Kitikmeot Inuit Association Language work

Haugaaq Julia Ogina

KITIKMEOT INUIT KATUTJIQATIGIIT UQAUHILIRINIA

HAUGAAQ JULIA OGINA

NUNAVUT AND ITS FORMATION

- During the time of young adults returning from Residential school and ready to put their education to use, and quickly notice how changes were impacting their families and Inuit with lack of structure to meet the inuinnait needs
- Discussions on changes and gaps lead to meetings with what people would like to have in their Land claims
- Meetings started with communities which then formed the drafting of negotiations with the federal government
- During the negotiation days, the Kitikmeot inuit Association was formed and incorporated in 1976 for which the initial years were spent pursing the Land claims and political empowerment
- In 1993 the signing of the Nunavut Land Claims agreement, which lead KIA to shift its focus towards management of Inuit Owned Lands, Program Delivery and over all Social & Economic Development of its membership

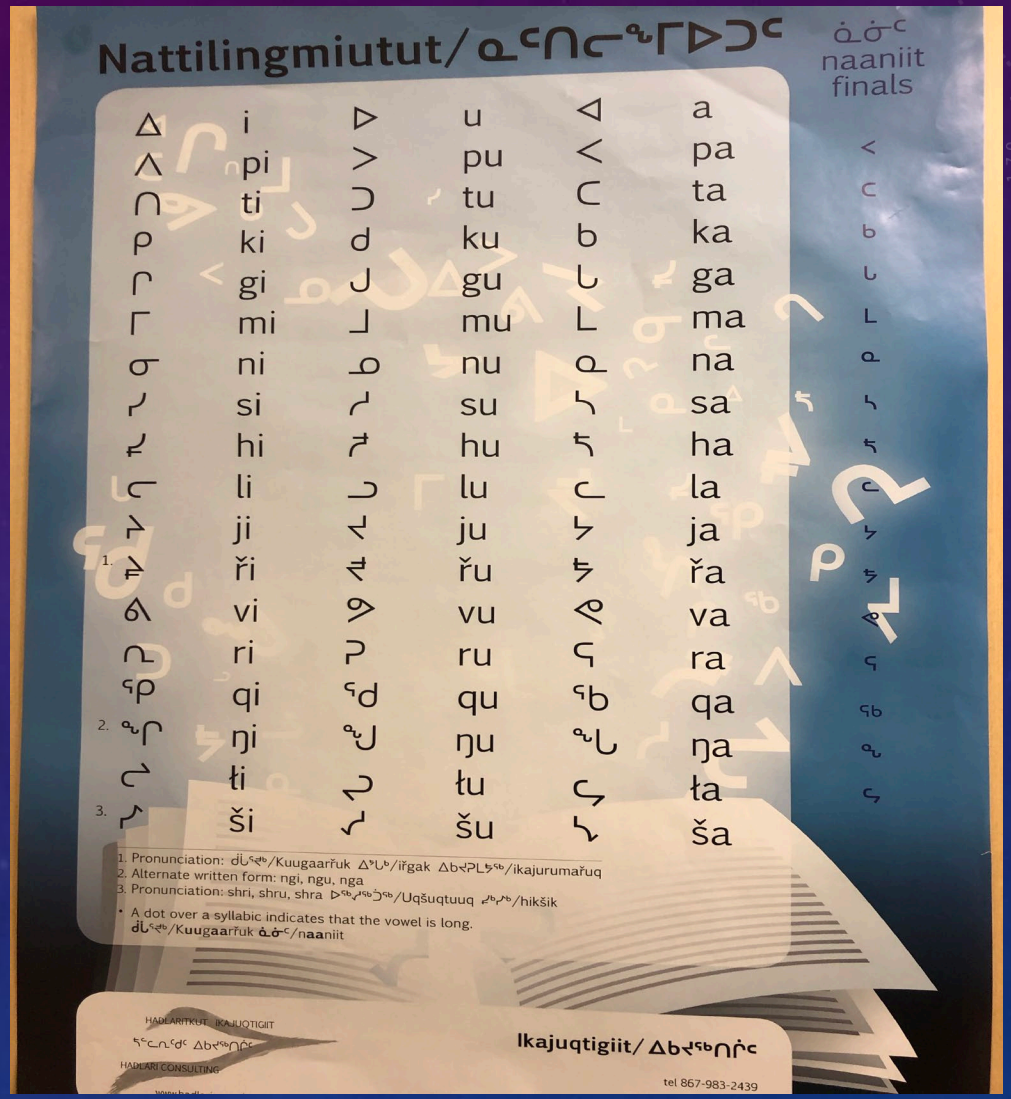
NUNAVUT 26 COMMUNITIES AND THREE REGIONS

The Nunavut territory is vast broken into three regions

Qikitaaluk, Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot

Kitikmeot has five communities, two major dialects of Inuktun… the inuit language of the people

Two very different writing systems



KITIKMEOT REGION AND ITS FIVE COMMUNITIES

- Two major dialects, Nattilingmiut and Inuinnaqtun
- There in one distinction to be said here for language clarity for programming to be effective in the Kitikmeot
- The clarity not so much in the oral language but the written form of Inuktun
- 3 of 5 communities in the Kitikmeot write in syllabics
- 2 of 5 communities in the Kitikmeot write in Inuinnaqtun

KITIKMEOT INUIT ASSOCIATION'S VISION

KIA is an organization that manages lands and resources that support traditional & cultural values and provides economic and social benefits to the Kitikmeot Inuit.

Through our efforts, Inuit have a strong sense of pride and identity, pursue higher education, speak and write our Inuit language

THE KIA'S MANDATE

- To manage Kitikmeot Inuit lands and resources to protect and promote the social cultural, Political, environmental and economic well-being of the Kitikmeot Inuit

THE KITIKMEOT INUIT ASSOCIATION DEPARTMENTS

KIA is organized into five Departments, each headed by a Director reporting to the Executive Director

- Planning and Communication
- Economic Development
- Finance
- Lands & Environment
- Social and Cultural Development spear headed the development of the Language framework through a Kitikmeot wide study for which the KIA Board approves in 2011

LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

- A document of information on history of language, what we have today and idea’s of how we can revitalize our Inuktun language

BENEFICIARIES GAINING OWNERSHIP

- As the document is huge and many key area’s for language advocates to put focus on
- Realization of the gap between the language advocates, stakeholder and community grassroots on the content of the KIA language Framework
- KIA present the framework to the community grassroots

FINDING A WAY TO ENGAGE OUR PEOPLE

- A group of 25 Qitirmiut inuinnait planned a present the KIA language framework
- The presentation was presented over a three day workshop
- The second evening was to celebrate the language we have by people bringing in stories and sharing

THE COMMUNITIES HEAR FROM ONE ANOTHER

- Share and learn as to what they enjoy and build on it
- Women gather to share stories of loss as they learn to bead
- Healing is something we stop transferring as a part of our ways with- in our family
- “Healing is best when your doing hands on activities”

IDENTIFYING WHEN AND WHERE LANGUAGE IS USED

- Language & Knowledge keepers – who are they? Families/People who grew up with elders that spoke the language
- Language leadership – discussions on where were at today with language.
- Speaking versus writing, the attitude shifting
- Language program is language focused planning
- Cultural programming is getting the programming done focus, tools, sewing, camping

HISTORY OF WHO WE ARE, THE LAND AND FOOD, THE CELEBRATIONS

LANGUAGE EXPOSURE CREATES LANGUAGE LEARNING

- Annual community consultations meetings with individual groups of elders, women, youth, men, recreation, wellness, rangers and then one last meeting with all groups together to hear what each has talked about and how they get work together to achieve their desired goals
- On going cultural activities with a language learning focus, such as sewing, tool making, land camps, drum making, making fishing tools, setting nets, sharing what's harvested
- One key point language has to start at home, in our daily lives, in our programs

SOME OF THE PRIORITIES DEFINED FURTHER THROUGH ON GOING COMMUNITY VISITS

- Meeting with individual groups separately women, men, youth, elders and community groups like the Community municipalities such as recreation, wellness centre staff, school and inuinnait staff
- Main goal is to ensure that all beneficiaries know the framework to gain ownership to the disconnection of culture, gaps in language loss and find ways to revitalize our language & cultural skill development
- During our meetings our people had discussion on how can we see a thriving culture

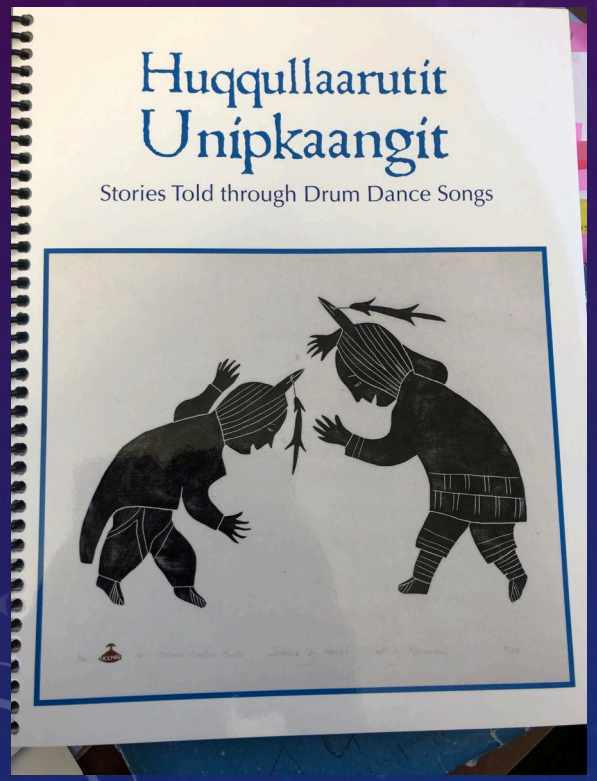
INCREASING LANGUAGE EXPOSURE THROUGH TV

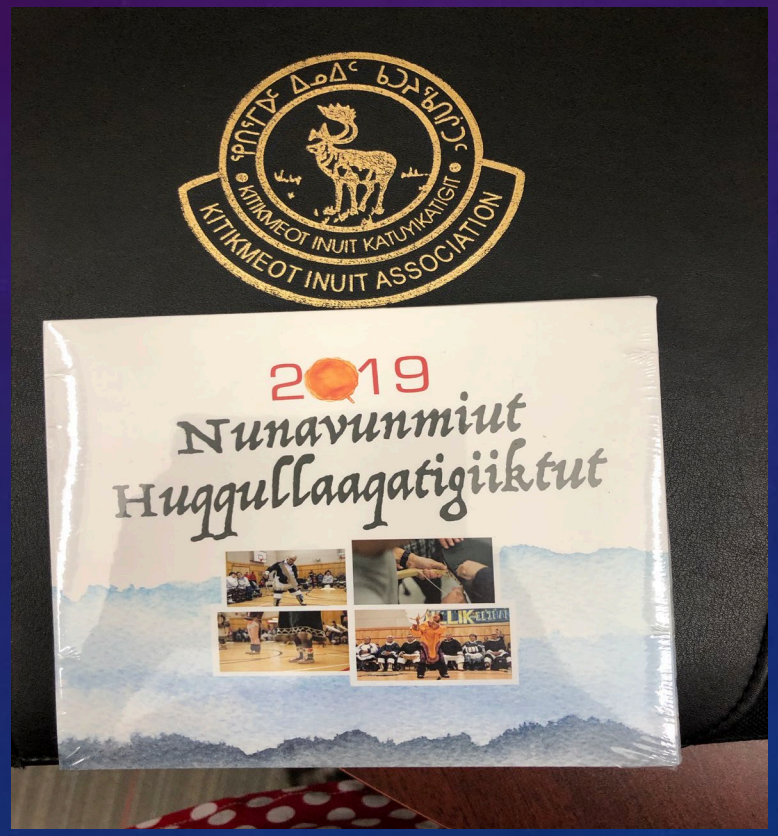
- Partnership with Isuma TV, ACL, Nunavut Government & KIA
- Isuma TV network model & online Isuma channel, expertise in set up & training on going support
- Arctic Cooperatives for local channel on Cable system and cable linesmen
- KIA & NU Government funding support
- KIA to administer, seek on going funding for internet, planning filming and programming idea, on going training for for filming, editing, loading content
- We are now talking about digitizing content from High 8's , VHS home Videos from community folks, as people are interested in donating for new content

LEARNING OLD SONGS AND SHARING THE STORIES

- Understanding terms by asking questions of our knowledge keepers wasn’t easy at the beginning, now it is encouraged to ask so learning is happening
- Transcribing songs, two song working groups Copper & Nattilingmiut Inuinnait each community brings three songs to for the songbook with the terms identified and key terms are selected for songbook

THE SONGS TRANSCRIBED, RECORDED AND NEW LEARNER'S PRACTICE AND LEAD





CONDITIONING THE SONGBOOK FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Not too much information so learners don’t get turned off see songbook for terms selected
- Two writing systems Roman orthography for copper inuit songs, Syllabics for Nattilingmiut songs
- No audio recordings for the first several years – to engage with singers in their communities as they contributed what they knew to the book

THE KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS OF STORIES TOLD THROUGH SONGS

- Copper Inuit – Roy & Kate Inuktalik, Tommy & Mary Kilaodluk, Joseph & Lena Niptanatiak, Mary Kudlak, Mary Kaniak
- Nattilingmiut Inuit – Bernadette Uttaq, Bessie Uquqtuq, Lucy Nimiqtaqtuq, Mrs Aglukkaq, Jimmy Qirqqut, Benedicta Kayaitok, Marie Anguti, Theresa Sikkuak
- As we had singers still the songbook without the audio encouraged learners to seek the singers in their communities to sing together
- At the start of the project 6 years ago, we had two drum dance groups now we have 5, one in each community

LANGUAGE PROMOTERS

- We had our first language promoter orientation meeting several month ago
- Language versus cultural programming, documenting & reporting language used in programs
- Reporting forms to track language learning

KIA LANGUAGE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

- To meet two times a year, had our first working group orientation planning when the best times to schedule meetings as 4 of 5 members are inuinnait teachers a partnership with Kitikmeot School operation, who have approved their staff leave with pay to participate with the working group meetings and attending this language conference
- Introduction and overview of KIA Language framework and GN's Uqausivut 2.0 language plan
- History of KIA social & cultural programs and how they have started to shift to more of a language focused

ONGOING STEPS FORWARD THROUGH PARTNERSHIP CREATION NOT STOVE PIPING

- Major goal, to have a Language & cultural school (Piqqusilirivik)
- Ongoing training for TV network to not only just film events, but to plan, script write our stories and event, make documentaries, Inuit are humorous let’s create a show around that…we need training center's, a media center in our region
- Build a qaggiq which is a performing arts school with a performing center theatre in Nunavut as we need a place to train actors not only for Tv show, but to do drama, musicals, building set, clothing designs partner with Qaggiavuut

MANY THANKS TO PEOPLE

- To who have had the courage to step up and talk about the reality of where were at and taking a stand together to accept the changes that brought on the losses & hurts and are willing to move forward together. quana