo	Ndilo
<i>Place Name:</i> Yellowknife	Sqòmbak'è
<i>[a welcome greeting]</i> Thank you for coming to (Place Name)	Mahsi jɔ (Place Name) nàwhade
Would you like coffee or tea?	Lidì hanì-le dè lìgahwhì newɔ nɪ?

Helpful Phrases

I don't speak Wiiliideh language	Wiiliideh yatı k'è gohde-le
I am being taught Wiiliideh language	Wiiliideh yatı hoghàseto
Speak Wiiliideh to me	Wiiliideh yatı k'e sets'ò goinde
How do you say (English word) _____ in Wiiliideh Language	Wiiliideh yatı k'e edani (English word) _____ ts'edi?
Speak/talk slowly	Ts'èwhıà goinde
Say it again	Achı haındı
I don't know	Wek'esho-le

Helpful Words

Yes	Hę?ę
No	ıle
With	Wexè
Without	Wedę
Or	Hani-le dè
Good	Nezı
Not good	Nezı-le