

The following introductory text, principles, definitions, and legislative elements should be included within a distinct Inuktitut section of the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis languages bill in accord with Principle 1 of the Policy Rationale document, dated January 23, 2018. This introductory text is based on our assumptions regarding the legislative text of certain provisions in the common elements section of the draft Bill.

PART ‘X’ (OR ANNEX ‘X’): INUKTUT AND INUIT NUNANGAT

Introduction

1. In addition to the provisions of all other parts of this Act, the provisions of this Part shall apply to Inuit and Inuit Nunangat.

Principles

2. Interpretation and implementation of this Part is guided by the following principles:
- (a) Inuit Nunangat is the Inuit homeland in Canada;
 - (b) Inuktitut is an original language of Canada, and is spoken as the first language of the majority of Inuit Nunangat residents; and,
 - (c) effective public administration in Inuit Nunangat is optimized by delivery of programs and services in the first language of recipients.

Definitions

3. In this Part,

“Inuit Nunangat” means the Inuit homeland in Canada. It is a distinct cultural, political, and geographical area composed of the four Inuit regions whose boundaries have been defined through treaty and statute;

“Inuit region” means the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, the Nunavut Settlement Area, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut;

“Inuit representative organizations” means the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Makivik Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Nunatsiavut Government, and any of their joint or several designates;

“Inuktitut” means the Indigenous language spoken by Inuit in Canada, including Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuttut, Inuvialuktun, and associated dialects and subdialects.

Status of Inuktitut

4. (1) Parliament hereby recognizes the status of Inuktitut as an original language of Canada, the original language of Inuit Nunangat, and the first language of the majority of Inuit Nunangat residents.
- (2) The Government of Canada is committed to taking such initiatives, and to applying such resources, as to sustain and enrich that status.
- (3) As part of those initiatives, the Government of Canada commits, consistent with regulations relating to the commencement, scope, priority and timing of delivery, to the delivery of federal programs and services in Inuktitut in Inuit Nunangat to the extent that demand requires and capacity allows.
- (4) The reference to limitations of capacity in subsection 4(3) does not detract from the federal commitment to build such capacity.
- (5) The Government of Canada shall apply the provisions of this Part with respect to the use of Inuktitut outside Inuit Nunangat where numbers of Inuktitut speakers warrant.

Close Collaboration

5. The Government of Canada shall pursue the objectives, and meet its commitments, in relation to this Part in close collaboration with Inuit representative organizations.

Funding

6. The Government of Canada shall provide resources for the implementation of this Act which are sustainable, equitable, effective, and that:
 - (a) are culturally appropriate;
 - (b) meet the actual and specific needs of Inuit;
 - (c) aim to advance Inuktitut as the primary language spoken by every sector of society in Inuit Nunangat;
 - (d) are comparable in terms of quality and accessibility to the services offered to other Canadians; and
 - (e) are equitable, on a per capita basis, with funding support provided for minority English and French language education in Inuit Nunangat and other parts of Canada.

Education, Health, and Justice

7. (1) The Government of Canada shall take effective measures to support the advancement and implementation of education in Inuktitut within Inuit Nunangat.
- (2) The Government of Canada shall take effective measures to support the advancement and implementation of health services in Inuktitut.
- (3) The Government of Canada shall take effective measures to support the advancement and implementation of justice in Inuktitut within Inuit Nunangat.

(4) Measures taken under this section shall include the provision of funding in intergovernmental and other agreements, and shall proceed in accordance with regulations relating to the commencement, scope, priority and timing of delivery.

Language of Work in Federal Departments and Agencies

8. (1) The Government of Canada shall ensure that its workforce in Inuit Nunangat reflects, at all levels, the Inuktitut speaking proportion of the residents of Inuit regions and communities.

(2) Every federal department and agency has the duty to ensure a workplace environment in Inuit Nunangat that supports, accommodates and encourages the use of Inuktitut by its officers and employees, giving appropriate priority and weight to Inuktitut language skills and making effective use of Inuktitut language training and upgrading.

Intergovernmental Agreements

9. The Government of Canada shall include an Inuit representative organization as a party to any new or renewed intergovernmental agreement with a provincial or territorial government department or agency in relation to Inuktitut.

Regulations in Relation to this Part

10. (1) The Governor in Council, on recommendation from Minister X [or The relevant Minister] may, following close collaboration with Inuit representative organizations, make regulations to implement this Part.

(2) Such regulations shall be adopted within 12 months of the coming into force of this Part, and shall provide for a reasonable schedule for the coming into effect, on the part of relevant federal departments and agencies, of responsibilities to provide, at an adequate level, programs and services in Inuktitut.

Non-Derogation

11. This Part shall be construed so as to uphold existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, and for greater certainty, nothing in this Act is to be construed as abrogating or derogating from those rights.