Glossary

Gr.3 Northern plants

There are nine different aboriginal languages spoken in the NWT. Languages develop over thousands of years and they tell us a lot about the people who speak them and the environment that they live in. We asked speakers of some of these languages to translate some keywords related to some of the different types of plants found in the forest and on the tundra and how these plants fit into their eco systems.

You'll see that some words translate easily and some need very long explanations. There are many words that have no translation. The same is true when trying to translate from aboriginal languages into English and French. We asked the translators to provide some back translations too. These show how different the literal meaning of the translation can be from the original English.

Fireweed

A common plant in the boreal forest with purple flowers

| Dogrib | Gòh / Fireweed |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| South Slavey | Gýh Gýųh / Fireweed |
| North Slavey | Jíetú îť ó |
| Inuvialuktun | Nautchiaq tunguqtaaq / Purple flower |

Lichen

A plant type organism made of algae and funghi living together

| Dogrib | Adzų |
|--------------|--|
| Inuktitut | 1. Tuktuit niqingi / Caribou fodder / 2. Tingiujait (most common term) / More accurately |
| | explains the appearance in that is similar to pubic hair that grows on land or rocks |
| South Slavey | Níęmba / Lichen |
| North Slavey | Tł'ehte, dechi hîji |
| Inuvialuktun | Tuktuum niqiat / Food for caribou |
| Inuinnaqtun | 1. Qavviqqut / Lichen on a rock / 2. Tuktup niqautaa / Lichen on the ground |
| Chipewyan | Tthetsıį / Lichen |
| | |

Taiga

A northern forest where the trees are mostly coniferous trees

| Dogrib | Dech _l a / Edge of the forest |
|--------------|--|
| South Slavey | Ekúhdęę dechįtah godiį tsu łoʻ/ Up here (north) in the forest where there are a lot of coniferous trees |
| North Slavey | Dechîla |
| Inuvialuktun | Napaaqtuq / Tree |
| Inuinnaqtun | Napaaqtuqangniq / Where there are a lot of trees |

Tundra

A treeless area in the North

| Dogrib | Hòdì |
|--------------|---|
| Inuktitut | Nuna / Land |
| South Slavey | Dechį húle ndéhe / Land with no trees |
| North Slavey | Gokw'ine |
| Inuvialuktun | Nunavik / No trees |
| Inuinnaqtun | Ukiuqtaqtumi nuna / Land where it is always winter |
| Chipewyan | Házu / Barren Lands |

Ecosystem

An area where plants and animals depend on each other to survive.

| Dogrib | Dechini / Among the forest |
|--------------|---|
| South Slavey | Godıı t'ıch'ahndı gots'éh t'ahsíı zhánízheh ełet'áogedehthı / Place where plants and anımals depend on each other |
| North Slavey | Nę h é tich'adi hé n t'á ełexe gokedi |
| Inuvialuktun | Nunaami nautchuutlu niryunlu inuuyuaq / On the land plants and animals survive |
| Inuinnaqtun | Avatiqaqatigiinngniq / Things that share their surroundings |
| Chipewyan | Dechën yághe / In the bush |

Coniferous

A tree that produces cone seeds

| South Slavey | Ts'u / Comferous trees |
|--------------|------------------------|
| North Slavey | Ts'énohjí |
| Inuvialuktun | Napaaqtuq / Tree |
| Chipewyan | Dédlın / Spruce tree |
| | |

Needles

The thin leaves of coniferous trees that stay on the tree all year.

| Dogrib | Orı |
|--------------|--|
| Inuktitut | Miqqutingit / Needles of the tree |
| South Slavey | Gò̯o/ Needles |
| North Slavey | Elegaré |
| Inuvialuktun | Ipiktuq napaaqtuq quaraq sivituyumik / Sharp needles on a tree that grow for a long time |
| Inuinnaqtun | Napaaqtup atungauyait tuatpiaqtut ukiuraaluk napaaqtumiitut / |
| | Very thin leaves on a tree that stay on the tree year around |
| Chipewyan | ?ël garé / Spruce bough needles |

Cones

The seeds of a coniferous tree

| Dogrib | Dzįį |
|--------------|---|
| Inuktitut | Napaaqtuksait / Items that grow into trees |
| South Slavey | T'élohzhieh / Requires a descriptor to indicate whether it is a |
| | "Pine Cone", or a "Spruce Cone" / Cones |
| North Slavey | Ts'énǫhjí |
| Inuvialuktun | Napaaqtuut nakaaq / Food that is part of the tree |
| Chipewyan | Na júle / Cones |



Berries

Soft small fruits that contain many small seeds

| Dogrib | Јіе |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Inuktitut | Paungait / Berries |
| South Slavey | Jíe / Berries |
| North Slavey | jíe |
| Inuvialuktun | Asiaq |
| Inuinnaqtun | Kablat / Berries |
| Chipewyan | jié / Berries |

Root

The part of the plant that gets water and nutrients from the soil

| Dechį tł'į |
|---|
| Airait / The bottom parts of plants inside the land |
| ghayé / Requires a preceding noun indicating what kind of root / Root |
| Ts'ilo |
| Masu |
| Airaq / Roots |
| Xëth / roots |
| |



Seaweed

Plants that grow underwater

| Dogrib | Dla |
|--------------|---|
| Inuktitut | 1. Qiquat / Seaweeds in general / 2. Kuanniit / Seaweed that is edible for humans |
| South Slavey | Dla / Seaweed |
| North Slavey | Tuyíı įť ò neye |
| Inuvialuktun | Nakaaq imaq iluani / Plants underwater |
| Inuinnaqtun | Aqaya |

Sap

A fluid produced inside plants and trees.

| Dogrib | Dehchį tì / Juice from the wood |
|--------------|---|
| South Slavey | _Tú / Sap Requires a preceding noun indicating what kind of sap |
| North Slavey | Dzéhkw'élé |
| Inuvialuktun | Uummaq |
| Inuinnaqtun | Napaaqtuupuqhua / The fat of a tree |
| Chipewyan | K'ı Kué / Birch tree sap |

