

# Dr. Anne Anderson School



## Dr. Anne Anderson (February 3, 1906–April 1997)

Anne Anderson was an author and teacher who was instrumental in preserving the Cree language and promoting Métis heritage in Alberta and Canada.

Anderson was in her 60s when she started writing more than 90 books about the Cree language and Métis history, traditions, herbal remedies and recipes.

Anderson was one of 10 children who grew up on a farm near St. Albert with a Cree mother and Métis-Scottish father. She was forced to speak English in school, but her mother taught her about Cree culture and urged her to speak the language at home.

After Anderson's father died when she was a teenager, she went to work to help support her family. She eventually moved to Edmonton during the 1940s to work as a nurse's aide.

Anderson has said during media interviews that a deathbed request from her mother prompted her to start writing about her culture and language. Before Anderson's mother died, she urged Anderson to preserve the Cree language, which was threatened with extinction by the history of residential schools and policies that promoted assimilation.

After Anderson left nursing, she began writing books, including a Cree dictionary she worked on with help from her niece. She also recorded Cree language tapes to preserve the sounds of the language.

In the early 1980s, she established the Dr. Anne Anderson Native Heritage and Cultural Centre, which offered Cree language courses for children and adults as well as a library and other resources. Anderson's extensive collection of artifacts and books was later preserved by the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Anderson helped introduce Cree classes to schools in Alberta and across Canada, and taught at many post-secondary schools, including the University of Alberta.

Her work has been recognized with numerous awards including an Alberta Achievement Award, the Order of Canada and an honorary doctorate from the University of Alberta. She was also named one of the City of Edmonton's 100 Edmontonians of the Century.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

### LOCATION

Heritage Valley neighbourhood

### GRADES

10–12

### OPENING

To be determined

