

# Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

## Board of Directors Meeting



**Date:** October 28, 2015

**Location:** Teleconference

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**Resolution #:** B15-10-01

**Resolution Title:** Approval to Formalize Inuktut Resolution from the 2015 AGM

**Moved by:** Cathy Towtongie

**Seconded by:** Nellie Cournoyea

WHEREAS Inuit linguists, elders and language experts, as well as representatives from Inuit organizations and governments and participants at a Summit on the Unification of the Inuktut Writing System in Iqaluit have recommended the creation of a unified writing system for Inuktut that is rooted in a standardized form of roman orthography.

AND WHEREAS there are currently nine different Inuktut writing systems in use across the Canadian Arctic, and they have been introduced and implemented often without Inuit consultation and input.

AND WHEREAS Atausiq Inuktut Titirausiq Task Force members have held consultations with elders, Inuit leaders, teachers, parents and youth over the past year to discuss how a unified, or standardized, writing system would affect them, what benefits they would experience from a unified system and what concerns would need to be taken into account during the implementation phase.

AND WHEREAS Inuit linguists from Alaska and Greenland shared experiences of working to revise their writing systems, with the Greenland delegate at the Iqaluit Summit, in particular, describing great improvement in the writing ability of school-aged children after their writing system was reformed.

AND WHEREAS Linguists have discussed considerations for implementation, including determining which symbols best represent the sounds of the language. (Where different dialects use different sounds and symbols, the process of standardization could involve choosing one symbol, agreeing to use both symbols or creating a new symbol that would be pronounced differently in different regions.)

AND WHEREAS these and other discussions have created growing momentum among Canadian Inuit in all jurisdictions to create a unified writing system for Inuktitut.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami board of directors recommends that Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, together with regional land claims organizations, write to the governments responsible for the delivery of education in each region, informing them of the recommendation of the Iqaluit Summit.

AND THAT Inuit land claims organizations work with their respective governments and jurisdictions to develop a policy for development and implementation of a unified Inuktitut writing system and, with Inuit, create a process to facilitate delivery within the respective education systems.

*Carried Unanimously*

**In Favor:**

**Against:**

**Abstentions:**

**Carried:** X

**Defeated:**