

Indigenous Language Revitalization Resources

Sharing through Public Libraries

“13. We call upon the federal government to acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights.”

Truth and Reconciliation
Commission of Canada (TRCC)
Call to Action #13

“Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.”

UNDRIP Article 13

“Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.”

“The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.”

Points i. & iv. of the TRCC Call to Action #14

The CFLA-FCAB Truth & Reconciliation Committee Report & Recommendations (Canadian Federation of Library Associations, 2017) serves to identify which calls to action were specifically linked to library services. One priority recommendation is to address Calls to Action 13 and 14 with the following responses:

“Indigenous language collections”
(p. 24)

“Individual language code / designation for individual language – INU for Inuktitut for Example” (p. 23)

“Acknowledge that First Nations, Métis, Inuit are key stakeholders and involve them in developing new facilities, developing library related strategies, programming, and Policies” (p. 24)

The report recommends providing support for Indigenous language revitalization “by seeking out language activists in their communities to provide space for programming, share their language materials, and collect relevant materials, particularly for local languages.” (CFLA, 2017, p. 34)

Indigenous Language Revitalization - Context for Libraries in Ontario

*A World of
Indigenous
Languages -
Introduction*

(McCarty et al., 2019)

*What you need to
know about
Language
Revitalization in
Canada*

(McIvor, 2018)

*Language-in-
Education Policies
and Indigenous
Language
Revitalization Efforts
in Canada:*

*Considerations for Non-Dominant
Language Education in the Global South*

(McIvor & Ball, 2019)

Create a community specific

Public Library Action Plan

in Support of Indigenous Languages Revitalization Work

Resources used in language learning

Indigenous Language digital applications
Digital dictionaries with audio recordings
Books - Indigenous language and bilingual
Interlibrary loans services (ILL)

Meeting room space
Computers with webcams & microphones
Makerspace technology - recording/archiving equipment
Social media platforms - access and training

Community and library-specific planning

General knowledge and commitment to truth and reconciliation

- Provide board members and staff with access and time to commit to learning about the present and past of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and in your geographic region. Consult [NETOLNEW](#) (n.d.) to learn about the National Indigenous Language Research Network and language revitalization efforts.
- Add resources for working with and writing about Indigenous Peoples to quick-reference locations for staff.
- What acknowledgements and commitment has your library made to the TRCC Calls to Action, UNDRIP, and the CFLA-FCAB's Truth and Reconciliation Report & Recommendations?
- Is there reporting and accountability for actions taken?
- [First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Indigenous Ontology](#) from the CFLA-FCAB
- [Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guide for Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples](#) by Gregory Younging

Community specific knowledge and relationship building

- Which First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities are nearby? (land based or urban)
- Which Indigenous service providers operate in your area?
- What language programming is offered?
- What language revitalization work is done that isn't formal advertised programming?
- Do the nearby communities have a First Nations Public Library? (read more: Maracle, 2020)
- Do the research before engaging with partners to offer library resources or ask for input.

Consider available data

- Does census data reveal anything about the languages spoken in your community? Recognizing that Indigenous language estimates in the census are more affected than most by incomplete enumeration of some Indigenous communities. While data won't reveal the wealth of language knowledge that is embedded in your community, it may reveal some Indigenous languages with few speakers. Regardless of how small the group, libraries can link online resources. When libraries provide resources for the full diversity of languages, it furthers everyone's understanding about the breadth and importance of Indigenous language.
- Report: [The Aboriginal languages of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit](#) (Statistics Canada, 2017).
- Consult the [data tables](#) for Aboriginal Language spoken at home, which can be limited by geographic region (Statistics Canada, 2019).

Service Delivery - Improving and Prioritizing Awareness and Access

- Do you provide free access to Indigenous peoples from nearby communities?
- What physical resources do you offer (meeting room space, technology) and can you prioritize access if Indigenous service providers think it would support their work? What programming could you provide that equips library users to access language tools (ex: teaching how to video call)
- Are the resources and services grouped on your website to highlight how they can support Indigenous language learning? Regardless of whether they are specifically language resources or not. If you do not hold language collections, but offer ILL services, explain how to borrow from other library systems. A resource guide should direct users to the offerings of local Language programs, online tools, and library services.
- Do you hold Indigenous language collections? How are they shelved, catalogued, and promoted? Collaborate with partners to identify collection gaps. Promote your suggestion to purchase too.

Implementation

Once you have built a knowledge base and gathered the information on what resources and services you currently offer, and identify those that you do not offer, consult with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit individuals and service providers to ask what they would prioritize and whether the proposed changes are suitable.

Create a business plan for implementation.

Report back to the community with the results and to be accountable for moving the plan forward.

Sample Resource Set

Inuktitut - Ottawa

Digital Resources

[Inuit Specific Online Learning Resources](#) - list of apps, games and more curated by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (2021)

[Inuktitut Apps Resources](#) - list of resources curated by Inuuqatigiit (2021)

[Inuktitut Tusaalanga](#) - Inuktitut learning lessons, grammar and dialogues with soundfiles via Pirurvik Centre

[Uqalimaarluk](#) - app providing children's books with Inuktitut narration

[Inuinnaqtun](#) - language learning app via The Government of the Northwest Territories and the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre

[iNaqittaq](#) - an app that provides a way of typing in Inuktitut using the Nunavik syllabary [Apple]

[ᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ | Pigiarniq fonts](#) - the first Unicode syllabic fonts standardized and used by the Government of Nunavut. Available from Tiro Typeworks.

[Inhabit Media](#) - Inuit owned independent publishing company. "We aim to promote and preserve the stories, knowledge, and talent of the Arctic, while also supporting research in Inuit mythology and the traditional Inuit knowledge of Nunavummiut"

[Aakuluk Music](#) - a Nunavut based music label led by band The Jerry Cans, featuring Inuktitut music

[APTN](#) - National Indigenous Broadcaster produces shows such as [Qanurli?](#) an Inuktitut language comedy, and [Anaana's Tent](#) for children (Inuktitut and English)

Search social media for Inuit specific tags such as #inuittiktok

Non-digital, non-local language resource to highlight

[Aurniarvik](#) full-time Inuktitut as a Second Language certificate program for Inuit. [Iqaluit]

Local Resources

[Tungasuvvingat Inuit](#) - An urban service provider that offers community services for Inuit of all ages.

[Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families](#) - Objectives include promoting the retention of the Inuit culture and language.

[Tumiralaat Child Care](#) - Full time year-round childcare services for Inuit children ages 18 months to 6 years. The program has a focus on Inuit values and includes Inuktitut language and Inuit values and traditions.

[Tukimut Afterschool](#) - Supports Inuit youth ages 6-12 during the school year. Through the knowledge of community Elders, youth learn Inuktitut and syllabics.

Library Services

[Inuktitut Language Collection](#) - Ottawa Public Library books in Inuktitut or bilingual titles in Inuktitut and English or French

[OPL Makerspace Equipment](#) - Access is provided to a music editing station, and audio and video recording and editing equipment.

Tutoring Rooms [free] and [Meeting Rooms](#) [fee]

[Public Computers and Wireless Access](#)

[Indigenous Languages Subject Guide](#) - Carleton University

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