



Office of the Commissioner of  
**INDIGENOUS  
LANGUAGES**

# 2025-2026

## ANNUAL REPORT

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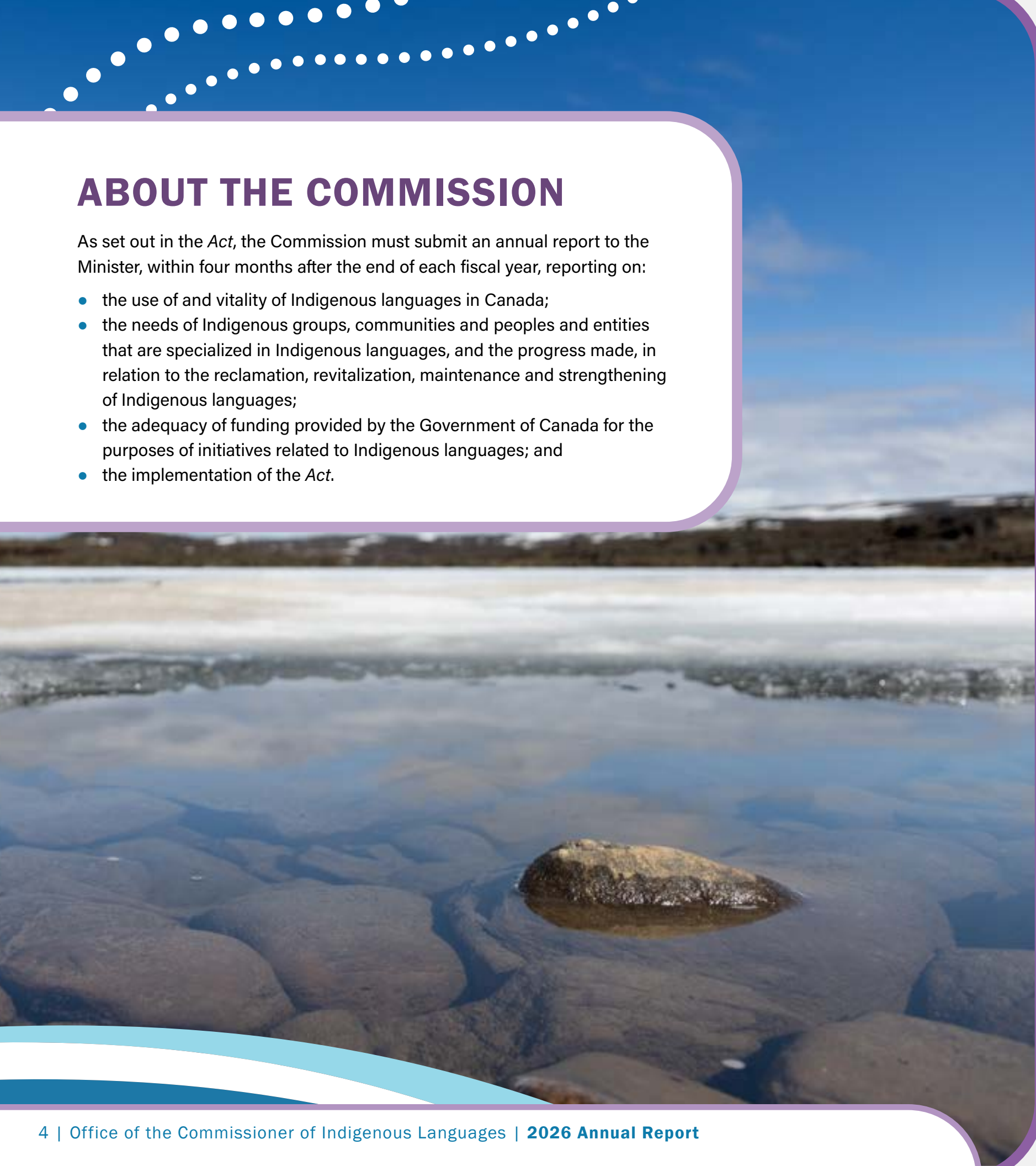
Commissioner of Indigenous Languages

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## ABOUT THE COMMISSION

As set out in the *Act*, the Commission must submit an annual report to the Minister, within four months after the end of each fiscal year, reporting on:

- the use of and vitality of Indigenous languages in Canada;
- the needs of Indigenous groups, communities and peoples and entities that are specialized in Indigenous languages, and the progress made, in relation to the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening of Indigenous languages;
- the adequacy of funding provided by the Government of Canada for the purposes of initiatives related to Indigenous languages; and
- the implementation of the *Act*.

## MISSION

The Commission promotes and champions all Indigenous languages in Canada and supports Indigenous Peoples in the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance, and strengthening of their languages, so that no language is left behind.

## VISION

All Indigenous languages in Canada are safe, vibrant, and thriving.

## MANDATE

The Commission is an independent body created under the *Act* with a mandate to:

- Promote and increase awareness and understanding of Indigenous languages;
- Support the efforts of Indigenous Peoples;
- Support innovative projects;
- Facilitate resolutions of language disputes and review language complaints; and
- Undertake research and/or studies related to funding and use of Indigenous languages.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

On behalf of myself as well as Directors Georgina Liberty, Robert Watt, and Joan Greyeyes, I'm honoured to share the 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages (the Commission). This report marks the conclusion of the Commission's first five years and reflects a significant chapter in advancing Indigenous language rights and uplifting the efforts of Indigenous Peoples to reclaim, revitalize, maintain, and strengthen their languages. Throughout this journey, the Commission's work has been guided by a shared vision: that all Indigenous languages in Canada are safe, vibrant, and thriving.

Over the past five years, the Commission has established itself as a national and international convenor, working alongside Indigenous Peoples, communities, organizations, governments, and partners to better understand the needs, priorities, and aspirations of those leading Indigenous language revitalization. Through its work, the Commission has advanced the objectives of the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages (the Decade), supported the implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act* (the Act) in planning initiatives which aim to restore fluency in Indigenous languages, and contributed to the spirit of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action* by championing Indigenous-led approaches to language revitalization. This commitment culminated in WAVES 2025, the Commission's first Global Indigenous Languages Summit, which brought together Indigenous leaders, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, youth, researchers, educators, policymakers, artists, and language champions from around the world. The Summit created a global forum for Indigenous-led innovation, knowledge sharing, and collaboration, strengthening relationships and inspiring continued action in support of Indigenous languages.

The Commission also continued to advance key initiatives that will help shape the future of Indigenous language revitalization. This included research on the adequacy of funding and the health and vitality of Indigenous languages. Another milestone has been the completion of the *Fluency and Immersion Teacher Education Roadmap*, developed with language champions from across Canada to support pathways for fluency and immersion teacher education.



As the Commission looks to the years ahead, it remains rooted to its commitment to hold the federal government accountable to its obligations under the *Act* while advocating for its full and meaningful implementation. The work ahead is profound, but there is a role for all of us in advancing the momentum in support of our languages. Together, we can move from pockets of promises to lasting, nationwide impact, where Indigenous languages are lived, taught, and heard for generations to come. The Commission will continue to walk alongside Indigenous Peoples in their efforts to reclaim, revitalize, maintain, and strengthen their languages today, and for the future.

As my term as Commissioner comes to a close, I remain deeply hopeful about the future of Indigenous languages. Over the past five years, I have witnessed the strength, leadership, and unwavering commitment of communities, Elders, youth, educators, and language champions who continue to carry their languages forward. Their dedication gives me confidence that the momentum we have built together will continue for generations to come.

The work ahead remains significant, and there is a role for all of us in supporting Indigenous language revitalization. As the Commission enters its next chapter, it will continue to uphold the *Act*, champion the efforts and walk alongside Indigenous Peoples in their work to reclaim, revitalize, maintain, and strengthen their languages.

**Stsmélqen, Dr. Ronald E. Ignace**  
Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer



# ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR

The Commission's core focus is to advance its mandate, as outlined by the *Act*, in supporting the efforts of Indigenous Peoples to reclaim, revitalize, maintain, and strengthen Indigenous languages. The Commission's mandate and correlating activities also advance the implementation of the *(TRC) Calls to Action* 13-17, 84 and 85, which call for the preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Indigenous languages and cultures. In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Commission continued to foster strong partnerships nationally and globally in support of Indigenous languages and advancing the objectives of the Decade through the implementation of the *Act*, the *(TRC) Calls to Action*, and the principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*.



Global Leadership



Community Engagement



Youth Leadership



Research & Impact



Innovation & Partnership

WAVES  
2025

## WAVES 2025: GLOBAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES SUMMIT

With 2025 marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *TRC Final Report and Calls to Action*, WAVES 2025 was intentionally designed to elevate the national conversation on Indigenous languages and reaffirm their fundamental importance to reconciliation. Taking place during the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022–2032), the Summit aimed to advance the objectives of the Decade, aiming to draw global attention to the critical situation of Indigenous languages. No Indigenous language is safe in Canada, against a backdrop of increasing language loss, UNESCO estimates that at least 40% of the world's languages are endangered and that one language disappears every two weeks on average.<sup>1</sup> WAVES 2025 aimed to reinforce the importance of sustained investment and action to support Indigenous languages for generations to come.

Hosted on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Peoples in Ottawa from August 11 to 14, 2025, WAVES 2025 was the largest Indigenous languages gathering in the world. The Summit welcomed more than 2,000 participants from 20 countries, featuring 195 speakers and performers, dozens of collaboration sessions, and a dedicated youth experience through the 7Gen Space.

Serving as a “youth summit within a summit,” the 7Gen Space provided a dedicated forum for Indigenous youth to connect, learn, collaborate, and share their experiences and achievements in language revitalization. By creating space for youth voices and leadership, the 7Gen Space aimed to encouraged greater participation in the Indigenous languages movement while helping to inspire and support the next generation of language champions. Organized around the themes Land, Technology, and Community, WAVES 2025 highlighted the connections between Indigenous languages, culture, innovation and community-led revitalization.

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO, *Multilingual Education, the Bet to Preserve Indigenous Languages and Justice* (March 5, 2024).

4  
days

2,000  
Registered  
Attendees

195  
Presenters



# WAVES 2025

**65+**  
Collaboration  
Sessions

**20+**  
Countries  
Represented

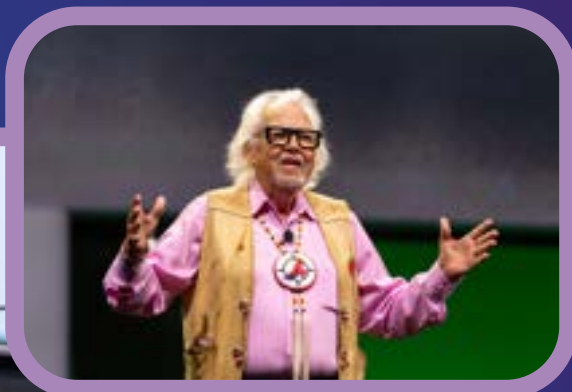
**27**  
Performers  
and  
Cultural Acts

The Summit facilitated national and international cooperation as well as facilitating meaningful opportunities to advance the implementation of the *Act* and the *TRC Calls to Action*. By bringing together Indigenous language leaders, communities, youth, researchers, educators, policymakers, and international partners, WAVES 2025 strengthened partnerships, fostered knowledge exchange, and supported Indigenous-led dialogue on language rights, revitalization, and innovation.

The Summit welcomed some of the world's leading voices in Indigenous language revitalization, including Chief Wilton Littlechild, Siila Watt-Cloutier, Dr. Lorna Williams, Peter-Lucas Jones, and many other influential voices in Indigenous language revitalization. Their knowledge and experience gave participants a unique opportunity to learn from language champions who have helped shaped Indigenous language revitalization in Canada and internationally.

WAVES 2025 highlighted and amplified Indigenous-led innovation, research, and collaborative initiatives from communities and organizations across Canada and around the world in support of language revitalization. The Summit also showcased the Commission's initiatives and partnerships, alongside projects delivered with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Canadian Geographic, Statistics Canada, Inhabit Media, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), and many other Indigenous, national, and international partners. Bringing these initiatives together in one international forum strengthened knowledge exchange, increased awareness of Indigenous language revitalization efforts, and created new opportunities for collaboration. The Summit's most significant impact, however, extends beyond the event itself. The relationships established, ideas exchanged, and partnerships formed during WAVES 2025 aimed to amplify and lay the groundwork for ongoing collaboration

among communities, organizations, researchers, and language leaders. The long-term legacy of the Summit will be reflected in the partnerships, projects, and initiatives that continue to emerge from these connections, as people work together to advance Indigenous language revitalization, share knowledge, and support one another in achieving common goals.





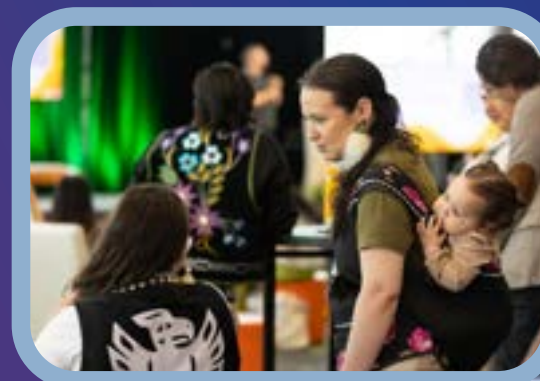
## WAVES 2025: 7GEN SPACE

Building on the Commission's Youth Engagement Action Plan and what was heard through the national and regional language gatherings, the 7Gen Space was developed to elevate youth voices, celebrate youth leadership in language revitalization, and strengthen the role of young people in advancing Indigenous languages across generations.

The 7Gen Space featured three days of youth-centred programming, mirroring the themes of Land and Language, Technology and Language, and Community and Language. Guided by host Kato Carriere, the program brought together 20 Indigenous presenters, including international guests, social media influencers, gamers, alongside interactive installations, Indigenous languages video games, workshops, community kiosks, and networking opportunities that showcased innovative approaches to language revitalization. The Space also marked the launch of the Commission's Listen and Shout and OCIL Kids initiatives, creating new opportunities for children, youth, and families to engage with Indigenous languages.

The 7Gen Space amplified Indigenous leaders, creators, innovators, and language champions, like Qupanuk Olsen, Shina Nova, Notorious Cree, Gwen Natsiq, and Aiyana Twigg. Through discussions on language, culture, technology, social media, entrepreneurship, and community leadership, these speakers demonstrated the many ways Indigenous youth are advancing language revitalization in their communities and on the global stage. By highlighting their work, the Commission aimed to inspire young attendees with relatable role models and tangible examples of how Indigenous languages can thrive across diverse fields and platforms.

The 7Gen Space demonstrated the importance of creating dedicated opportunities for Indigenous youth to engage in language revitalization and contribute to the implementation of the Act. Youth participated as presenters, creators, innovators, and leaders, sharing their perspectives, building relationships, exchanging knowledge, and helping shape conversations about the future of Indigenous language revitalization.



# FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION: COMMISSION INITIATIVES LAUNCHED AND/OR ADVANCED AT WAVES 2025

WAVES 2025 enabled a strategic platform for the Commission to launch and/or advance ongoing work to in line with its mandate and the implementation of the *Act* and the *TRC Calls to Action* through collaborative sessions, installations, presentations, screenings, and interactive experiences.

## Research and Knowledge Mobilization

### Vitality of Indigenous Languages Across Canada

Developed in partnership with Statistics Canada, this research initiative examines Indigenous language vitality, acquisition, and use across Canada.

### Research on the Adequacy of Funding for Indigenous Languages

The Commission highlighted its ongoing research examining the conditions and supports required to achieve adequate funding for Indigenous languages.

### Gathering Voices Across the Homeland

This initiative showcased ongoing work to identify and compile Michif language legacy materials to support language reclamation and community language planning.

### Community Language Planning

The Commission highlighted community-led language planning approaches that centre local cultures, priorities, and knowledge systems.

### Fluency and Immersion Teacher Education Roadmap

The Commission highlighted the development of its *Fluency and Immersion Teacher Education Roadmap*, engaging participants in discussions that helped inform the Roadmap and identify promising practices to strengthen Indigenous language immersion and fluency-based teacher education.



## Innovation and Partnerships

### Kwän Dék'án' Do: To Keep the Fire Burning

The Commission highlighted work underway on *Kwän Dék'án' Do*, led by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun in collaboration with Carleton University and the Commission, as an example of innovative, community-led language revitalization.

### The Yoto Project: Strengthening Indigenous Languages through Oral Language Exposure

The Commission highlighted the Yoto Project, led by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Inhabit Media, as an example of innovative, community-led approaches to Indigenous language revitalization.

### Where Our Languages Live

Developed with Canadian Geographic, this interactive mapping initiative connects audiences with place-based stories shared in Indigenous languages. The Commission highlighted the development of its interactive mapping initiative with Canadian Geographic, inviting participants to explore the prototype, share feedback, and contribute place-based stories in Indigenous languages.

### Memorandum of Understanding with ACTFL

The Commission and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration in Indigenous language education.

## Promotion, Public Awareness and Engagement

### Language Tunnel

The Commission created an immersive Language Tunnel that welcomed participants into the Summit with Indigenous languages, setting the tone for a gathering centred on language, culture, and connection.

### Greetings Project

The Commission introduced the Greetings Project, featuring welcoming phrases in Indigenous languages displayed throughout the Summit to celebrate the linguistic diversity of Indigenous Peoples and encourage everyday language use.

### Rhythms of the Land

Participants attended a screening of *Rhythms of the Land*, a documentary celebrating Indigenous languages through music, storytelling, and connection to the land..

### Our Languages, Our Stories

*Our Languages, Our Stories* is a portrait book honouring First Nations, Inuit, and Métis language champions whose lifelong advocacy has advanced Indigenous languages nationally and internationally.

### Listen and Shout / OCIL Kids

Advancing the Commission's Youth Engagement Action Plan, Listen and Shout and OCIL Kids were launched in the 7Gen Space, a dedicated youth hub celebrating Indigenous languages through storytelling, interactive activities, and youth leadership.

### Advancing Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination

The Commission hosted a panel exploring the relationship between Indigenous language rights, self-determination, treaties, and reconciliation.

### The Commission's Action Plan for the Decade

The Commission highlighted the development of its Action Plan to advance the Decade through collaboration and international engagement.



## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES FOUNDATION

In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Commission continued its exploratory work regarding potential value of establishing an independent, Indigenous-led charitable foundation to compliment the mandate of the Commission. Building on the feasibility report completed in the 2024-2025 period, the Commission further examined governance structure and operational models that could provide additional pathways for exercising Indigenous language rights and supporting the efforts of Indigenous Peoples to reclaim, revitalize, maintain, and strengthen their languages.



## FLUENCY AND IMMERSION TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

One of the purposes of the *Act* is to plan initiatives and activities to support the restoring and maintaining of fluency in Indigenous languages, including immersion programs to increase the number of new speakers. In advancing the implementation of the *Act* and in its role as a convenor and bridge builder, the Commission has heard from Indigenous Peoples across Canada about the urgent need to centre the creation of accredited and certified immersion teachers as the foundation for generating new fluent and proficient Indigenous language speakers. The Fluency and Immersion Teacher Education Initiative responds to this pressing national challenge: without fluent and proficient speakers, there can be no teachers, and without teachers, there can be no new generations of fluent and proficient speakers. It also advances the principles set out in the UNDRIP including the right of Indigenous Peoples to revitalize, use, develop, and transmit their languages to future generations (Article 13) and the right to establish and control educational systems that provide education in Indigenous languages and ensure access to learning in one's own language and culture (Article 14).



# FLUENCY AND IMMERSION TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Building on foundational research through Laying the Groundwork for the *Fluency and Immersion Teacher Education Roadmap: An Environmental Scan and Literature Review*, the Commission continued to work alongside language champions to better understand the conditions required to strengthen fluency, proficiency, and immersion teacher education pathways across Canada. Guided by the principle of *Walking on Two Legs*, this action-oriented framework reimagines the role of western education systems. Rather than integrating Indigenous Knowledges into existing structures, it positions western education as a supportive framework that balances and centres Indigenous Knowledges. It speaks to the intergenerational transmission of Indigenous languages by adapting (not adopting) the most promising practices within Indigenous-led learning and teaching frameworks.

Throughout 2025-2026 language champions contributed their knowledge and expertise through virtual policy forums, in-person gatherings, and one-on-one conversations. These discussions highlighted innovative approaches already taking place while also identifying the legislative, policy, and structural barriers that continue to affect immersion teacher education initiatives. Their insights became the foundation of the *Fluency and Immersion Teacher Education Roadmap*.

Launched on National Indigenous Languages Day, March 31, 2026, the Roadmap identifies the conditions required to support transformative change so that Indigenous languages can be meaningfully implemented as teachable subjects and placed on equal footing with other areas of study. It identifies pathways to educate, train, certify, and accredit immersion teachers, supporting Indigenous Peoples in their efforts to generate new generations of fluent and proficient speakers.

By advancing this initiative, the Commission is showcasing a practical example of how the *Act* can be operationalized in practice, moving beyond policy intent toward transformative change through Indigenous-led teacher education, immersion, and fluency development. The initiative also provides valuable insight into where additional supports, investments, and policy measures may be required to strengthen the implementation of the *Act* and better support Indigenous Peoples' efforts in achieving its intended outcomes.



***“The vision that guides this work is clear: fluency and proficiency are the heartbeat of revitalization. Without fluent speakers, there can be no teachers. Without teachers, there can be no new speakers. This initiative is about rebuilding the intergenerational transmission of knowledges, because our languages are a collective right, and as such, they call for a united, collective response.”***

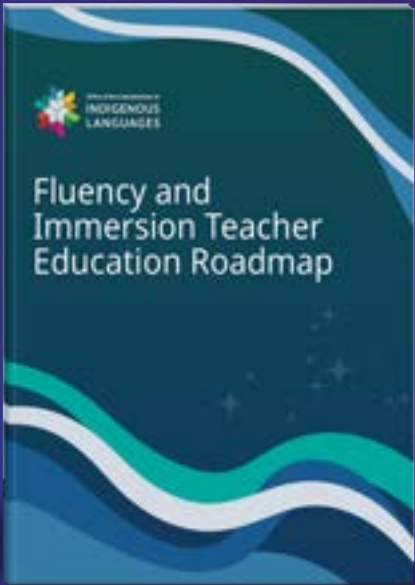
–Commissioner Stsmel’qen Ronald E. Ignace

The Roadmap calls for action to:

- Open pathways into immersion teacher education
- Build recognition and certification
- Support thriving immersion teacher careers



Scan to access the full report.



Reflections: Exercising the Right to Learn in Our Languages and the Independent Review of the Act

The *Act* mandates that within five years of coming into force and every five years after, an independent review must be conducted. The *Fluency and Immersion Teacher Education Initiative* demonstrates a critical consideration for the five-year review of the *Act*. While the *Act* says that the Minister *may* cooperate with provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, and other entities, developing sustainable pathways for Indigenous language teachers and fluent speakers cannot be achieved through optional or ad hoc collaboration alone.

Advancing teacher education, immersion programming, accreditation pathways, and long-term language transmission demands coordinated action across jurisdictions and institutions. The experience of this initiative demonstrates that meaningful cooperation is **absolutely essential** to achieving the objectives of the *Act*. As part of the five-year review, consideration must be given to strengthening provisions calling upon meaningful federal responsibilities and accountability for supporting these collaborative efforts.

The review of the *Act* is an opportunity to implement Article 14 of UNDRIP, which calls on states to take effective measures to ensure that Indigenous Peoples, particularly children, have the right to have access to education in their own culture and provided in their own languages. Completing the five-year mark of its operations, the Commission envisions the *Act* to be strengthened in a manner which makes language rights meaningful and enforceable.

The Commission is inspired by the modernization of the *Official Languages Act* in 2023, which moves towards achieving substantive linguistics equality, improves compliance standards across federal institutions, and fortifies provisions as well as financial commitments for the recruitment and retention of language teachers. The modernization of the *Official Languages Act* is further strengthened by the *Canadian Charter of Rights of Freedoms*, which protects the official languages of Canada in addition to protecting minority language and educational rights.

The review of the *Act* must result in Indigenous-led provisions, by which language rights for Indigenous Peoples are enforceable, including the full and meaningful implementation of the *Act*, rather than being aspirational principles.

**March 31, 2026:**  
Launched on National Indigenous Languages Day, March 31, 2026, the Roadmap identifies pathways to support Indigenous Peoples in their efforts to generate new generations of fluent and proficient speakers through effective immersion teachers.

**December 9-10, 2025**  
**In-Person Policy Forum for Champions (Vancouver):**  
Champions refined the initial skeleton of the Roadmap, informed by the one-on-one- conversations.

**August 11, 2025**  
**In-Person Policy Forum for Champions at WAVES 2025 (Ottawa):**  
A vision for the Fluency and Immersion Teacher Education Roadmap was designed by the Champions, which included one-on-one conversations in October-November 2025 to better understand the conditions required to strengthen fluency, proficiency, and immersion teacher education pathways across Canada.

**June-July 2025**  
**Virtual Policy Forums:**  
Language Champions contributed their knowledge and expertise through a series of virtual policy forums regarding best practices related to fluency and immersion teacher education.

## RESEARCH STUDIES

One of the purposes of the *Act* is to undertake research or studies in respect of Indigenous languages, including efforts to assess the status of Indigenous languages. Subsequently, research is a key component of the Commission's mandate and supports a deeper understanding of the factors that influence Indigenous language vitality across Canada. Through collaborative and community-informed approaches, the Commission's research initiatives identify promising practices, address knowledge gaps, and contribute to evidence-informed dialogue and decision-making related to Indigenous languages.

In 2025–2026, the Commission advanced several research projects exploring language vitality, funding adequacy, language documentation, community-based planning, and pathways to Indigenous language teacher education, including:



State and Health of Indigenous Languages Across Canada

In 2025–2026, the Commission continued to strengthen Indigenous language data and research through its partnership with Statistics Canada, formalized by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 27, 2026. Building on the *Indigenous Language Families in Canada* reports released in 2024–2025, the Commission shared research and key findings at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, WAVES 2025, and with the Statistics Canada Advisory Committee on Language Statistics, contributing to national and international discussions on Indigenous language vitality.

The Commission also advanced work to strengthen future Indigenous language data collection by exploring opportunities to better reflect language learners in the Census of Population and related surveys. Following the cancellation of the 2027 Indigenous Peoples Survey, the Commission expanded its engagement with the Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis (NILFA) survey and began preparations for the 2031 Census content consultation process. Together, these efforts support the development of reliable, distinctions-based data to inform Indigenous language revitalization across Canada.



Scan to access  
the full reports.



## Adequacy of Funding: Existing and Required Language Funding Evaluation

The Commission continued to identify systemic issues affecting Indigenous language revitalization efforts across Canada. One area of priority is the adequacy of funding available to support Indigenous languages. While the *Act* recognizes the importance of providing adequate, sustainable, and long-term funding for the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance, and strengthening of Indigenous languages, the concept of what constitutes “adequate” funding remains largely undefined.

Building on existing research and engagement findings, the Commission initiated a study to better understand and define adequacy of funding in the context of Indigenous languages. The research considers factors such as intergenerational language transmission, community sovereignty and self-determination, cultural and linguistic integrity, and the broader social benefits associated with strong Indigenous language revitalization efforts.

A key outcome of this work will be the development of a clearer framework for understanding what adequate support for Indigenous languages may entail. The findings are intended to contribute to informed dialogue and decision-making regarding the implementation of the *Act*.



## Life With and Without Our Languages: A Case Study Tracing Southern Michif Language Vitality

This research forms part of a broader, multi-phase initiative examining Michif language use, vitality, and revitalization across different regions and language varieties. Developed to address longstanding gaps in coordinated Michif language research, the project combines historical analysis, community-engaged approaches, and language documentation to strengthen understanding of Michif through the lived experiences and oral histories of speakers.

The findings presented in this report reflect Phase 2 of the initiative, which focuses on Southern Michif. Through a focus group conducted in Michif with fluent first-language speakers, the research documents natural language use while providing insight into the factors that influence language transmission, use, and vitality over time.

The analysis explores how language use is shaped by both community relationships and broader institutional contexts. It considers the role of families, communities, relational networks, and Indigenous governance alongside the influence of education systems, government structures, and policy environments. Together, these perspectives contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the conditions that support the continued strength and revitalization of Michif languages.



## Gathering Voices Across the Homeland: A Collection and Compilation of Existing Michif Languages' Legacy Materials Across Canada

The Commission undertook a research initiative to identify and document existing legacy materials related to Southern Michif, Northern Michif, and French Michif. Through a review of archives, educational institutions, and digital repositories, the project compiled information about available resources, including details such as authorship, speakers involved, material descriptions, formats, collection names, and known locations.

This work contributes to a broader understanding of the existing documentation of Michif languages and supports Métis-led efforts to reclaim, revitalize, maintain, and strengthen these languages for future generations.

The research documented a wide range of language materials, including audio recordings, video recordings, dictionaries, transcriptions, and other physical and digital resources that preserve linguistic knowledge and cultural teachings. It also highlighted past and ongoing efforts to document Michif languages through recordings, written records, and other technological means.



## Inuktitut Vitality in Canada

As part of its mandate to support Indigenous language revitalization, the Commission initiated an environmental scan on the vitality of Inuktitut across Inuit Nunangat and urban Inuit communities. The study is examining the current state of Inuktitut, with a focus on language revitalization, education and long-term sustainability. It also considers the diverse experiences and priorities of Inuit communities to help identify opportunities that support the continued vitality of Inuktitut. Once finalized, the study will help inform future discussions and contribute to ongoing efforts to strengthen and support the vitality of Inuktitut across Canada.



## Pathways to Thriving: Community-Based Indigenous Language Planning

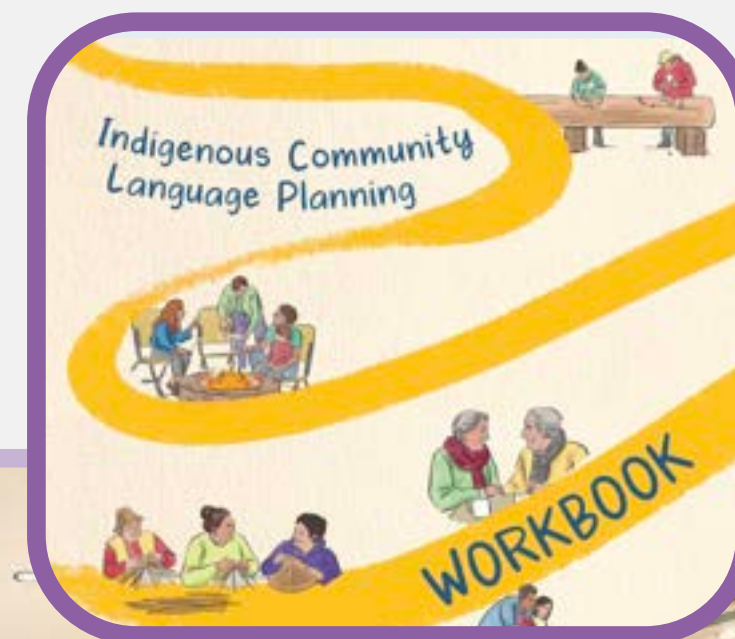
In 2025–2026, the Commission continued advancing *Pathways to Thriving: Community-Based Indigenous Language Planning*, a collaborative research initiative that supports Indigenous communities in developing practical, community-driven approaches to language revitalization. Working alongside the ƳSÁNEĆ School Board, Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey, and Kinoséwi Sípíhk (Norway House Cree Nation), the project explores how language planning can help communities establish shared priorities, strengthen capacity, and create long-term strategies for language revitalization.

The initiative combined a review of existing Indigenous language plans with collaborative work alongside partner communities to document and better understand effective language planning processes. By identifying promising practices and lessons learned, the project will provide practical tools and resources that can be adapted by Indigenous communities at different stages of their language revitalization journeys.

Community language planning recognizes that successful language revitalization extends beyond individual programs or initiatives. By bringing together Elders, youth, educators, leaders, and community members around a shared vision, language plans help establish achievable goals, guide decision-making, and support long-term, sustainable language revitalization.



Scan to access  
the resources.



# Existing Pathways to Indigenous Language Immersion Teacher Training: A Backgrounder

In 2025–2026, the Commission published *Existing Pathways to Indigenous Language Immersion Teacher Training: A Backgrounder*, based on research conducted in 2024. The publication examines the current landscape of Indigenous language immersion teacher education across Canada, exploring existing programs, certification models, and training opportunities while highlighting innovative, Indigenous-led approaches that support the development of future immersion teachers.

The backgrounder emphasizes the importance of partnerships between Indigenous communities and post-secondary institutions, as well as mentorship, land-based learning, and community-based instruction. It also identifies opportunities to strengthen certification pathways, improve accessibility, support sustainable funding, and recognize Indigenous Knowledge systems and the expertise of fluent speakers, Knowledge Holders, and community educators.

As a companion to the Commission's broader Fluency and Immersion Teacher Education Initiative, the backgrounder informed the development of the *Fluency and Immersion Teacher Education Roadmap* and supports ongoing efforts to strengthen pathways for educating, training, certifying, and accrediting Indigenous language immersion teachers across Canada.

Learn more about the Commission's research, resources and toolkits by visiting: [commissionforindigenouslanguages.ca/research](https://commissionforindigenouslanguages.ca/research)



## INNOVATION

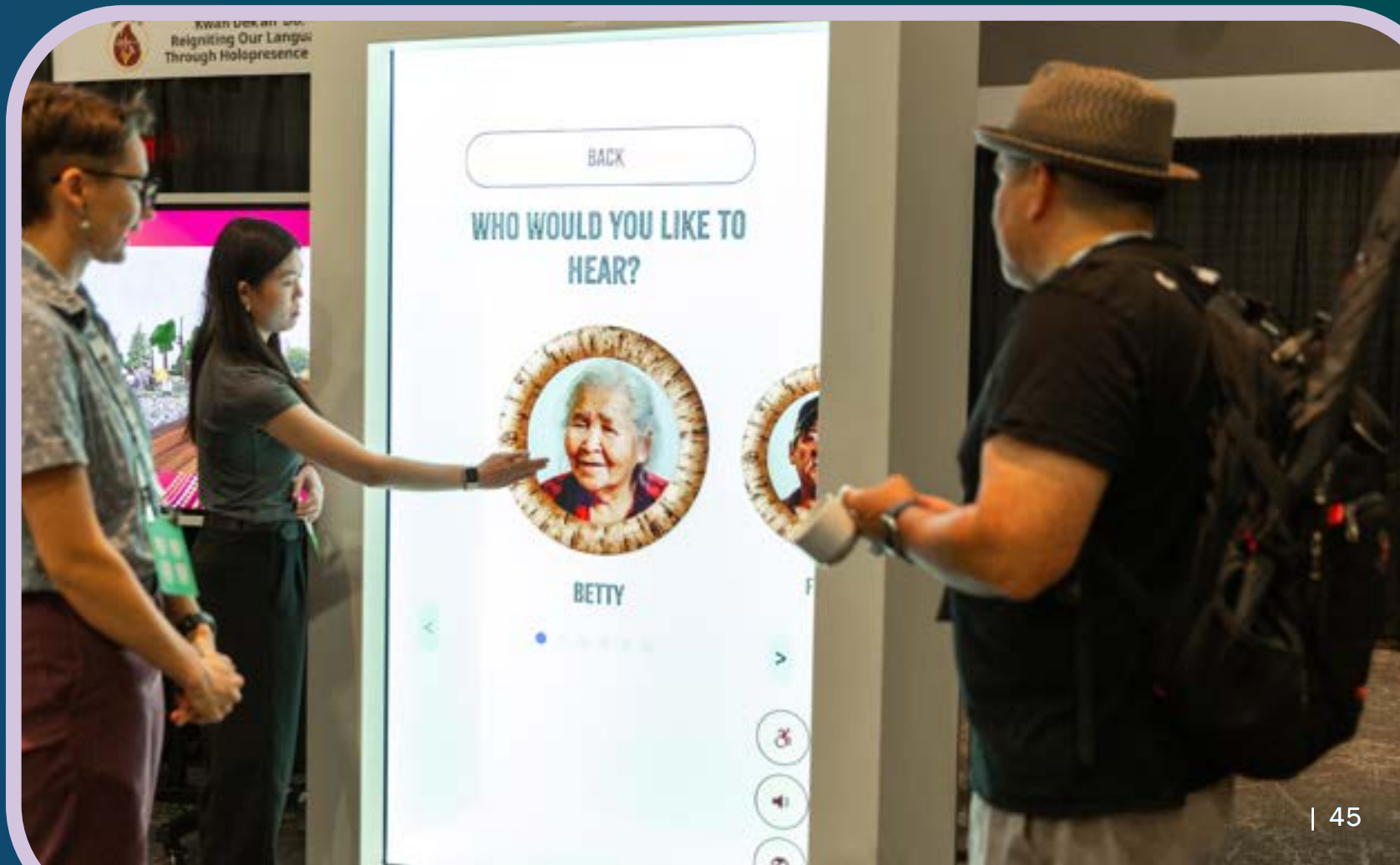
An important aspect of the Commission's mandate per the *Act* is to support innovative projects and the use of new technologies in Indigenous language education and revitalization, which also supports the *TRC Calls to Action* 13-15. Through partnerships, emerging technologies, and community-driven solutions, the Commission continues to encourage innovation that strengthens Indigenous language learning, knowledge sharing, and intergenerational transmission.



# INNOVATION

In 2025–2026, the Commission continued its support for *Kwän Dék'án' Do - To Keep the Fire Burning*, an Indigenous-led initiative of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun developed in partnership with Carleton University. By combining Indigenous knowledge systems with emerging technologies, including holopresence and artificial intelligence, the initiative demonstrates how innovation can support community-led language revitalization while preserving and celebrating Northern Tutchone language and culture. The Commission was pleased to showcase the initiative at WAVES 2025 and to participate in the community celebration in Mayo, Yukon, recognizing the leadership and vision of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

During the reporting period, the Commission also continued strengthening its Innovation portfolio by enhancing internal processes and preparing new approaches to better support Indigenous-led innovation. This work reflects the Commission's commitment to fostering innovative projects that respond to the evolving needs and priorities of Indigenous communities.

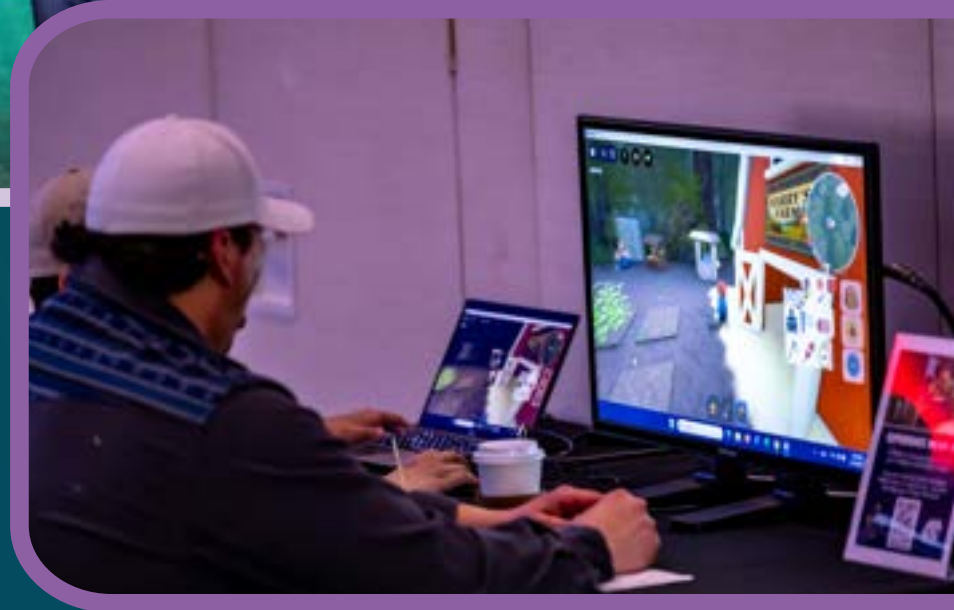


# YOUTH INNOVATION GATHERING

As part of the Commission's Youth Engagement Action Plan and building on the momentum of WAVES 2025, the Commission hosted its first Youth Innovation Gathering on March 13-14, 2026, in Vancouver, bringing together Indigenous youth from across Canada to explore how innovation can advance Indigenous language revitalization. Through keynote presentations, expert panels, interactive workshops, and hands-on exercises, participants developed practical skills to transform ideas into community-led language initiatives while building relationships with peers, mentors, and Indigenous innovators.

Centered around the themes Imagine, Develop, and Ignite, the gathering encouraged participants to think creatively, refine their ideas, seek meaningful feedback, and develop practical strategies for implementation. Throughout the event, speakers demonstrated that innovation is rooted in Indigenous languages, cultures, and communities, reinforcing that the future of language revitalization will be shaped by the leadership, creativity, and vision of Indigenous youth.

The gathering created opportunities for connection, mentorship, and shared learning while equipping participants with practical tools to support Indigenous language revitalization in their own communities. By investing in the next generation of language champions, the Commission continued to support youth-led approaches that will help Indigenous languages thrive for generations to come.



**March 13-14, 2026**

## **First Youth Innovation Gathering (Vancouver):**

Building on the Youth Engagement Action Plan and the momentum of WAVES 2025, the Commission first Youth Innovation Gathering explored how youth-led innovation can advance Indigenous language revitalization.

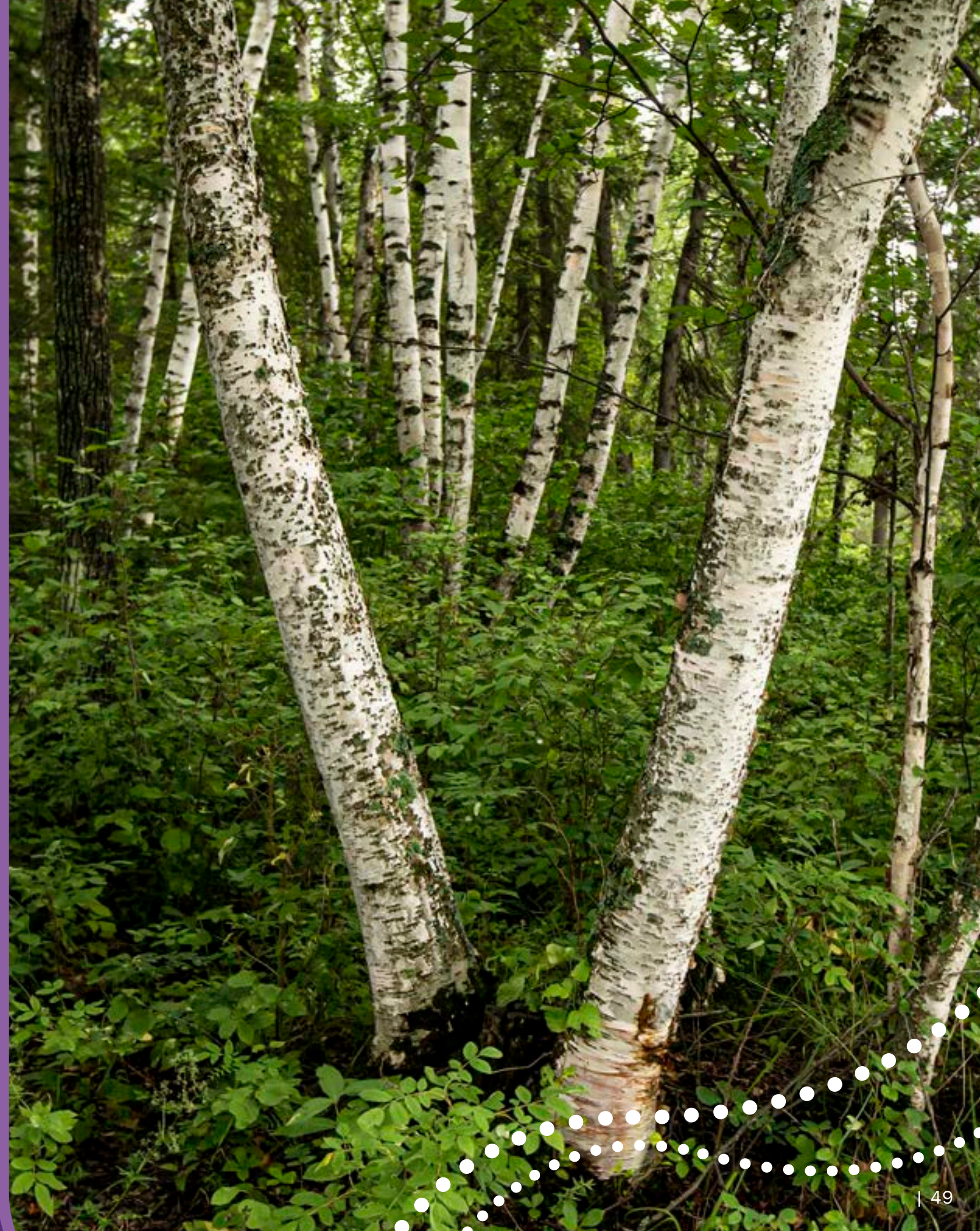
**August 11-14, 2025**

## **WAVES 2025 (Ottawa):**

7Gen Space illustrated the need for youth-dedicated engagements on language revitalization efforts and innovation approaches.

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

The Commission continued to advance the development of its Dispute Resolution Services (DRS), an important aspect of its mandate under sections 26 and 27 of the *Act*. Through these services, the Commission aims to facilitate the resolution of disputes related to Indigenous languages through mediation and culturally appropriate processes, as well as reviews of complaints.



# DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

Accessible dispute resolution processes have the potential to support stronger relationships, enhance accountability, and contribute to better outcomes for Indigenous language revitalization efforts. Depending on the pathway used, outcomes may include mutually agreed resolutions, recommendations, and strengthened relationships between parties.

A thoughtful and measured approach has guided the development of these services. Since 2023, overarching themes heard through national and regional gatherings have helped shape the DRS design. This work has been grounded in a commitment to putting communities at the centre and ensuring that the services are responsive to community realities and aligned with the scope of the *Act*.

Input from an Advisory Group further informed the development of the secure online portal, application process, and overall accessibility of the services. Together, these contributions have helped shape approaches that are culturally respectful, trauma-informed, and reflective of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis perspectives.



Learn more about  
Dispute Resolution  
Services.

## UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

As a core component of its mandate, the Commission reports annually on the needs of Indigenous groups, communities, peoples, and entities specializing in Indigenous languages, as well as the progress made, in relation to the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening efforts. Through gatherings, partnerships, educational initiatives, and international engagement, the Commission creates opportunities to celebrate Indigenous languages, elevate community-led perspectives, and foster dialogue on the importance of language reclamation, revitalization, maintenance, and strengthening.

Throughout 2025–2026, the Commission brought together Elders, youth, language speakers, educators, researchers, and community leaders to share knowledge, highlight promising practices, and support collaborative approaches to advancing Indigenous languages. These efforts also contributed to increasing public understanding of the diversity and significance of Indigenous languages across Canada and internationally.



# NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

## Montreal Language Gathering

On April 1–2, 2025, the Commission hosted a two-day Language Gathering in Montréal, bringing together First Nations Elders, youth, language keepers, educators, and community leaders from across Quebec. Building on previous regional gatherings, the event created a dedicated space to share experiences, identify priorities, and strengthen relationships in support of Indigenous language reclamation, revitalization, maintenance, and strengthening.

The gathering provided the Commission with valuable regional perspectives on the unique linguistic landscape of Quebec and the priorities of First Nations communities. Discussions highlighted the importance of sustainable and adequate funding, recognizing language speakers and teachers as Knowledge Holders, expanding fluency and immersion teacher education, and meaningfully engaging youth in language revitalization efforts.

Participants also explored emerging topics shaping the future of Indigenous languages, including strategic community language planning and the opportunities and considerations associated with artificial intelligence. A dedicated youth panel reinforced the importance of intergenerational language transmission and ensuring that young people are active partners in shaping the future of Indigenous languages.

The insights and relationships developed through the Montréal Language Gathering continue to inform the Commission’s research, engagement, and policy work while strengthening collaboration with First Nations communities across Quebec.



Scan to explore  
the Commission’s  
gathering reports.





## Inuit Nunangat Engagements

### Nunatsiavut Language Summit

In May 2025, the Commission participated in the Nunatsiavut Language Summit, hosted by the Nunatsiavut Government Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism. The Summit celebrated the progress of the *Inuttituk UKâlalluta, ilinniatitsiluta, InosiKalluta! (2021–2026)* Language Strategy while bringing together Elders, youth, educators, language advocates, and community members to help shape the next phase of language revitalization in Nunatsiavut.

The Commission presented on its mandate and ongoing work to support Indigenous language reclamation, revitalization, maintenance, and strengthening. Participation in the Summit provided an opportunity to engage with regional language priorities and learn from community-led approaches that will inform the development of the 2027–2032 Nunatsiavut Language Strategy. Discussions highlighted the importance of youth leadership, land-based learning, and community-driven approaches to strengthening Inuttituk.

## Qitirmiut Language and Cultural Gathering

In July 2025, the Commission participated in the Qitirmiut Language and Cultural Gathering in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, which brought together community members, language champions, and regional partners to share knowledge and strengthen connections in support of Inuktitut revitalization.

The gathering emphasized the importance of intergenerational learning, cultural continuity, and community collaboration in sustaining Inuktitut. Participants also showcased traditional singing and drumming at WAVES 2025, celebrating the richness of Qitirmiut culture and the enduring connection between language, identity, and community.



## INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

In operationalizing the implementation of the *Act*, the *TRC Calls to Action* 13-15, and as part of its mandate to promote Indigenous languages and strengthen relationships, the Commission continued to engage with international partners to advance Indigenous language rights, share promising practices, and contribute to global dialogue on language revitalization.

### International Decade of Indigenous Languages

The Commission continued to play an active role in advancing the Decade objectives through participation in the Global Task Force and other international initiatives. This included contributing to discussions on the proposed United Nations International Convention on Indigenous Languages and co-hosting a side event at the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Commission also showcased its work on Indigenous language data collection at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues through the side event *Strengthening Indigenous Language Data Collection: Challenges and Promising Practices*. The session highlighted collaborative work undertaken in Canada with Mary Jane Norris and Statistics Canada, alongside perspectives from Norway on Sámi language statistics and data governance.



### International Association of Language Commissioners

The Commission continued its engagement with the International Association of Language Commissioners (IALC), strengthening relationships with international counterparts and fostering opportunities for collaboration. In February 2026, the Commission welcomed a delegation from the Welsh Language Commission to discuss organizational priorities, exchange promising practices, and explore future areas of partnership.



## PULIIMA 2025

The Commission participated in PULiIMA 2025 in Darwin, Australia, an international conference focused on Indigenous languages and technology. Commissioner Ignace delivered a keynote highlighting the significance of Indigenous traditional knowledges and their enduring relationship with Indigenous languages, while the Commission shared its work related to advancing the implementation of the *Act*, its mandate, and lessons emerging from WAVES 2025.

The Commission also participated in a side event to PULiIMA, which brought together delegations from Canadian and Australian counterparts respectively to facilitate knowledge sharing, share promising practices, and foster partnerships in support of language revitalization.

Participation in PULiIMA also strengthened the Commission's partnership with the Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre. Representatives from Miromaa were welcomed to the Commission's Ottawa head office and participated in a community visit to Akwesasne to learn from community-led Indigenous language revitalization efforts. Together, these engagements advanced innovation, knowledge exchange, and the objectives of the Decade.



## PROMOTION, PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND EDUCATION

A core purpose of the *Act* is to create tools, resources, and educational materials for the maintenance and transmission of Indigenous languages. Through innovative educational resources, publications, and partnerships, the Commission continued to create opportunities in 2025-2026 for people of all ages to learn about, engage with and celebrate the richness and diversity of Indigenous languages across Canada.



# RHYTHMS OF THE LAND



As per the provisions of the *Act* and the *TRC Calls to Action*, the Commission continued to promote Indigenous languages through *Rhythms of the Land*, a one-hour documentary developed in collaboration with Indigenous artists and communities from across Canada. Featuring 17 Indigenous artists performing in their languages in landscapes that hold deep meaning for them, the documentary celebrates the connections between language, identity, culture, and place.

Premiering nationally on CTV on July 12, 2025, *Rhythms of the Land* reached more than 450,000 viewers during its initial broadcast and continues to engage audiences through streaming platforms, including Crave and YouTube. By bringing Indigenous languages into homes across Canada, the documentary increased public awareness while creating new opportunities for Indigenous voices, music, and stories to reach national and international audiences.

*Rhythms of the Land* reflected the Commission’s mandate under the *Act* to increase awareness of Indigenous languages and support the revitalization efforts of Indigenous Peoples. By creating a national platform for Indigenous artists to perform in their ancestral languages, the documentary celebrated the richness and diversity of Indigenous languages while demonstrating the important role of Indigenous-led media in strengthening language visibility, pride, and intergenerational connection.

Since its release, *Rhythms of the Land* has received multiple international awards, recognizing its artistic excellence and the powerful role of Indigenous-led storytelling in promotion, celebrating and strengthening Indigenous languages.



**Diddly Diddly Song**  
David Lavellee



**Qilanaaqtuqvik**  
PIQSIQ



**tacuwi Anelsultipon**  
Jeremy Dutcher



**Grandfather Rock**  
Tia Wood & Earl Wood



Watch the musical documentary and find out more by visiting:  
[commissionforindigenousslanguages.ca/rhythms-of-the-land](https://commissionforindigenousslanguages.ca/rhythms-of-the-land)



Scan to access the  
Discovery Language  
Articles

## Where Our Languages Live

The Commission continued its partnership with Canadian Geographic to advance *Where Our Languages Live*, an interactive mapping initiative that celebrates the diversity of Indigenous languages through place-based storytelling.

The initiative includes a digital map and a large-format floor map that connect users with stories from which they originate. Throughout the year, the Commission worked with Indigenous language speakers and communities to gather stories that reflect the voices, experiences, and languages of communities across Canada.

As a contribution to the Decade, the initiative aims to increase public awareness of Indigenous languages while strengthening connections between language, culture, and place. A prototype of the floor map was featured at WAVES 2025, providing participants with an immersive experience that celebrated Indigenous languages through interactive storytelling.



## Discovery Language

In partnership with Canadian Geographic, the Commission launched *Discovery Language*, a print and digital storytelling series that highlights Indigenous language revitalization efforts from across Canada. Written by Indigenous writers and journalists, the series explores the many ways language shapes identity, community, innovation, and relationships to the land.

During 2025–2026, six feature stories were published, sharing the experiences of Indigenous language speakers, learners, educators, and communities. Through compelling storytelling and photography, *Discovery Language* contributes to greater public understanding and appreciation of Indigenous languages while advancing the Commission's mandate to promote awareness.

## Discovery Language Stories



**Introducing: Discovery Language**  
Gin Sexsmith



**The Birth of a Language Speaker**  
Shelby Lisk



**Unspoken: The Cree Code Talkers of the Prairies**  
Kayla Macinnis



**Inuktuusuunguvit? (Do You Speak Inuktitut?)**  
Katherine Takpannie



**How the Blackfoot Language Teaches Gentleness**  
Trevor Solway



**Pitewey and Cookies: A Mi'kmaw Auntie's Fight to Revitalize Her Language**  
Oscar Baker III

# Our Languages, Our Stories

Featured at WAVES 2025, *Our Languages, Our Stories* is an initiative to honour First Nations, Inuit, and Métis champions who have dedicated their lives to advocating for Indigenous languages, nationally and internationally. These language champions have worked diligently to reclaiming, revitalizing, maintaining and strengthening Indigenous languages across Canada and beyond.

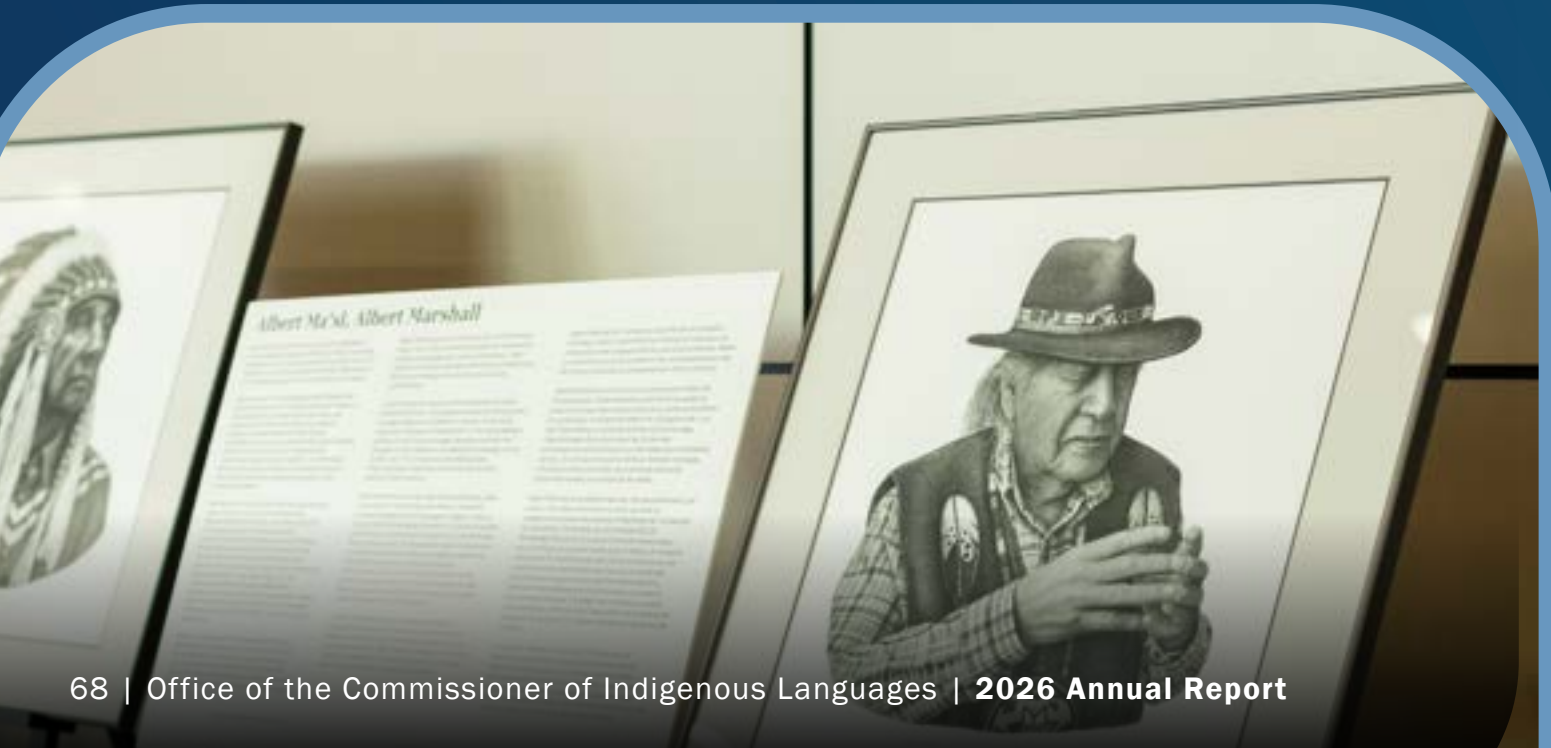
This book, a first for the Commission presents First Nation, Inuit, and Métis individuals who are language champions for Indigenous languages. They have answered a calling, knowingly or unknowingly, dedicating much of their lives to creating spaces for Indigenous languages in the areas of education, linguistics, the arts, the political arena, from local school groups to the national and international forums. They are a small segment of the many leaders who have forged the first pathways over decades, enabling the recognition of Indigenous languages in Canada today.

*Our Languages, Our Stories* is a collection of stories grounded in Indigenous principles of respect and relationship. Language champions invited to participate reflect the diversity of Indigenous languages and dialects across Canada. Each story is first presented in the Indigenous language of our champions and translated into English and French.



Central to the creation of this book are the language champions who shared their stories:

- |                                                            |                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Delores Churchill (Xaad Kíl /Haida);</b>                | <b>Verna DeMontigny (Michif);</b>                     |
| <b>Dr. Lorna Williams (Ucwalṁícwts/Lillooet);</b>          | <b>Patricia Ningewance (Anishinaabemowin/Ojibwe);</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Ron Ignace (Secwepemctśín/Shuswap);</b>    | <b>Senator Charlie Watt (Inuktitut);</b>              |
| <b>Rosa Mantla (Tłıchq/Tlıcho);</b>                        | <b>Tom Porter (Kanyen'kéha/Mohawk);</b>               |
| <b>Chief Wilton Littlechild (nēhiyawēwin/Plains Cree);</b> | <b>Imelda Perley (Wolastoqey/Maliseet);</b>           |
| <b>Solomon Ratt (nīithawīwin/Woodland Cree);</b>           | <b>Albert Marshall (Mí'kmaq);</b>                     |
| <b>Hartland Goodtrack (Lakota);</b>                        |                                                       |



## PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

The Commission continues to strengthen partnerships that facilitate meaningful opportunities for collaboration related to the implementation of the *Act*. Working alongside Indigenous communities, governments, academic institutions, research organizations, and international partners, these partnerships foster knowledge exchange, strengthen research and innovation, and create opportunities for collective action in support of Indigenous language revitalization.





## American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

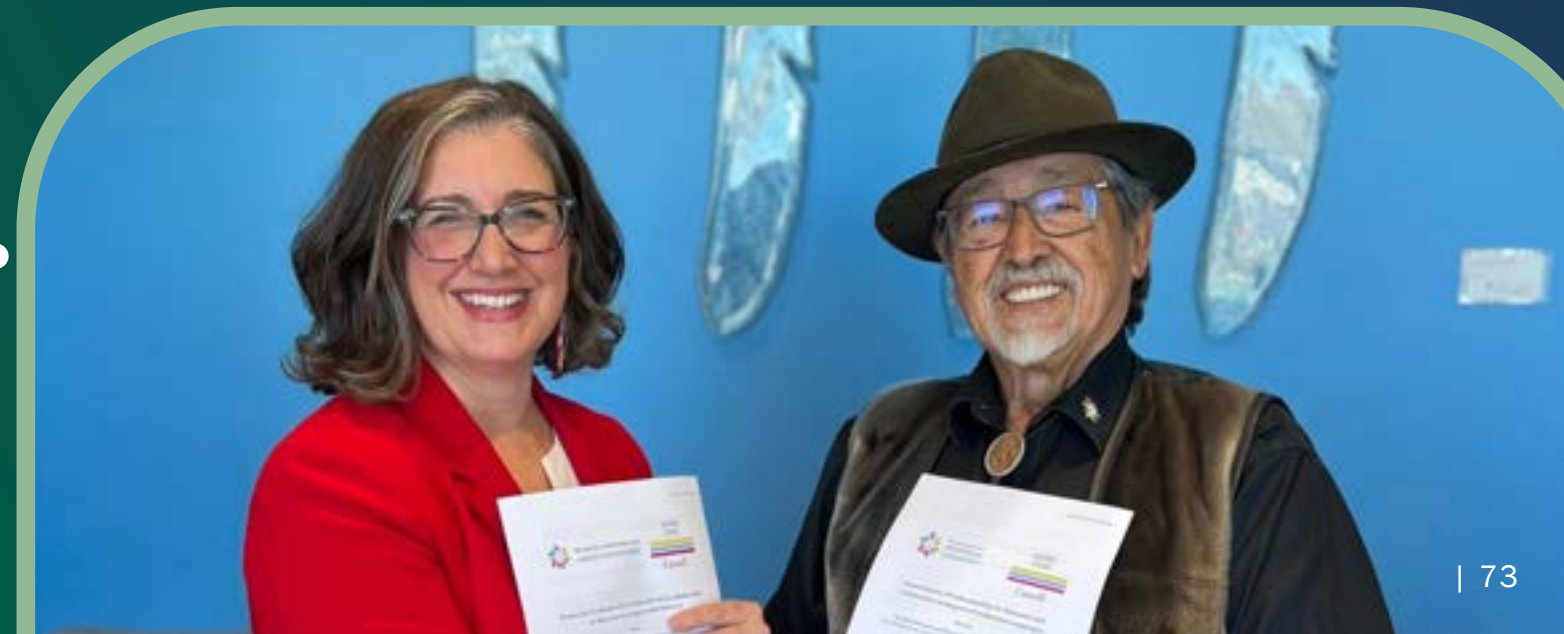
In November 2025, the Commission and ACTFL formalized a strategic partnership through the signing of an MOU, building on relationships established through WAVES 2025. Grounded in reciprocal learning and international collaboration, the partnership supports Indigenous-led language revitalization by advancing fluency, immersion, and teacher education while creating opportunities for ongoing knowledge exchange through research, forums, events, and shared resources. By strengthening international collaboration, the partnership advances the Commission's mandate under the *Act* in facilitating meaningful opportunities for collaboration and reinforces its role as a national convenor connecting Indigenous language revitalization efforts in Canada with international language education networks.

## Statistics Canada

On March 27, 2026, the Commission and Statistics Canada signed an MOU formalizing a growing partnership to strengthen Indigenous language data, research, and statistical capacity. Building on previous collaborative work, including the publication of reports on Indigenous language families in Canada, the agreement supports ongoing collaboration to develop Indigenous language data and analysis, strengthen statistical capacity, and inform future data collection initiatives, including the Census of Population. By improving access to reliable Indigenous language data, the partnership advances the Commission's mandate under the *Act* to monitor the vitality of Indigenous languages and support informed decision-making that benefits Indigenous Peoples and communities.

## Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

On October 29, 2025, the Commission and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) signed an MOU to strengthen Indigenous-led research in support of Indigenous language revitalization. The partnership establishes a framework for collaboration that advances research, knowledge mobilization, and community-informed approaches to support Indigenous Peoples in reclaiming, revitalizing, maintaining, and strengthening their languages. By strengthening Indigenous language research and fostering collaboration across academic and community partners, the agreement advances the implementation of the *Act* and contributes to a stronger foundation for future language revitalization efforts.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT

In accordance with the requirements in section 43 of the *Act*, the Commission reports on the Government of Canada's implementation of the *Act*. This includes responses provided by federal departments, agencies, Crown corporations, and entities who may have direct and indirect implementation responsibilities. For the 2025-2026 reporting period, the Commission sent 32 to federal departments, agencies, and Crown corporations inquiring about their respective implementation of the *Act* and received 17 responses.

The activities and initiatives led by the federal government this past fiscal year in the implementation of the *Act* primarily illustrate greater measures being taken to increase access to Indigenous languages. This includes the meaningful incorporation of Indigenous languages in services and programming provided externally, as well as initiatives within respective departments, agencies, Crown corporations, and entities such as language learning, promotion of Indigenous languages, and preservation efforts. A summary of the responses is provided in Annex A of the report.



# ANNEX A: SUMMARY OF FEDERAL RESPONSES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT

## Canadian Heritage

### *Partnerships, Collaboration, and Co-Development*

The Indigenous Languages Branch advanced strong partnerships and co-development with Indigenous organizations. Central to this work was the Joint Implementation Steering Committee, which collaborated with national Indigenous partners to guide policy, plan the *Act*'s independent review, support appointments to the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages, inform program evaluation, and establish a new workplan.

The Department also worked with the Assembly of First Nations on funding allocation approaches, engaged Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to integrate the Inuit Nunangat Policy, and maintained bilateral relationships with Métis partners.

### *Whole-of-Government Initiatives*

As a member of the Decade's Global Task Force, Canada co-chaired its Steering Committee in 2025–2026 alongside international partners and will continue contributing as an advisor in 2026.

Domestically, Canadian Heritage began implementing its *2024 National Action Plan* with a focus on advancing the *Act*, while internationally, Canada promoted its efforts through engagements such as a November 2025 presentation to the Canada–Mexico Partnership, highlighting the role of digital technologies in supporting Indigenous storytelling and language revitalization.

### *Promotion*

The Indigenous Languages Branch promoted Indigenous languages through diverse communication, outreach, and programming efforts to increase visibility, accessibility, and inclusion. Canadian Heritage expanded access by translating key national communications into up to nine Indigenous languages, ensuring representation.

Through the Celebration and Commemoration Program, hundreds of events for National Indigenous Peoples Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation integrated Indigenous languages into ceremonies, education, and broadcasting.

### *Access*

The Indigenous Languages Branch continued to advance access to federal services in Indigenous languages through coordinated, whole-of-government efforts. Canadian Heritage co-chaired an interdepartmental committee to support implementation, build capacity, identify pilot initiatives, and share best practices, while expanding translation efforts, including making the *Act* available in seven Indigenous languages.

Engagement with federal partners and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated focused on assessing and improving Inuktitut service delivery in Nunavut, with findings informing future agreements and supporting commitments under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. The Department also progressed the Independent Review of the *Act* through a distinctions-based approach and the selection process for an independent review body.

### *Funding*

Canadian Heritage further promoted Indigenous-language content, capacity-building, and storytelling. The Indigenous Languages Branch provided over \$120 million in 2025–2026 to support First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous organizations in language revitalization.

### *Preservation, Documentation, and Maintenance of Languages*

In 2024–2025, over 100 language resources were created, including archives, digitized recordings, translations, and dictionaries. Efforts to increase visibility also included

incorporating Indigenous place names into educational programs, publications, and exhibits in the National Capital Region, highlighting culturally significant and UNESCO-recognized sites.

Additionally, the Canadian Heritage Information Network enhanced its museum cataloguing system by integrating Indigenous terminology and concepts, improving the accuracy, respectfulness, and inclusiveness of how Indigenous knowledge is represented in heritage collections.

*Initiatives Internal to Government*

The Reconciliation, Treaties, and Engagement Branch supported Indigenous language revitalization within the department by expanding employee learning and awareness opportunities. In 2025–2026, it introduced an eight-week online Indigenous language course for four Indigenous employees, creating structured opportunities for language reconnection in the workplace. It also supported one employee's participation in an immersive Anishinabemowin program, emphasizing the importance of intensive, community-based learning. An internal blog documenting this experience helped raise awareness among staff, highlighting the cultural significance of Indigenous languages and promoting greater understanding and appreciation across the department.

**Public Safety Canada**

Public Safety Canada (PS) demonstrates a commitment to the revitalization of Indigenous languages by supporting learning opportunities and access to language resources. In 2025–2026, the department undertook several initiatives to actively promote Indigenous languages and raise awareness of their importance. Initiatives included the promotion of educational tools, as well as courses, exercises, and supports for teaching and learning Indigenous languages.

These efforts help strengthen language transmission and capacity-building among employees and communities. By collaborating with Indigenous partners, particularly in priority areas such as Arctic communities, PS recognizes that language revitalization is closely tied to cultural continuity, community safety, and meaningful engagement. These efforts demonstrate a shift toward integrating Indigenous languages into operational contexts, ensuring accessibility, inclusivity, and culturally appropriate communication.

**Canada School of Public Service**

Through its Indigenous Learning programming, the School supports the Government of Canada's reconciliation priorities by strengthening public servants' awareness and understanding of Indigenous languages, histories, cultures, and perspectives.

The School advances Indigenous language awareness through meaningful collaboration with Indigenous partners, Knowledge Holders, and subject matter experts. These relationships directly shape the development and delivery of learning products, ensuring Indigenous perspectives are integrated with care and authenticity. Beyond content development, these partnerships create structured space for dialogue on the role of Indigenous languages in cultural identity, governance, and revitalization.

The School has reached thousands of public servants through a sustained program of learning events focused on Indigenous languages and cultures. In 2025-2026, key initiatives included several events, and the launch of the Learning Quest on Indigenous Cultures, an online tool which invites learners to engage directly with Indigenous language words and expressions.

**Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)**

*Partnerships, Collaboration, and Co-Development*

The AAFC Indigenous Science Liaison Office (ISLO) works to support AAFC research staff in building relationships, engaging, and co-developing research projects with Indigenous partners. ISLO endeavours to bridge the gap between Indigenous knowledge and Western scientific practices.

*Access*

The co-delivery of Knowledge and Technology Transfer (KTT) activities fosters understanding among Indigenous and non-Indigenous research. These opportunities improve access and awareness of Indigenous languages through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Research and Development (R&D) experience.

*Initiatives Internal to Government*

The Indigenous Support Awareness Office (ISAO) promotes National Indigenous Languages Day through our learning newsletter and promotes news stories that focus on Indigenous languages.

**Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)**

*Partnerships, Collaboration, and Co-Development*

ISC worked with partners to align web content management system expansion with the top 8 dialects recommended to ensure relevance and accessibility.

*Promotion and Preservation of Languages*

There has been an expansion of Indigenous languages across ISC and Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) websites enabling 14 Indigenous languages across departments. ISC and CIRNAC conducted the publication of 24,000 words of Indigenous language digital content through 151 webpages.

ISC ran a month-long social media campaign informing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis audiences of expanded Indigenous language content.

*Funding*

Jordan's Principle and Inuit Child First Initiative funding supports culturally responsive services, including Indigenous language materials.

*Initiatives Internal to Government*

Increased internal capacity and awareness through sustained Indigenous language communications work.

Support for learning Indigenous languages and internal training with the ISC Indigenous Cultural Competency Learning Policy that includes optional Indigenous language learning for employees.

**Canada Council for the Arts**

*Partnerships, Collaboration, and Co-Development*

The Canada Council for the Arts continued work with three partners on the Northern Co-Delivery Projects to strengthen its relationships in the North and help to meet the region's unique cultural realities for making and sharing arts and culture.

*Working Group for the International Decade of Indigenous languages*

This group, formed by Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) in 2022, continues to meet to plan initiatives for safeguarding and revitalizing Indigenous languages. It is composed of Elders, knowledge keepers, researchers, community leaders, and youth, representing a variety of communities and linguistic groups.

*Funding*

Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples is a program that supports the retention, maintenance, innovation and transmittal of distinct First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultural knowledge and creative practice. This includes contemporary and historical critical discourse, arts/cultural training, and initiatives that seek to pass cultural knowledge, including language, to younger generations.

Co-delivery partnerships: The Canada Council for the Arts has partnerships with three different northern organizations for the co-delivery of funding. These partnerships have resulted in a significant increase in engagement and support with intended communities.

**Translation Bureau**

The Translation Bureau offers linguistic services to federal departments and agencies, as well as Parliament, supporting them by providing translation and interpretation services in Indigenous languages.

The Translation Bureau intends to further expand Indigenous language services through innovation, including the responsible use of artificial intelligence through partnerships with Indigenous organizations and Indigenous language service providers nationwide.

*Partnerships, Collaboration, and/or Co-Development*

In 2025-2026, the Translation Bureau translated approximately 900,000 words in 59 Indigenous languages combinations.

The Translation Bureau prepared glossaries in English and French for the April 2025 Federal Leaders’ Debates used by 15 Indigenous Language Interpreters, who delivered interpretation in five languages: Inuktitut, Plains Cree, Ojibway, Innu, and East Cree.

*Promotion*

The Language Portal of Canada has a section on Indigenous languages, providing links to websites on Indigenous culture and the distribution of Indigenous languages in Canada, and to other websites with glossaries, dictionaries and resources for writing, learning and teaching, as well as Indigenous organizations and events.

*Preservation, Documentation, and Maintenance*

The Translation Bureau’s Chief Executive Officer met with representatives from Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) to discuss the GCtranslate initiative.

The Bureau is working in participation as experts in the Indigenous Geographical Names Working Group of the Geographical Names Board of Canada increased the visibility and public presence of Indigenous languages by supporting the restoration of Indigenous place names and the removal of derogatory geographical names.

**Privy Council Office**

The Privy Council Office (PCO) supported the revitalization, promotion, and use of Indigenous languages in 2025–2026 through awareness campaigns, cultural initiatives, and language learning opportunities. Communications efforts, including annual messages for National Indigenous Languages Day, helped promote understanding and pride in Indigenous languages among employees.

In June 2025, PCO’s Indigenous Employees Network and Pride Network launched the “Sàgìhidiwin is love” initiative to amplify the efforts of Indigenous Peoples to reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen Indigenous languages and cultures by translating and celebrating the word “love” in 16 different Indigenous languages, representing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities across the country.

Indigenous employees participated in the Indigenous Language Program led by Kokom Shirley Tolley, an Anishinabe Elder, for a special Lunch-and-Learn Series dedicated to the revitalization of the Anishinabemowin language, which is a living expression of identity, connection, and ancestral knowledge. Through gentle teaching, storytelling, and community, this learning series offered a space to reclaim language as a pathway to cultural continuity and understanding.

**Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)**

*NRCan’s Pathways to Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2025 to 2028-2029*

In 2025-2026, NRCan continued implementing the Pathways to Reconciliation Action Plan (2024-2029) commitment to develop tools and arrangements that facilitate access to Indigenous language translation, training and related services.

*NRCan’s Circle of Nations Learning Centre and Elders in Residence Initiative*

Employees are required to complete at least 8 hours of Indigenous learning annually, supported through diverse learning formats such as self-directed study, Elder teachings, language learning, and book clubs.

In 2025–2026, the Centre delivered extensive programming, including over 100 events reaching thousands of employees. Indigenous languages were a major focus, with numerous sessions highlighting their cultural significance and supporting language preservation.

*NRCan leadership on the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC)*

NRCan provides secretariat support and manages the national geographical names database on behalf of all jurisdictions. As of April 2026, more than 26,000 place names have been identified as having Indigenous origins. NRCan also plays a global leadership role through the UN by advancing recognition of Indigenous geographical names.

*NRCan program funding*

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) currently has three funding streams with a focus on Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative (IODI), the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities Program (CERRC) and Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program (SREPs) include measures to reduce language barriers by allowing applicants to submit materials in Indigenous languages and making translation and interpretation services for Indigenous languages eligible expenses.

*NRCan Indigenous Language Training for Staff*

NRCan has supported opportunities for staff to participate in Indigenous language training in several languages including Michif, Anishinaabemowin, and Ktunaxa ʔaʔkʔukaqwum (Kootenai).

**Health Canada**

*Partnerships, Collaboration, and Co-Development*

Health Canada engaged Indigenous Peoples on different health services and created information and supports that are available in Indigenous languages. These highlighted the need for plain-language materials and culturally safe services, to better meet the needs of Indigenous communities.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) supported multiple initiatives that incorporate Indigenous languages into health and wellness research.

Health Canada's Environmental Health Program (Ontario Region) collaborated with Matachewan First Nation and the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority on outreach and engagement activities. These discussions included identifying community language needs and exploring opportunities to translate materials in the future.

*Access*

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) funded programs, Indigenous languages are incorporated into ceremonies, cultural activities, and health-related resources, often supported by translation and interpretation services.

Through the *Working Together* and *Aging with Dignity* bilateral agreements, Health Canada supports provinces and territories in addressing local health priorities, including expanding Indigenous language interpretation services and strengthening healthcare programming.

In addition, the 2024 *Tri-Agency Policy on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership* includes commitments to support Indigenous language affirmations and protect Indigenous languages within research and funding processes, reinforcing their importance in identity and governance.

*Internal and Whole-of-Government Initiatives*

The Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) program aligns with federal commitments under the *Indigenous Languages Act* and the *Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework*, supporting coordinated efforts to revitalize Indigenous languages through early childhood programming.

**Transport Canada (TC)**

*Partnerships, Collaboration, and Co-Development*

TC is developing a *Collaborative Governance Framework*, to support Indigenous priorities, a key part of which is to protect and preserve Indigenous languages.

TC is also collaborating with the Assembly of First Nations and the Canadian Coast Guard to develop best practices and indicators for partnership including First Nations languages.

In collaboration with Innu communities in the St. Lawrence and Saguenay regions, the Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping (CEMS) initiative supported research led by Université Laval includes the documentation of marine-related terminology in Innu-aimun, contributing to the preservation of Indigenous languages.

*Promotion*

TC provides a range of materials, including meeting documentation and training material, in the North Baffin dialect of Inuktitut to ensure all relevant information is accessible. Meetings with community members and Elders are supported using translators.

*Funding*

In 2024, TC awarded funding over 2 years (2024-2026) to expand outreach efforts with Indigenous communities and ensure that related key resources were translated.

*Preservation, Documentation, and Maintenance of Language*

Sandspit Airport owned by Transport Canada was renamed K'il Kun Xidgwangs Daanaay Airport, meaning "Sandspit flying place." The name change was led by TC in collaboration with the Council of the Haida Nation and the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program, Elders and Knowledge Keepers working to preserve the Skidegate dialect of the Haida language.

*Initiatives Internal to Government*

Quarterly Indigenous Voices newsletter features a language section that highlights one Indigenous language, offers sample words and phrases for readers to try, and includes links to additional learning resources.

The Indigenous Learning Centre has an Indigenous Languages page that offers TC employees a variety of resources to help them learn the Indigenous languages specific to their province or territory.

Statistics Canada

*Partnerships, Collaboration, and Co-Development*

Over the past two years, Statistics Canada and the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages (OCIL) have strengthened their collaboration to improve data, analysis, and visibility related to Indigenous language use and vitality. Their work has included co-developing analytical reports, launching an interactive visualization tool, and sharing insights at national and international forums.

Key outputs include nine reports on Indigenous language vitality and a 2025 online dashboard that allows users to explore language data across regions. The partnership has also advanced new research areas, such as Indigenous language use in urban settings and among silent speakers. Formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding in March 2026, this collaboration supports Indigenous-led language revitalization efforts and enhances the national statistical system.

Building on the success of the reports on the use and vitality of Indigenous languages in 2024-2025, an *Indigenous Languages: Visualization Tool* was released in July 2025 featuring the co-developed statistical indicators.

In 2025, Statistics Canada and OCIL co-presented the nine reports at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), WAVES 2025: Global Indigenous Languages Summit, and Statistics Canada's Advisory Committee on Language Statistics.

*Census of Population*

To better capture responses from Indigenous language speakers, the 2026 Census of Population questionnaire was translated into 15 Indigenous languages and dialects. It gathers information on more than 70 Indigenous languages, which can be reported on at the community level and tracked over time. Data are collected on several language concepts, including mother tongue, knowledge of languages, languages used at home, and languages used at work.

*Initiatives Internal to Government*

Statistics Canada has launched an Indigenous Languages Learning Pilot to support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit employees in reconnecting with, reclaiming, or strengthening their Indigenous languages.

The pilot was developed collaboratively and informed by strong employee demand, offering self-directed learning, conversation groups, and virtual instructor-led courses in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), Mi'kmaw, Kanyen'kéha (Mohawk), Skarù·re? (Tuscarora), Nêhiyawêwin (Cree), and Southern Michif. Early results show meaningful cultural and personal benefits, with ongoing evaluation to inform future expansion.

**Canada Border Security Agency**

*Partnerships, Collaboration, and Co-Development*

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) participates and leads several cross-border Indigenous mobility tables used to understand the needs of nations, which also includes dialogue on signage and written materials produced in Indigenous languages.

Nations will provide feedback on how to be more inclusive of Indigenous Peoples who are crossing the border. This feedback is used to inform the Agency's programs and practices. Concerns have been raised with regards to Indigenous language inclusion.

*Promotion*

The CBSA has Indigenous Champions across the country who support Indigenous employees. The Champions promote key significant dates, Indigenous language awareness, and offer support with culturally specific topics.

*Access*

The CBSA is integrating Indigenous languages into the delivery of modernized traveller programs. For example, the proposed advance declaration process will include three Indigenous languages.

**Women and Gender Equality Canada**

*Whole-of-Government Initiatives*

The National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence (NAP to End GBV) recognizes the disproportionate impact of gender-based violence on Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. The NAP to End GBV recognizes that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis have distinct identities, cultures, traditions, languages, and intersectional identities.

Pillar 2 of the NAP to End GBV focuses on prevention and highlights the importance of producing materials and campaigns in multiple languages tailored to specific populations, including Indigenous Peoples.

*Initiatives Internal to Government*

WAGE established a learning series in 2024 to support cultural competency development and awareness across the department by hosting events for significant dates throughout the year. The Learning Series also aligns with the theme of supporting actions and initiatives that promote and raise awareness of Indigenous languages within the department.

**Library and Archives Canada**

*Partnerships, Collaboration, and Co-Development*

Project Naming is a community engagement and photo identification initiative where community members are invited to help identify people, places, and events, often contributing in their own languages to support Indigenous knowledge preservation.

At Ādisōke, the new joint facility of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and the Ottawa Public Library (OPL), Indigenous languages, particularly Anishinābemowin of the Algonquin Host Nation, are central to the space. The facility name, meaning "the telling of stories," reflects this focus, and languages are integrated through trilingual signage, named spaces, collections, and programming.

### *Promotion*

*Nations to Nations: Indigenous Voices at Library and Archives Canada* is a multimedia eBook featuring essays by Indigenous LAC staff. To recognize and reflect Indigenous languages, most essays are presented in the language or dialect of the people featured, with translations available through pop-up options.

LAC has digitized and uploaded more than 100 rare books to the Aurora library catalogue for public access, in over 25 Indigenous languages and/or dialects from North America.

In June 2025, LAC promoted its new resource guide of Indigenous language and culture recordings. Compiled by Indigenous archivists from across Canada, the guide features recordings in a variety of audiovisual formats, and in many Indigenous languages.

## **Veterans Affairs Canada**

### *Partnerships, Collaboration, and Co-Development*

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) renewed their partnership through a second Letter of Understanding in 2025. Indigenous languages are integrated throughout these efforts, including in commemorative programming delivered in collaboration with Indigenous partners across Canada and internationally.

### *Whole-of-Government Initiatives*

GBA Plus recognizes language loss has had a disproportionate impact on Indigenous Peoples and emphasizes how intersecting factors shape individual experiences. As a tool, GBA Plus supports reconciliation by ensuring policies are responsive to these diverse realities, particularly for Indigenous Veterans to identify barriers and promote inclusive, culturally appropriate supports.

### *Promotion*

VAC has developed a range of multilingual resources to improve access to information and services for Indigenous Veterans. VAC has also produced targeted outreach materials, including

a northern radio advertisement and social media campaigns highlighting Indigenous Veterans. Complementing these efforts, a guide to services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis service members is available in Inuktitut, English, and French, outlining the full range of departmental supports.

### *Access*

VAC supports Indigenous language use internationally through its commemorative and visitor experience programming, with Indigenous guides leading tours and participating in ceremonies, helping to create meaningful opportunities for cultural expression and language revitalization.

VAC has strengthened access to services for Indigenous Veterans by implementing and monitoring a referral process to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for mental wellness supports and the use of materials in Indigenous languages.

VAC's Field Operations uses posters in 17 Indigenous languages to raise awareness of available benefits and services, helping ensure information is accessible and culturally relevant to diverse Indigenous communities.

### *Preservation, Documentation, and Maintenance of Languages*

VAC's Commemorative Education Team worked with Indigenous partners to deliver learning materials recognizing the contributions of Indigenous Veterans which include a variety of language-based elements.

## Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

### *Promotion, Partnerships, and Whole-of-Government Initiatives*

In 2025-2026, ECCC continued to make efforts to include Indigenous languages to better understand the environment through a variety of projects and initiatives. In some ECCC branches, documentation, frameworks, and materials have been translated into different Indigenous languages to improve accessibility to initiatives.

In 2025, at ECCC's Zibi Building, Indigenous employees and Algonquin Elders named three boardrooms in Anishinabe Omamawinini, following a ceremony where teachings and cultural reflections were shared. Efforts to strengthen language learning included a session connecting Anishinaabemowin learners with a Kitigan Zibi Elder, while a translated Algonquin land acknowledgement was developed and installed as part of a trilingual plaque and mural to be unveiled in 2026.

Across the Canada Water Agency, inclusive practices were demonstrated through culturally appropriate interpretation services for a deaf Anishinaabe youth, support for Indigenous staff language training, and the integration of multiple Indigenous languages into meeting by translating key documents and providing interpretation in languages such as Cree, Ojibway, Oji-Cree, Mi'kmaq, Innu, and Inuktitut, while incorporating Indigenous terminology into English materials. These efforts were supported by formal policies, partnerships, and funding mechanisms that prioritize Indigenous language use, ensure culturally respectful translation, and promote meaningful engagement of Indigenous communities in federal processes.



# ANNEX B: AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
For  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**  
For the year ended  
**MARCH 31, 2026**

WelchLLP<sup>o</sup>

An Independent Member of BKR International

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the directors of  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**

*Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages (the Office), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2026, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Office as at March 31, 2026 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the period then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Office in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

*Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Office's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Office or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Office's financial reporting process.

*Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Office's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Office's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Office to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Welch LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario  
June 29, 2026.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
MARCH 31, 2026

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

|                                                | <u>2026</u>         | <u>2025</u>         |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b><u>ASSETS</u></b>                           |                     |                     |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                          |                     |                     |
| Cash                                           | \$                  | \$ 12,013           |
| Marketable securities (note 4)                 | 2,763               | 501,957             |
| Accounts receivable                            | 319                 |                     |
| Government remittances receivable              | 1,202,405           | 493,594             |
| Grants receivable                              | 523,378             |                     |
| Prepaid expenses                               | 236,398             | 199,355             |
| Deposits for events                            | <u>176,036</u>      | <u>1,666,610</u>    |
|                                                | 2,141,299           | 2,873,529           |
| <b>TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS</b> (note 5)        | <u>1,185,304</u>    | <u>1,385,565</u>    |
|                                                | <u>\$ 3,326,603</u> | <u>\$ 4,259,094</u> |
| <b><u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u></b>       |                     |                     |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                     |                     |                     |
| Bank indebtedness                              | \$ 6,531            | \$                  |
| Line of credit (note 10)                       | 140,000             |                     |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities       | 1,597,512           | 899,086             |
| Deferred revenue (note 6)                      | 302,021             | 1,872,055           |
| Deferred lease inducement                      | <u>89,691</u>       | <u>96,844</u>       |
|                                                | 2,135,755           | 2,867,985           |
| <b>DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b> (note 7) | <u>1,185,304</u>    | <u>1,385,565</u>    |
|                                                | <u>3,321,059</u>    | <u>4,253,550</u>    |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                              |                     |                     |
| Unrestricted                                   | <u>5,544</u>        | <u>5,544</u>        |
|                                                | <u>\$ 3,326,603</u> | <u>\$ 4,259,094</u> |

(See accompanying notes)

|                                                | <u>2026</u>       | <u>2025</u>       |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                                 |                   |                   |
| Contributions (note 8)                         | \$ 20,828,939     | \$ 11,580,915     |
| Sponsorships (note 2)                          | 504,171           |                   |
| Amortization of deferred capital contributions | 244,571           | 296,203           |
| Investment income                              | <u>129,094</u>    | <u>250,628</u>    |
|                                                | <u>21,706,775</u> | <u>12,127,746</u> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                |                   |                   |
| Events and gatherings (note 2)                 | 12,464,518        | 2,042,373         |
| Consultants                                    | 4,285,955         | 4,483,987         |
| Salaries and benefits                          | 2,697,180         | 3,511,619         |
| Travel                                         | 814,061           | 649,424           |
| Office expenses                                | 582,946           | 509,345           |
| Amortization                                   | 244,571           | 296,203           |
| Rent                                           | 214,274           | 228,286           |
| Professional fees                              | 124,186           | 158,637           |
| Advertising                                    | 121,478           | 46,773            |
| Utilities                                      | 69,071            | 64,316            |
| Non-refundable portion of HST rebate           | 43,658            | 82,988            |
| Insurance                                      | 28,614            | 22,543            |
| Training                                       | 6,523             | 3,794             |
| Interest and bank charges                      | 5,695             | 7,158             |
| Repairs and maintenance                        | <u>4,045</u>      | <u>20,300</u>     |
|                                                | <u>21,706,775</u> | <u>12,127,746</u> |
| <b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>         |                   |                   |
| <b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>           | <u>5,544</u>      | <u>5,544</u>      |
| <b>Net assets, end of year</b>                 | <u>\$ 5,544</u>   | <u>\$ 5,544</u>   |

(See accompanying notes)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

|                                                    | 2026              | 2025              |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN)</b>                  |                   |                   |
| <b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>                        |                   |                   |
| Excess of revenue over expenses                    | \$                | \$                |
| Items not affecting cash:                          |                   |                   |
| Investment income reinvested                       | (131,441)         | (250,140)         |
| Amortization of deferred capital contributions     | (244,571)         | (296,203)         |
| Amortization expense                               | <u>244,571</u>    | <u>296,203</u>    |
|                                                    | (131,441)         | (250,140)         |
| Changes in non-cash working capital components:    |                   |                   |
| Accounts receivable                                | (319)             | 61,464            |
| Prepaid expenses                                   | (37,043)          | 142,797           |
| Deposits for events                                | 1,490,574         | (1,666,610)       |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities           | 698,426           | (352,872)         |
| Government remittances receivable                  | (708,811)         | (31,522)          |
| Deferred revenue                                   | (1,570,034)       | 1,872,055         |
| Repayable to funder                                |                   | (2,437)           |
| Deferred lease inducement                          | (7,153)           | (4,077)           |
| Grants receivable                                  | (523,378)         |                   |
|                                                    | <u>(789,179)</u>  | <u>(231,342)</u>  |
| <b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>                        |                   |                   |
| Purchase of investments                            | (17,109,310)      | (14,470,000)      |
| Purchase of tangible capital assets                | (44,310)          | (90,190)          |
| Proceeds from sale of investments                  | <u>17,739,945</u> | <u>14,717,188</u> |
|                                                    | <u>586,325</u>    | <u>156,998</u>    |
| <b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>                        |                   |                   |
| Deferred capital contributions received            | 44,310            | 90,190            |
| Line of credit advances                            | <u>140,000</u>    |                   |
|                                                    | <u>184,310</u>    | <u>90,190</u>     |
| <b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>                 | (18,544)          | 15,846            |
| <b>CASH (BANK INDEBTEDNESS), BEGINNING OF YEAR</b> | <u>12,013</u>     | <u>(3,833)</u>    |
| <b>CASH (BANK INDEBTEDNESS), END OF YEAR</b>       | <u>\$ (6,531)</u> | <u>\$ 12,013</u>  |

(See accompanying notes)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Indigenous Language Act ("the Act") established the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages (the Office) which received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019. The Office became operational upon the Office's appointment which occurred on July 12, 2021. The Office is composed of a full-time Commissioner and three full-time Directors who represent the interests of First Nation, Inuit and Metis. As a not-for-profit organization according to the Income Tax Act, the Organization is exempt from income tax.

Acknowledging that Indigenous peoples are best placed to take the leading role in reclaiming, revitalizing, maintaining and strengthening their languages, the Office plays a role in supporting self-determined language initiatives.

Under the Act, the Office will, among other things:

- help promote Indigenous languages;
- support the efforts of Indigenous peoples to reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen their languages;
- facilitate the resolution of disputes and review complaints to the extent provided by this Act;
- promote public awareness of the richness and diversity of Indigenous languages; and
- support innovative projects and the use of new technologies in Indigenous language education and revitalization, in cooperation with Indigenous governments and other Indigenous governing bodies, Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada and provincial and territorial governments.

The Office will report annually on the use and vitality of Indigenous languages in Canada, the adequacy of funding provided for Indigenous language initiatives and the needs (and progress made) of Indigenous groups, communities and peoples and entities that are specialized in Indigenous languages with regard to the revitalization of Indigenous languages.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

*Basis of accounting*

The accounting policies of the Office are in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Revenue recognition*

The Office uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year the related expenses are incurred. Restricted contributions with respect to the acquisition of tangible capital assets that are amortized are deferred and amortized to revenue on the same basis as the related tangible capital asset that is amortized to expense. Unrestricted contributions are recognized when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Sponsorships are recognized as revenue in the period in which the related event or activity occurs, provided the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - Cont'd.

*Contributed materials and services*

The Office receives contributed materials and services in support of its activities, including sponsorships related to events and gatherings. These contributions are recognized in the financial statements where the fair value can be reasonably estimated and the materials and services would otherwise have been purchased by the Office in the normal course of operations. During the year, approximately \$151,000 (2025 - \$nil) of contributed materials and services were recognized in the statement of operations as sponsorship revenue, with a corresponding amount recognized in events and gathering expenses.

*Tangible capital assets*

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of the tangible capital assets under the following method and rate:

|                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Computer and office equipment | - 55% declining balance      |
| Furniture                     | - 20% declining balance      |
| Leasehold improvements        | - Over the term of the lease |

Amortization is recorded at one-half of the above rate in the year of acquisition.

*Deferred lease inducement*

The Office recognizes rent expense on its premises on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Lease inducements received by the Office as rent free periods are deferred and amortized over a straight-line basis over the term of the lease as a reduction in the rent expense.

*Use of estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future. Areas of significant estimates include the determination of significant accounts payable and accrued liabilities, the useful lives of tangible capital assets and related deferred capital contributions.

*Financial instruments*

The Office initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value. Cash and marketable securities are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are measured at amortized cost at the year end date.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Office is exposed to and manages various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Office's risk exposure and concentrations at March 31, 2026.

*Credit risk*

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Office's exposure to credit risk relates primarily to its cash, marketable securities and amounts receivable, including government remittances and grants receivable. The Office's cash consists of deposits with a Canadian chartered bank and marketable securities are held with a national investment brokerage and as a result, management believes the risk of loss of these items to be remote.

*Liquidity risk*

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Office cannot meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they become due. The Office manages this risk by monitoring cash flows and maintaining access to financing through its credit facilities. As described in Note 10, the Office has access to a line of credit and utilizes bank indebtedness in the normal course of operations. These arrangements expose the Office to liquidity risk to the extent that sufficient cash flows are not available to meet repayment obligations as they arise.

*Market risk*

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of interest rate risk, currency risk and other price risk.

i) *Interest rate risk*

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the financial instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Office is exposed to interest rate risk on its line of credit and bank indebtedness, which bear interest at variable rates. Fluctuations in market interest rates could affect the amount of interest expense incurred on these borrowings and, as a result, impact the Office's operating results and cash flows.

ii) *Currency risk*

Currency risk refers to the risk that the fair value of instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate relative to the Canadian dollar due to changes in foreign exchange rates.

The Office's financial instruments are all denominated in Canadian dollars and it transacts primarily in Canadian dollars. As a result, management does not believe it is exposed to significant currency risk.

iii) *Other price risk*

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market. Since the Office does not have investments in publicly traded securities, it is not exposed to significant other price risk.

*Changes in risk*

During the current year, the Office has increased its reliance on short-term financing, including its line of credit and bank indebtedness, which has resulted in greater exposure to liquidity and interest rate risk. Apart from this, there have been no significant changes in the Office's risk exposures from the prior year.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Cont'd.  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

4. MARKETABLE SECURITIES

Marketable securities consist of the following:

|                                                                                  | <u>2026</u>     | <u>2025</u>       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Royal Bank of Canada</b>                                                      |                 |                   |
| Premium investment account bearing interest at rates varying from 1.21% to 4.53% | \$ <u>2,763</u> | \$ <u>501,957</u> |

5. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

Tangible capital assets consist of the following:

|                          | <u>2026</u>         |                                 | <u>2025</u>         |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
|                          | <u>Cost</u>         | <u>Accumulated amortization</u> | <u>Cost</u>         | <u>Accumulated amortization</u> |
| Leasehold improvements   | \$ 1,237,620        | \$ 308,670                      | \$ 1,237,620        | \$ 184,908                      |
| Computer equipment       | 564,796             | 478,603                         | 520,258             | 400,334                         |
| Furniture and fixtures   | <u>340,848</u>      | <u>170,687</u>                  | <u>341,075</u>      | <u>128,146</u>                  |
|                          | 2,143,264           | \$ 957,960                      | 2,098,953           | \$ 713,388                      |
| Accumulated amortization | <u>957,960</u>      |                                 | <u>713,388</u>      |                                 |
|                          | \$ <u>1,185,304</u> |                                 | \$ <u>1,385,565</u> |                                 |

6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred contributions relate to the unspent portion of grants and contributions received from the Ministry of Canadian Heritage at year-end. An overall reconciliation will be completed at the end of the agreements. Total funding, including unrestricted amounts, will be considered in determining whether a surplus exists and if so, repayment may be required.

As part of this, \$353,171 of unrestricted funding from other donors has been recognized in sponsorship revenue. While unrestricted in nature, these amounts may still be considered in the overall surplus calculation upon final reconciliation.

Given this uncertainty, revenue from the Ministry has effectively been limited so that no surplus is reported, to avoid overstating revenue as it remains unclear whether any excess surplus will ultimately be permitted to retained.

Deferred contribution activities consist of the following:

|                                                                    | <u>2026</u>       | <u>2025</u>         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year                                         | \$ 1,872,055      | \$                  |
| Add:                                                               |                   |                     |
| Funds received - net of repayments                                 | 18,779,837        | 13,543,160          |
| Funds receivable                                                   | 523,378           |                     |
| Less:                                                              |                   |                     |
| Contributions recognized as revenue                                | (20,828,939)      | (11,580,915)        |
| Contributions related to tangible capital assets acquired (note 7) | <u>(44,310)</u>   | <u>(90,190)</u>     |
| Balance, end of period                                             | \$ <u>302,021</u> | \$ <u>1,872,055</u> |

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Cont'd.  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

7. DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred capital contribution activities consist of the following:

|                                                                  | <u>2026</u>         | <u>2025</u>         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year                                       | \$ 1,385,565        | \$ 1,591,578        |
| Add:                                                             |                     |                     |
| Capital asset additions (note 6)                                 | 44,310              | 90,190              |
| Less:                                                            |                     |                     |
| Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets | <u>(244,571)</u>    | <u>(296,203)</u>    |
| Balance, end of period                                           | \$ <u>1,185,304</u> | \$ <u>1,385,565</u> |

8. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Government of Canada funds the Office's activities. They represent approximately 97% (2025 - 98%) of the Office's revenues. The funding agreement includes a provision allowing the Government to reduce or terminate funding with 90 days' written notice. All eligible expenses incurred during the notice period would be covered by the Government. As of the date of the audit, no such notice has been received from the Government.

9. COMMITMENTS

The Office has entered into four lease agreements, one for a printer and the remaining leases for offices in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Saskatoon. The Office has entered into two contracts that requires payment upon completion of the projects. Finally, the Office is hosting Michif Language Conference in July 2026. The total gross commitments are as follows:

|              | <u>Leases</u>       | <u>Other</u>      |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2027         | \$ 290,584          | \$ 832,639        |
| 2028         | 288,994             | 531               |
| 2029         | 301,697             |                   |
| 2030         | 321,740             |                   |
| 2031 onwards | <u>889,437</u>      |                   |
|              | \$ <u>2,092,452</u> | \$ <u>833,170</u> |

10. CREDIT FACILITY

The Office has access to credit facilities. Outstanding instruments on this facility as at March 31, 2026 include the following:

- A line of credit, payable on demand, with interest payable monthly at bank prime rate plus 1.50% per annum and a credit limit of \$1,575,000. As at March 31, 2026, there is a balance owing of \$140,000 (2025 - \$nil).
- A Royal Bank of Canada Commercial Card with a maximum approved limit of \$350,000. As at March 31, 2026, the balance on the Visa card was \$60,029 (2025 - \$36,226). Payments on the Visa card are made monthly. No interest payments were made during the fiscal year and is included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

All facilities are secured by a general security agreement, including interest in the undertaking of the Office and over all of its personal property.

11. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Comparative figures have been reclassified where necessary to conform to the presentation adopted in the current year.





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