**Reflection**

Looking back at the start of the course I didn’t really know what to expect when taking on a project of this magnitude within SMU. Dealing with clients is almost never completely similar and can be challenging at the best of times. Overall I believe the clients and their requirements resonated with a good portion of the class and promoted a positive work ethic of accomplishment not only for the class but also on behalf of the client. Having group buy-in allowed groups to focus more on client needs and push production potential. This project was about promoting identity and has the possibility of promoting Mi’kmaw language not only for our Eskasoni clients but potentially other Mi’kmaw community members as well. For myself as a military member and father who can sometimes struggle with identity and personal family history, it was something that hit close to home. I can relate to wanting our future generation to understand who they are, where they come from and their heritage. The very basics of teaching our children begins with language and I’m happy that we can assist our Eskasoni clients with the work we’ve done to open options for expanding their language and potential to teach the next generation.

During the course I got opportunities to delve into the language, try out phrases and get a deeper understanding of the language and some of it’s history. The involvement of various community members and their willingness to teach as we worked with them is something I’ve always enjoyed when being exposed to various cultures in my travels. Finding people that share both their history and culture is not always easy to find and I try to devote any time I can to spending time with people willing to share a part of who they are.

Concerning our clients themselves, it was fascinating learning that the Mi’kmaw dialect has various standards that it adheres to. Going back to networking, I have a friend Robin from Highschool who lives in Oromocto, NB and is a Mi’kmaw keeper of knowledge/story teller. Learning there’s differences such as smith-francis as well as locational differences in so short an area was something I wasn’t aware of. I’m still hoping she can provide an authentic art piece to be included in the project but like most of the people I reached out to, it seems many are busy either with job or home life responsibilities.

Robin had given me a contact that’s also a teacher that I believe I passed info on about. Normally it’s fairly easy to find English or French speaking instructors but when I reached out, it was almost like even the people invested in keeping the Mi’kmaw language alive were not 100% confident in their ability to conform to a “proper” instruction vs their knowledge of the work that our Eskasoni clients were doing. They gave them high praise but their sentiments echoed the concerns that were brought forth that there needs to be promotion of the language in order for it to grow.

Looking at my personal work projections, I have the concepts of how to complete the project fleshed out but may well fall short of the complete project up to my own personally set standards. I plan on working on the project until I at least have the form functional so that the users can update their own files without the need for tech support. This isn’t because of a need to be disconnected from the story development but more of a usability support in order for the product to be fully utilized. I know if I always had to contact tech support to make something work, I’d search for a different, easier product to use and don’t want that mindset to be involved in the work being done.

As mentioned prior, this project resonates with me as well and I hope to continue to provide support in any way I’m able to our Eskasoni clients as well as other community members that we may be able to assist. I believe that the client choice for this semester was an excellent one and the ideas, creativity and adaptability of the class definitely reflected that choice.

Jay