



Aboriginal Language Revitalization in the Northwest Territories

**2013 Dene Languages Conference
Tsuu T'ina Nation
June 12 – 14, 2013**



Context

- 9 Official Aboriginal Languages
- 33 Communities
- Population: 43,000; 50% Aboriginal
- Declining use of Aboriginal Languages

Snapshot of Language Communities

ʔjaghe ní dēne yatı ɬą.
Chipewyan

Mamawi kitaskenaw, mihcet
pīhtākosowina.
Cree

One land, many voices.
English

Un territoire aux voix multiples.
French

Nan ɬłak, dūdeezhuu leɬ.
Gwich'in

Atauhiq nuna, uqauhiriaktuq.
Inuinnaqtun

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Inuktitut

Atausiq nuna, inugiaktut
uqallausiit.
Inuvialuktun

Ne ɬée, kede ɬą.
North Slavey

Ndeh ɬée, zhahtie ɬą.
South Slavey

Gonè ɬłè, go yatı neɬą.
Tłıchq





Education and Training

- * For youth/students/families:
 - * Tłıchq kindergarten immersion
 - * Dene Kede K-6, grade 7, grade 8, grade 9
 - * Inuuqatigiit curriculum K-12
 - * Culture based learning
 - * On the land training/culture camps
 - * After school programming
 - * Language nests
 - * Chekoa Program through the Yellowknives Dene
 - * Teaching and Learning Centres (TLC) for children and families
 - * Elders in Schools



Education and Training

- * For adults:
 - * Language classes across the Territory, in all languages
 - * Aboriginal Language and Cultural Instructor (ALCIP) program through Aurora College
 - * Teacher Education Program (TEP)
 - * Aboriginal Languages Institute in partnership with the University of Victoria



Multimedia

- * Online dictionaries
- * Digital language apps
 - * Five Dene languages available for iPhone and iPad
 - * Inuktitut available
 - * Inuinnaqtun, Inuvialuktun, Cree imminent
- * Digital language fonts available for download
- * Dene K'éé Gúdeh CD and downloadable app for young children available
- * Working with language communities on social media
- * Youth exploring their culture and language through film and visual arts



Collaboration and Support

- * Language communities
 - * Five year language plans
- * Cultural places program
- * Community Literacy Development Fund (CLDF)
 - * Emphasizing Aboriginal languages
- * Aboriginal Languages Literacy Program (ALLP)
 - * Support for communities to develop and deliver local projects to increase literacy in Aboriginal Languages
- * Aboriginal Broadcasting Program (ABP)
- * NWT Literacy Council, Government of the NWT
Departments, Aboriginal governments, agencies



Engagement

- * Aboriginal Languages Symposium, 2010 and 2013
- * Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Education Plan
 - * Focused on closing the education gap between Aboriginal and other students
- * Residential Schools Teacher Resource
- * Early Childhood Development (ECD)
- * Education Renewal



Aboriginal Languages Secretariat

Phase 1: Establishing the Aboriginal Languages Secretariat

Phase 2: Promote, Speak and Write Aboriginal Languages

Phase 3: Provide Government Services in Aboriginal Languages

Phase 4: Innovation in Aboriginal Languages

Phase 5: Monitoring and Reporting



Key Functions

- * Oversight, management and planning
- * Resource Development
- * Education, training and instruction
- * Services in Aboriginal languages



Masi

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