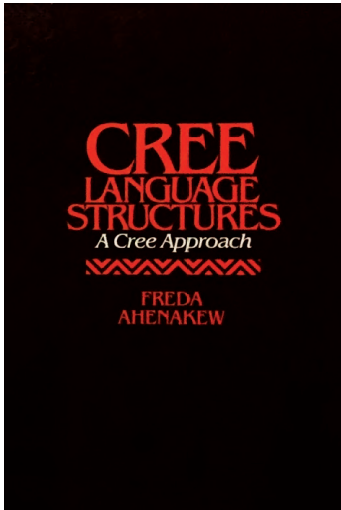
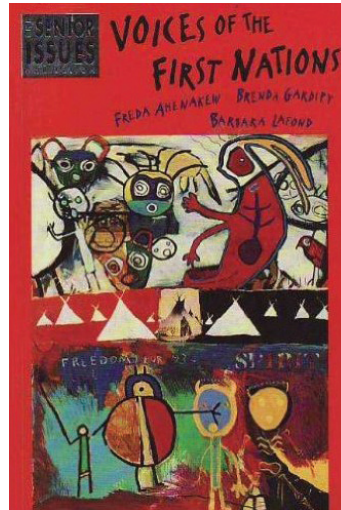


# Dr. Freda Ahenakew

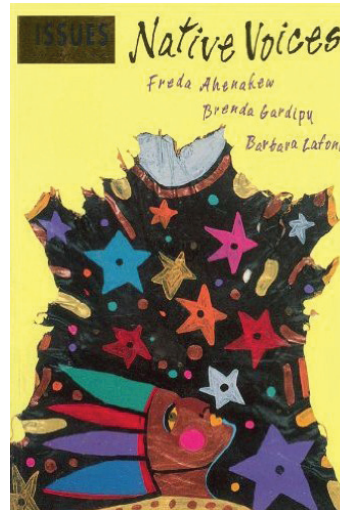
## Reading List



**Cree Language Structures: A Cree Approach**  
Freda Ahenakew



**Voices of the First Nations: From the Senior Issues Collection**  
Freda Ahenakew



**Native Voices: From the Issues Collection**  
Freda Ahenakew

**Wisahkecahk Flies To The Moon**  
F. Ahenakew. Illustrated by S. Farrell Racette

**kôhkominawak otâcimowiniwâwa**  
**Our Grandmothers' Lives, as Told in Their Own Words**  
Told by Glecia Bear et al. Edited & translated by Freda Ahenakew & H.C. Wolfart

**Wâskahikaniwiwiniw-âcimowina**  
**Stories of the House People**  
By Peter Vandall & Joe Douquette. Edited by Freda Ahenakew

**kinêhiyâwiwiniw nêhiyawêwin**  
**The Cree Language is Our Identity: The La Ronge Lectures of Sarah Whitecalf**  
Edited & translated by Freda Ahenakew & H.C. Wolfart

**How the Birch Tree Got its Stripes: A Cree Story for Children**  
Freda Ahenakew & George Littlechild

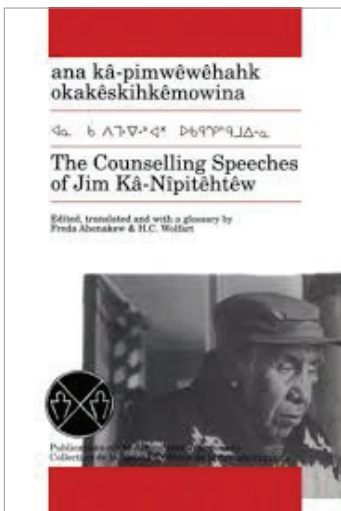
**How the Mouse Got Brown Teeth: A Cree Story for Children**  
Freda Ahenakew & George Littlechild

**Wanisinwak iskwêsisak: awasisasinahikanis**  
**Two Little Girls Lost in the Bush: A Cree Story For Children**  
Freda Ahenakew & Glecia Bear

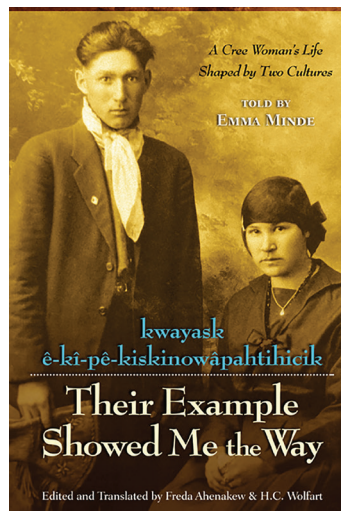
**Kiskinahamawakan-Acimowinisa: Student Stories**  
Edited by John Nichols & translated by Freda Ahenakew

**The Student's Dictionary of Literary Plains Cree, Based on Contemporary Texts**  
Freda Ahenakew & H.C. Wolfart

**piko kîkway ê-nakacihât: kékék otâcimowina ê-nêhiyawastêki.**  
Edited by Freda Ahenakew & H.C. Wolfart



**ana kâ-pimwêwêhahk okakêskikhkêmwina**  
**The Counselling Speeches of Jim Kâ-Nîpitêhtêw**  
Edited, translated & with a glossary by Freda Ahenakew & H.C. Wolfart



**kwayask ê-kî-pê-kiskinowâpahtihicik**  
**Their Example Showed Me the Way: A Cree Woman's Life Shaped by Two Cultures**  
Told by Emma Minde. Edited & translated by Freda Ahenakew & H.C. Wolfart



**âh-âyítaw isi ê-kî-kiskêyihthahkik maskihkiy**  
**They Knew Both Sides of Medicine: Cree Tales of Curing and Cursing**  
Told by Alice Ahenakew. Edited, translated & with a glossary by Freda Ahenakew & H.C. Wolfart

# Dr. Freda Ahenakew

Freda Ahenakew was one of Canada's most well-known leaders in the preservation, revitalization and promotion of the Cree language.

Born on Saskatchewan's Ahtahkakoop First Nation Reserve in 1932, Ahenakew spent her childhood speaking Cree. She credited her family for sparking in her a passion for Cree language and culture at an early age.

Ahenakew left high school in Grade 12 to marry. However, many years and 12 children later, Ahenakew noticed that some of her children were losing interest in education. She therefore decided to lead by example and joined her children on the school bus, returning to high school at the age of 38. She received her Grade 12 diploma in 1969 and eventually went on to receive a Bachelor of Education from the University of Saskatchewan in 1979 and a Master of Arts in Cree Linguistics from the University of Manitoba in 1984.

In short order, Ahenakew established herself as a pioneer in Indigenous language curriculum development and a much sought-after lecturer at universities across Western Canada. From 1983 to 1985 she was an assistant professor at the University of Saskatchewan, leaving to serve as Director of the Saskatchewan Indian Languages Institute from 1985 until 1989. After leading the Institute, she was a professor in Native Studies at the University of Manitoba until her retirement in 1996.

The Cree language was definitely Ahenakew's passion. Her published thesis, *Structures of the Cree Language*, has been reprinted 18 times.

She was motivated to capture and share the lives and language of her people, especially the seldom-heard stories of Cree women. Her books *kôhkominawak otâcimowiniwâwa* (*Our Grandmothers' Lives, as Told in Their Own Words*), and *kwayask ê-kî-pê-kiskinowâpahtihicik* (*Their Example Showed Me the Way: A Cree Woman's Life Shaped by Two Cultures*) are highly regarded.

Through the course of her work, Ahenakew recorded and published the stories of many Cree speakers. The stories of the Elders Peter Vandal and Joe Douquette became the basis of her first book of texts. And because she wanted her people to have effective health care, she also edited a collection of Cree medical terms for physicians. Ahenakew believed that children learning Cree deserved to have books with coloured pictures as beautiful as any other picture book. In her children's books, such as *Two Little Girls Lost In the Bush*, *Wisahkecahk Flies to the Moon* and *How the Mouse Got Brown Teeth*, Ahenakew shared Cree language and traditional stories with grade-school students.

Ahenakew earned an international reputation for her scholarly work, much of which led to a revitalization of the Cree language. She was recognized for this work with many honours and awards, including honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and University of Manitoba. She was also made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1998 and awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2005.

She passed away at Muskeg Lake First Nation in 2011 at the age of 79, leaving behind a legacy defined by her remarkable passion, perseverance and generosity.