



Anishinaabek (Algonquin)

In our language we refer to ourselves as the *Anishinaabe* people. Our language is part of the larger Algonquin language family which includes other languages such as:

Ojibwa
Odawa
Potawatomi
Cree
Blackfoot
Arapaho
Kickapoo
Menomini
Fox
Massachusett
Delaware
Shawnee
Micmac (Mikmaq)
Passamaquoddy-Malecite
and Naskapi.



The Algonquin people are most closely associated with the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomi nations. The nations share a common language, *anishinaabemowin*. The Algonquin's of Barriere Lake, for example, refer to their language as "*mitckinapikowinimowin*" or "the language of the Barriere Lake people."

The Algonquin were among the first North American Natives to make alliances with the French who adopted Algonquin methods of travel, and started using terms like Algonquin terms like "canoe" and "toboggan".

The number of Algonquin speaking people has dropped with the increasing contact with European settlers. The majority of Algonquin communities now use English as their first language.

A few communities, such as Pikogan and Lac Simon are more reliant on French. In the communities, which are further into the Algonquin territory, such as Grand Lac and Barriere Lake, the Algonquin language remains a vital part of the community. It is spoken by all ages.