United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 14

- Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.

- Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.

- States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

“There is an urgent need for leadership and action to promote & protect Indigenous languages from extinction”

Res. no. 55-2010 AFN, December 2010. Assembly of First Nations
what is bilingualism?

bilingual (bī-līng-gwəl) adjective (of a person) speaking two languages fluently: a bilingual secretary.
- (of a text or an activity) written or conducted in two languages: bilingual diction-
aries | bilingual education.
 • (of a country, city, or other community) using two languages, esp. officially: the
town is virtually bilingual in Dutch and German.
noun a person fluent in two languages.
DERIVATIVES - bilingualism noun ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Latin bilinguis, from bi- 'having two' + lingua 'tongue' + -al .

Definition of Bilingualism as an Educational Goal
A bilingual speaker is one who is able to function in two (or
more) languages either in single or multi-lingual communities,
in accordance with community expectations, at the same level
as native speakers. And who is able to identify positively with
both language groups and cultures or parts of them
(Skutnabb Kangas 1984.)

The “dual iceberg” representation of bilingual proficiency
(Cummins 1996, p. 111)

Dr. Jim Cummins from University of Toronto, has done extensive re-
search on bilingualism that shows without a
doubt, that a person
who can function in
two languages has
an increased intellec-
tual capacity from be-
ing able to draw from
two sets of rules and
knowledge to address
& resolve any problem
arising. Hence bilingual
students tend to score
significantly higher on
EQAO testing in gr.10
and beyond.

In 1996, the Ontario government es-
tablished the Education Quality and
Accountability Office (EQAO) to de-
sign new tests for grades 3, 6, 9, 10
in reading, writing and mathematics

Oneida Language... critically endangered?

Definition of Critically Endangered
Languages
The youngest speakers are in the great-grandparental generation,
and the language is not used for everyday interactions. These older
people often remember only part of the language but do not use it
on a regular basis, since there are few people left to speak with.

The government of Canada
finally signed the United Nations
Declaration on the rights of
Indigenous Peoples on Nov. 2010.
The Assembly of First
Nations quickly followed up
with a Resolution
calling for the
Canadian government
to provide immersion
schools in all First
Nation communities.
Our work with
promoting Oneida
language is met with concern from
some parents and grandparents
that learning Oneida will somehow
stunt or hinder their students use
of English. A commonly expressed
concern is that we need a strong
command of English to do well in
schools, colleges and universities
to gain access to the job market. This
is a true fact. However research
has shown that having
good English does not have to be at the
expense of our mother
tongue Oneida. We can
do both and be better
off for it. This is also a
true fact.

Oneida Language is critically endangered?

The youngest speakers are in the great-grandparental generation,
and the language is not used for everyday interactions. These older
people often remember only part of the language but do not use it
on a regular basis, since there are few people left to speak with.

Studies have shown that
when an individual
learns two
languages at the same
time this
opens up more
brain function
areas than that of a single
language learner.

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Onyota’a:ka Tetwawanakhani
July class an ... Amazing Success!!

We were extremely excited to offer the opportunity to learn the “mechanics” of the Oneida Language with David Kanatawakhon. He teaches this language mechanics course in the Mohawk language at the University of Western Ontario.

We plan to provide a continuation class or Part 2 of the Onyota’a:ka Tetwawanakhani to practice using what we already learned in July; beginning on Tuesday Sept. 20, 7 - 9 p.m. Location: Oneida Training Centre; weekly on Tuesday evenings thereafter.

A big Yawako to S.S.S. for letting us use a classroom to accommodate the 24 signed up participants. We were also glad to see another 6 who were not signed up but we made enough room for them to join us. We want to encourage interested people to sign up for the new intake session which will be offered in July 2012.

Oneida Day at the Western Fair
is Monday Sept. 12 - gates open at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda:
• 3:00 - 4:15 film festival - premier release of new animated shorts; Move to Canada
• 4:15 - 5:00 social & smoke dance demo
• 5:15 - 6:00 lacrosse demo
• 6:15 - 7:15 live music performance by the Rez Dawgs
• facepainting, souvenir button-making; language demo table, Oneida language bingo
• cornsoup, fry bread, strawberry drink for sale til sold out (donations of fry bread appreciated)