

**T-10 00094**

**Instructional Manuals on the Cree Language by Anne Anderson**

**Dates:** 1969-1972

**Extent:** 1 box (13 cm)

**Biography:**

Dr. Anne Gairdner Calihoo Anderson (1906-1997) was a Métis Elder, cultural advocate and champion of the Cree language. Anne Anderson was born near St. Albert, Alberta in 1906 as Anne Calihoo Gairdner to William Gairdner and Elizabeth Calihoo, who was Métis. Anderson was the oldest daughter of ten siblings and grew up speaking Cree at home. She was educated in English at a nearby Grey Nuns convent before returning to work on the family farm after the death of her father in 1922. Anderson married, had children of her own and worked as a nurse's aid throughout her adult life. In 1965, Anne's mother, Elizabeth died and, on her deathbed, urged her daughter to teach and preserve the Cree language. While Anne had no formal training as a teacher or educator, she published her first Cree language manual in 1969 and would go on to write 93 books on the Cree language and Métis history before her death in 1997. She petitioned the Alberta school board to teach Cree in schools and taught language classes for sixteen years before opening the Dr. Anne Anderson Native Heritage and Cultural Centre in Edmonton in 1984. Anderson's Centre provided Cree classes for children and adults, was a community hub for cultural events, boasted a library and museum, and also sold Indigenous and Métis arts and crafts. Anderson also organized programs to teach Cree at the University of Alberta, patients in local hospitals, inmates at the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre and children and young adults in the foster care system. Anderson published her books independently through her own organization, Cree Productions, and she is most well-known for her Cree-English dictionary, *Dr. Anne Anderson's Metis Cree Dictionary* (1975, republished 1997) which translated 38,000 words into Cree. Anderson also wrote a history of the Métis in Alberta, *The First Métis – A New Nation* in 1985. Anderson received many accolades during her lifetime including the Alberta Achievement Award and a honorary Doctorate from the University of Alberta in 1975, the Order of Canada in 1979, and as a valued Elder in the Métis Nation. Anderson died in 1997.

**Scope and Content:**

Collection contains nineteen Cree language instruction manuals written and independently published by Anne Anderson, which includes books designed for children at the elementary level as well as books written for older students and adults. The collection contains a small amount of archival material including two letters from Anne Anderson to James Fidelholtz, where she discusses her reasoning for choosing to teach Cree, "I being of Indian and white blood is doing this type of work as it concern the many different tribes. Only now after years of being looked down upon, we are looked upon as truly human beings." As well as her qualifications in teaching, "If you are not *Cree* and if you do not speak the *language*, all the degrees in the world will not help. You need to have lived the life of an Indian and be fluent in the language and traditions to hold a degree in teaching this language."

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Also included in the collection are a collaborative book in Cree instruction produced by the Department of Education in Alberta in 1969, as well as four books written by Indigenous students attending Federal residential and day schools (Kingfisher Lake Indian Day School, Fort George Residential School, and Deer Lake Indian Day School), which were printed by the Department of Indian Affairs and the Education Division of Indian Affairs Branch of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

<b>BOX: FOLDER</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>DATE(S)</b>
	<b>Cree Language books written and independently published by Anne Anderson</b>	
<b>Box 1</b> Folders 1-3	<i>Cree. Book I-III.</i>	1970-1971
1:4	<i>Cree: What do they do book. Kēkwāy e Totāhkik</i>	1970
1:5	<i>Wild Animals. Pukwachi Pisiskowak.</i>	1970
1:6-7	<i>Learning Cree. Book I-II</i>	1971
1:8-14	<i>Little Hunter Book. Māchēsis. Books I-VII</i>	1972
1:15	<i>Āwāsis Book: Coloring. Book I.</i>	1972
1:16-17	<i>Āwāsis Books. Books II-III</i>	1972
1:18	<i>Read and Write: "The Cree Language." Nehiyawewin: āyamichike mēna musinahike</i>	1972
1:19	<i>Wāpi</i>	1972
	<b>Letters and Lists</b>	
1:20	Letters from Anne Anderson to James Fidelholtz regarding interest in her Cree instruction books and the reasoning for her dedication to Cree instruction	February – April 1973
1:21	One page description, "The Phonetic Language of the Cree Indians" written by Anne Anderson	[197-]

1:22	Hand-annotated list of Cree publications written by Anne Anderson with prices and ordering information	[197-]
	<b>Collaborative works</b>	
1:23-24	<i>Piiyesiisak Mena Pisiskiwak: Birds and Animals, a Cree First Reader.</i> By Anne Anderson, edited by Peter B. Stolee and illustrated by Henry Nanooch. Produced by the Department of Education, Edmonton, Alberta. With introductory letter from the Association Director of Curriculum, E.A Torguurud	October 1969 18 December 1969
	<b>Books written by Indigenous students attending federal residential and day schools</b>	
1:25	<i>Kappagonacheewung: The Trap Line.</i> Written and illustrated by Isaac, Stephen and Victoria Sainnawap, pupils of Kingfisher Lake Indian Day School. Printed by the Education Division of Indian Affairs Branch of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.	May 1969
1:26	<i>Fort George.</i> Written and illustrated by grade 3 students under the supervision of their teacher, Miss S. Runnels, at Fort George Residential School. Printed by the Department of Indian Affairs.	[196-]-[197-]
1:27	<i>Deer Lake.</i> Written and illustrated by the children of grades 3, 4, 5 of Deer Lake Indian Day School. Printed by the Education Division of Indian Affairs Branch of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.	June 1971
1:28	<i>σᓵCL ΔᓱᓴLᓴσΔbα.</i> <i>First Cree Reading Book.</i> Written and illustrated by members of the staff and student body of Fort George Federal School, Fort George, Quebec. Directed by Mary Mitchell. Printed by Department of Indian Affairs.	1972