

Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit

2013-2014 Annual Report

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2013 - 2014 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
The Guiding Principles of Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit	2
Taigusiliuqtiit Duties.....	3
STANDARDIZING INUKTUT TERMINOLOGY	3
LANGUAGE RESEARCH.....	3
STANDARDS PROTECTING THE QUALITY OF INUKTUT.....	4
ASSISTING GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.....	5
AWARDS PROGRAM.....	6
CONSULTATION.....	6
Taigusiliuqtiit Powers	7
The People at Taigusiliuqtiit	10
Financial Statement.....	11

Introduction

The *Inuit Language Protection Act* is among Nunavut's most important pieces of legislation, setting out rights for Inuktitut speakers and the duties of various government organizations and officials in ensuring these rights are upheld.

The Act makes clear that the future of Inuktitut depends on positive action by the Government of Nunavut to advance the Inuit Language in government, the education system and the services that organizations, including businesses, provide to the public.

To be effective, the actions that the government takes to protect Inuktitut must take into account two writing systems and a range of dialects used throughout the territory. There is also a wide range of stakeholders to be consulted.

For this reason, the *Inuit Language Protection Act* includes provisions for Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, a language authority with the broad powers and the independence to make important decisions about Inuktitut on behalf of all Nunavummiut.

Among Taiguusiliuqtiit's most important duties under the Act are:

- developing and approving standardized terminology and expressions in Inuktitut;
- conducting research and documenting traditional Inuktitut terminology;
- developing standards to ensure that the quality of the language is maintained;
- supporting government, business and other organizations in developing terminology, competency levels or conducting research;
- recognizing the important achievements of Nunavummiut in advancing the Inuktitut language through an awards program;
- assessing the health of the Inuit language.

The *Inuit Language Protection Act* requires Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to submit an annual report to Nunavut's Minister of Languages and the Members of the Legislative Assembly. The attached report for the fiscal year 2013-14 provides Nunavummiut with a summary of Taiguusiliuqtiit's activities and its achievements in terms of fulfilling its important mandate.

The Guiding Principles of Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit

The *Inuit Language Protection Act* sets out the following guiding principles for Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. As we develop as a young organization, these principles guide all of our work.

- Effective communications or service delivery practices in the Inuit Language;
- The progressive improvement and excellence of teaching, use, quality and linguistic vitality of the Inuit Language at the individual and community level;
- The accelerated development of the Inuit Language, including the development of new terminology;
- Effective communication with and between users of an Inuit Language dialect or orthography; and
- The careful assessment and selection of those recommendations, measures or approaches that are most likely to be effective in accomplishing the duties of Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and the wider objectives of this Act, and not likely to result in any disproportionate adverse impact on an individual or group.

Taiguusiliuqtiit Duties

The following section summarizes the duties set out in the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the activities that Taiguusiliuqtiit carried out in relation to each duty during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

STANDARDIZING INUKTUT TERMINOLOGY

Taiguusiliuqtiit shall develop standardized terminology or expressions in the Inuit Language.

To date, Taiguusiliuqtiit has developed standardized terminology upon request from government and business organizations (see page 5 below).

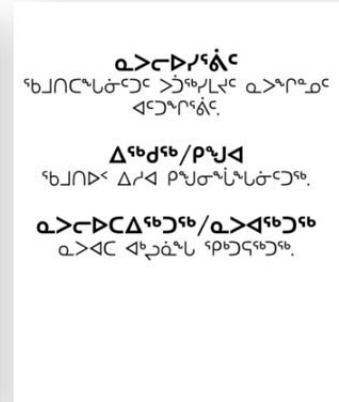
Taiguusiliuqtiit will publish, promote and maintain a database of all the standardized terminology or expressions in the Inuit Language.

Taiguusiliuqtiit is in the early stages of developing a terminology database that will provide Nunavummiut with easy access to the terminology that it researches and documents.

LANGUAGE RESEARCH

Taiguusiliuqtiit will undertake or supervise research to document and preserve traditional terminology.

- Terminology was collected regarding emotions and feelings (150 terms), hockey (195 terms) and Inuit names (945 terms).
- Taiguusiliuqtiit researched and documented traditional terminology related to four themes: *iglu* (63 terms), *qamutiik* (54 terms), *qulliq* (72 terms) and *qarmaq* (24 terms).



Taigusiliuqtiit shall identify research needs and gaps relating to Inuktut and will undertake and publish research in these areas.

Taigusiliuqtiit developed a comprehensive **language use survey** that can be conducted with Inuktut speakers in government, private businesses and the general public.

A **dialectal attitudes survey** was developed to research the attitudes of Inuktut speaking teachers across Nunavut. This survey can also be used to assess dialectal attitudes among employees in government and the private sector, interpreters and translators, youth and the general public.

Taigusiliuqtiit is conducting **research on the grammar of eight Inuktut dialects**. The aim of the project is to provide a description of how sounds differ among dialects, as well as endings and infixes used to form words. The project is intended to support greater standardization in orthography and to provide a useful reference to teachers, translators and students of the language.

Taigusiliuqtiit has developed and is maintaining working relationships with language authorities and professionals in the other Inuit regions, most notably Oqaasileriffik in Kalaallit Nunaat. This will ensure that activities in Nunavut contribute to the overall advancement of the Inuit Language across the circumpolar world.

STANDARDS PROTECTING THE QUALITY OF INUKTUT

Taigusiliuqtiit will develop and publish competency levels or standards of Inuit Language use or correctness.

Taigusiliuqtiit is collaborating with the Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to develop the means of evaluating language proficiency among Government of Nunavut employees. The evaluation tools will eventually be used to determine which employees qualify for the government's proposed language incentive and to help place employees in an appropriate level of language training.

ASSISTING GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Taigusiliuqtiit shall consider proposed terminology, expressions, documents, standards, competency levels or communications on request from the Minister of Languages, the Languages Commissioner or other organizations.

No requests were received from the Minister or the Languages Commissioner.

Upon request, Taigusiliuqtiit provided assistance to:

- the **Department of Justice** Office of the Public Trustee on terminology for a will kit;
- the **Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs** on its Devolution Division's guiding principles;
- the **Department of Health and Social Services** on doctor-client communication tools;
- **Canadian North** with the Inuinnaqtun version of its airline safety recording;
- **Qulliq Energy Corporation** by participating in a working group to create Inuktitut terminology for hydro projects and the mechanics of hydro power;
- **Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada** with the development of terminology related to mining and water; and
- the **Department of Economic Development and Transportation** with terminology related to the *Drivers Education Manual*.

AWARDS PROGRAM

Taigusiliuqtiit shall establish and administer an Awards Program to recognize outstanding achievement by an organization or individual in contributing to the development, promotion or protection of the Inuit Language.

Taigusiliuqtiit developed a draft Awards Policy to guide the nomination process, the review of nominations and providing awards to recipients.

An awards selection committee was formed, reviewed the terms of reference and screened nominations.

CONSULTATION

As required by Article 32 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, Taigusiliuqtiit shall consult with Inuit, Inuit organizations and municipalities that may be impacted by their actions.

Taigusiliuqtiit's draft rules and procedures include requirements for consultations with Nunavummiut and stakeholders and measures to ensure participation in developing recommendations and making decisions.

Taiguusiliuqtiit may conduct reviews, hearings or meetings and receive the submissions or reports.

Taiguusiliuqtiit did not make use of this power in 2013-14.

Taiguusiliuqtiit may develop, review, recommend or administer surveys or tests that evaluate Inuit Language proficiency for purposes including the certification of an individual's educational or employment skill or competency level in the Inuit Language.

In 2013-14, Taiguusiliuqtiit participated in the Government of Nunavut's effort to develop competency levels to measure Inuktitut proficiency among its employees. Government of Nunavut employees wishing to qualify for the proposed language incentive would undergo an evaluation of their language skills. Those who have yet to achieve the desired level of proficiency would be directed to a language training program. Draft evaluations have been developed by the Government of Nunavut with the collaboration of Taiguusiliuqtiit.

Taiguusiliuqtiit may publish information on the Inuktitut language.

- During Language Week 2014, Taiguusiliuqtiit launched two illustrated booklets of traditional Inuktitut terminology related to the *igulvigaq* and *qamutiik*.
- Taiguusiliuqtiit published desktop pop up cards that provide a summary of the rules regarding the Inuit Cultural Institute's standardized writing system.
- Fridge magnets that illustrate a range of moods with their Inuktitut terms were also produced and distributed to the public.



Taigusiliuqtiit may advise or submit reports or recommendations to the Minister of Languages.

No submissions were made to the Minister of Languages in 2013-14.

Taigusiliuqtiit may consult with the public or any organization or group likely to be impacted by a recommendation or approach under consideration by the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit.

The Executive Director of Taigusiliuqtiit consulted with Nunavut's Languages Commissioner, as well as with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami on the role of Taigusiliuqtiit and issues facing the Inuktut language.

Taigusiliuqtiit may establish rules and procedures governing the work, priorities and business of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit.

Taigusiliuqtiit is drafting rules and procedures to guide its work in a number of areas, including terminology development, the standardizing of orthography and the granting of awards.

The People at Taiguusiliuqtiit

Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit is an independent office of the Government of Nunavut established under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Taiguusiliuqtiit consists of a board with at least five members appointed by Nunavut's Executive Council (cabinet) based on recommendations from the Minister of Languages. Members of the Taiguusiliuqtiit board are appointed for a renewable term of three years.

Nunavut's Minister of Languages designates a Chair and Vice-Chair for Taiguusiliuqtiit after consulting with its members. In 2013-14, the board of Taiguusiliuqtiit was made up of the following members:

Elijah Erkloo, Chair

Mariam Aglukkaq, Vice-chair (*appointed on March 21, 2013*)

Ovide Alakkanuaq, Member for Qitirmiut

Daisy Dialla, Member for Qikiqtaaluk

Mary Thompson, Member for Kivalliq (*appointed on March 21, 2013*)

In 2013-14 Taiguusiliuqtiit was supported by the following staff appointed by the board:

Jaypeetee Arnakaq, Executive Director

Allen Auksaq, Manager of Language Marketing

Kataisee Attagutsiak, Manager of Research and Evaluation

Jeela Palluq-Cloutier, Linguist

Jonah Kilabuk, Terminologist, Government and Education

Martha Kunuk, Terminologist, Private Sector and Media

Mithula Venugopan, Finance Officer

**INUIT UQAUSINGINNIK TAIGUUSILIUQTIT
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES
MARCH 31, 2014**

INUIT UQAUSINGINNIK TAIGUUSILIUQTIT
INDEX
MARCH 31, 2014

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	1 - 2
Statement of Expenditures	3
Notes to the Statement of Expenditures	4



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Minister of Culture and Heritage, Government of Nunavut and the Board of Directors of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit

We have audited the accompanying statement of expenditures of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit relating to the expenditures connected with operating the Authority in accordance with the *Inuit Language Protection Act* of Nunavut for the year ended March 31, 2014, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Statement of Expenditures

Management is responsible for the preparation of this statement of expenditures in accordance with the basis of accounting disclosed in Note 2 to the statement of expenditures, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the statement of expenditures that is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the statement of expenditures in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement of expenditures is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the statement of expenditures. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the statement of expenditures, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Authority's preparation of the statement of expenditures in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluation of the overall presentation of the statement of expenditures.


We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the statement of expenditures of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit presents fairly, in all material respects the expenditures connected with operating the Authority in accordance with the *Inuit Language Protection Act* of Nunavut for the year ended March 31, 2014 in accordance with the basis of accounting disclosed in Note 2 to the statement of expenditures.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

We further report, in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* of Nunavut, in our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit, the statement of expenditures is in agreement therewith and the transactions that have come under our notice have, in all significant respects, been within the statutory powers of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit.



Iqaluit, Nunavut
April 14, 2015

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

INUIT UQAUSINGINNIK TAIGUUSILIUQTIT
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

	Budget <u>2014</u> (Unaudited)	Actual <u>2014</u>	Actual <u>2013</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Permanent salaries	\$ 1,018,000	\$ 787,929	\$ 836,816
Casual wages	88,000	131,131	190,169
Travel and transportation	320,000	243,924	269,290
Materials and supplies	150,000	55,202	65,694
Purchased services	200,000	76,361	37,358
Service contracts	310,000	298,525	107,104
Fees and payments	50,000	2,220	8,344
Other expenses	40,000	0	660
Computer hardware and software	0	71,456	3,022
Employee benefits	0	0	4,222
Tangible assets	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,187</u>
	<u>\$ 2,176,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,666,748</u>	<u>\$ 1,528,866</u>

INUIT UQAUSINGINNIK TAIGUUSILIUQTIIT
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

1. NATURE OF THE AUTHORITY

The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit operates under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* of Nunavut. The purpose of the Authority is to expand the knowledge and expertise available with respect to the Inuit Language, and to consider and make decisions about Inuit Language use, development and standardization. The Authority is a public agency and is exempt from income tax. The Authority's continued existence is dependent upon the continuing support from the Government of Nunavut.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies followed by the Authority are in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and Financial Administration Manual of the Government of Nunavut and include the following significant accounting policies:

(a) Use of Estimates

The preparation of the statement of expenditures of the Authority requires management to make estimates and assumptions based on information available as of the date of the financial statement. Therefore, actual results could differ from those estimates.

(b) Accrual Basis

The statement of expenditures has been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.