

# Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit

2014-2015 Annual Report



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2014 - 2015 Annual Report



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## 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 the 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 with 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 2014-15 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 the 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.



## Taigusiliuqtiit Duties

The following section summarizes the duties set out in the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the activities that Taigusiliuqtiit carried out in relation to each duty in 2014-2015.

### STANDARDIZING INUKTUT TERMINOLOGY

**Taigusiliuqtiit shall develop standardized terminology or expressions in the Inuit Language.**

To date, Taigusiliuqtiit has developed standardized terminology upon request from government and business organizations (see page 6 below).

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

Taigusiliuqtiit 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. The development of the terminology database is part of Taigusiliuqtiit's current three-year business plan.

### LANGUAGE RESEARCH

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

Taigusiliuqtiit staff travelled to Panniqtuuq and worked with a team of Elders to document traditional terminology related to ice formations and conditions. Staff members are in the process of compiling photographs that illustrate the meaning of each term before travelling to Kinngait (Cape Dorset) and Iglulik to conduct further research.

Board member Daisy Dialla has produced illustrations of a number traditional terms that are disappearing from daily use. Taigusiliuqtiit is planning to publish this work and distribute it to Nunavummiut.

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

### **Inuugatta Conference Iqaluit, February 2015**

Taiguusiliuqtiit participated in the planning of the 2015 Inuugatta conference as well as the discussions that took place on topics such as:

- Language revitalization initiatives throughout Inuit Nunangat;
- The need for standardized Inuktut terminology in a number of domains, including education and media;
- Writing systems and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's work on *atausiq inuktut titirausiq*, a common writing system for all Inuit dialects in Canada.

### **Inuit Studies Conference, Quebec City, October 2014**

Taiguusiliuqtiit staff travelled to the Inuit Studies Conference to learn more about the latest research related to the Inuit Language. Taiguusiliuqtiit staff member Michael Cook delivered a presentation on the historical roots of aspects of Inuktut grammar.

### **Visit to Oqaasileriffik Nuuk, Fall 2014**

Taiguusiliuqtiit's Executive Director visited Oqaasileriffik, the language secretariat for Kalaallit Nunaat. While there, he learned more about the operations of Oqaasileriffik, as well as the business translation training program, translation services and the Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Nunavut and Kalaallit Nunaat.

### **Descriptive Grammar**

Taiguusiliuqtiit is continuing to conduct 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.



## 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.**

Upon request, Taigusiliuqtiit provided assistance to:

- the **Department of Justice** with approximately 150 terms used in legislation and other legal documents.
- the **Department of Economic Development and Transportation** in developing terminology for a publication for air brake mechanics.
- the **Department of Culture and Heritage** in reviewing and contributing to its publication on terminology related to the human body.
- the **Department of Health** with terminology related to sexual health and in publishing a phrasebook to improve communication between health care providers and their patients.
- The **Inuit Broadcasting Corporation** with the name of the future Nunavut media arts centre.

## 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.**

The 2015 Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit Language Awards kicked off during Inuktut language week in February. A total of 13 nominations were received. In March, Taigusiliuqtiit announced awards for the following Nunavummiut for their contributions to the advancement of Inuktut in Nunavut:

Sarah Patatsie (Iqaluit),  
Nora Evaglok (Iqaluktuuttiaq),  
Aime Panimera (Iglulik),  
Emily Illnik (Iqaluit),  
Julia Demcheson (Iqaluit).

In the business category, Taigusiliuqtiit recognized the following companies for their contributions:

Qulliq Energy Corporation  
Inuit Broadcasting Corporation

## 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 has included in its draft rules and procedures consultations with Nunavummiut and stakeholders and their participation in developing recommendations and making decisions.

## Taigusiliuqtiit Powers

In addition to the above responsibilities, the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides the following discretionary powers to Taigusiliuqtiit:

**Taigusiliuqtiit may designate standard terminology, expressions, orthography.**

IUT has collected terminology in a number of fields but has not yet standardized this terminology.

**Taigusiliuqtiit may direct a department of the Government of Nunavut or public agency to implement standard terminology, expressions, orthography.**

Taigusiliuqtiit did not make use of this power in 2014-15.

**Taigusiliuqtiit may undertake or supervise additional projects that the Minister or Executive Council may request.**

No requests were made by the Minister or Executive Council.

**Taigusiliuqtiit may establish committees composed wholly or partly of its members, under the terms and conditions that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit considers appropriate.**

Taigusiliuqtiit did not make use of this power in 2014-15.

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

Taigusiliuqtiit did not make use of this power in 2014-15.

**Taigusiliuqtiit 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.**

Taigusiliuqtiit continues to be involved with the development of competency levels and tools to evaluate Inuktitut proficiency as part of the Government of Nunavut's proposed language incentive. At this point, the evaluation tools to measure proficiency in Inuktitut have not been finalized.

**Taigusiliuqtiit may publish information on the Inuktitut language.**

Taigusiliuqtiit assisted the Department of Health with an Inuktitut-English health phrasebook with over 250 words and expressions related to the human body, health and illness. The booklet was distributed to health centres in Nunavut, Ottawa and Winnipeg.

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

No submissions were made to the Minister of Languages in 2014-15.

**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 Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami on the role of Taigusiliuqtiit and issues facing the Inuktut language.

Staff from Taigusiliuqtiit made a presentation to the Department of Finance on its mandate and the services it provides.

## Upcoming Priorities

The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit 2015-18 Business Plan includes the following priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year:

- Complete the research, design, implementation and formal public roll-out of the **Taiguusiliuqtiit website**.
- Implement the approved **board training plan**.
- Continue work with the Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to develop the means to assess and certify employees' **competency levels** in the Inuit language.
- Research and publish **new grammar resources** that describe a number of Inuktitut dialects spoken in Nunavut.
- Develop and implement a **communications strategy**.
- Share information on **standardized terminology** with the Department of Culture and Heritage's Official Languages and Services Division, in accordance with the MOU between the two organizations.
- Participate as a member of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's ***Autausiq Inuktitut Titirausiq national task group***.
- Support government departments, public agencies, municipalities and businesses in the development of **specialized Inuit language terminology**.



## The People at Taigusiliuqtiit

Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit is an independent office of the Government of Nunavut established under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Taigusiliuqtiit 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 Taigusiliuqtiit board are appointed for a renewable term of three years.

Nunavut's Minister of Languages designates a Chair and Vice-Chair for Taigusiliuqtiit after consulting with its members. In 2014-15, the board of Taigusiliuqtiit was made up of the following members:

Elijah Erkloo, Chair

Mariam Aglukkaq, Vice-chair

Ovide Alakkanuaq, Member for Qitirmiut

Daisy Dialla, Member for Qikiqtaaluk

Mary Thompson, Member for Kivalliq

In 2014-15 Taigusiliuqtiit was supported by the following staff appointed by the board:

Nute Arnauyumayuq, Executive Director

Allen Auksaq, Manager of Language Marketing

Nancy Kisa, Manager of Research and Evaluation

Mithula Venugopan, Finance Officer

Jonah Kilabuk, Terminologist, Government and Education

Michael Cook, Linguist

Martha Kunuk, Terminologist, Private Sector and Media

**INUIT UQAUSINGINNIK TAIGUUSILIUQTIT  
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES  
MARCH 31, 2015**

**INUIT UQAUSINGINNIK TAIGUUSILIUQTIT**  
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**MARCH 31, 2015**

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**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, 2015, 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, 2015 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  
July 8, 2015

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**INUIT UQAUSINGINNIK TAIGUUSILIUQTIT**  
**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

	Budget <u>2015</u> (Unaudited)	Actual <u>2015</u>	Actual <u>2014</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Permanent salaries	\$ 1,018,000	\$ 821,341	\$ 787,929
Casual wages	88,000	158,241	131,131
Travel and transportation	320,000	303,597	243,924
Materials and supplies	150,000	73,872	55,202
Purchased services	200,000	43,666	76,361
Service contracts	310,000	63,957	298,525
Fees and payments	50,000	5,814	2,220
Other expenses	40,000	0	0
Computer hardware and software	0	67,334	71,456
Minor capital assets	<u>0</u>	<u>29,811</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>\$ 2,176,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,567,633</u>	<u>\$ 1,666,748</u>

**INUIT UQAUSINGINNIK TAIGUUSILIUQTIIT**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES**  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015

**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.