

Mijua'ji'jk temk/Wasisok Tomk

Youth Carrying our Languages Forward

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Kevin wâsakâyâsiw Lewis



Kevin Lewis is a dedicated advocate for Indigenous land-based education and founded kâniyâsihk Culture Camps, a non-profit organization rooted in Cree philosophy and traditions. As an accomplished educator and Cree language revitalization expert, Kevin integrates cultural teachings, language immersion, and traditional practices into transformative learning experiences. Drawing on his lifelong connection to the land and his passion for holistic education, Kevin leads programs that honour the knowledge of Cree Elders and knowledge keepers.

Among his many land-based programs, Kevin offers unique insights into dogsledding, a practice that embodies resilience, teamwork, and harmony with nature. Kevin's teaching combines the technical skills of dogsledding with cultural and historical perspectives, fostering deeper connections to Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

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Peter-Lucas Jones



Peter-Lucas Jones is a registered member of the Te Aupōuri and Ngāi Takoto iwi (Māori tribes) of New Zealand. He's helping prove that Indigenous languages belong in the future of technology. As CEO of Te Hiku Media, he leads the creation of advanced te reo Māori language tools, speech-to-text, text-to-speech, and pronunciation models focussed on restoring indigenous sound.

Driven by a belief that language is strongest when passed between generations, Peter-Lucas champions Indigenous data sovereignty and new models that allow communities to control and benefit from their language data in the age of AI. Under his leadership, Te Hiku Media has become a global leader in Indigenous language technology.

In 2024 he was named to TIME's TIME100 AI, recognising his role in advancing Indigenous languages through artificial intelligence. He was also awarded the Te Tihi Awar, in the Taitokerau Maori Business Awards for championing Māori Data Sovereignty on the world stage.

Peter-Lucas also serves as Chair of Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri, the Te Aupōuri Treaty Settlement Trust, and Te Whakaruruhau o Ngā Reo Irirangi Māori, and as Deputy Chair of Whakaata Māori, bringing together governance, technology, and culture to strengthen the future of te reo Māori.