



Indigenous Languages – Determining public health outcomes in Canada

A webinar hosted by the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCA) in partnership with the [Ontario Network of CAPC/CPNP Projects](#).

January 17, 2019

10:00AM - 11:30AM PST / 1:00PM -2:30PM EST

POST-WEBINAR RESOURCE LIST

Q&A Suggested Resources

Question 1:

“Unnusakkut. It seems that the lack of a standardized oral and written version of Inuktitut, such as exists in Greenland, is the single largest barrier for the Inuit youth who didn't learn Inuktitut growing up and who want to learn Inuktitut as a second language. Do you think there is a rift between older Inuit and younger Inuit when it comes to the issue of oral and written Inuktitut standardization, and how would you resolve it?”

Answer 1 suggested resources:

- Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture and Heritage <https://www.gov.nu.ca/culture-and-heritage/information/we-speak-inuktitut>
- Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut <http://langcom.nu.ca/>
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami <https://www.itk.ca/inuit-nunangat-map/>

Question 2:

“Is there a language course in Canada, or online, at a Canadian college or university that either of you are aware of, to help certify teachers in Indigenous languages?”

Answer 2 suggested resources:

- The Nunavut Teacher Education Program (NTEP) <https://www.uregina.ca/education/programs/affiliated/ntep.html>
- Pirurvik <https://www.pirurvik.ca/about-us>
- Nunavut Sivuniksavut <https://nunavutsivuniksavut.ca/about-us>
- Beveridge, N. (2012). *Case study on the first Inuktitut daycare in Iqaluit: Tumikuluit Saipaaqivik*. Toronto, ON: Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation.



Question 3:

“Is there funding for a fluent Inuktitut language speaker/English language interpreter to be present when an Elder accesses medical services such as a specialist appointment in the south?”

Answer 3 suggested resources:

- The Government of Nunavut, Department of Health, Medical Travel for Escorts, <https://gov.nu.ca/health/information/medical-travel-escorts>
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit, <http://tungasuvvingatinuit.ca/overview/>
- Smylie, J., & Firestone, M. (2017). *Our health counts: Urban Indigenous health database project*. Ottawa, ON: Tungasuvvingat Inuit.

Question 4:

“Given the lack of resources to learn Indigenous languages, especially at an academic level, how can we healthcare workers be expected to deliver any level of care in Indigenous languages? What can we start doing now to make sure that this trend does not continue?”

Answer 4 suggested resources:

- Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture and Heritage <https://www.gov.nu.ca/culture-and-heritage/information/we-speak-inuktitut>
- Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut <http://langcom.nu.ca/>

Question 5:

“I am wondering about language nests, if these are in Canada, and how they might work? Are you aware of these?”

Answer 5 suggested resources:

- Government of Canada. Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC). <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/childhood-adolescence/programs-initiatives/aboriginal-head-start-urban-northern-communities-ahsunc.html>
- Bill C-91, The Indigenous Languages Act <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-introduces-historic-legislation-on-indigenous-languages.html>
- Co-development of a National First Nations, Inuit and Métis Languages Act <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/indigenous-languages-legislation.html>
- Te Kōhanga Reo (language nests), New Zealand daycare immersion programs <https://www.kohanga.ac.nz/history/>
- Iqaluit’s Tumikuluit Inuktitut Daycare
- Katiqsugat: Inuit Early Learning Resources <http://katiqsugat.itk.ca/exhibits/show/about>



Question 6:

“How can frontline workers be a good advocate for growing language services? How do people get involved in the language activism?”

Answer 6 suggested resources:

- University of Victoria, Indigenous language revitalization <https://www.uvic.ca/future-students/indigenous/language/index.php>
- University of Saskatchewan, Certificate in Indigenous Languages <https://admissions.usask.ca/indigenous-languages.php#About>
- University of Alberta, Community Linguist Certificate (CLC) <https://www.ualberta.ca/canadian-indigenous-languages-and-literacy-development-institute/study/community-linguist-certificate>
- Six Nations Polytechnic, Bachelor of Arts in Ogwehoweh Languages <https://www.snpolytechnic.com/program/bachelor-arts-ogwehoweh-languages-cayuga-language-stream>
- Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture and Heritage <https://www.gov.nu.ca/culture-and-heritage/information/we-speak-inuktit>
- Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut <http://langcom.nu.ca/>
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Feb. 1, 2019. Inuit leaders push for strong measures that support the revitalization, maintenance and protection of Inuktitut as part of the International Year of Indigenous Languages launched at the United Nations General Assembly. <https://www.tunngavik.com/blog/news/inuit-leaders-push-for-strong-measures-that-support-the-revitalization-maintenance-and-protection-of-inuktitut-as-part-of-the-international-year-of-indigenous-languages-launched-at-the-united-nations-g/>

Question 7:

“I am interested in hearing more about the positive outcomes associated with health centres where Indigenous people can access service in their Indigenous language? Is there research in this area, or places we can look into this further?”

Answer 7 suggested resources:

- National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health. (2016). *Culture and Language as Social Determinants of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Health*. Prince George, BC: Author.
- Ontario Network of CAPC CPNP Projects <https://www.facebook.com/CAPCCPNPNetwork/>
- 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages. (2018). *Indigenous languages matter for development, peace building and reconciliation*. UNESCO.



Question 8:

“Thank you and Dhanvad for sharing your knowledge and wisdom. As a Sikh-Punjabi settler on Coast Salish Territory, I also come across situations in which members of my community are not able to access health care in our ancestral language Punjabi. How do you think that Indigenous peoples and settlers from can work in solidarity to support the revitalization and wide use of our respective languages?”

Answer 8 suggested resources:

- The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages <https://www.clo-ocol.gc.ca/en/index>
- Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut <http://langcom.nu.ca/>
- Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture and Heritage <https://www.gov.nu.ca/culture-and-heritage/information/we-speak-inuktut>



Additional Resources

- 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages. (2018). [Indigenous languages matter for development, peace building and reconciliation](#). UNESCO.
- Beveridge, N. (2012). [Case study on the first Inuktitut daycare in Iqaluit: Tumikluvit Saipaaqivik](#). Toronto, ON: Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation.
- Fontaine, L., Leitch, D., Nicholas, A.B., & de Varennes, F. (2017). [What Canada's new Indigenous languages law needs to say and say urgently](#). National Observatory on Language Rights.
- National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health. (2016). [Culture and language as social determinants of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Health](#). Prince George, BC: Author.
- Nicholas, A.B. (2011). [Linguicide: Submersion education and the killing of languages in Canada](#). *Briarpatch Magazine*, March 1.
- Smylie, J., & Firestone, M. (2017). [Our health counts: Urban Indigenous health database project](#). Ottawa, ON: Tungasuvvingat Inuit.
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to action](#). Winnipeg, MB: Author.
- Webster, P. (2018). [News – Language barriers restricting access to health care for Indigenous populations](#). *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 190, E754-5. DOI: 10.1503/cmaj.109-5613

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