



## APPLICATION FOR INTERPRETER CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAM

The Interpreter Career Pathway Program is a one-year pilot training program designed to prepare fluent Indigenous language speakers for a potential career as Legislative Assembly interpreters.

The program supports fluent speakers in developing the skills required to interpret independently and confidently. Using a blended learning approach that combines both virtual and in-person learning, the program pairs each fluent language speaker (Trainee) with an experienced Indigenous-language Legislative Assembly Interpreter (Trainer). Trainees will receive compensated training that includes up to 50 hours of one-on-one guidance, on-the-job learning and shadowing, skill development, and specialized terminology training. Ongoing support will be provided but will not be compensated. This immersive approach will help Trainees build specialized oral fluency, listening comprehension, and practical simultaneous interpretation skills in a professional legislative environment, preparing them for work in the Legislative Assembly.

Applicants interested in becoming a Trainee must complete this application form. A minimum of intermediate oral fluency is required; reading and writing fluency is prioritized but not mandatory. Up to eight\* Trainees will be selected, one for each official Indigenous language group, with priority given to those living in the Northwest Territories committed to pursuing a career in legislative Indigenous language interpretation.

\*There is currently no sessional interpreter for nēhiyawēwin (Cree), so nēhiyawēwin will not be included in this pilot.

Applicant Information	
Last Name:	First Name:
Mailing Address (include no., street, apt. no., PO box, postal code):	
City/Community:	Province/Territory:
Phone:	Email:
Do you identify as an Indigenous person (i.e., First Nation, Inuit, Métis)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Please indicate your Indigenous language group:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dene Kəḁá <input type="checkbox"/> Dēne Sų́łíné <input type="checkbox"/> Dene Zhaté <input type="checkbox"/> Dinjii Zhuh Ginjik <input type="checkbox"/> Inuinnaqtun <input type="checkbox"/> Inuktitut <input type="checkbox"/> Inuvialuktun <input type="checkbox"/> Tłı̨chǫ	
What is your current language level?	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Intermediate (have some language knowledge)</b> <i>I consider my Indigenous language level to be <b>Intermediate</b>. I have foundational knowledge of the language and can understand common words, phrases, and expressions. I am able to participate in basic conversations with support, and I continue to build my vocabulary and confidence through practice and exposure. I am comfortable in familiar, everyday contexts but still rely on guidance for more complex language use.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Advanced (have extensive language knowledge ... can take part in daily conversations with ease and fluency)</b> <i>I consider my Indigenous language level to be <b>Advanced</b>. I have extensive knowledge in several areas of language use and can participate in daily conversations with relative ease and fluency. I understand most spoken language in regular contexts and can express myself clearly, including sharing ideas, opinions, and cultural concepts. While I may still encounter occasional gaps, I am confident and capable in conversational and community based language settings.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fluent (understand and speak with ease)</b> <i>I consider my Indigenous language level to be <b>Fluent</b>. I am able to understand the language fully in a wide range of situations and speak it with natural ease. I can communicate comfortably with first-language speakers, engage in a variety of complex conversations, and can understand cultural meaning, nuance, and context in the language. My fluency allows me to use the language confidently in personal, professional, and community settings.</i>	

Describe your involvement with language related activities.

- None                       Attended language classes at school                       Interpreted or translated for local activities or events
- Participated in community language programs                       Indigenous language/linguistic programs                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

What is your current employment status?

- Employed Full-time (please include a letter of support from employer)                       Post-secondary Student Full-time                       Employed Part-time
- Post-secondary Student Part-time                       Retired                       Currently not Employed
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If you checked "Employed full-time" or "Post Secondary Student full-time" above, please **explain how you plan to participate in the program alongside your current full time schedule and time commitments**. The program includes an estimated 3-4 weeks of in-person training, as well as approximately 72 hours of online learning over the 10 month period.

*Note: A letter of support from your full-time Employer will be required as a supporting document attached to your application package (see Application checklist for details).*

Why is it **important** to use Indigenous languages in government spaces and how much do you know about how the NWT Legislative Assembly works? **Why are you interested** in being a legislative interpreter?

Tell us about **how you use your Indigenous language** in your daily life and work. Please include **how you learn from or work with Elders** or other knowledge holders for guidance on terminology or meaning, and how you approach those relationships.

## Program Outline

The Interpreter Career Pathway Program includes several **mandatory in-person training sessions in Yellowknife, NT**, over the course of the year. Travel, accommodation and food costs will be covered by the Legislative Assembly.

Applicants must ensure they are able to attend all of the following sessions:

- **May 26 and 27, 2026** – Welcome and Orientation
- **October 19 to 23, 2026** – Live Sessional Shadowing Practice
- **December 8 to 11, 2026** – Simulated Mock Practice
- **February 8 to 12, 2027** – Second Sessional Shadowing Practice
- **One day in March 2027** – End-of-Program Gathering Celebration (TBD)

*Please review these dates carefully. **Do you foresee any issues attending any of these in-person sessions?** If so, please explain which dates you would not be able to join and why.*

In addition to in-person sessions, the Interpreter Career Pathway Program includes **virtual** learning, ongoing support, and regular check-ins with Department of Education, Culture and Employment program staff and your Trainer throughout the year. Applicants must have access to a computer with a webcam to participate in these online activities.

Applicants can expect approximately 5 to 8 hours per month dedicated to online activities, including virtual workshops, check-ins with program staff, and portions of the required 50 hours of one-on-one time with their Trainer over the duration of the program, particularly for Trainees and Trainers who may be paired from separate communities.

***Do you have reliable access to a computer with a webcam and internet connection** to participate in virtual learning, support sessions, and check-ins throughout the year? If not, please explain any challenges.*

***Do you foresee any challenges in dedicating an additional 5 to 8 hours per month** to online program activities, which may take place during work hours and/or evenings? If yes, please explain.*

## Declaration and Consent

- We certify that the information we have provided is true and accurate.
- We understand that if we're accepted into the Interpreter Career Pathway Program training program, our names and images may be used to raise awareness of the program and its objectives, and that we will be expected, if able, to participate in events to achieve these objectives. We agree to these terms.
- We understand that our information is being collected under the authority of the *Official Languages Act* and *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP) Act*, Section 40(1)(c), and will be used to determine our eligibility for the Interpreter Career Pathway Program and for the general administration and enforcement of this program. The privacy provisions of the *ATIPP Act* protect my information, and we have the right to examine and request correction of our records and to request a review by the Information and Privacy Commissioner. If you have any questions about the collection of this information, contact the Director of Indigenous Languages Secretariat, Department of Education, Culture and Employment at 867-767-9346.

X

Applicant Signature

(yyyy/mm/dd)

## Application Checklist

Please ensure you include the following documents to be considered for the Interpreter Career Pathway Program training program. If you need help with completing your application or any of the supporting documentation, please contact the Interpreter Career Pathway Program Coordinator at [Indigenous\\_languages@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Indigenous_languages@gov.nt.ca).

- Application Form**
- Letter or video of intent** (*your 1–2-page letter or video should clearly outline why you are interested in pursuing a career in Legislative interpretation and how you think the new Interpreter Career Pathway Program aligns with your professional goals. Describe your experience with your Indigenous language, your current level of fluency, and any use of the language in professional, community, or teaching settings. Lastly, please include how you plan to balance your work and personal commitments with the training, and how you intend to continue strengthening your language skills throughout the program.*)
- Résumé**
- Letter of Support from Full-time Employer**, if applicable (*Applicants who are currently employed full time are asked to include a brief letter of support from their employer. This letter should confirm that your workplace is aware of your interest to participate in the Interpreter Career Pathway Program and supports the time commitment required. The letter may include how your employer plans to help you balance your work responsibilities with your training schedule.*)

## Submit your Application

Please complete this form and send it and your supporting documentation by the **April 26, 2026 deadline** to:

Email: [Indigenous\\_languages@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Indigenous_languages@gov.nt.ca)

Mail:

Indigenous Languages Secretariat  
Department of Education, Culture and Employment  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9