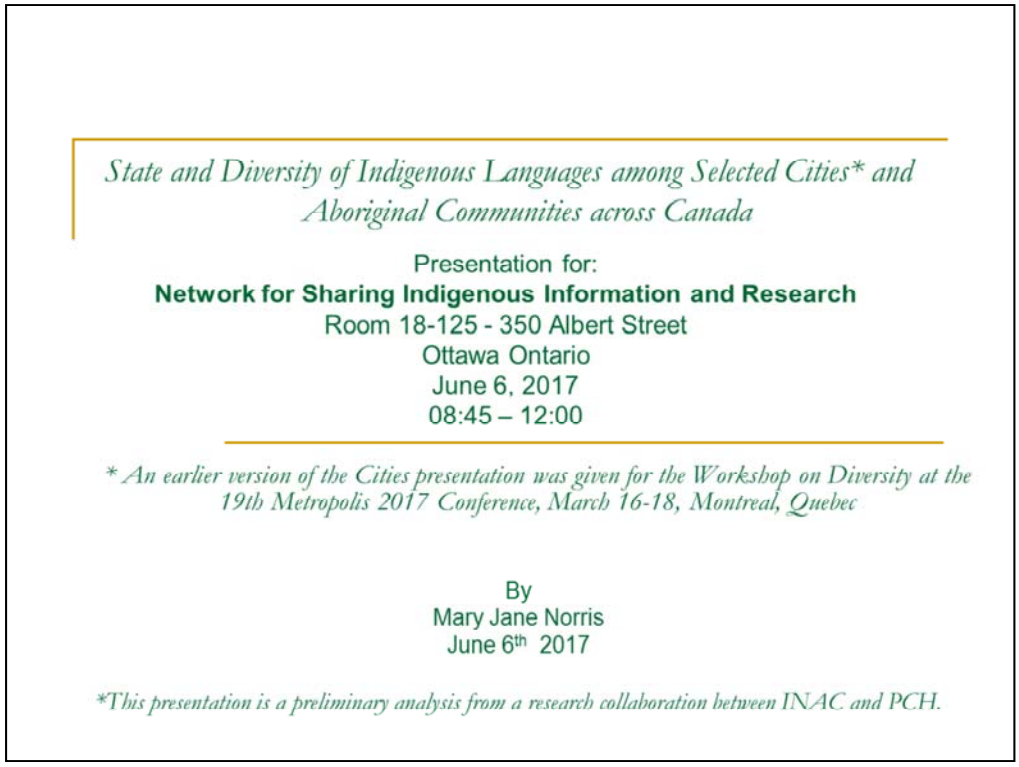

This presentation on the "State and Diversity of Indigenous Languages in Canada" is in two parts: the first is on selected cities and, the second is about Aboriginal Communities – on reserves, settlements and in rural areas – across Canada.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the departments of Canadian Heritage (PCH) and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) in making this work possible.

The first part of the presentation on the "State and Diversity of Indigenous Languages in Selected Cities", is a preliminary analysis from a research collaboration between the two departments.

The second part on Aboriginal communities across Canada reflects previous research-related work with Canadian Heritage on the documentation and classification of Aboriginal Languages in Canada.

**Opinions and statements attributed to Mary Jane Norris in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Canadian Heritage (PCH) or the Government of Canada*

*Indigenous Languages Live Everywhere **

First Nation, Inuit and Metis languages are spoken throughout Canada:

In urban Aboriginal communities, urban areas and cities across Canada;

and,

In hundreds of Aboriginal communities – reserves, settlements and rural areas – across Canada.

** Heather Blair, Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI), University of Alberta, May, 2017.*

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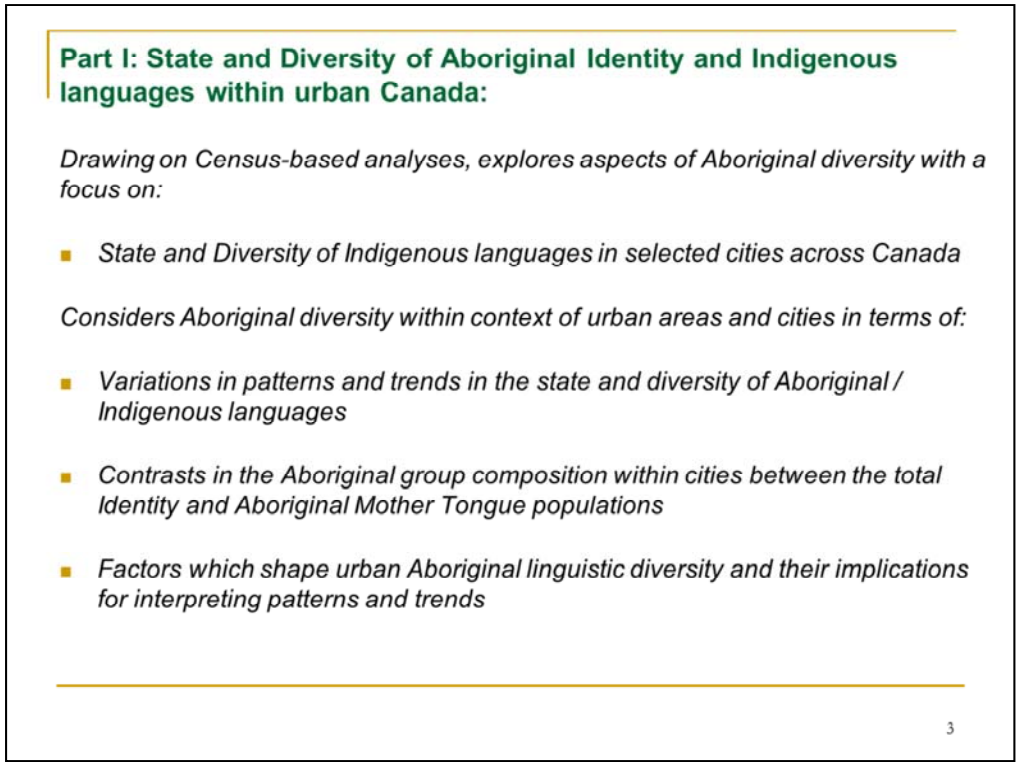
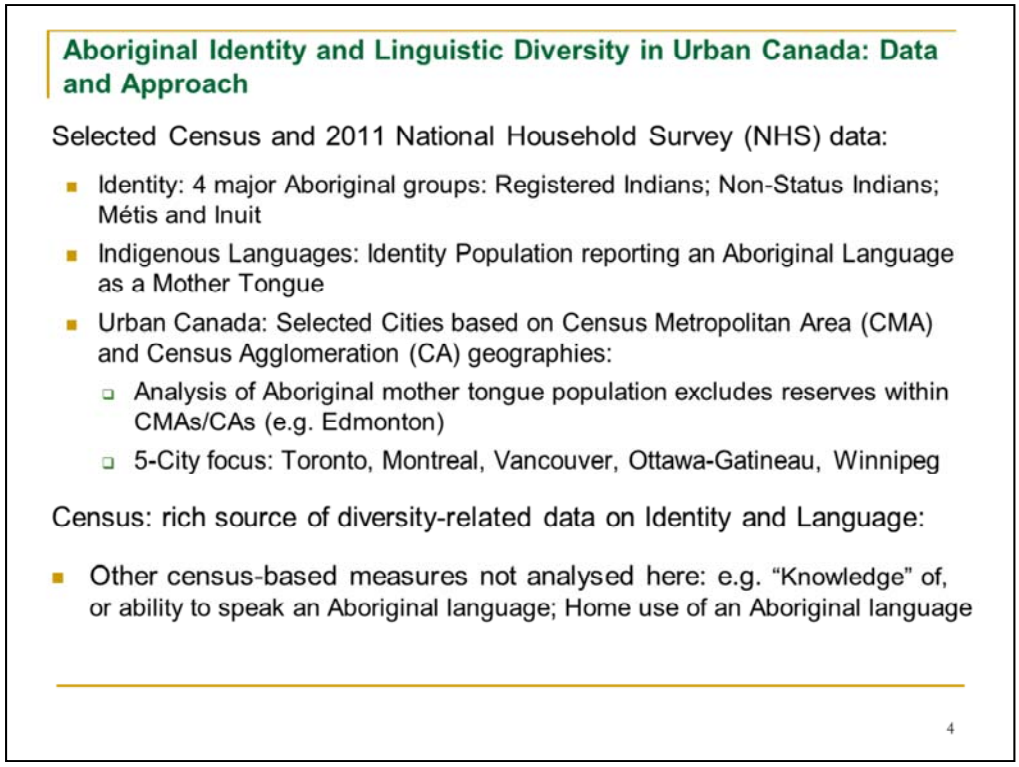


The first part of this presentation draws on Census-based analyses and looks at aspects of diversity among Aboriginal peoples, with a focus on the state and diversity of Indigenous languages in selected cities across Canada.

It considers Aboriginal diversity within the context of urban Canada in terms of:

- Variations in the state and trends in the diversity of Aboriginal or Indigenous languages across cities
- Contrasts in the Aboriginal group composition within cities between the total Identity and Aboriginal mother tongue populations
- Factors which shape urban Aboriginal linguistic diversity and their implications for interpreting patterns and trends across different cities

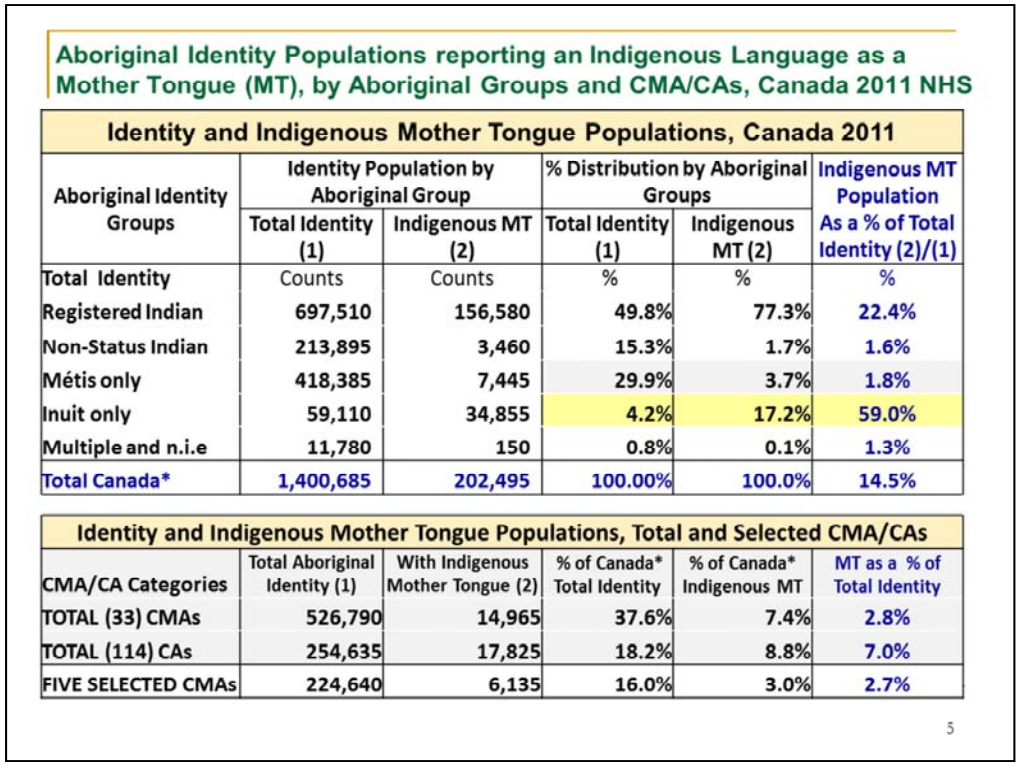


Aboriginal Identity and Linguistic Diversity in Urban Canada: Data and Approach

- This analysis is based on Census and National Household Survey (NHS) data; as well as previous research. Selected variables include the Aboriginal Identity population based on self-reported Identities and legal status, configured into four major Aboriginal groups: Registered Indians; Non-Status Indians; Métis and Inuit.
- Indigenous Languages measures are derived for the Aboriginal Identity population reporting an Indigenous language as a mother tongue.
- Selected Cities, large and small are used for "Urban Canada", based on Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) (large cities) and Census Agglomeration (CA) geographies (smaller cities and urban areas) .
- For comparison purposes, analysis of Indigenous mother tongue population within Individual cities excludes any reserves within CMAs/CA boundaries (e.g. Edmonton)

The focus is on five cities, including: Winnipeg, the city (CMA) with the largest Aboriginal population across Canada, and the four largest CMA cities in Canada in 2011 of Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa-Gatineau.

Census provides a rich source of diversity-related data on Aboriginal Identity and Languages: Other census-based measures not analysed here: e.g. "Knowledge" of, or ability to speak an Aboriginal language; Home use of an Aboriginal language.



Aboriginal Identity Populations reporting an Indigenous Language as a Mother Tongue (MT), by Aboriginal Groups and CMA/CAs, Canada 2011 NHS

Identity and Indigenous Mother Tongue Populations, Canada 2011

Aboriginal Identity Groups	Identity Population by Aboriginal Group		% Distribution by Aboriginal Groups		Indigenous MT Population As a % of Total Identity (2)/(1)
	Total Identity (1)	Indigenous MT (2)	Total Identity (1)	Indigenous MT (2)	
Total Identity	Counts	Counts	%	%	%
Registered Indian	697,510	156,580	49.8%	77.3%	22.4%
Non-Status Indian	213,895	3,460	15.3%	1.7%	1.6%
Métis only	418,385	7,445	29.9%	3.7%	1.8%
Inuit only	59,110	34,855	4.2%	17.2%	59.0%
Multiple and n.i.e	11,780	150	0.8%	0.1%	1.3%
Total Canada*	1,400,685	202,495	100.00%	100.0%	14.5%

Identity and Indigenous Mother Tongue Populations, Total and Selected CMA/CAs

CMA/CA Categories	Total Aboriginal Identity (1)	With Indigenous Mother Tongue (2)	% of Canada* Total Identity	% of Canada* Indigenous MT	MT as a % of Total Identity
TOTAL (33) CMAs	526,790	14,965	37.6%	7.4%	2.8%
TOTAL (114) CAs	254,635	17,825	18.2%	8.8%	7.0%
FIVE SELECTED CMAs	224,640	6,135	16.0%	3.0%	2.7%

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This slide provides an overview of “Some Selected Summary Statistics on Aboriginal Identity Group and Indigenous Mother Tongue (MT) Populations in Canada for 2011”.

It shows there were 1.4 million Aboriginal people in Canada in 2011; of whom 202,500 or 14.5% reported an Aboriginal language as a mother tongue.

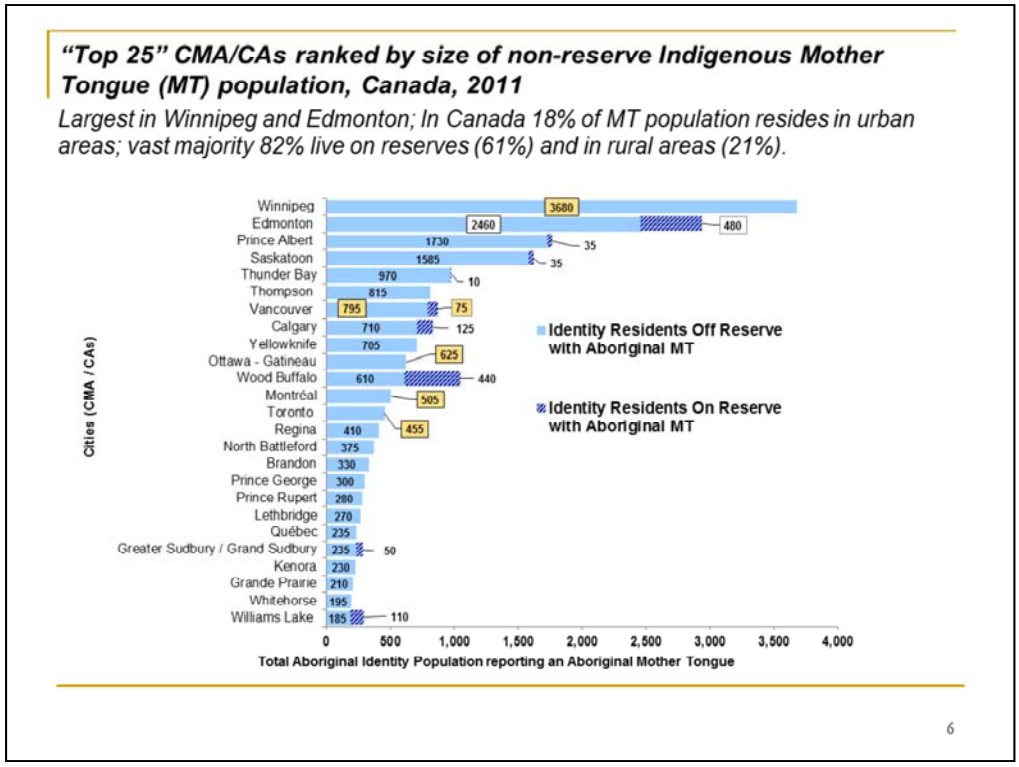
It also illustrates the significant variation across different Aboriginal groups in their proportions reporting an Aboriginal mother tongue (e.g. about 2% of Métis and non-Status Indians reported an Aboriginal mother tongue, compared to 22% of Registered Indians and 59% of Inuit).

These differences across Aboriginal groups are reflected in the contrasts of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit composition between the Identity and mother tongue populations for Canada overall and within cities.

For example in Canada overall in 2011, while the Inuit Identity population represented 4.2% of the total Aboriginal Identity population, the Inuit mother tongue population represented a much larger share, 17.2%, of the Aboriginal or Indigenous mother tongue population. The situation is reversed for Métis: in 2011 the Métis represented 30% of the total Aboriginal Identity population; whereas the Métis population reporting an Aboriginal mother tongue accounted for about 4% of the total Aboriginal mother tongue population.

In terms of geography in Canada in 2011, over half a million, 526,790 Aboriginal people resided within the 33 CMAs (large cities) in total, representing 38% of the total Aboriginal Identity population; and the corresponding Indigenous mother tongue population of about 15,000 or 7.4% of the total Indigenous mother tongue population of 202,500.

In the case of the five major cities of focus, the total number of Aboriginal people residing within these cities in 2011 was 224,640 or 16% of the Identity population in Canada. Among these Aboriginal residents, the number reporting an Indigenous mother tongue was 6,135 persons, representing a disproportionately lower share at about 3% of the total mother tongue population of 202,500.



We begin with the Aboriginal Identity population reporting an Aboriginal language as a Mother Tongue (MT) in cities across Canada in 2011. Here, the "Top 25" cities are ranked by the size of the city's Non-reserve Aboriginal MT Population.

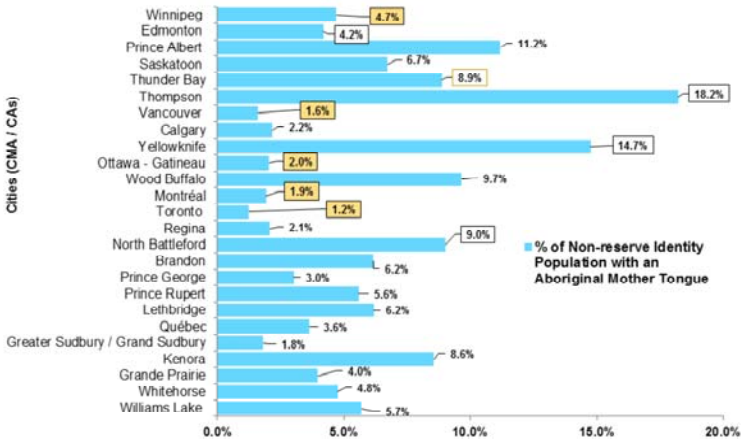
Over 1996 to 2011, Winnipeg and Edmonton have consistently posted the largest numbers of residents reporting an Aboriginal language as a mother tongue. In 2011, about 3,700 Aboriginal residents in Winnipeg reported an Indigenous language as a mother tongue. In Edmonton close to 3,000 Aboriginal people reported an Indigenous mother tongue, of whom nearly 500 resided on reserve locations within the city boundaries.

Out of Canada's total Aboriginal MT population of 203,745 in 2011, 99.4% report an Aboriginal Identity.

In 2011, of the 202,500 Aboriginal people in Canada who reported an Aboriginal mother tongue, 18% resided in urban areas while the vast majority, the remaining 82%, lived on reserves (61%) and in rural areas (21%).

Proportion of non-reserve Identity residents with Indigenous Mother Tongue (MT) by "Top 25" CMA/CAs, 2011

Proportions lower in Winnipeg & Edmonton compared to smaller Prairie & Northern cities; in Canada 14.5% of Identity population report MT; Off Reserve =7.4%; On-Reserve=38%



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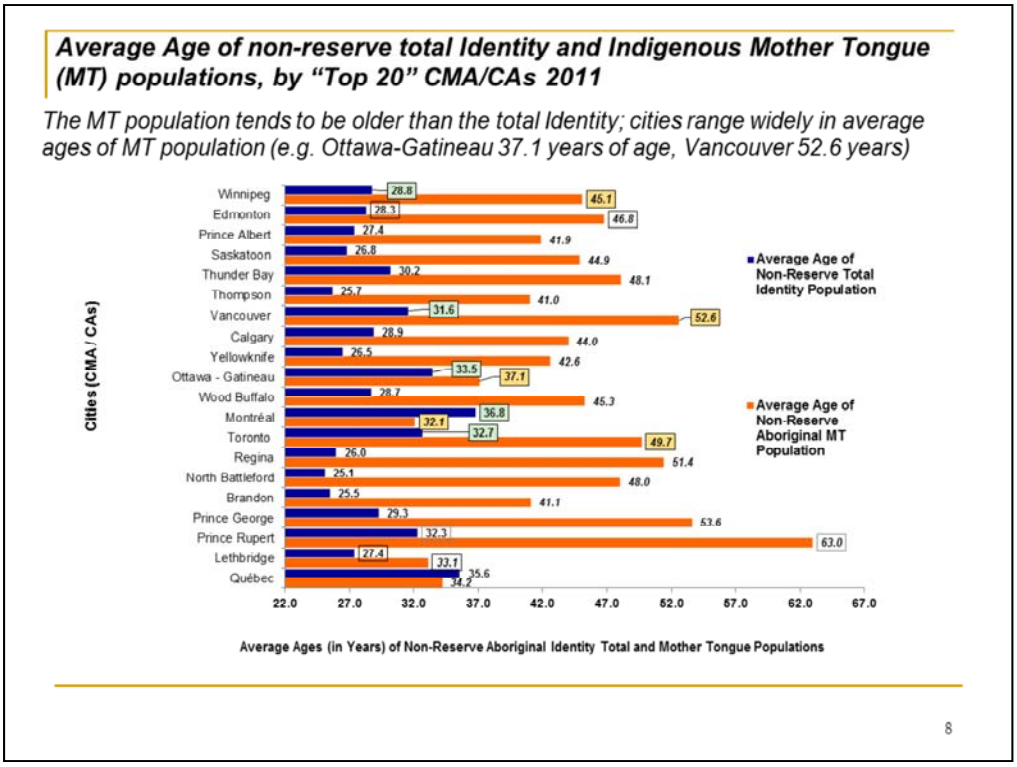
This slide provides the proportions of the non-reserve Aboriginal Identity population within cities reporting an Aboriginal Mother Tongue (MT) for the same set of ranked "Top 25" cities.

It shows that although Winnipeg and Edmonton have the largest Aboriginal mother tongue populations, percentages of Aboriginal residents with an Aboriginal MT tend to be highest in some of the smaller Prairie and Northern cities. For example, about 5% of Aboriginal residents in Winnipeg report an Aboriginal mother tongue, compared to almost 15% of Aboriginal residents in Yellowknife.

Among the total 1.4 million Aboriginal Identity population in 2011, 14.5% or 202,495 people in Canada overall reported an Aboriginal MT. This proportion varies by place of residence, for example, among the Aboriginal population residing off reserve, 7.4% reported an Indigenous mother tongue, compared to 38% of Aboriginal residents on reserve.



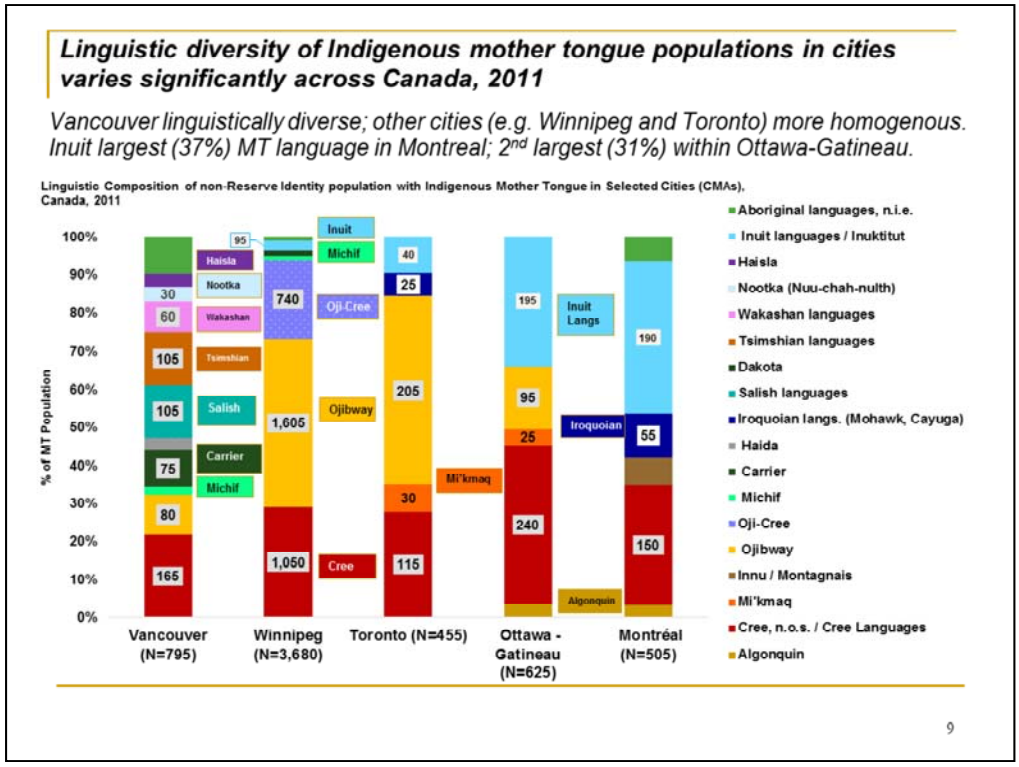
The state of Indigenous Languages is an important consideration for interpreting patterns and trends in diversity. One indicator is "Average Age" of the Aboriginal mother tongue (MT) population.

This slide provides the average ages of two populations for 2011 within each city: the total Identity population and the Indigenous mother tongue population.

It shows that among Aboriginal residents in most cities, the Aboriginal MT population tends to be older than the total Identity population. For example, within Winnipeg, the Aboriginal population reporting an Indigenous mother tongue was older, at an average age of 45 years, compared to total Identity population, with an average age of 29 years.

The wide range across cities in the average ages of their mother tongue populations reflects differences in underlying linguistic compositions. For example, the average age of the mother tongue population is younger in Ottawa-Gatineau, at 37 years of age, compared to Vancouver at almost 53 years.

The reasons for such differences are illustrated in the next slide.



This slide shows the linguistic composition and diversity of the Aboriginal mother tongue populations within the five selected cities, yielding 18 categories of languages.

Cities across Canada differ significantly in the diversity of their Indigenous languages:

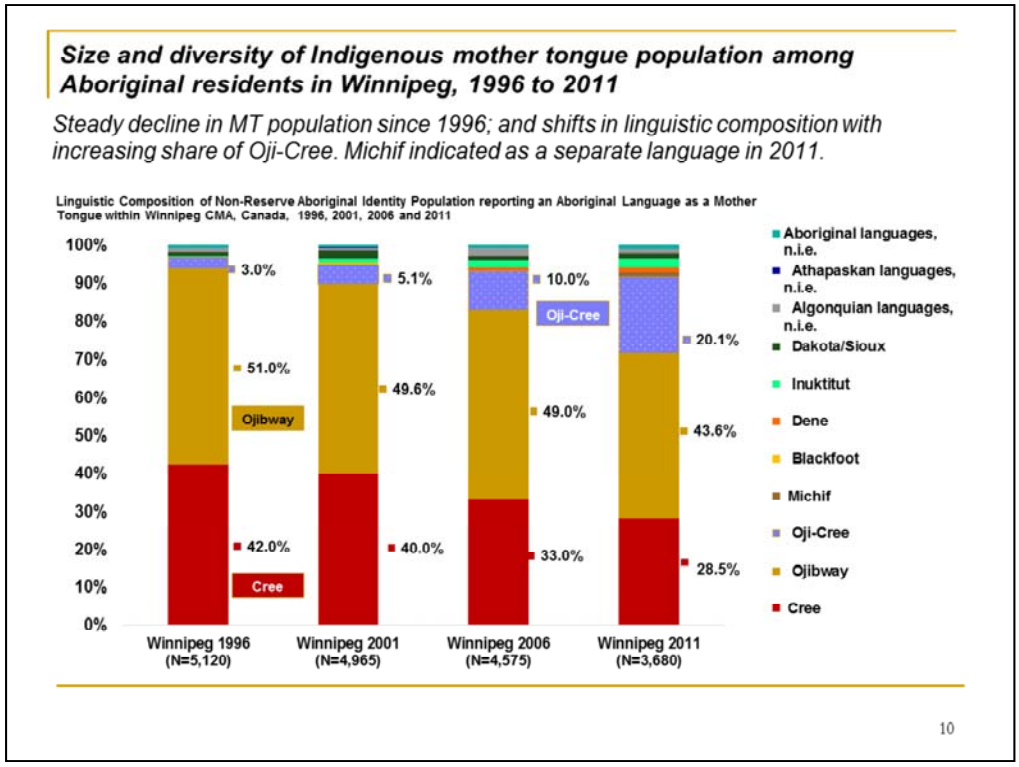
- Vancouver is linguistically diverse; other cities (e.g. Winnipeg and Toronto) more homogenous; Inuit largest (37%) MT language in Montreal; 2nd largest (31%) within Ottawa-Gatineau.

These inter-city differences in patterns have been fairly consistent over previous censuses, from 1996 on (Norris, 2011*):

In Winnipeg and Toronto, the two largest languages of Cree and Ojibway account for at least 70% each of Aboriginal MT populations; a contrast to just 34% for Cree and Salish combined, two of the largest languages in the much more linguistically diverse Vancouver.

The Inuit language accounts for largest share (37%) of Montreal's MT population; 2nd largest (31%) in Ottawa-Gatineau. The relative vitality of Inuit languages is reflected in the lower average ages of the MT populations in these cities.

**Norris, M.J. (2011) "Aboriginal Languages in Selected Cities in Canada: A Decade in Review, 1996 to 2006: Part Two" in Aboriginal Policy Studies journal in aboriginal policy studies 1 (3) Editor Chris Andersen,*
http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/aps/article/view/12561



A Winnipeg-related example is illustrated here in relation to changes in reporting patterns over censuses, and to differences in the state and diversity of a city's various Indigenous languages.

It gives the different Indigenous languages that were reported as mother tongues by Aboriginal residents in Winnipeg from 1996 to 2011.

- It shows that the Identity population in Winnipeg reporting an Aboriginal mother tongue overall has seen a steady decline since 1996.
- Trends over the 15-year period in the diversity of the Indigenous mother tongue point to a shift in linguistic composition towards an increasing share of Oji-Cree in Winnipeg's Aboriginal mother tongue population.

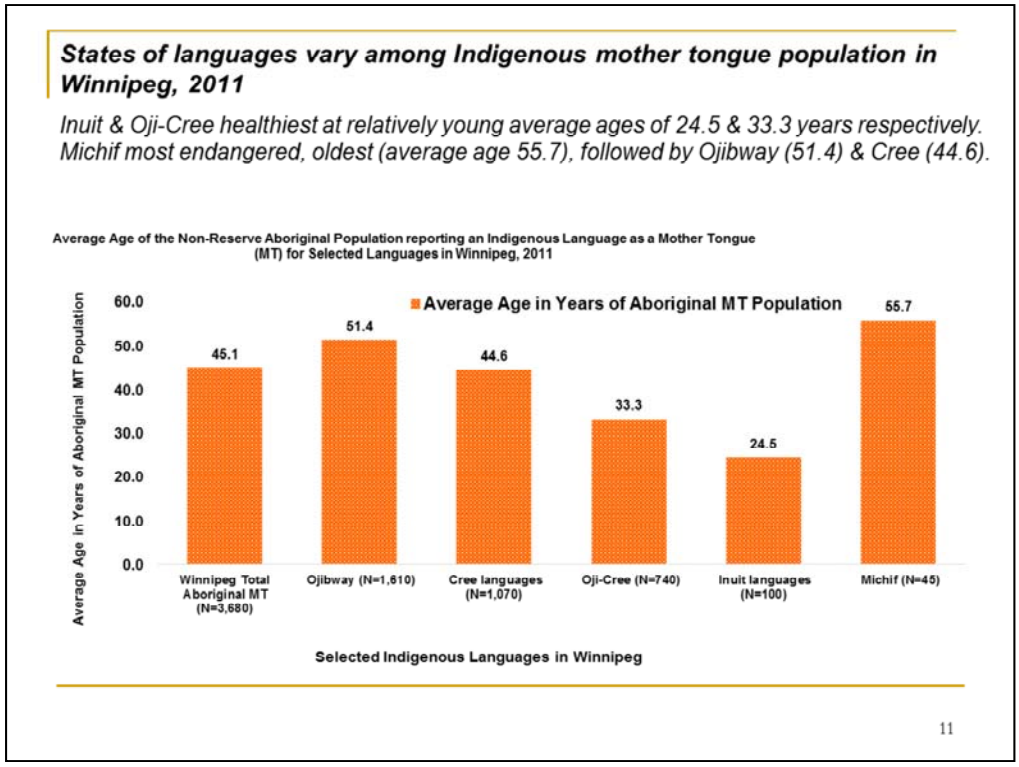
  These trends reflect in part:

  (a) changes observed between the 1996 and 2001 censuses in the identification and reporting patterns for Oji-Cree, Cree and Ojibway among four reserves in Manitoba – which saw a shift away from reporting Cree or Ojibway to reporting Oji-Cree instead and leading to increases in Oji-Cree;

  (b) differences in the states and transmission of Winnipeg's languages; and,

  (c) the effects of migration and natural increase.

- Michif, the traditional language of the Métis, is indicated as a separate language in Winnipeg in 2011.



State of different Indigenous languages in Winnipeg in 2011:

This slide provides the average ages of Winnipeg's Aboriginal populations reporting the city's four largest Indigenous languages of Ojibway, Cree, Oji-Cree and Inuit, plus Michif as mother tongues:

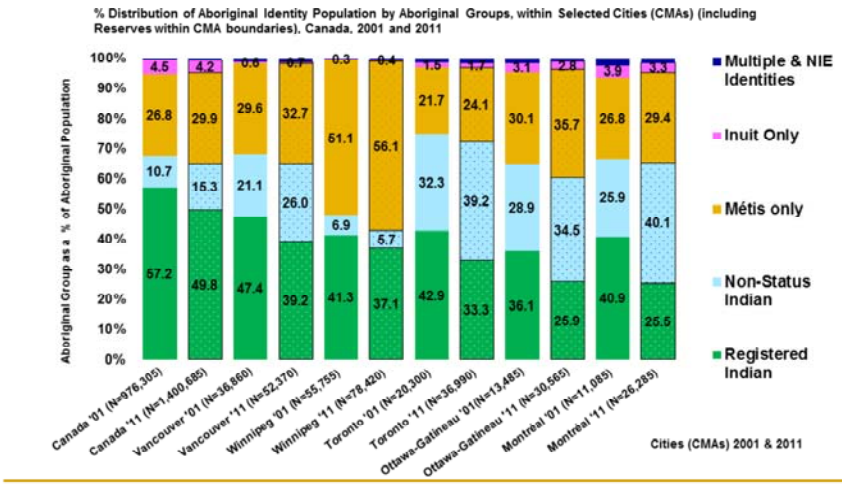
It shows that Winnipeg's indigenous mother tongue populations differ notably in their average ages.

The data suggest that the Inuit language followed by Oji-Cree are the relatively healthiest languages with young mother tongue populations (average ages of 24.5 years and 33.3 years respectively).*

In contrast, Michif is the most endangered and oldest (average age of 55.7 years), followed by Ojibway (51.4) and Cree (44.6) years.

Percentage distributions of Identity populations within selected cities* by Aboriginal Groups, vary across Canada, 2001 and 2011

In 2011: Métis accounted for largest share in Winnipeg (56%); Registered Indians in Vancouver (39%) & Winnipeg (37%); Non-status Indians in Montreal (40%) & Toronto (39%); and Inuit in Montreal & Ottawa-Gatineau (~ 3%).



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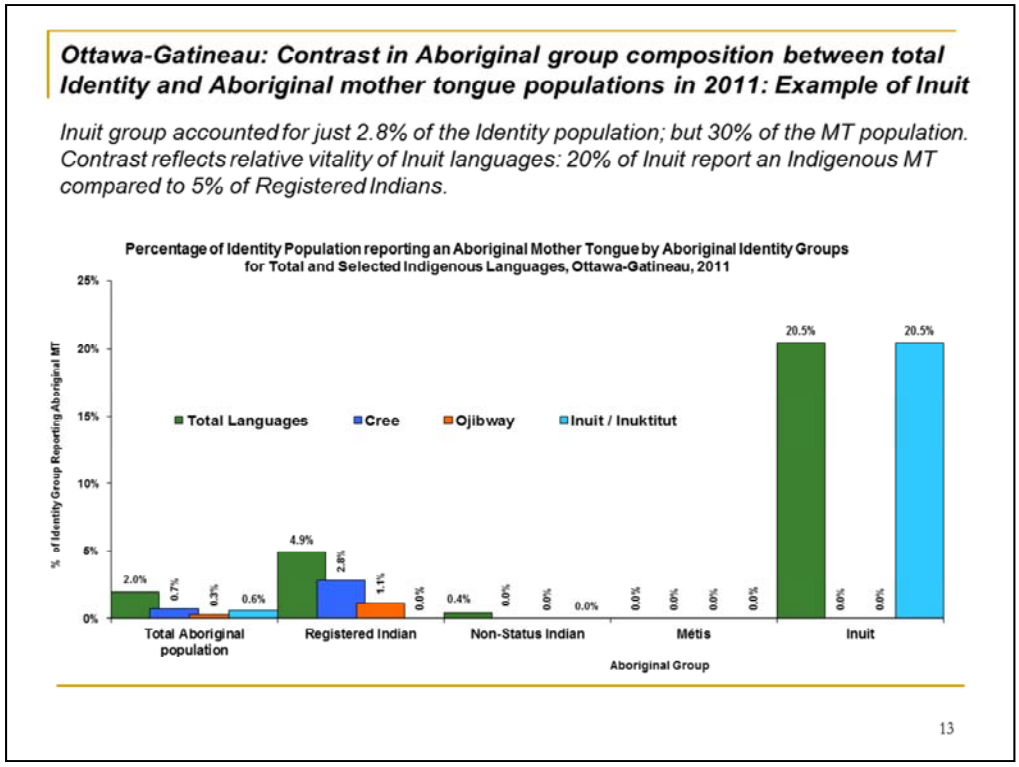
This slide provides the percentage distributions of Identity populations for the selected cities by Aboriginal Groups, for 2001 and 2011 (which includes reserve population within CMA/CA boundaries). It shows the variation in the composition of Identity Groups across the five cities, and for Canada overall.

Among the five CMAs in 2011;

- the Métis accounted for 56% of Winnipeg's Aboriginal residents;
- Registered Indians accounted for the largest shares of Aboriginal residents in Vancouver (39%) and Winnipeg (37%);
- Non-status Indian shares were largest in Montreal (40%) and Toronto (39%)
- The Inuit account for largest shares in Montreal and Ottawa-Gatineau – of about 3% each of Aboriginal residents in these cites.

These shares represent a sharp contrast to the notably larger shares (of about 30% or more) that Inuit languages represent among the Aboriginal mother tongue populations of those same cities.

Over 2001-2011: All five cities saw increased shares of Métis among their Aboriginal residents; and, with the exception of Winnipeg, increased shares of Non-Status Indians.



Ottawa-Gatineau: Contrast in Aboriginal group composition between total Identity and Aboriginal mother tongue populations in 2011: Example of Inuit

As noted, within Ottawa-Gatineau, the Inuit Identity population accounted for 2.8% of the 30,570 Aboriginal residents. In contrast, the 190 Inuit residents with an Inuit mother tongue accounted for about 30% of the total 625 Aboriginal residents reporting an Aboriginal mother tongue.

This contrast reflects the relative vitality of Inuit languages as illustrated in this slide, which gives the percentage of Aboriginal residents in Ottawa-Gatineau reporting an Indigenous mother tongue in 2011 by Aboriginal group.

It shows that 20% of Inuit residents reported an Inuit language as a mother tongue; whereas 5% of Registered Indians report an Indigenous language, mainly Cree or Ojibway, as a mother tongue.

States of languages vary among Indigenous mother tongue population in Ottawa-Gatineau, 2011

Among four largest Indigenous mother tongues, Inuit and Cree youngest, at average ages of 32.9 and 33.5 years respectively; whereas Mi'kmaq oldest (53.3), followed by Ojibway (44.4).



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This slide also illustrates the variation is the states of different Indigenous languages among Aboriginal residents reporting an Aboriginal mother tongue within Ottawa-Gatineau, based on their average ages.

It provides the average ages of Aboriginal residents in Ottawa-Gatineau reporting the four largest Indigenous mother tongue populations in the city, of Cree, Inuit, Ojibway, and Mi'kmaq as in 2011:

It shows that the Inuit and Cree languages have the youngest mother tongue populations (with average ages of 32.9 years and 33.5 years respectively).

In contrast, Mi'kmaq has the oldest mother tongue population (with an average age of 53.3 years), followed by Ojibway (44.4 years of age).



To conclude Part I of this presentation: Findings point to a significant diversity of Indigenous languages among Aboriginal residents in cities across Canada; with implications for language policy, planning and programs

In five major cities alone, where 16% of Aboriginal peoples and 41% of Canada's total population reside, we see considerable variation in the composition and unique linguistic diversity of Aboriginal residents.

The many factors which shape diversity represent important considerations and implications for understanding and interpreting patterns and trends in urban Aboriginal diversity such as:

- Different Indigenous histories; language and cultures; Locations, geography and governments: (e.g. in Montreal – Inuit peoples from Northern Quebec, Nunavik; in Ottawa the presence of National Aboriginal Organizations)
- The state of Indigenous languages: connections, challenges (intergenerational transmission), opportunities and needs for use and learning especially for second language learning
- Changes over censuses in respondent reporting and identification of Indigenous languages and Aboriginal identity; and,
- Demographic components and other factors (e.g. ethnic mobility – changes in reporting of Aboriginal Identity over censuses) contributing to population growth and composition

Part II: Interactive Online Mapping of the State and Diversity of Indigenous Languages in Aboriginal Communities across Canada: Selected Examples of Languages and Communities

- Maps an outgrowth of work on the third edition of the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger.

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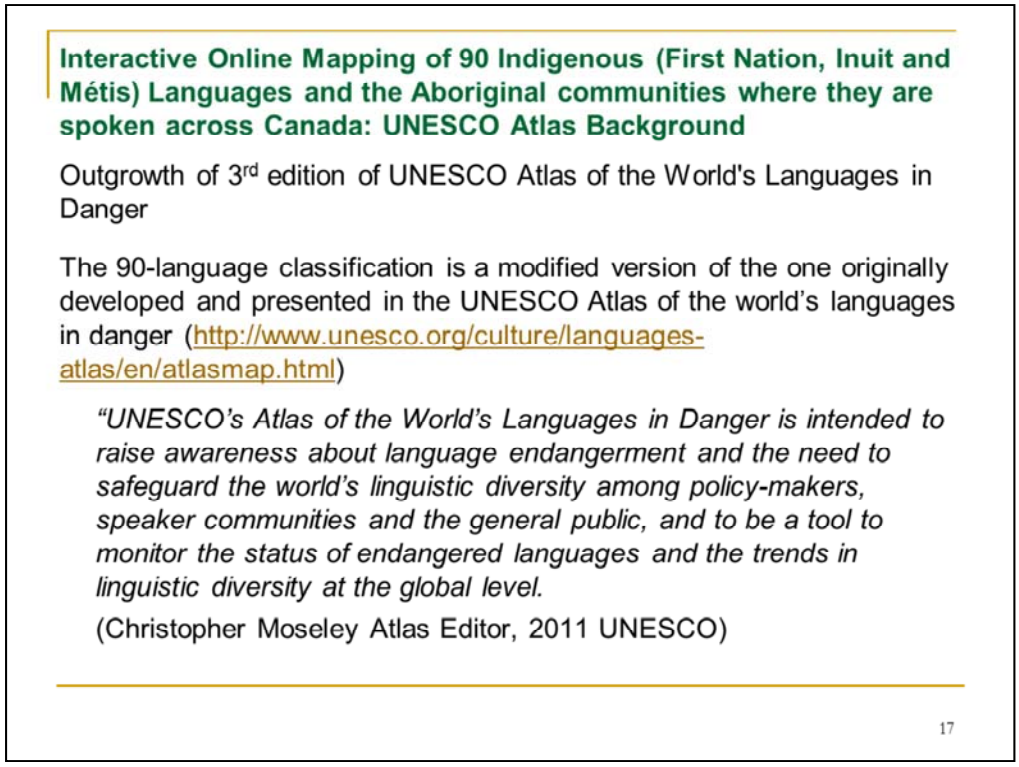


Outgrowth of work on the 3rd edition of the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger

The 90-language classification is a modified version of the one originally developed and presented in the UNESCO Atlas of the world's languages in danger (http://www.unesco.org/culture/languages-atlas/en/atlasmap.html)

"UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger is intended to raise awareness about language endangerment and the need to safeguard the world's linguistic diversity among policy-makers, speaker communities and the general public, and to be a tool to monitor the status of endangered languages and the trends in linguistic diversity at the global level.

… [it is] based on a framework for determining the vitality of a language in order to assist in policy development, identification of needs and appropriate safeguarding measures. (Christopher Moseley Atlas Editor, 2011 UNESCO)

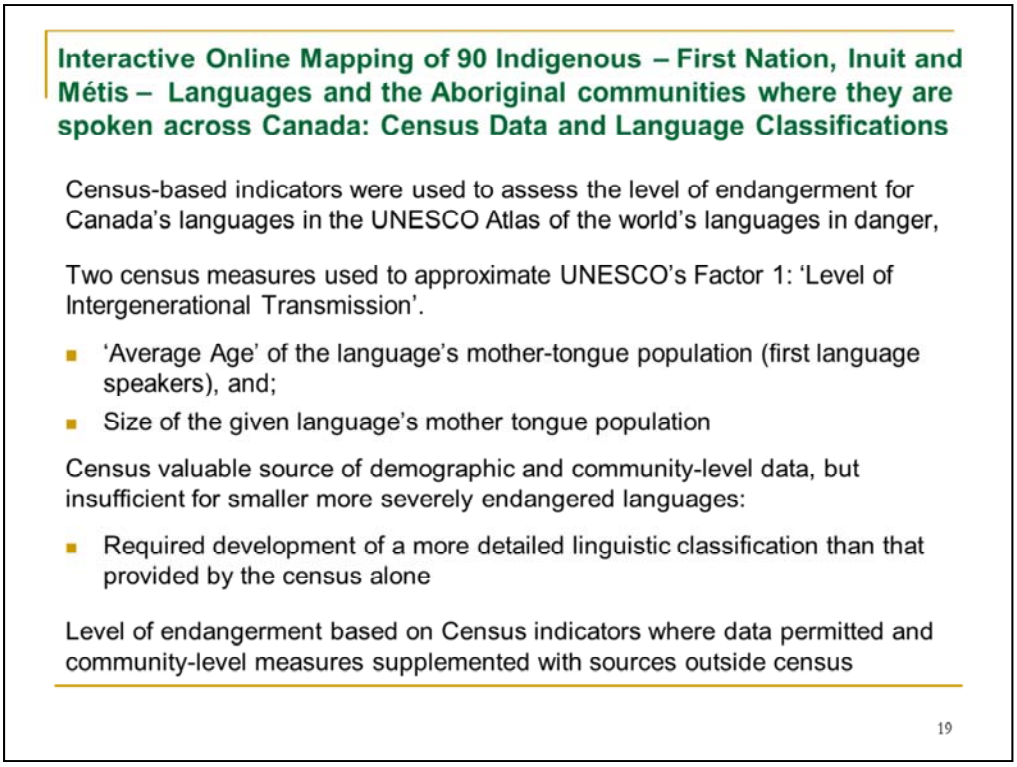


90 different Indigenous languages are currently spoken in hundreds of Indigenous communities across Canada

For Canada overall linguistic classifications of Indigenous languages are critical to a reliable assessment of language diversity, vitality, endangerment and revitalization:

The aim is to provide useful information about the picture of regional diversity and state of languages

So, recognizing all languages / dialects is fundamental to assessing both linguistic diversity and levels of endangerment.



Census-based indicators were used to assess the level of endangerment for Canada's languages in The UNESCO Atlas of the world's languages in danger.

Indicators on 'Average Age' (in years) of the language's mother-tongue population (first language speakers), and;

Size of the given language's mother tongue population were used to approximate UNESCO's Factor 1: 'Level of Intergenerational Transmission'.

For most languages in Canada, level of endangerment was derived from community-level measures and Census-based indicators where data permitted.

An important consideration with respect to these language and community level measures for the Atlas was the development of a more detailed linguistic classification than that provided by the census alone.

Census language data provide a valuable source of demographic, community-level data, but insufficient detail for the smaller more severely endangered languages. More accurate portrayal of Aboriginal languages and communities must also be supplemented with sources of language info outside of census.



UNESCO Levels of Endangerment reflect intergenerational transmission and language use across the generations: children, parents, grandparents & great-grandparents…

Degree of Endangerment

Grade

Speaker Population

***Safe* 5**

The language is used by all ages, from children up, in all domains.

***Unsafe* 4**

The language is used by some children in all domains; used by all children in limited domains.

definitively endangered 3

The language is used mostly by the parental generation and up.

severely endangered 2

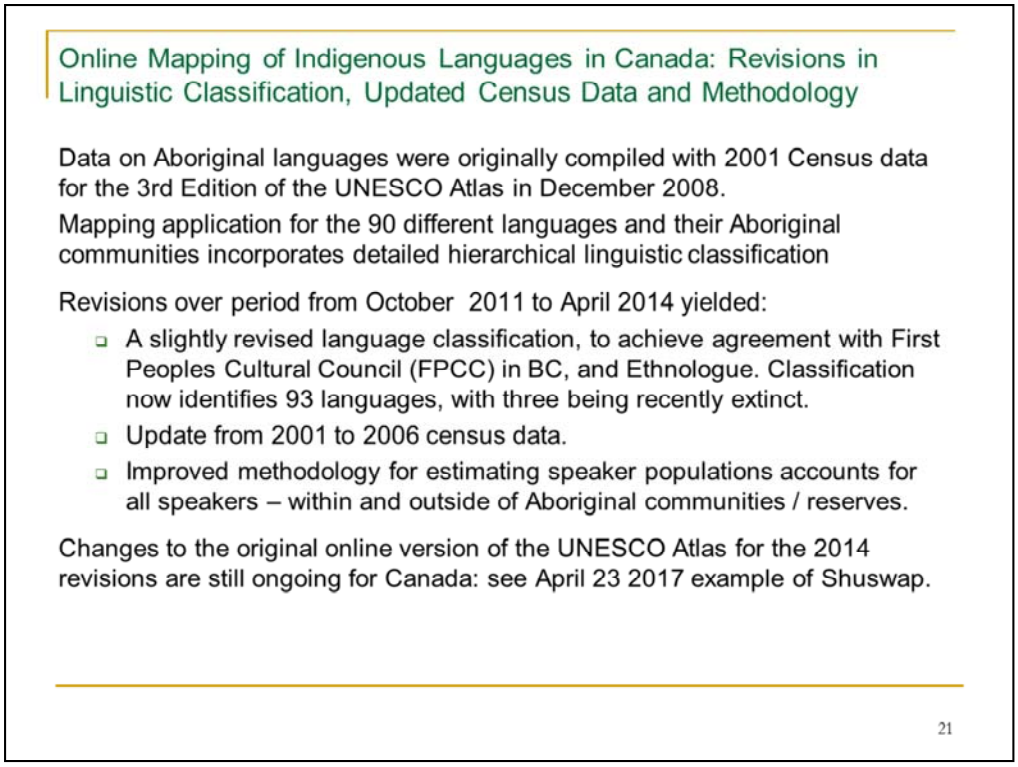
The language is used mostly by grandparental generation and up.

critically endangered 1

The language is used mostly by very few speakers, of great-grandparental generation.

Extinct 0

There exists no speaker.



Data were originally compiled on Aboriginal languages in Canada with 2001 Census data for the 3rd Edition of the UNESCO Atlas in December 2008.

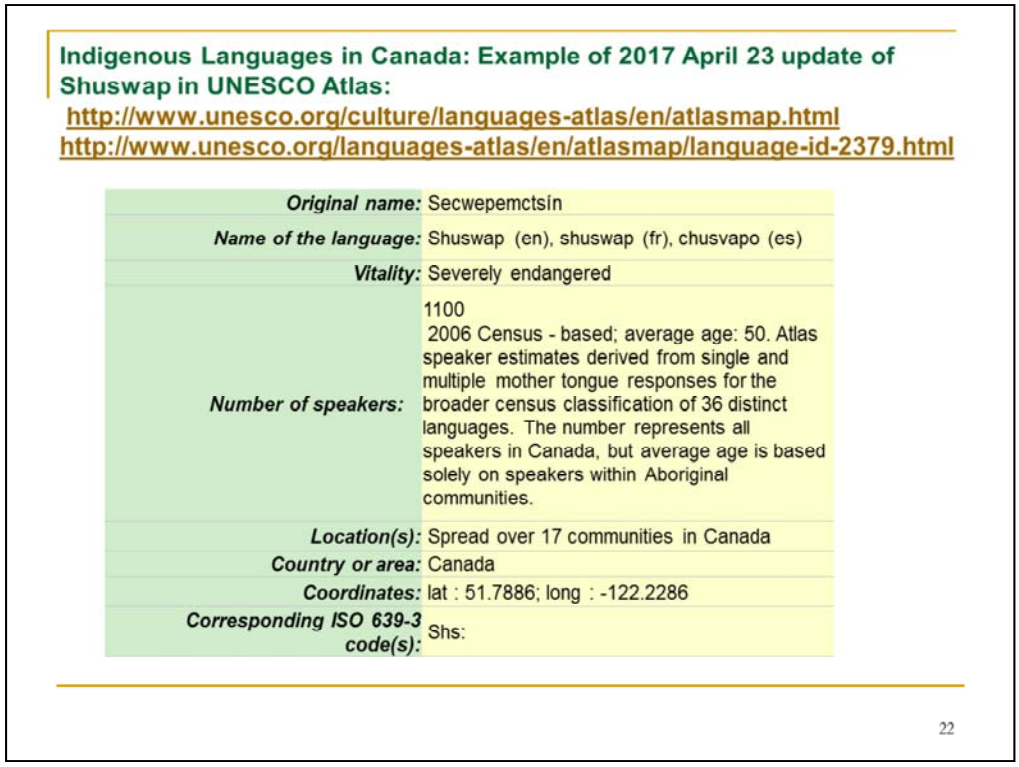
The online mapping application developed for the 90 different languages and their Aboriginal communities incorporates a detailed hierarchical linguistic classification

Revisions over period from October 2011 to April 2014 yielded:

- A slightly revised language classification, to achieve agreement with First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC) in BC*, and Ethnologue. Classification now identifies 93 languages, three being recently extinct.
- Update from 2001 to 2006 census data.
- Improved methodology for estimating speaker populations accounts for all speakers of a language in Canada - within and outside of Aboriginal communities / reserves.

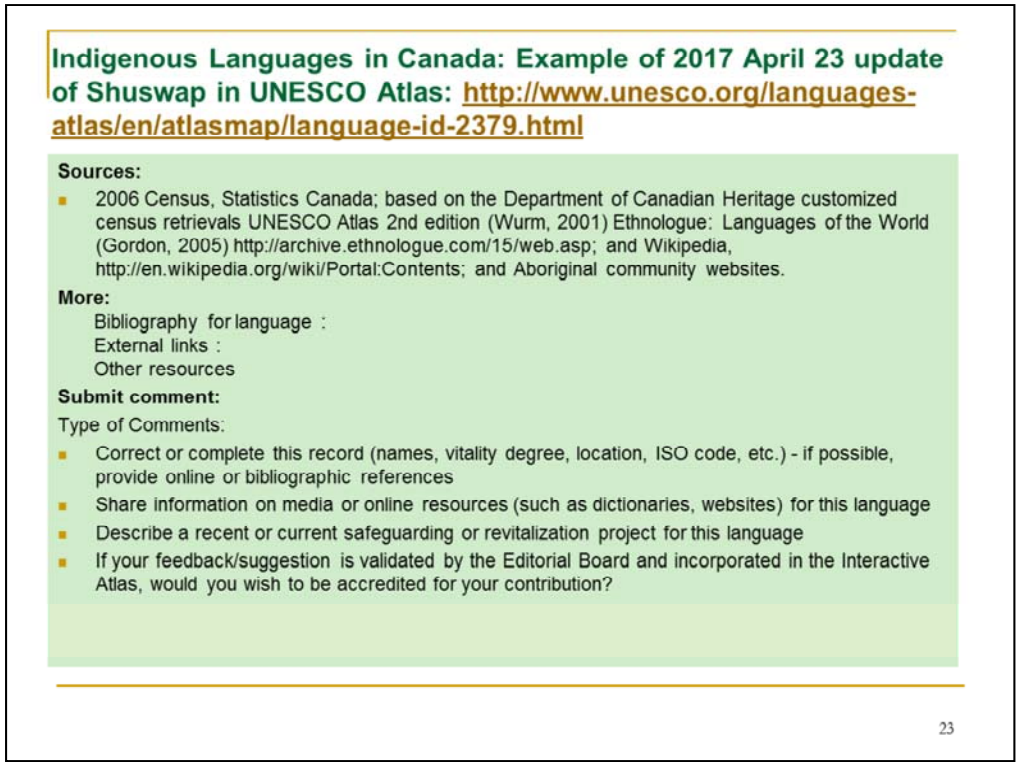
Changes to the original online version of the UNESCO Atlas for the 2014 revisions are still ongoing for Canada: see April 23 2017 example of Shuswap.

* See “Report on the status of B.C. First Nations Languages 2014, Second Edition” http://www.fpcc.ca/files/PDF/Language/FPCC-LanguageReport-141016-WEB.pdf



Original name:
Secwepemctsín
Name of the language:
Shuswap (en), shuswap (fr), chusvapo (es)
Vitality:
Severely endangered

Number of speakers:
1100
2006 Census - based; average age: 50. Atlas speaker estimates derived from single and multiple mother tongue responses for the broader census classification of 36 distinct languages. The number represents all speakers in Canada, but average age is based solely on speakers within Aboriginal communities.
Location(s):
Spread over 17 communities in Canada
Country or area:
Canada
Coordinates:
lat : 51.7886; long : -122.2286
Corresponding ISO 639-3 code(s):
Shs:



Sources:

2006 Census, Statistics Canada; based on the Department of Canadian Heritage customized census retrievals UNESCO Atlas 2nd edition (Wurm, 2001) Ethnologue: Languages of the World (Gordon, 2005) http://archive.ethnologue.com/15/web.asp; and Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Contents; and Aboriginal community websites.

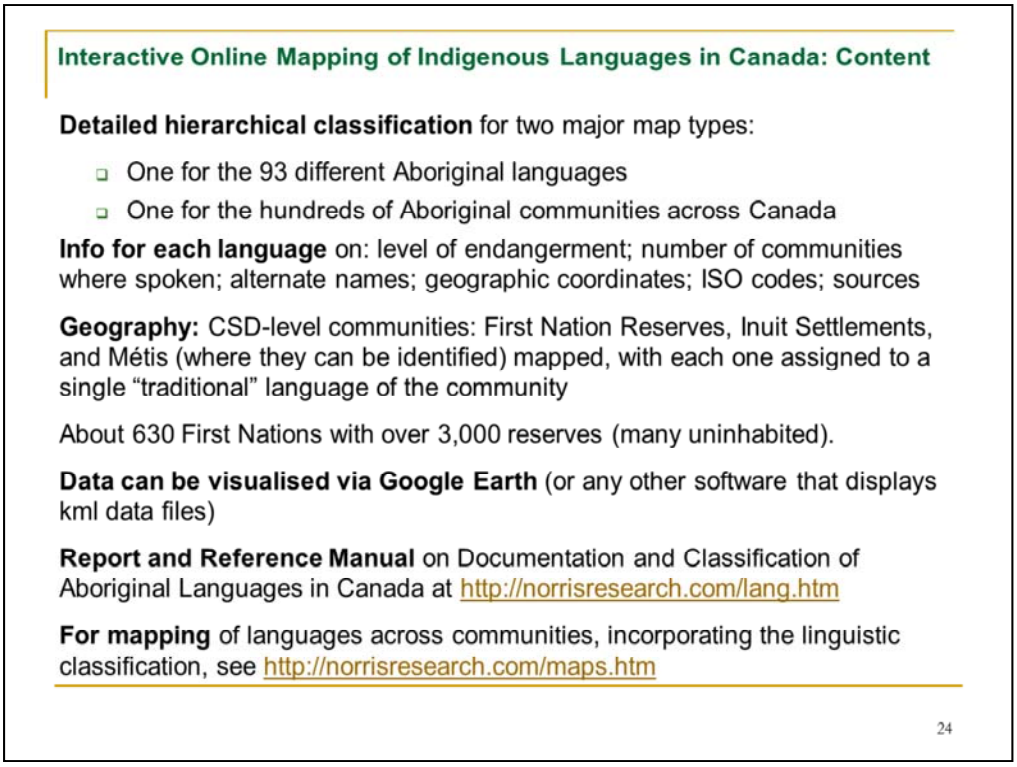
More:

Bibliography for language :
External links :
Other resources

Submit comment:

Type of Comments:

Correct or complete this record (names, vitality degree, location, ISO code, etc.) - if possible, provide online or bibliographic references
Share information on media or online resources (such as dictionaries, websites) for this language
Describe a recent or current safeguarding or revitalization project for this language
If your feedback/suggestion is validated by the Editorial Board and incorporated in the Interactive Atlas, would you wish to be accredited for your contribution?



Detailed hierarchical classification for two major map types:

One for the 93 different Aboriginal languages

One for the hundreds of Aboriginal communities across Canada

Info for each language on: level of endangerment; number of communities where spoken; alternate names; geographic coordinates; ISO codes, and sources

Geography: CSD-level communities: First Nation Reserves, Inuit Settlements, and Métis (where they can be identified) mapped, with each one assigned to a single "traditional" language of the community

About 630 First Nations with over 3,000 reserves (many uninhabited).

Data can be visualised via Google Earth (or any other software that displays kml data files)

Report and Reference Manual on Documentation and Classification of Aboriginal Languages in Canada at http://norrisresearch.com/lang.htm

For mapping of languages across communities, incorporating the linguistic classification, see http://norrisresearch.com/maps.htm

Online Mapping of 90 Indigenous Languages in Canada: Approach More Comprehensive than UNESCO in Mapping all communities where spoken

http://www.norrisresearch.com/maps.htm

Individual 90-language map: Online map of the 90 languages gives the overall level of endangerment for the specific language: like the UNESCO map, indicates only the single largest community where each of these languages are spoken.

For example, the community with the largest population reporting the Inuit language of Qikiqtaaluk nigiani as a mother tongue is Iqaluit.

The Community-level map: shows all of the communities where each of the 90 languages are spoken. For example:

Qikiqtaaluk nigiani is spoken in 5 communities: Iqaluit, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Experimental version of the Aboriginal communities map with trends: If you click on the icon for Iqaluit, an "enhanced" pop-up window will appear. Link purely for demo purposes re proposed features (e.g. trends 2001, 2006, 2011 Census data).

It illustrates the type of extra info on the map with only Iqaluit fully populated (but values incomplete for 2011 Census)

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Interactive Online Mapping of the State and Diversity of Indigenous Languages in Aboriginal Communities across Canada

- Demo with Selected Examples of Languages and Communities

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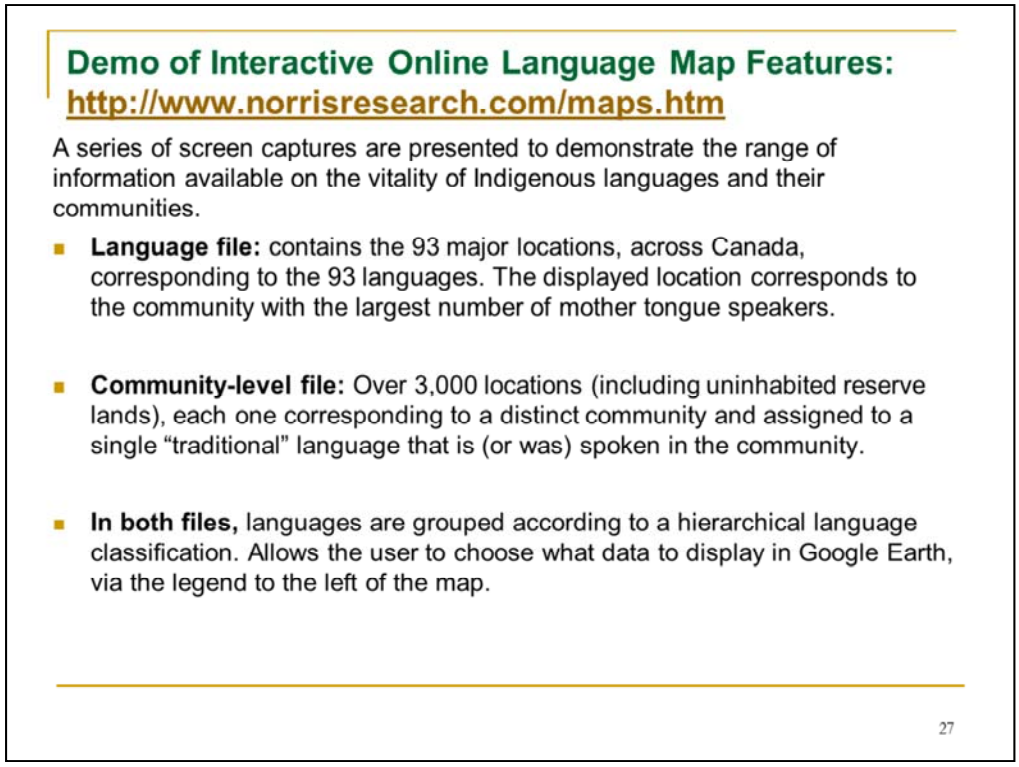


Examples of screen captures are given here to demonstrate the range and type of information that has been provided for selected Indigenous languages.

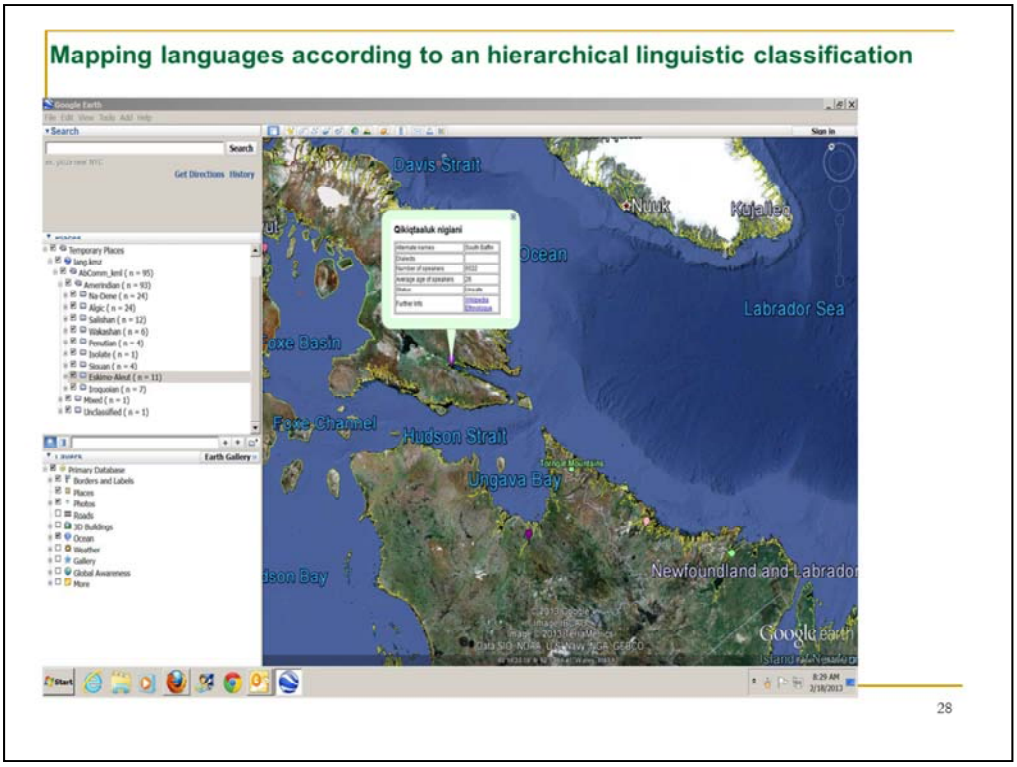
Current classification identifies 93 languages, three being recently extinct.

Two data files can be viewed:

One contains just 93 locations, across Canada, corresponding to the 93 languages. The displayed location corresponds to the community with the largest number of mother tongue speakers. The other data file contains over 3000 locations (including uninhabited reserve lands), each one corresponding to a distinct community, and each one assigned to a single "traditional" language that is (or was) spoken in the community.

In both data files, the languages are grouped according to a hierarchical language classification taken from the Ethnologue, with only minor modifications.

This allows the user to choose what data to display in Google Earth, via the legend to the left of the map.



To begin, you can click on the map legend on the left, to provide languages mapped according to an hierarchical linguistic classification.

This image on the left shows data from the languages data file (90 icons, one for each language, each one located over the community with the largest number of speakers).

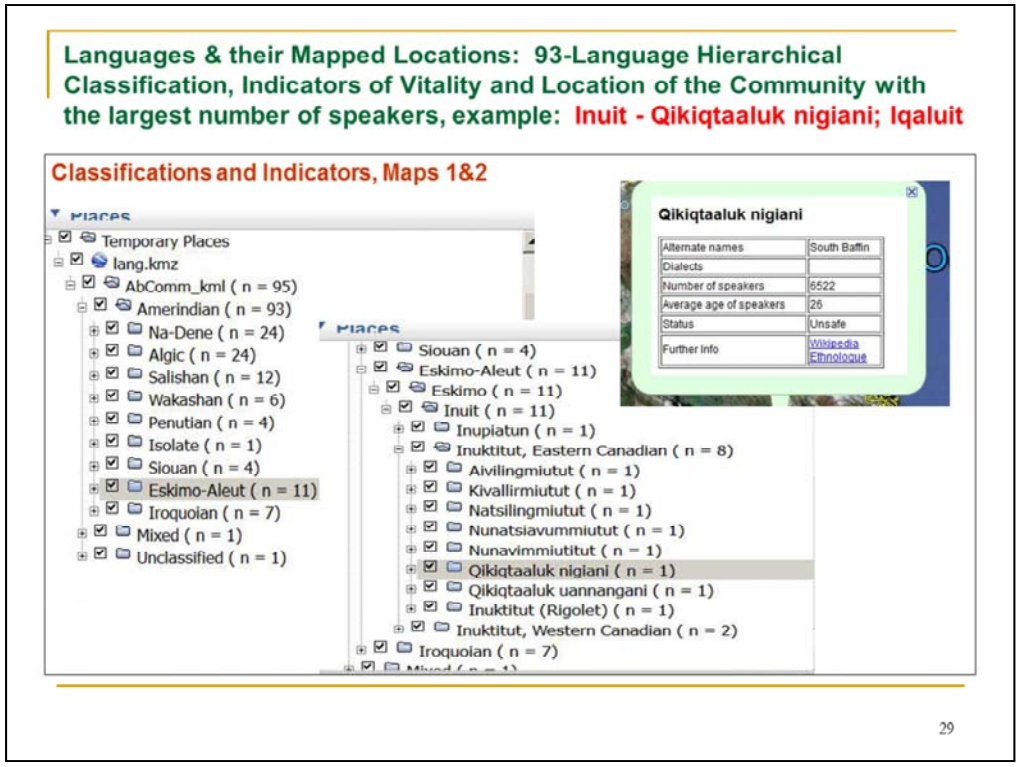


Fig_01_Inuit_Iqaluit_1 Similar to the previous screenshot.

In this one, the legend on the left has been expanded to show the different dialects of the Inuit language.

For example, one could map from Amerindian to Eskimo, to Eskimo-Aleut to Inuit further to Inuktitut, Eastern Canada, to Qikiqtaaluk nigiani in Iqaluit.

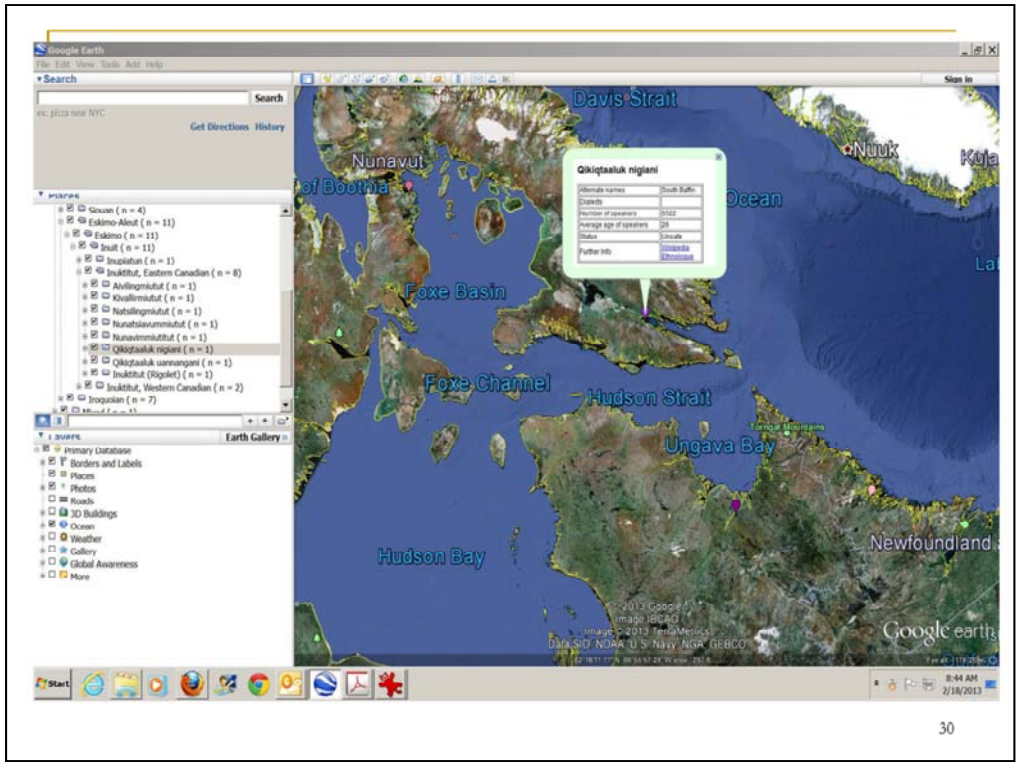
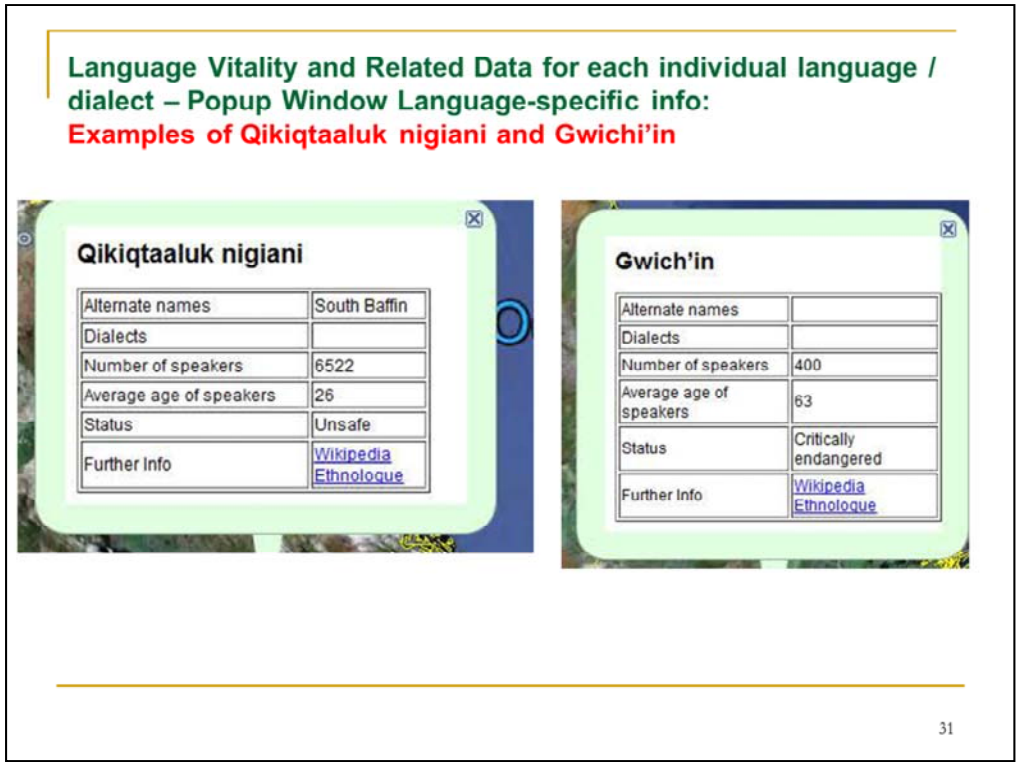


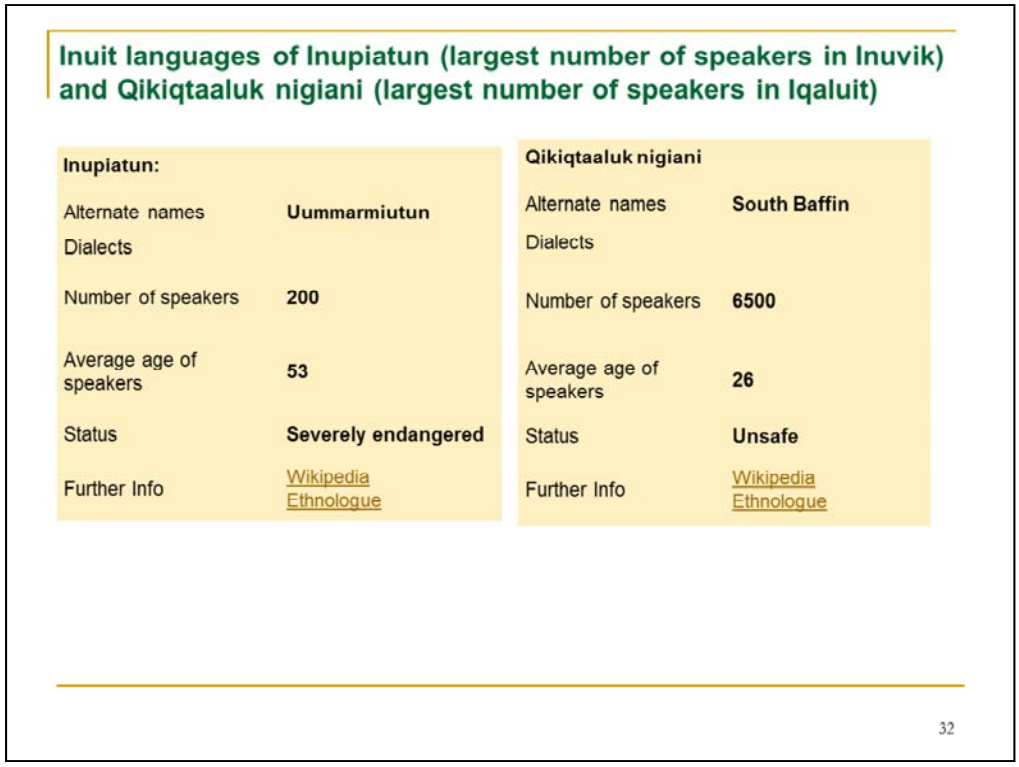
Fig_01_Inuit_Iqaluit_2 Inuit - Qikiqtaaluk nigiani; Iqaluit

The user has clicked on the icon located over Iqaluit, and a popup window has appeared, with additional information on the Qikiqtaaluk Nigiani dialect of the Inuit language, plus links to other websites.



For example, if you zoom in towards Iqaluit – the community with the largest mother tongue population of Qikiqtaaluk nigiani, you will find some info about the language overall (for all communities in total with this language) - with boxed info showing the estimated total number of speakers from the 2006 Census = 6, 522 (mother tongue population) with an average age of 26 years (See the example below), and the alternate language name of South Baffin. And you can get links to other language websites (e.g. Ethnologue)

Qikiqtaaluk nigiani
Alternate names South Baffin
Dialects
Number of speakers 6522
Average age of speakers 26
Status Unsafe
Further Info
Wikipedia (linked to site)
Ethnologue (linked to site)



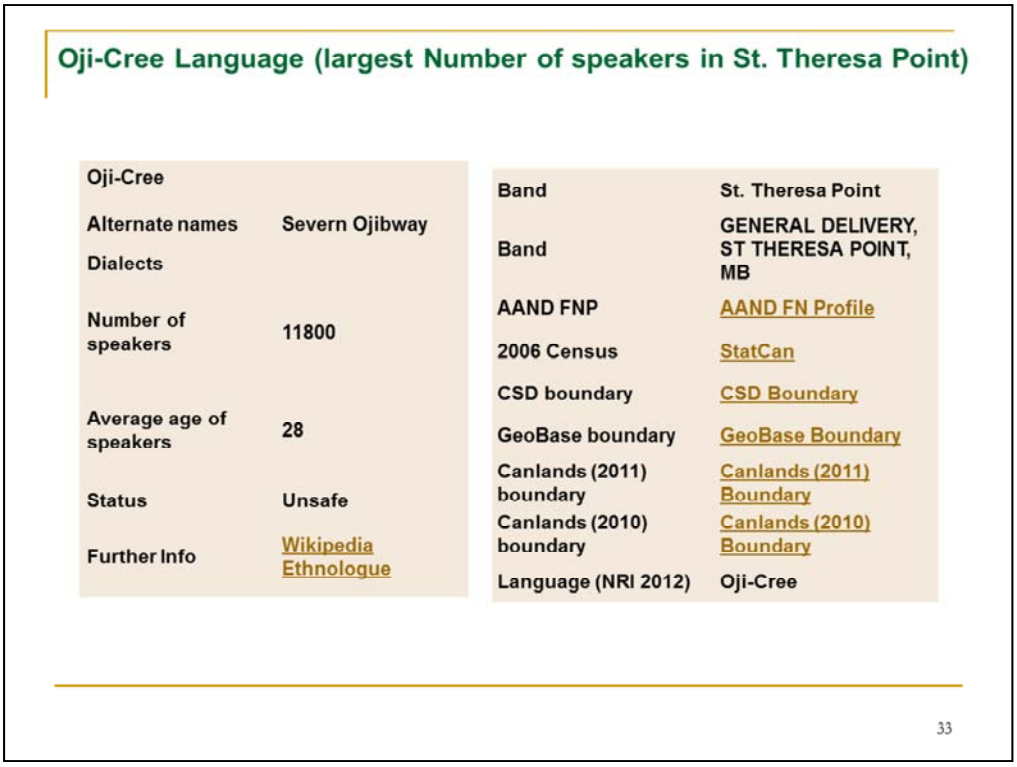
As noted, for Canada overall linguistic classifications of Indigenous languages are critical to a reliable assessment of language diversity, vitality, endangerment and revitalization: Aim is to provide useful information about the picture of regional diversity and state of languages

Here, example of Inuit language within Canada: overall is considered viable, but the UNESCO-based classification of 11 different languages / dialects reveals variation in language states: 6 are viable and 5 endangered (2 definitely, 1 severely and 2 critically).

Example of Inupiatun:

Severely endangered (Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), YT & NT))

The Inuit dialect of Inupiatun, spoken in 2 communities, is categorized as severely endangered – used mostly by the grandparental generation and up.



Oji-Cree: Language and Largest Number of Speakers (St. Theresa Point):

Oji-Cree was referenced in Part I as one of the Indigenous languages reported as a mother tongue by Aboriginal residents in Winnipeg, over 1996 to 2011



Fig_03_Communities_All_1 This image shows data being plotted for all of the communities in Canada as well as the languages. In the legend on the left, you can see that there are checkmarks for both the languages data file, and the communities datafile. The legend is expanded for comm.kmz, to show the first level of the language classification, and every box is checked.

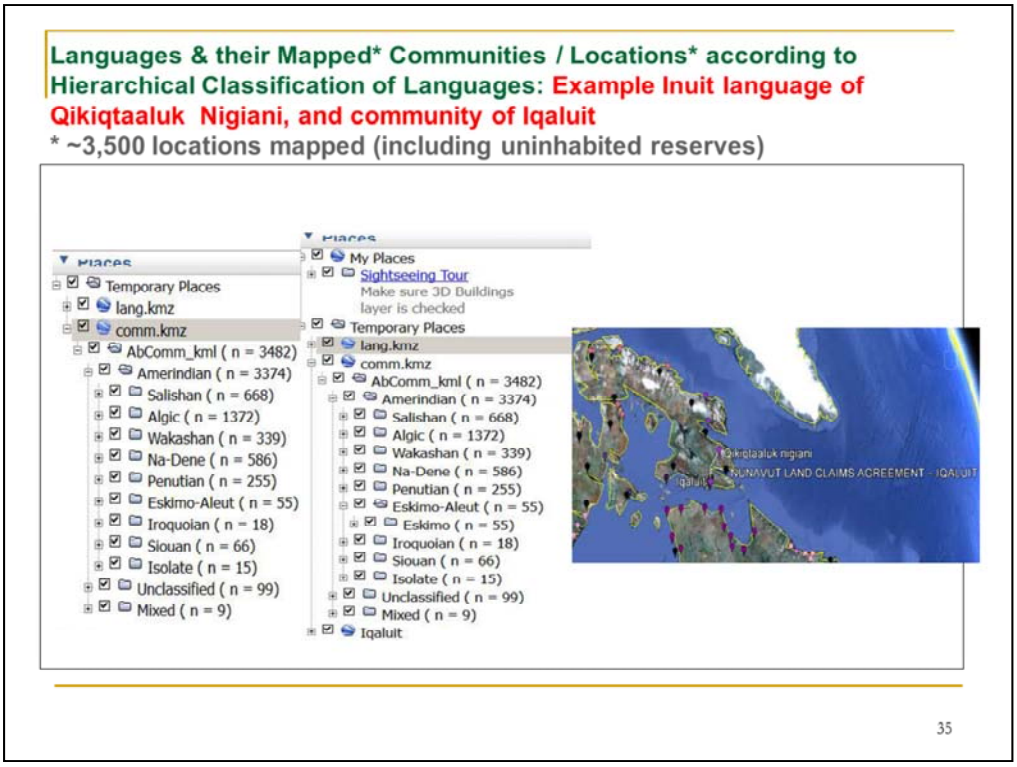


Fig_04_Communities_All_2 Similar to the previous screenshot, this one shows Eskimo- Aleut expanded one level lower in the hierarchy, to Eskimo.

Map: The user hovered over Iqaluit, in order to display both the place name and the language (Qikiqtaaluk Nigiani, which is mapped to Iqaluit).

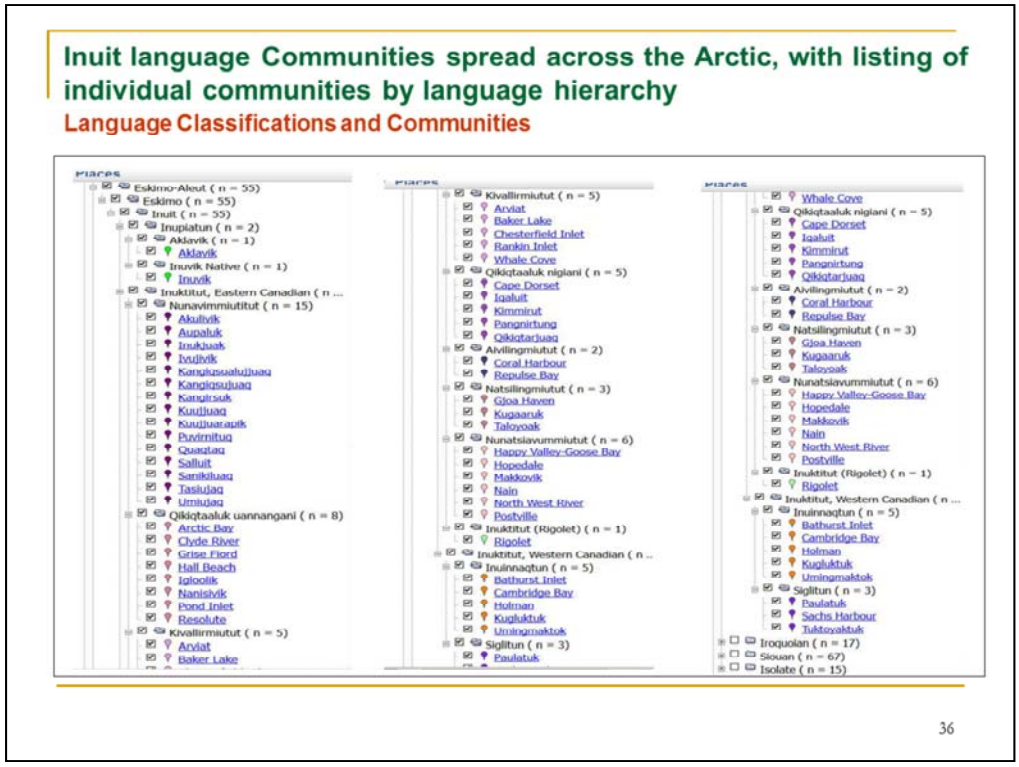
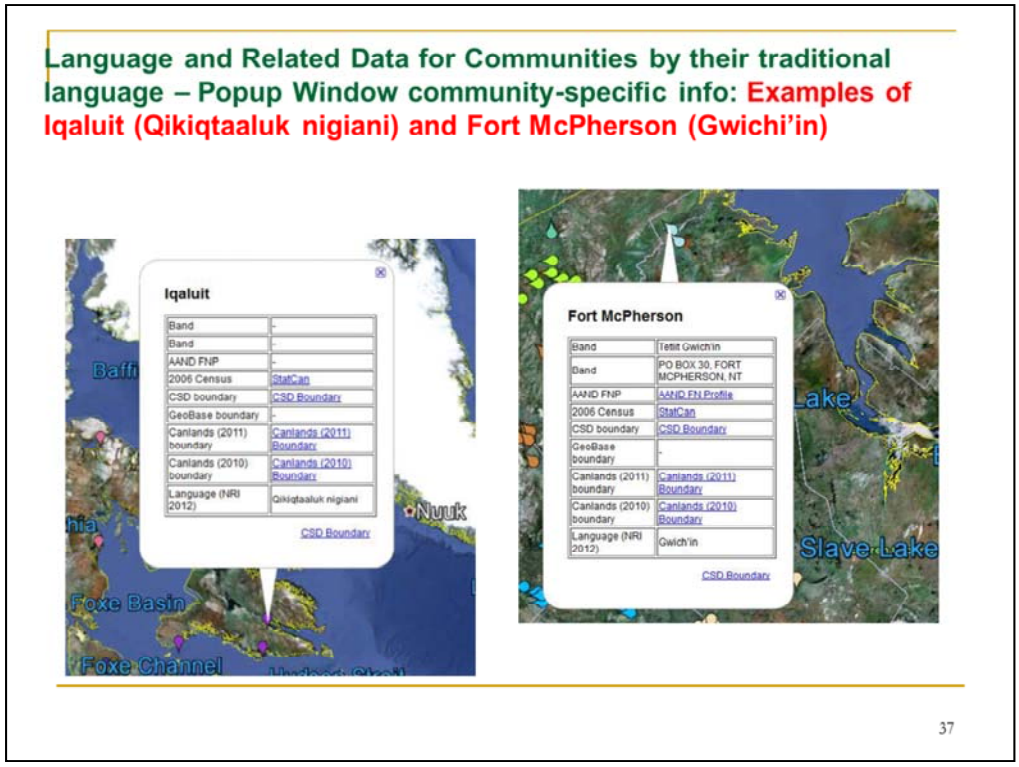


Fig_5_Inuit_Lang_Communities The map shows the Inuit communities spread across the Arctic, and the legend lists the individual communities.



Here the popup window for communities contain data fields on: band name, band address, Aboriginal Affairs community profile links, Geographic boundary data, including Census Subdivisions, geoBase boundary, canlands 2011 & 2012, and language name of community.

Not all fields are applicable to each community; for example, band name does not apply to Inuit communities.

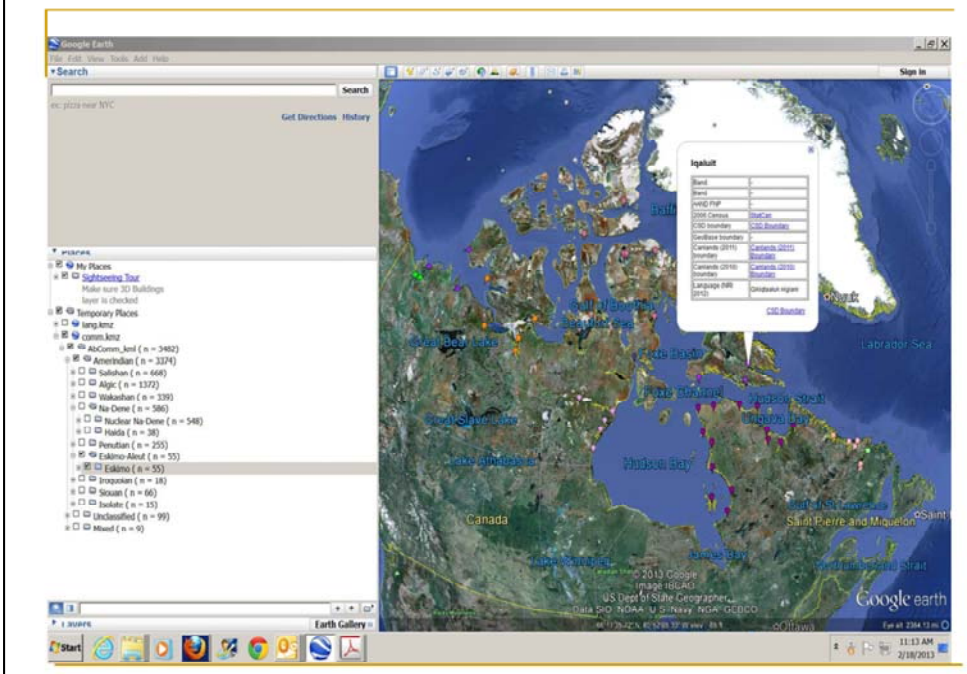


Fig_6_Inuit_Lang_Community Info Iqaluit 1 of 3

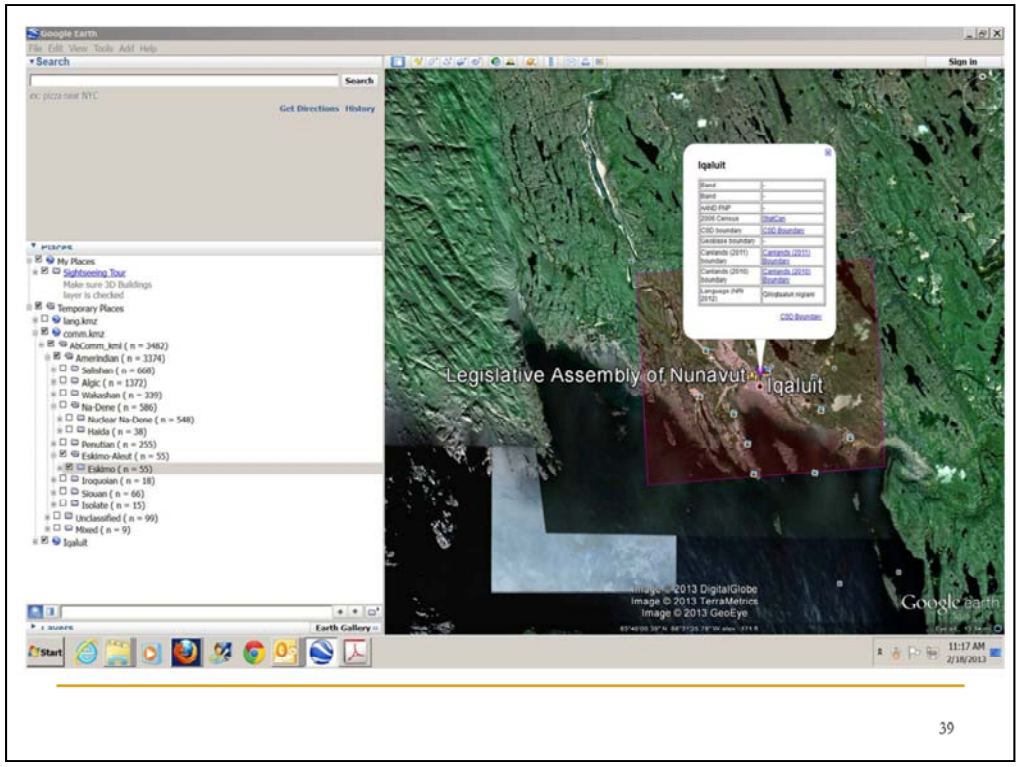


Fig_6_Inuit_Lang_Community Info Iqaluit 2 of 3

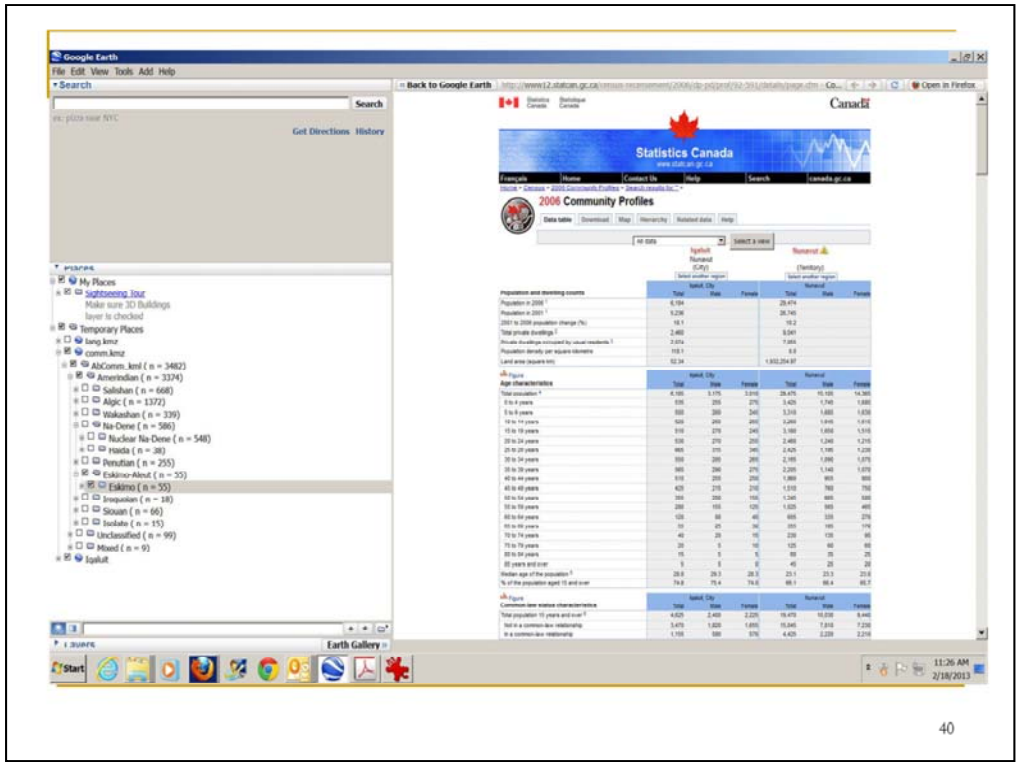


Fig_6_Inuit_Lang_Community Info Iqaluit 3 of 3

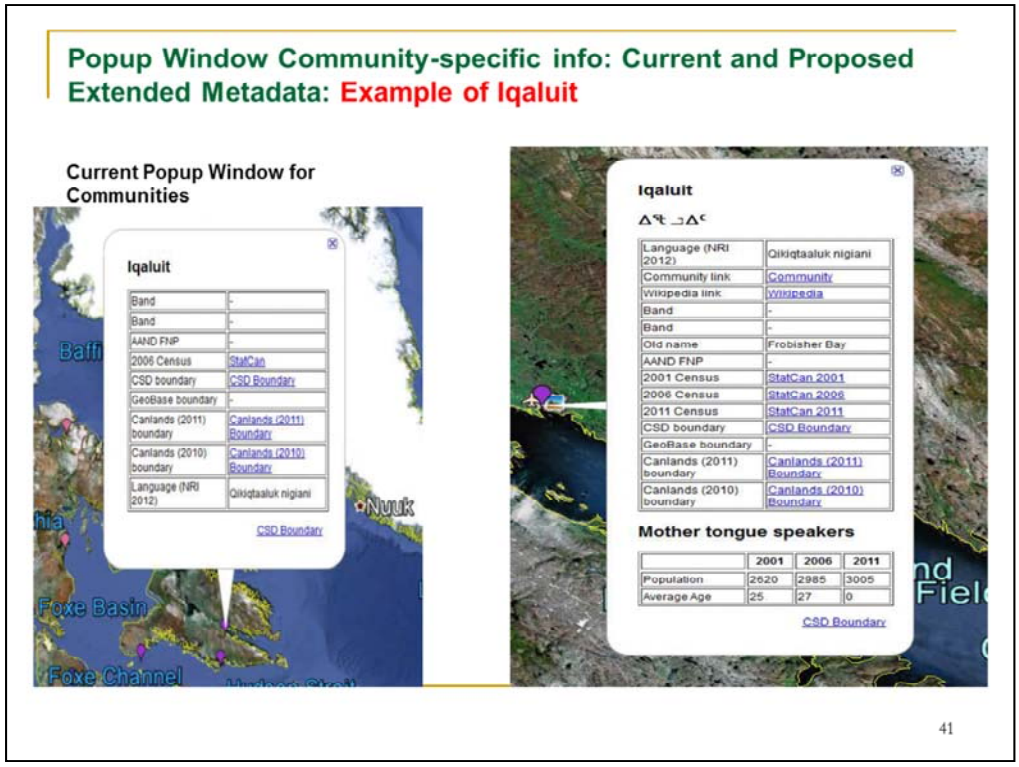


Fig 7: Popup Window Community-specific info: Current and Proposed Extended Metadata: Example of Iqaluit

For example, could expand to three Census Years: 2001, 2006, 2011

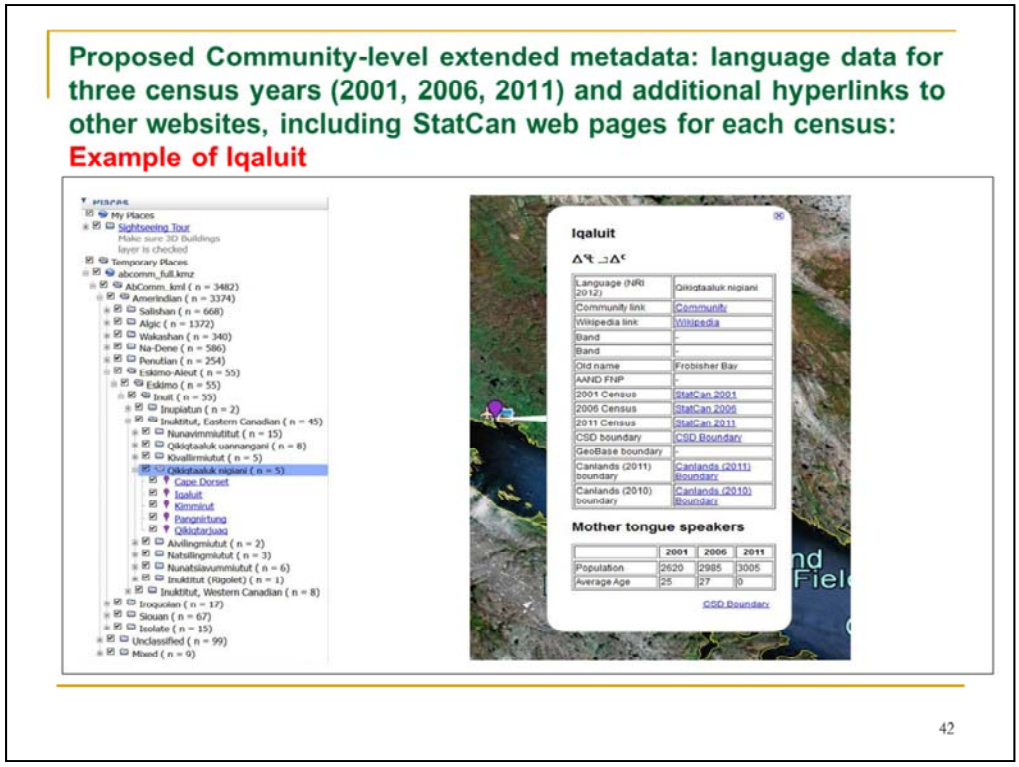


Fig 8 Iqaluit This shows language hierarchy with extended metadata, including language data for three census years (2001, 2006, 2011) and additional hyperlinks to other websites, including links to StatCan web pages for Iqaluit for each of the three censuses.

Oji-Cree St. Theresa Point: Example of Proposed Extended Metadata

Language (NRI 2012)	Oji-Cree
Community link	-
Wikipedia link	-
Band	St. Theresa Point
Band	GENERAL DELIVERY, ST THERESA POINT, MB
Old name	-
AAND FNP	AAND FN Profile
2001 Census	StatCan 2001
2006 Census	StatCan 2006
2011 Census	-
CSD boundary	CSD Boundary
GeoBase boundary	GeoBase Boundary
Canlands (2011) boundary	Canlands (2011) Boundary
Canlands (2010) boundary	Canlands (2010) Boundary

Mother tongue speakers	2001	2006	2011
Population	1975	2415	-
Average Age	22	23	-

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Conclusion: Parts I & II: State and Diversity of Indigenous Languages in Selected Cities and Aboriginal Communities across Canada:

Indigenous languages Live Everywhere across Canada

90 different Indigenous languages are currently spoken in hundreds of Aboriginal communities

Many different Indigenous languages are spoken in cities, large and small

Considerable diversity of Indigenous languages in five major cities alone, representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and regions across Canada

Indigenous languages vary in their state and levels of endangerment across and within regions, Aboriginal communities and urban areas

Further aspects of Indigenous languages could be explored, in relation to:

- The population able to speak an Indigenous language, including second language speakers; and,
- The extent to which Indigenous languages are used within the home, either as a major language, or on a regular basis.

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