

## Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba Anishinaabemowin Dictionary Project

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*NOMAD* (working acronym) originated in 2020 from the work of Patricia Ningewance, assistant professor University of Manitoba, and linguist Roger Roulette (-iban). As first language speakers of Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), they have done decades of work creating language learning materials representing the language of their communities, Lac Seul and MacGregor/Sandy Bay respectively, as well as numerous other publications documenting language in Manitoba and northwestern Ontario. The dictionary database now has over 30,000 entries done in FLE<sub>x</sub>. The majority of entries are drawn from existing materials, while a considerable amount of data is drawn from field work and consultation with language experts. Over 1,300 pages of interviews conducted in Anishinaabemowin (including English translation) have provided a rich resource to complement and expand on the lemmas. Their value is to provide a deeper understanding of the senses of words in discourse.

Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario is the homeland of many Anishinaabe communities, including many with relatively large numbers of first language speakers. It is crucial to document the language in the region, which in many cases is still very much in daily use within families and communities (Statistics Canada, 2022). Other than *Zagataagan* (2009), this region has not had a comprehensive dictionary project like that of the *Ojibwe People's Dictionary* (2012) (<https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/>) or the *Nishnaabemwin Online Dictionary* (2015) (<https://dictionary.nishnaabemwin.atlas-ling.ca/#/help>). As language revitalization work continues, it is vital to have a resource that bridges the language communities and language learners.

The first goal is to create a preliminary print version to showcase the work being done and facilitate further work with language speakers and communities. To accomplish that, transcripts need to be completed and checked for grammatical information, and for more vocabulary, and example sentences. Specific entries need to be rechecked with experts, and grammar and glossing need to be finalized to be more consistent and helpful for learners. Further steps include moving towards an online platform, incorporating existing audio, and recording more audio. More consultation and engagement with interest groups is also necessary so the dictionary addresses their needs and impacts language use.

This presentation will outline the work process and draft entries. Feedback on the project going forward will also be sought.

## **References**

Ningewance, P. M. (2009). *Zagataagan: A Northern Ojibwe Dictionary (Vols. Ojibwe-English Volume 2)*. *Sioux Lookout: Kwayaciiwin Education Resources Centre*.

Statistics Canada. (2022). *English spoken at home by French spoken at home, Indigenous language spoken at home, other non-official language spoken at home and mother tongue: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts*.

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