



THURSDAY, MARCH 20

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

— Hebrews 10:24-25

The Nuu-chah-nulth nation has about 10,000 members living in fourteen communities in British Columbia. Less than 2 percent are fluent in the language, and most of those fluent speakers are over sixty-five years old.

Since 2002, the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) has partnered with The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund of the Anglican Church of Canada (PWRDF) to implement a Nuu-chah-nulth Language and Culture Program. The program provides funding to projects aimed at the preservation and promotion of their language and culture.

The methods of preserving and teaching this ancient language are very modern. NEDC provides funding for groups that use Facebook to connect speakers of Nuu-chah-nulth, YouTube to share videos of elders speaking the language, DVDs featuring pronunciation guides, and more. Nuu-chah-nulth was purely an oral language until recently, so most fluent speakers aren't literate in it. NEDC has been successful at working with their communities to secure language and culture for the current and future generations.

“Provoke one another to love and good deeds...encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Let us reflect during this Lenten season on how we can continue working with indigenous communities in their goal of self-determination.

—José Zárate