

# TUNGASUVVINGAT INUIT PRESENTS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN ONTARIO INUKTITUT LANGUAGE STRATEGY” TO THE MINISTRY OF ONTARIO

Tungasuvvingat Inuit

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The United Nations has declared 2019 as International Year of Indigenous Languages. The international observance aims to raise awareness of the consequences of the endangerment of Indigenous languages around the world. It is hoped this year-long initiative will establish a link between language, development, peace and true reconciliation.

Tungasuvvingat Inuit has presented “Uqausivut Sanngijuutilavut (Keeping Our Language Strong): Recommendations for an Ontario Inuktitut Strategy” to the Ministry of Education. Uqausivut Sanngijuutilavut was developed to address the need for a provincial strategic plan to protect and strengthen Inuktitut in Ontario. The Recommendations describe the benefits of undertaking Inuktitut protection and identify key action items which could strengthen Inuktitut in the province.

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The number of Inuktitut speakers in Ontario is increasing due to migration of Inuit away from Inuit Nunangat. Inuktitut has become the most-spoken Indigenous mother tongue in Ottawa and remains the second most common mother tongue of Indigenous languages in Canada. However, the latest census statistics demonstrate that Inuit children in Ontario are losing Inuktitut as their first language. Creating options for language learning and growth would help strengthen Inuit cultural identities and support the efforts of language learners to take an active role in learning Inuktitut.

The recommendations in the report are based on community engagements held in different parts of the province, as well as extensive research into best practices for Indigenous language revitalization. Key recommendations include an Inuktitut Language Centre dedicated to Inuktitut learning and promotion, teacher-training to increase the number of Inuktitut teachers in the province, language nests and child-focused language programs, an adult Inuktitut immersion program, and an increase of Inuktitut print, radio, television and digital media in Ontario.

Tungasuvvingat Inuit is optimistic that the Ontario Ministry of Education will carefully review and accept the recommendations set out in Uqausivut Sanngijuutilavut.

Read the Report



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