

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Board of Directors Meeting



Date: April 7, 2016
Location: Ottawa, Ontario

Resolution #: B16-04-03
Resolution Title: Approval of Inuktut Resolution

Moved by: Cathy Towntongie
Seconded by: Jobie Tukkiapik

WHEREAS Inuktut and Inuktitut both mean “like an Inuk” and “in the manner of an Inuk” (-tut is used with singular nouns; -titut is used with plural nouns).

WHEREAS the Inuit language in Inuit Nunangat encompasses Western Canadian Inuktun and Eastern Canadian Inuktitut, as well as Uummarmiut, a dialect of Inupiaq.

WHEREAS Inuktitut is not the most appropriate term to refer to all dialects in Inuit Nunangat as it is associated with the Eastern Arctic form of the Inuit language.

WHEREAS the Inuktitut-English dictionary Ulirnaishigutiit (Schneider 1985), identifies Inuktut as a term used as an equivalent to Inuktitut on west coast of Hudson’s Bay.

WHEREAS Nunavut MLA Joe Allen Evyagotailak suggested the term Inuktut in 2007, during a review of Bill 6 (the Inuit Language Protection Act), to refer to all dialects of the Inuit language in Nunavut.

WHEREAS linguists with expertise in the Inuit language identify the Inuit language dialects used in Inuit Nunangat collectively as part of the larger Eskaleut family of languages, and acknowledge that there is currently no other linguistic term that covers all and only the Inuit language groups in Inuit Nunangat.

WHEREAS Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami’s Autausiq Inuktut Titiraisiq (AIT) Task Group has used the term Inuktut since its creation in 2012 to refer to all dialects of the Inuit language in Inuit Nunangat.

WHEREAS the recommendation of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's August 2015 Summit on the Unification of the Inuit Language used the term Inuktut to indicate all dialects of the Inuit language in Inuit Nunangat.

WHEREAS in November 2015, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's National Committee on Inuit Education agreed to the term Inuktut to refer to all Inuit language groups in Inuit Nunangat;

WHEREAS in November 2015, Nunavut's Language Authority, Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, formally adopted the term Inuktut to encompass all the dialects of the Inuit language used in Nunavut.

WHEREAS as momentum progresses towards a unified writing system for the Inuit language, a single term is needed to accurately and inclusively describe the Inuit language in Inuit Nunangat in its unified, national form.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Inuktut encompass all of the dialects of the Inuit language in Inuit Nunangat and is the most appropriate term to describe the Inuit language as a whole in Canada.

In Favor:

Against:

Abstentions:

Carried: X

Defeated: