



University  
of Victoria

# ANTHROPOLOGY COLLOQUIUM SERIES



## **zOyahala KAIA nÔk'Âgû: Bringing Back the Yuchi Language the Yuchi Way**

### **Dr. Richard Grounds**

Executive Director of the Yuchi Language  
Project based in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, chair of  
the Global Indigenous Languages Caucus

Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
11:30 am – 12:45 pm  
COR A125

This talk will bring Yuchi vision on reclaiming a language and will address the following questions: How do you bring back a language that is an isolate, unrelated to any other known language, that is so ancient it makes your community like living time travelers? What do you do when your language has been targeted for destruction by the most powerful government in the history of the planet and that refuses to acknowledge your existence? How can you respond to the intellectual erasure perpetrated by 200 years of officious publications declaring that your nation is extinct? How do you carry forward the vision of your Elders and gift it to your grandchildren? In reflecting on these questions Dr. Grounds will walk through the challenges, short-falls, and the roadblocks Yuchi community is struggling with and share experience from the ground on how Yuchi language stewards were able to create the first in a century new cohort of first-language speakers.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

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## **LANSDOWNE LECTURE**

Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

11:30 – 12:30

First People's House

## **Managing the Colonial Legacy for the Benefit of Indigenous Language Community**