

# AI + DATA SOVEREIGNTY = NATIVE FUTURES

A QUICK GUIDE FOR NATIVE EDUCATORS, LEADERS, AND COMMUNITIES

## What is AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is technology that learns from data to make predictions, create content, or automate decisions.

You already see it in:

- TikTok or Netflix recommendations
- Voice assistants like Siri or Alexa
- Tools that create images, videos, or text

## WHY IT MATTERS FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES

- Data is power. AI runs on data. If Native peoples' data is missing, misused, or stolen, we lose control of how we are seen.
- Representation gap. Too often, Native people are invisible in the datasets powering AI, leading to bias, erasure, and stereotypes.
- Language & culture. AI can help preserve Native languages — or exploit them if built without consent.
- Sovereignty. True sovereignty includes deciding how our data is collected, stored, and used.

- Ask questions. Who owns this data? Who benefits?
- Support Native-led projects. Back Indigenous researchers and technologists building our own tools.
- Protect culture. Share language and traditions only with trusted partners who respect protocols.
- Educate others. Talk about data sovereignty in your classrooms, communities, and families.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

## QUICK DEFINITIONS

- AI: Computer systems that learn from data
- Algorithm: A set of computer instructions for making decisions
- Data Sovereignty: The right of Indigenous Nations to govern their own data
- Bias: When technology reproduces unfair outcomes or stereotypes

NATIVE VOICES BELONG IN THE FUTURE OF AI. DATA SOVEREIGNTY IS SELF-DETERMINATION.