



Gitksan Phrase Book for health care providers

Photo credit: "Detail of a totem at Kitwanga, BC" by Brodie Guy, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0: www.flickr.com/photos/brodieguy/6506961433

Gitxsanimx or Sim'algax (sim-ahlgah) Language of Gitxsan

Luu amhl good'y win gya'an (I am happy to see you!)

This booklet is a gift to health care providers at Wrinch Memorial Hospital (WMH) from the Northwest East Aboriginal Health Improvement Committee to honour and support their ongoing commitment to cultural safety for Gitxsan people. It is pocket sized making it more accessible and easy to use as you interact with your patients.

The Gitxsan language is spoken by the communities of the Gitxsan Nation whose territory is along the upper Skeena and Bulkley Rivers. These are Gitwangak, Gitanyow, Gitsegukla, Gitanmaax, Sik-E-Dakh (Glen Vowell), Kispiox and the two municipalities of Hazelton and New Hazelton. There is an estimated 13,000 Gitxsan members with about 70% living on the traditional territories. There are slightly different dialects with Gitsegukla, Gitwangak and Gitanyow speaking one dialect and Kispiox, Sik-E-Dakh and Gitanmaax speaking a slightly different one.

Don't get discouraged. Ts'aawina! (You are smart). You can learn it! We will help you!

Hami yaa nee loosim!
Thank you



Greetings

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Luu amhl good'y | (Lou umhl godee) | I am happy or my heart is happy |
| Luu amhl good'y win gya'an | (Lou umhl godee win gaen) | I am happy to see you |
| Hindah! wila win? | (hin dalth willa win) | How are you? |
| Am willa' winna? | (umhl willa winna) | Are you doing fine? |
| Amhl willa wil'y | (umhl willa will lee) | I am doing fine/great |
| Luugwilam | (Lou quill am) | very good |
| Luu amhl good'y | (lou umhl godee) | I am happy |
| Ama hii hluxw | (uma he lou) | good morning |
| Amasilkswa | (uma silk sa) | good afternoon |
| Ama yuxwsa | (uma you sa) | good evening |
| Ham i yaa | (humi ya) | thank you |
| t'ooyaxs'y 'niin | (dohyasee neen) | I thank you |
| Hami yaa nee loosim | (hume yanee losum) | I thank you all |
| T'ooyaxs'y 'nisim | (dohyasee) | I thank you all |
| Wii o'oy' niism' | (weyo e nism) | I like /love you all |
| wii o yee niin | (we yo e neen) | I like/love you |
| Naahl wa'n? | (naahl one) | what is your name |
| Ts'aawina! | (twaawina) | you are smart! |
| Ama 'mas | (uma mas) | to be pretty/handsome |

Health Phrases

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Dim hli moo'y 'niin | (dim hli moyee neen) | I will help you |
| Hlabixsw 'ni'y | (hla bish sh nee -e) | I am tired |
| Siipxw 'ni'y | (sec poo wx nee-e) | I am sick |
| Siipxw 'nii na? | (see poo wx neena) | Are you sick? |
| Wilp siipxw | (Wilp seep who) | hospital (house of sickness) |



Photo credit: "Totems of Kispiox, BC along the Skeena River in the Kispiox Valley near the Hazeltons, BC" by Brodie Guy, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0: www.flickr.com/photos/brodieguy/6501138519

Community Terms

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|---|
| Wilp | | house |
| Wilp gal ts'ap | | community hall |
| Galts'ap | | community |
| Git | | people |
| Gitxsan | | People of River of Mist or People of the Skeena River |
| Sdikyoodenax | (Sdigawden) | Roche de Boule Mountain |
| Sgan'nist | (skanist) | mountain |



Clans

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Pdeek | (pdake) | clan |
| Gisk'haast | (Gis Kast) | Fireweed |
| Lax Gibuu | (La giboo) | wolf |
| Lax See'l or Ganeda | (La say ill) | Frog |
| Lax xsgaik | (La skeek) | Eagle |

People

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Hanak' | (ha nauck) | woman |
| Ts'iits/na'a | (Zeets/naah) | grandmother |
| Gyat | (gat) | man |
| Nigwoot | (niquot) | father |



Nox

(noha)

mother

Start of a speech

Sim-oogit

chief

Sim gigyat

(sim ge get)

chiefs

Sigidim Haanak'

(sigee dim
ha'anuck)

chief (women)

K'ubawilxsihlxw

(koo baa wil sit
xw)

children of the
chiefs

Sabax – the end

Additional Resources:

Gitsenimx Community Portal.(2017). First Voices.
www.firstvoices.com/en/Gitsenimx

Smith, J.M. (2009). Gitxsanimx speller: Text for adult gitxanimx class. J.M. Smith.

Gitsenimx.(n.d.). First Peoples' Language Map of British Columbia. Retrieved February 7, 2017 from
www.maps.fphlcc.ca/gitsenimx

Lomax, Betsy. (n.d). Learn Gitxsan: A website dedicated to teaching you the native language Gitxsan.
www.learnitxsan.com

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