

# College of New Caledonia



## NEWS RELEASE

*For release on December 7, 2009*

### **CNC Carrier book a way to preserve language**

A new book being released by CNC Press this week is intended to acquaint the reader with the character of the Carrier language.

William J. Poser's *The Carrier Language, a Brief Introduction*, set to be launched Wednesday, Dec. 9 at CNC's Prince George campus, provides an overview of the Carrier language – where it is spoken, by whom and what it is like. It will be of interest to the non-specialist reader: secondary school students, college and university students, those interested in local history and culture, tourists and language buffs.

“The Carrier language is endangered because very few young people speak the language and in some villages, no children speak the language,” said Marlene Erickson, manager of the college's Aboriginal Resource Centre. “Any work that contributes to its preservation and revitalization is important.”

The 50-page book includes sections on vocabulary, grammar and dialects. It even includes a traditional story in Carrier.

CNC Aboriginal Studies instructor Bruce Allan said the age of the youngest fluent speakers of his Carrier dialect are getting older and older.

“The Nadleh and Stellako bands started a camp for children and elders where the language is strictly spoken and English isn't allowed,” he said. “It is a start and hopefully it will take off. I suggested that these camps run year around. We need to promote this form of language preservation.”

Bill Poser lives in Prince George and has taught at CNC. He earned his PhD in Linguistics from MIT in 1985 and was a member of the Linguistics department at Stanford University from 1983 – 1994. He has studied the Carrier language since 1992.

**The media is invited to Wednesday's launch in the Aboriginal Resource Centre, in room 1-773, where they can meet Poser.**

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