

Statements made by representatives of moderately endangered languages at the 1994 Native American Language Issues (NALI) conference held in Glorieta, New Mexico.

We have limited access to our tribal ways. Our oral tradition is overshadowed by the English language and thought. We ignore our traditions and our tribal intellectuals. We need to go back to the elders.

—Rosemary Christensen, Ojibwe

One point eight million dollars [provided by the Native American Languages Act] for language is not enough. We cannot depend on money; we need to depend on ourselves to save the language. We acknowledge our culture, but our language is the way. We need to reestablish the language, stand strong, and identify ourselves as strong people in a sovereign nation. Many cannot see themselves to be learning the language. Adults need to see and be more involved in saving the language.

—Larry L. Kimura, Hawaiian