



Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

October 18–20, 2022

Resolution #: RSA-22-10-08

Inuktitut Language

Moved by: Jayko Palongayak

Seconded by: Kono Tattuinee

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) acknowledges the right of Indigenous People including Inuit of Nunavut to revitalize, use, develop and transmit our language, writing systems and literature to future generations;

AND WHEREAS Canada has affirmed that the UN Declaration has application in Canadian law through the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UN Declaration Act);

AND WHEREAS the delivery of quality Inuktitut education to our children, the establishment of Inuktitut as a real language of work and the provision of effective public sector services in Inuktitut through all levels of government are examples of the necessary measures that government must take under the *UN Declaration Act* in order to realize the rights belonging to Inuit of Nunavut with respect to language;

AND WHEREAS the Members have long advocated for preservation and revitalization of Inuktitut, having passed resolution RSA-17-10-07 noting that government services in Nunavut continue to be delivered primarily in the English language, creating an unfair and unacceptable situation and calling for the Government of Canada to recognize Inuktitut as an official language within Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS the Members also passed resolution RSA-18-10-09 directing NTI to continue its advocacy for federal legislation that would promote language legislation that will contribute, in meaningful and measurable ways, to Inuktitut being the primary language of work, education, and delivery of public sector programs and services, in Nunavut and in other parts of Inuit Nunangat;

AND WHEREAS while NTI has zealously carried out this direction by bringing a legal claim to protect the continued delivery of Inuktitut education in Nunavut, by advocating for the federal *Indigenous Languages Act*, which passed into law on June 21, 2019, and by working to establish funding arrangements and regulations under the Act to support, revitalize and strengthen Inuktitut in Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS it is anticipated that, without further legal and policy measures in place or full implementation of current Inuktitut language protection legislation, in 30 years' time, Inuktitut will be spoken at home by only 4% of Inuit in Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS stopping and reversing the decline of Inuktitut would not only be consistent with the spirit of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Canada but also provides an opportunity for the government to showcase its resolve to take solid, affirmative steps to remedy and reverse the disastrous impacts of Canada's past and current colonial policies including residential schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Members call on governments to acknowledge that Nunavut, the only jurisdiction with a majority Inuit population and with Inuktitut, an Indigenous language, being spoken by the majority of the population, is unique and as a result, governments have a positive obligation to stop and reverse the decline of Inuktitut through all available legal, policy and financial means;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NTI Membership calls upon the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada to take all measures necessary to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the *UNDRIP Act*, the *Indigenous Languages Act*, the *Nunavut Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and to give meaning to the commitments made to collaborate in a respectful, open and transparent way to strengthen the use of Inuktitut and increase the provision of programs and services in Inuktitut in the territory.

In Favour: 15

Against:

Abstentions: 1

Carried:

Defeated:

Dated: October 19, 2022