

**Education Interim Budget Committee 67th
Montana Legislature
Indian Language Preservation in Montana**

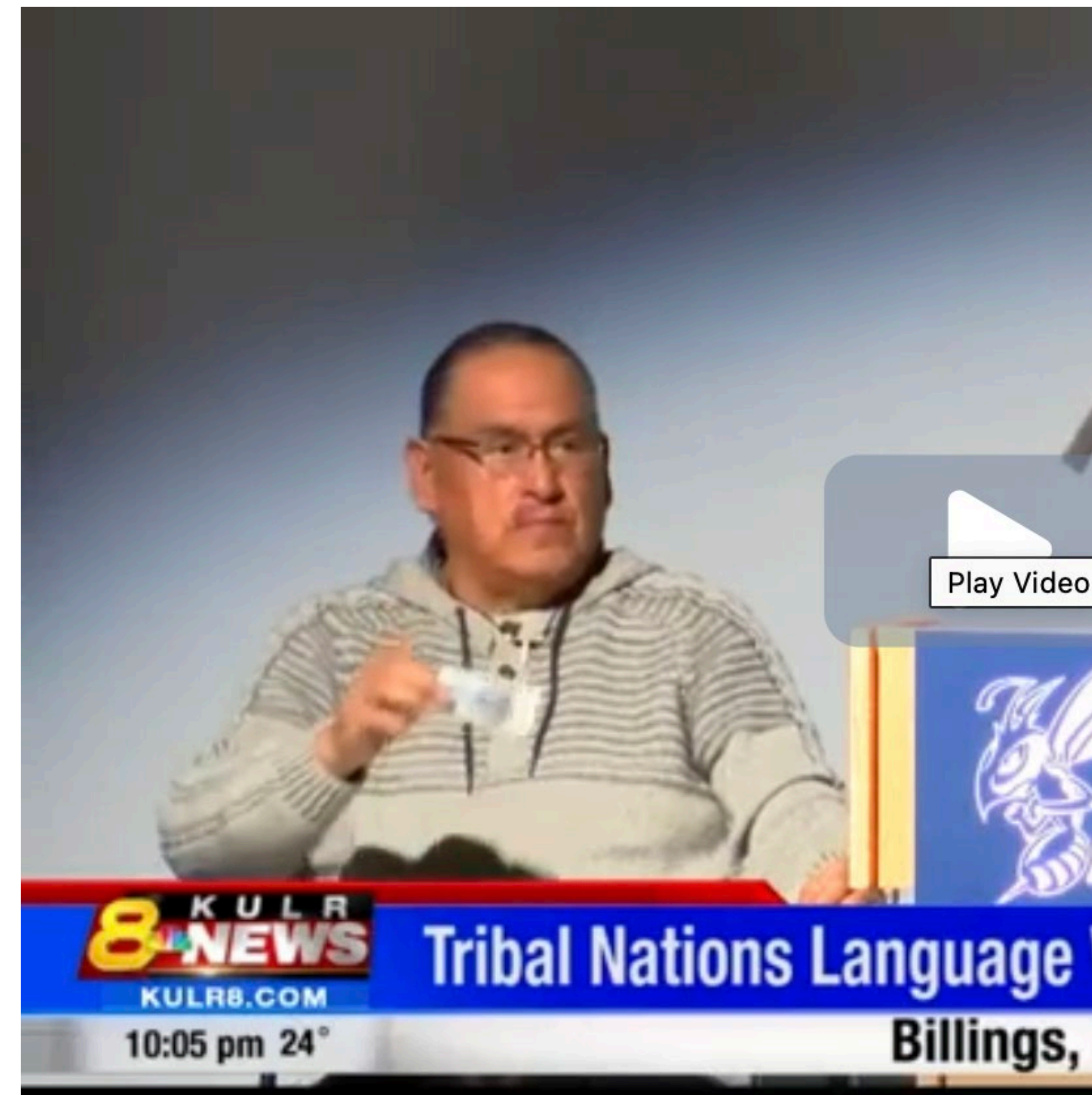
**Preliminary Report
House District 32 Jonathan Windy Boy**

December 15, 2021

KULR8 News

Footage

- https://www.kulr8.com/native_american_news/tribal-nations-language-workshop-underway/video_3332f4ca-5a42-11ec-a9a9-bf70d5dcc324.html





Caption

Public school language program

- **It takes about 2000 hours to learn a language**
 - **180 days in a school year or 36 weeks**
- **11,800 hours available in a K-12 education**
- **Most schools 1 hr. per week of language**
 - **36 hours per school year of language**
 - **2000 hrs. ÷ 36 hrs./yr. = 55.6 yrs.**

Potlatch 2015

Summer language program

- **It takes about 2000 hours to learn a language**
 - **2 weeks or 80 hours**
- **2000 hrs. ÷ 80 hrs./yr. = 25 yrs.**

Potlatch, 2015

Doing the math....

- (7 to 8-hour days or 20 days/month)
- 2000 hours/ 5 hours each week = 400 weeks or 100 months
- 2000 hours / 10 hour each week = 200 weeks or 50 months

It is very doable...

How is this done?

Solution – Use methods that work

- Full immersion, Master-apprentice:
- 2000 hours/30 hours each week = 66 weeks or 16 months
- About 2 years
- Outcome – You have created speakers
- Some will learn faster and some will learn stronger

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Page 2 Q2 What Indigenous/Heritage Languages do you speak?

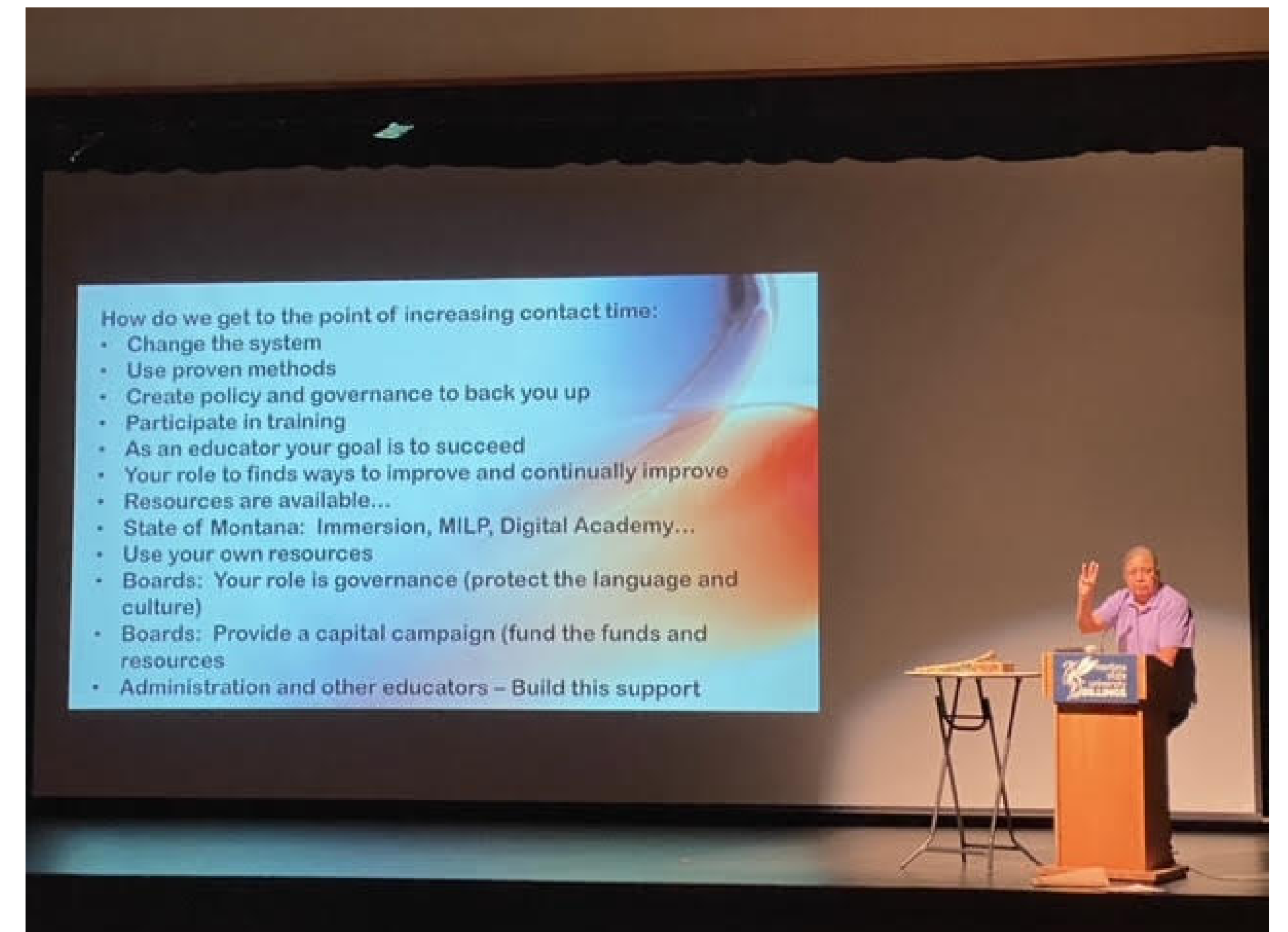
- 11 Spoken Montana Languages and the Plains Indian Sign Language
- 6 other languages represented (outside of Montana)



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Page 3 Q6 In which language can you say basic words or phrases, respond to questions, ask questions, or carry on a conversation?

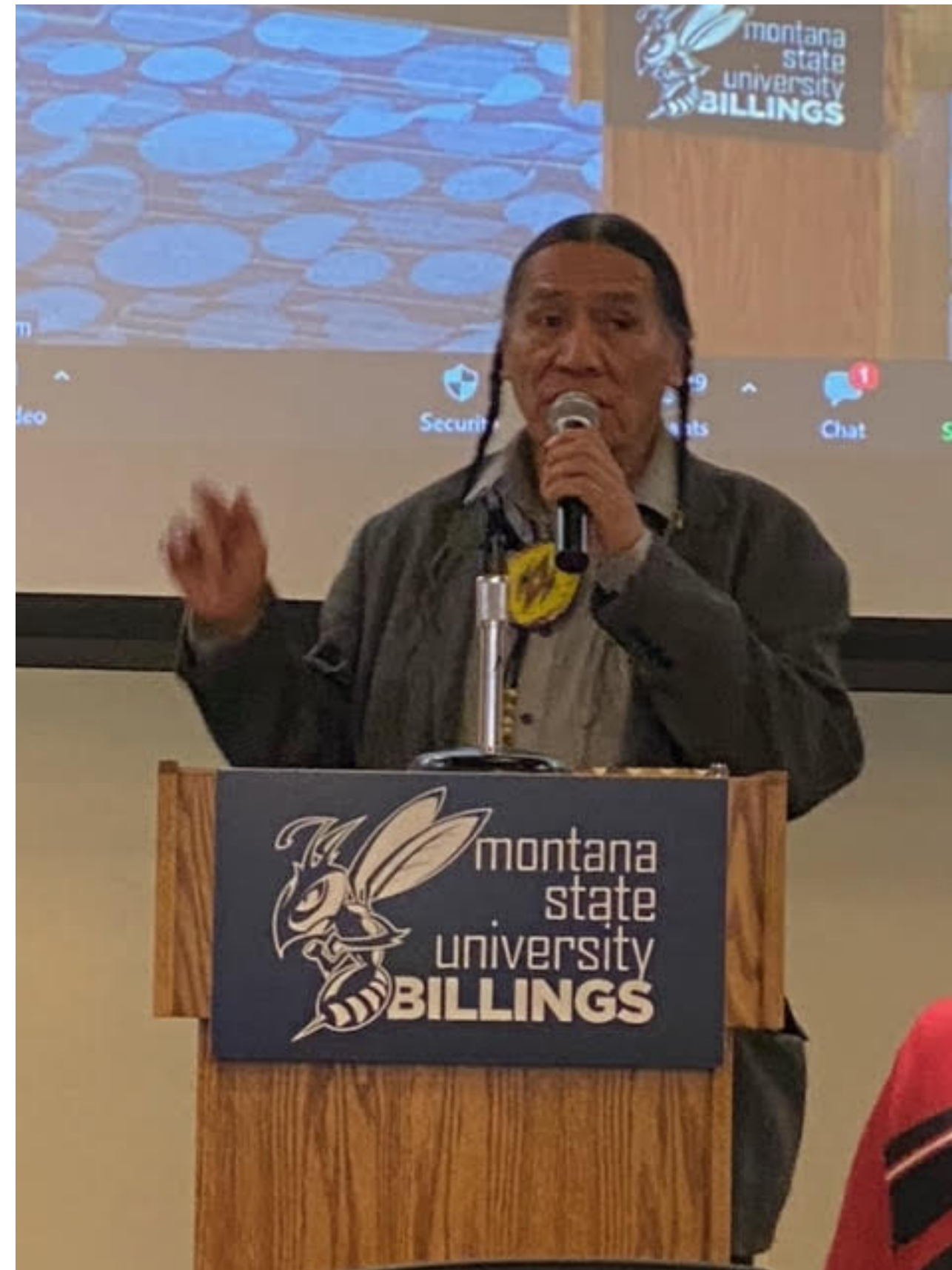
- 6 Languages Teaching Basic Words
- 9 Language Programs are focused on “Conversation”
- 5 Languages are Instructing Phrases



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Pages 3 - 5

- 7 Languages are being taught through a 1st Language Speaker



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Page 5

There was only 1 “class 7 workshop” featured in Montana

- One interesting point is that one teacher stated, “I felt I did not have the time”



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Page 6 What would you like changed in the Class 7 Certification Process

- Conference
- All Class 7 Teachers be invited to coalition as members
- More Contact time, Trainings-Conferences-Workshops
- As a classroom teacher, I feel that Class 7 teachers, that are not also classroom teachers could benefit from classroom behavior management classes (Class 7 teachers are not being treated as professionals)
- management classes. After listening to some Class 7 teachers yesterday, I feel they confirmed my concerns.

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Page 6 What would you like changed in the Class 7 Certification Process

I would like to see a union formed
Anything that helps support Class 7 teachers
Testing to ensure that people are proficient in the Language and not just
anybody can get a Class 7
technical support, materials, workshops, and conferences
More Conferences. I am the only Class 7 in my school district. Workshops and
net working.
I am interested in learning more about this certification
Our tribal languages always need support to develop curriculum to teach and
create more teachers

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Page 6 - 8 What would you like changed in the Class 7 Certification Process

More training for non-indian teachers who work on the reservations
More contact time



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Page 6 Highest level of education completed

There are 43 respondents to the assessments questions that have Bachelors, Master's or Doctorate degrees. Six reported they learned in a traditional way or as life long learners. Eleven of the teachers have a high school education level as Class 7 teachers.

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Page 6 How many years have you been teaching?

Twenty-one teachers have reported they have taught language over 10 years



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Page 7 - 8 Describe the training you have had to be a Class 7 Language and Culture teacher

Attend Language class and ceremony. I grew up listening to my grandparents and have taken classes from five different fluent teachers over the course of my teaching career

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Page 7 What school are you currently teaching at?

There 55 schools and colleges that teach language that responded.



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Page What grades to you teach?

There were 21 elementary teachers attending



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Page 7 Describe the number of students enrolled in language classes. (Head Start, K-12, Adults)

Thirty-five teachers reported having more than 15 or more students enrolled in their language classes



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Page 9 Are you asked to teacher other subjects other than your tribal language, cultural, and history courses?

Fifty-three percent of the teachers are asked to teach other classes outside of language.



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Page 9 Are you asked to teacher other subjects other than your tribal language, cultural, and history courses?

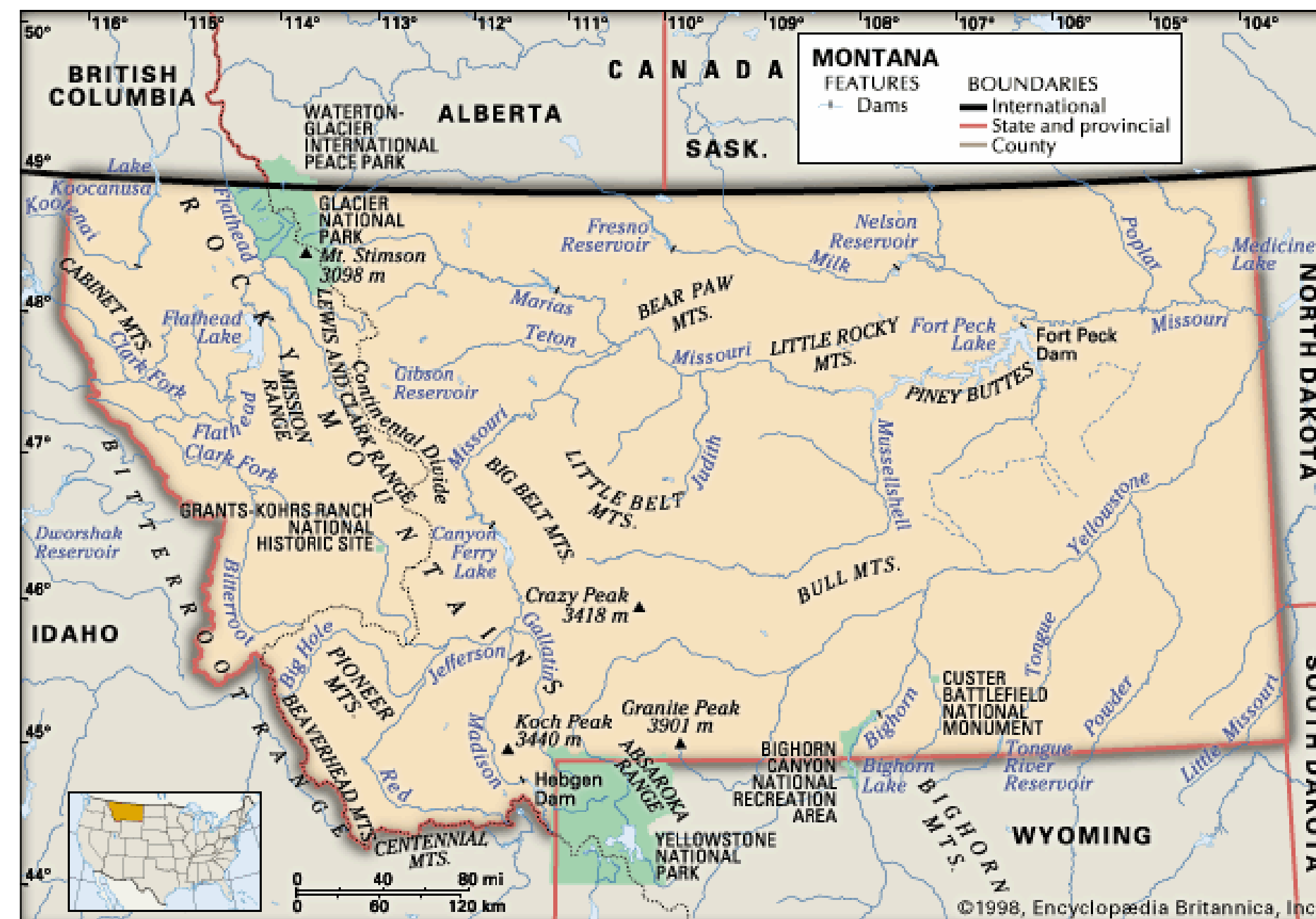
On contact time indicated in the survey:

- 12 teachers reported they teach less than 1 hour per day.
- 5 teachers reported they teach less than 1-2 hours per week.
- 9 teachers reported teaching 3 hours per week.
- 2 teachers reported teaching 1-2 hours per week.
- 8 teachers reported teaching 3-4 hours per week.

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Page 9 How much preparation time do you have each week?

14 teachers have less than one hour of preparation per week, while 12 teachers have less than 1-2 hours per week for preparation



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Page 10 Are you interested in creating more instructional contact time for tribal language teaching and learning?

93% of the respondents report a need to increase contact time for language acquisition



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Page 11 Are you familiar with immersion methods?

19 respondents either are not familiar with immersion teaching methods or while 22 respondents have minimal and/or familiarity of immersion teaching methods



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Page 11 What is holding you back from learning and teaching your Indigenous/heritage language with a new method?

96% of the respondents are willing to implement effective language acquisition methods



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Page 13 What is holding you back from learning and teaching your Indigenous/heritage language with a new method?

37% lack the training to transition into adapting language acquisition methods while 29% reported lacking the time to participate in training.

There were 15 respondents that stated they were not offered training opportunities for learning language acquisition methods

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Page 14 What is preventing you from learning or teaching new methods for language instruction?

36% of the respondents have indicated that they lacked time that has prevented them for participating in training for language acquisition.

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Page 14 Describe the curriculum materials and resources you were provided to teach your students your tribal language.

26% of the teachers responded that they have had to create their own teaching resources

21% of the teachers provided their own teaching resources

9 teachers reported they do not have materials

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Page 23 Are you familiar with the Montana Indian Language Program (MILP), HB 671/SB 342?

48% of the teachers that responded were unfamiliar with MILP



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Page 24 Are you familiar with the tribal language preservation provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act ?

47% of the respondents were unaware of ARPA funds available for emergency language relief.



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Page 24 Are you familiar with the legislative intent of the Cultural Integrity Commitment Act, SB272?

55% respondents were not familiar with the Cultural Integrity Commitment Act

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Page 25 Are you familiar with the Montana Digital Academy (Teaching and Learning Hub)?

55% respondents were not familiar with the Montana Digital Academy

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Page 26 Are you familiar with the Office of Public Instruction and representatives in the Indian Education division?

Only 6 people responding that they were knowledgeable of the Office of Public Instruction.



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Page 26 Are you familiar with the Office of Public Instruction and the Superintendent of this agency?

23 people were unaware of the Superintendent of the Office of Public Instruction or 40% of the participants answered they were unaware of the role of the Superintendent and the Office of Public Instruction

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Page 27 Are you familiar with the “Digital Academy”, “Montana Indian Language Preservation Program”, and the “Native Language Immersion Initiative”?

54% were unfamiliar with the Digital Academy, MILP, and Native Language Immersion Initiative while only 3.5% are versed with these state programs



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Page 27 Has your government, school district, administration or board provided you information about the Digital Academy, Montana Indian Language Preservation Program or Native Language Immersion Initiative?

83% reported that they were not informed by their tribal government and schools about the Digital Academy, MILP, and the Native Language Immersion Initiative

