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INUIT TAPIRIIT KANATAMI

Inuktut Qaliujaqpait and Translation

**A GUIDE TO USING THE UNIFIED
INUKTUT WRITING SYSTEM
AND TRANSLATING FOR ITK**

About Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is the national representative organization for the 70,000 Inuit in Canada, the majority of whom live in Inuit Nunangat, the Inuit homeland encompassing 51 communities across the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (Northwest Territories), Nunavut, Nunavik (Northern Québec), and Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador). Inuit Nunangat makes up 40 percent of Canada's land area and 72 percent of its coastline. ITK represents the rights and interests of Inuit at the national level through a democratic governance structure that represents all Inuit regions. ITK advocates for policies, programs, and services to address the social, cultural, political, and environmental issues facing our people.

ITK's Board of Directors are as follows:

- Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- President, Makivvik
- President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- President, Nunatsiavut Government

In addition to voting members, the following non-voting Permanent Participant Representatives also sit on the Board:

- President, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada
- President, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- President, National Inuit Youth Council

Vision

Canadian Inuit are prospering through unity and self-determination.

Mission

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami is the national voice for protecting and advancing the rights and interests of Inuit in Canada.

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Introduction

Inuktut

Inuktut is an original language of Canada, the original language of Inuit Nunangat and the first language of the majority of Inuit. It encompasses all dialects spoken in Inuit Nunangat and is the only linguistic term that covers all and only the Inuit language groups in Inuit Nunangat. The term was formally endorsed by the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Board of Directors in 2016.

The map below gives a broad idea of the dialects of Inuktut in Inuit Nunangat, but each broad dialect can be broken down into more specific dialects as well.

1. Inuvialuit Settlement Region: Inuvialuktun
2. Nunavut: Inuinnaqtun
3. Nunavut: Inuktitut
4. Nunavik: Inuktitut
5. Nunatsiavut: Inuttitut



History of Writing Systems

Inuktut was a spoken language across the Arctic for thousands of years before writing systems came into use. The different writing systems Inuit currently use were mostly introduced by European missionaries in order to spread Christianity throughout the Arctic. Many Inuit also learned to write from other Inuit who were visiting from different regions and these skills spread quickly. Inuit adapted, and continue to improve, the writing systems that missionaries had developed.

- Early 1700s: Greenlandic Kalaallisut is written down by Danish missionaries using roman orthography (1750: first Greenlandic dictionary; 1760: first Greenlandic grammar book).
- 1790s: Labrador Inuktut begins to be written and taught in schools using a roman orthography developed by Moravian missionaries.
- 1850s: Anglican missionaries John Horden and Edwin Watkins adapt Cree syllabics for writing in Inuktut in the James Bay Area.
- 1870s-1890s: Anglican missionary Edmund Peck publishes Inuktut translations of biblical materials in syllabics in Nunavik and Nunavut's Qikiqtaaluk region. Use of syllabics spreads among Inuit in those areas.
- Late 1800s: Missionaries in the western Arctic introduce roman orthography for Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun.
- 1900: Uyaquq, a Yup'ik from Alaska, develops a picture writing script for the Yugtun language; around the same time missionaries in Alaska introduce roman orthography for Yup'ik and Iñupiaq languages.
- 1950s and 1960s: Gilles Lefebvre (1950s) and Raymond Gagné (1960s) are hired by the government of Canada to standardize roman orthography.
- 1970s: Due to limited space on the typeball of the IBM Selectric typewriter, the fourth column of the Nunavik syllabic chart (▽ V U ai-pai-tai) is removed.
- 1973: A new standard roman orthography is introduced in Greenland.
- 1976: The Inuit Cultural Institute (ICI) standard dual orthography (syllabic/qaniujaqpait and roman/qaliujaqpait) is introduced and ratified by Inuit Tapiriyat of Canada, which later became Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.
- 1980: Labrador Inuit Standardized Writing System is introduced as a reformed version of Labrador roman orthography.
- 1980: Nunavik's Avataq Cultural Institute is established.

- 1984: The Committee for Original People's Entitlement (COPE) standardizes roman orthography in the Inuvialuit region (different from ICI roman orthography).
- 2001: The fourth column of the Nunavik syllabic chart (捺 V U ai-pai-tai) is restored.
- 2009: Some new syllabics are introduced in the Kitikmeot region to represent sounds that are used in Natsilik dialect but were not part of existing syllabics (-^Ɂ-, -^{Ɂ'}-, -^Ɂ-, -^Ɂ-, -^Ɂ-, -^Ɂ- for -shri-, -shru-, -shra-, -rhi-, -rhu-, -rha-).
- 2010: Nunavut establishes Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiiit as a language authority to standardize Inuktut terminology and spelling in Nunavut.
- 2011: Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami forms the Atausiq Inuktut Titirausiq Task Group to work on developing a unified writing system for Inuktut in Canada.
- 2019: ITK officially adopts the Inuktut Qaliujaqpait orthography developed by the Atausiq Inuktut Titirausiq group.

The Atausiq Inuktut Titirausiq Task Group included language specialists from each Inuit region. It was mandated to research and identify the speech components of Inuktut, the current Inuktut orthographies in use, and recommend an Inuktut orthography that has the best chance of advancing Inuktut far into the future.

Inuktut Qaliujaqpait

Inuktut Qaliujaqpait is a unified writing system, a common set of symbols for Inuktut sounds, that allows written text to reflect spoken words in any dialect of Inuktut. It is based on the roman alphabet, which is already used as a primary or a secondary script in all regions of Inuit Nunangat. It allows the use of technology and keyboards that already exist without having to use different keyboard layouts or special fonts or characters.

This unified orthography was developed by Inuktut language experts over eight years. Throughout that time, members of ITK's Atausiq Inuktut Titirausiq Task Group and later, the Atausiq Inuktut Titirausiq Development Team, consulted widely with elders, teachers, and other key users of Inuktut.

A unified Inuktut orthography was a recommendation of the National Strategy on Inuit Education (2011) to improve the sharing of educational resources across Inuit Nunangat, facilitate communication across regions and improve teacher and student mobility.

The new orthography is an auxiliary system to be implemented alongside the existing orthographies used regionally.

Inuktut Qaliujaaqpait



NIPPIIT	a	i	u
p	pa	pi	pu
t	ta	ti	tu
k	ka	ki	ku
g	ga	gi	gu
m	ma	mi	mu
n	na	ni	nu
s	sa	si	su
l	la	li	lu
j	ja	ji	ju
v	va	vi	vu
r	ra	ri	ru
q	qa	qi	qu
ng	nga	ngi	ngu
hl	hla	hli	hlu
h	ha	hi	hu
ch	cha	chi	chu
rh	rha	rhi	rhu
shr	shra	shri	shru
f	ffa	ffi	ffu
'	a'	i'	u'

www.itk.ca/inuktut-qaliujaaqpait-converter

Conversions to Inuktut Qaliujaaqpait



Regional Orthographies Inuktut Qaliujaaqpait

-e-, -o-, -â-	-ii-, -uu-, -aa-
-yi-, -yu-, -ya-	-ji-, -ju-, -ja-
capital -K-	-q-
-kKi-, -kKu-, -kKa- -qP-, -qJ-, -qB- -qP-, -qJ-, -qB- -rqi-, -rqu-, -rqa-	-qqi-, -qqu-, -qqa-
-c-, -q-, -s- -ti-, -tu-, -ta-, -tli-, -tlu-, -tla- -dli-, -dlu-, -dla- -&i-, -&u-, -&a-	-hli-, -hlu-, -hla- nipik: -hl- doubled: -hhli-, -hhlu-, -hhla-
-nngi-, -ngngu-, -ngnga- -ngngi-, -ngngu-, -ngnga-	-nngi-, -nngu-, -nngga- nipik: -nng-
-b-	-v-
-dj-, -tdj-	-jj-
-tch-	-ch-
-ri-, -ru-, -fa-	-rhi-, -rhu-, -rha-
-si-, -su-, -sa-	-shri-, -shru-, -shra-

Using Inuktut Qaliujaqpait

Using Inuktut Qaliujaqpait is as simple as using any existing Inuktut roman orthography writing system. Major differences between other writing systems and Inuktut Qaliujaqpait are listed in the table titled, “Conversions to Inuktut Qaliujaqpait,” on page 6 of this guide. When writing, or if transliterating manually, having this table in view can be helpful.

Other things to keep in mind when using Inuktut Qaliujaqpait:

- For long vowels, vowels are doubled: -aa-, -ii-, -uu-.
- When an apostrophe is used after a vowel (-a'-, -i'-, or -u'-), it marks a glottal stop, the “catch in the throat” sound heard in some dialects in words like ma’na, a’aa or Qamani’tuaq.
- When an apostrophe is used after an -n-, it means pronouncing the -n- separately from the following -ng- sound (as in avin’ngaq in some dialects).
- When an apostrophe is used after an -r-, it means pronouncing the -r- separately from the following -rh- sound (as in qar’rhuk in some dialects).
- The -b- sound in some Nunavut Inuktut dialects will sometimes be a -p- or double -ll- instead of a -v-.

Inuktut Qaliujaqpait allows those who have already learned another Inuit writing system to adapt easily while simultaneously providing a solid foundation for first-time Inuktut language learners. Ultimately, it facilitates the use of Inuktut over time as a working language for business and higher education.

Inuktut Qaliujaqpait Converter

Another way to learn to use Inuktut Qaliujaqpait is through the online Inuktut Qaliujaqpait converter, created to assist quick transliteration between Inuktut writing systems. The converter can transliterate between Inuktut Qaliujaqpait and any of the following writing systems:

- Inuvialuktun Roman Orthography
- Inuinnaqtun Roman Orthography
- Western Nunavut Syllabics
- Eastern Nunavut Syllabics
- ICI Roman Orthography
- Nunavik Syllabics
- Nunatsiavut Roman Orthography



<https://www.itk.ca/inuktut-qaliujaqpait-converter/>



ITK Translation Standards

This guide has been created to convey ITK's style of preferred Inuktut translation to aid in making translating with and for ITK easier with clear expectations. ITK understands every translator has unique skills, work and life experiences, and learnings based on a wide variety of regional dialects, writing systems, and spelling and grammar rules.

The dialect(s) required, writing system(s) to be used, rate of pay, payment type, and work and payment timelines should be discussed between the translator and ITK before any work is shared or begun.

Translators are not expected to use Inuktut Qaliujaqpait without training, unless agreed upon beforehand by both the translator and ITK. Though the standards laid out below discuss Inuktut Qaliujaqpait, replace with roman orthography if a regional variety is to be used instead.

Using Acronyms

If a full name has a shortened name or acronym in brackets, spell out the name once, and then use the shortened name or acronym when writing the name again later in the same document.

In syllabics, try to shorten the name in a way that makes sense. If not possible, using English acronyms is acceptable (such as in a different example talking about the IRC).

Example

English: “Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (**ITK**) is the national representative organization for 70,000 Inuit in Canada. **ITK**’s offices are located in Ottawa, Ontario.”

Inuktut Qaliujaaqpait: "Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) katujiqatigiinguvuq kiggartuisunik 70,000 Inunnit Kanatami. ITK allavingit Ottawa, Ontario-miittut."

Example

English: **Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)** works collaboratively with partners to improve access to high quality services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

Inuktut Qaliujaaqpait: **Nunaqaqqasimajutuqarnut Pijitsirautilirijit Kanatami (Pijitsirautilirijit)** piliriqatiquqaput asinginnit piusaitutik pijitsirautiksiavangnit Allanuungajunit, Inunnut, Allangajunullu.

Inuktut Explanations

If there is an explainer in English about basic Inuktut words or phrases, don't translate the explanation – the words or phrases will (usually) be understood by the Inuktut reader.

This may not apply in a case of a newly coined Inuktut word or phrase, or if the translator feels an explanation is required. Use your judgment or ask ITK for clarification.

Example

English: "People loved the pitsi, meaning dried char in Inuktitut, when they ate it."

Inuktut Qaliujaqpait: "Pitsi nirijaulirmat mamarijaulaurtuq inulimaanut."

Inuktut syllabics: “ʌŋ’ սռʌŋ’-c’-L’ ɬɬռʌŋ’-c’-C’ ʌŋ’.”

Example

English: "The project name is Inuit Qaujissarnimut Pilirijjutit, which means the Inuit Research Program."

Inuktut Qaliuajaqpait: "Taanna pinasuartaujuq atilik Inuit Qaujisarnirmut Pilirijjutimit."

When to use original or English spelling

In Inuktut Qaliujaqpait, proper nouns should be spelled in the original language or English – like the names of people, places, and organizations that don't have Inuktut names or translations, like the Inuvialuit Corporation (it should not become Inuvialuit Kuapariisan).

Example

English: **Natan Obed** is the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and is serving his third term as president.

Inuktut Qaliujaaqpait: **Natan Obed** Angajuqqaangujuq Inuit Tapiriikkunnut Kanatami pingajuanganiiliqsunilu angajuqqaangunirmik.

Example

English: Each Inuvialuit community of Aklavik, Inuvik, Paulatuk, **Sachs Harbour**, Tuktoyaktuk and Ulukhaktok, has a Community **Corporation** with elected directors. The directors of the six community corporations elect the Chair of the **Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)**. This elected member also takes on the responsibility of Chief Executive Officer of **IRC**. The Chair of each Community **Corporation**, together with the Chair and CEO of **IRC**, form the **IRC** Board of Directors.

Inuktut Qaliujaaqpait: Inuvialuit nunalilimaangit, Aklavik, Inuvik, Paulatuk, **Sachs Harbour**, Tuktoyaktuk, ammalu Ulukhaktok, **corporation-taliit** aulatsijiqaqsutit niruaqtausimajunit. Taakkua pingasuujuqtut aulatsijiit niruaqsisut **Inuvialuit Avittuqsimajuup Corporation-ngata (IRC)** Iksivautanganit. Taanna niruaqtausimajuq aulatsijimmariuusuuq **IRC-mit**. Aulatsijiuut nunalit **corporation-nginnit**, ilaqaqsutik Iksivautamit Aulatsijimmarimilu **IRC-mut**, Katimajiguuqpaput **IRC-kkunut**.

Using Dashes

When combining Inuktut Qaliujaaqpait with acronyms, numbers, or words in a different language, use a dash for clarity and ease of reading.

In syllabics, use dashes for acronyms, numbers, or words spelled in roman orthography/English/different languages. Non-Inuktitut words that are sounded out phonetically and spelled in syllabics don't need a dash, such as $>\cap\cup^c$ below.

Example

English: The prize was announced during ITK's annual general meeting in Inuvik on September 18, 2024, and presented to Berthe in Ottawa on Oct. 22.

Inuktut Qaliujaqpait: Saalilik uqartaujuviniq **ITK-kut** arraagutamaat katimaninginni Inuuvinimi September 18, 2024-**ngutillugu**, tunijautsunilu **Berthe-mut** Aatuvaami October 22-**ngutillugu**.

Using Converters

Converters do not capitalize words automatically. If using a writing system converter, review and edit to make sure the Inuktut Qaliujaqpait text is capitalized where it needs to be capitalized, such as proper nouns and the beginning of sentences.

You will also want to check for other necessary changes, as in the examples below.

Example of converting syllabics into Inuktut Qaliujaqpait

Inuktut Qaliujaqpait: **inuit tapiriit kanatami (tapiriikkut)** kiggaqtuijuvut 70,000 **inunnit kanatami**, amisuuningit **inuit nunangannimiutaujunik**, 51 nunalinginnik.

Example of converting Inuktut Qaliujaaqpait text into ICI Roman Orthography

Inuktut Qaliujaaqpait: **ITK** kiggaqtuisuunguvut **Inuit Kanatami** pijunnautinginnik ammalu pijumajanginnik aqqutiqqaqsutik gavamaqarusiujumik kiggaqtuijumit **Inuit** avittuqsimajalimaanginnik. **ITK** ajaurisuunguvut turaaganik, piliriarnik, ammalu pijittirarutinik kamagijauqullugit akaunngiliurutiujut **Inuit** inuusiqatsialirininginnik, iliqqusiliritsianinginnik, immini aulatsigunnarninginnik, ammalu avatilirigunnarninginnik.

ICI Roman Orthography: **itk** kiggaqtuisunguvut **inuit kanatami** pijunnautinginnik ammalu pijumajanginnik aqqutiqaqqsutik gavamaqarusijumik kiggaqtuijumit **inuit** avittuqsimajalimaanginnik. **itk** ajauriisuunguvut turaaganik, piliriarnik, ammalu pijittirarutinik kamagijauqullugit akaunngiliurutiujut **inuit** inuusiqatsialirininginnik, iliqqusiliritsianinginnik, immini aulatsigunnarninginnik, ammalu avatilirigunnarninginnik.

Notes



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