

Official Languages of the Northwest Territories

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Chipewyan

Mamawi kitaskenaw, mihcet pīhtākosowina.

Cree

One land, many voices.

English

Un territoire aux voix multiples.

French

Nan ihłak, dūdeezhuu leu.

Gwich'in

Atauhiq nuna, uqauhiriaktuq.

Inuinnaqtun

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Inuktitut

Atausiq nuna, inugiaktut uqallausiit.

Inuvialuktun

Ne h́ee, kede h́o.

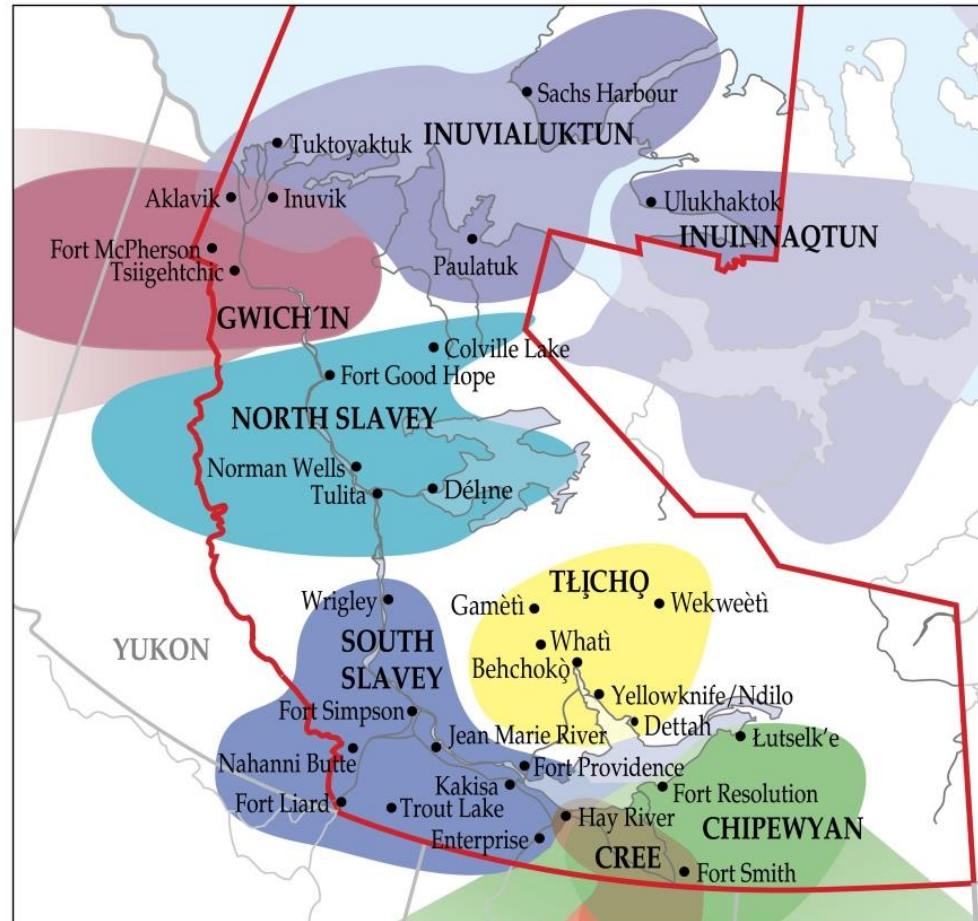
North Slavey

Ndeh h́ie, zhahtie h́o.

South Slavey

Gonè h́lè, go yatì nelò.

Tłı̄chq



The Northwest Territories (NWT) is the only political region in Canada which recognizes 11 official languages.

Of these, nine are Aboriginal and belong to three different language families: Dene, Inuit and Cree. Aboriginal languages are most frequently spoken in smaller communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

The Dene languages spoken in the majority of the NWT are part of the Athapaskan family. Included in this group are Chipewyan, Tłı̄chq (Dogrib), Gwich'in, North Slavey and South Slavey.

The Inuit languages recognized in the NWT are Inuvialuktun, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut. In the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, 20% of the Inuvialuit population speak either Inuvialuktun or Inuinnaqtun. The majority of people that speak Inuktitut in the NWT live in Yellowknife.

A small number of people, living mostly in the Fort Smith and Hay River area, speak Cree. Their language belongs to a different linguistic group, the Algonquian family.

Approximately 3% of the population states that French is their first language. The use of French and English is more common in Yellowknife and the regional centres.

FRENCH is mostly spoken in Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife.

ENGLISH is spoken throughout the Northwest Territories.

INUKTITUT is mostly spoken in Yellowknife.



Languages Commissioner of the N.W.T.

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