



Glossary

Gr.5 Humans and Snow

SNOW AMAZING!

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 snow in the north and how it impacts on and shapes the lives of people who live here.

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.



Accumulation of Snow

Continual build-up of snow layers over the course of a winter.

Inuktitut	Apivallianiq / The steady permanence of snow on the land.
South Slavey	Xaye gháádé zhah dánéht'ée at'ih / How much snow accumulates throughout the winter.
North Slavey	Táhtsi
Inuvialuktun	Natiruviktuaq
Inuinnaqtun	Appihimaangnia / It is covered in snow
Chipewyan	Yáth Łá ná ítŁı / Lots of snow fell

Igloo

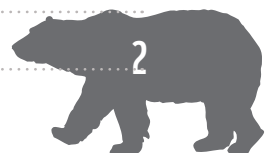
Shelter made of snow blocks, usually cut with a snow knife

Dogrib	Zah kò / Snow house
Inuktitut	Iglu / Snowhouse/home
South Slavey	Enáke zhah kúé / Inuit snow house
North Slavey	Zhakó
Inuvialuktun	Iglu
Inuinnaqtun	Iglu / Any type of house
Chipewyan	Yáth kúe / Snow house

Qamutik

A long sled put together with only ropes to ensure flexibility on the rough lands and sea ice.
No nails are used on these, traditionally.

Inuktitut	Qamutik
South Slavey	Enáke th mehchíę / Inuit dogsleight
North Slavey	behchîné
Inuvialuktun	Qamutik
Inuinnaqtun	Alliak
Chipewyan	?ekená beschënë / Inuit sled



Quinzee

A shelter made by piling snow and hollowing out a space for shelter

Inuktitut	Uqquaq / A shelter of any kind out on the land
South Slavey	Mezhíéh ts'enetéh gha zhah dee nít's'éníhtse zhíéh gots'edíhgé / Building a shelter by pushing together snow and digging in
North Slavey	Zhakó
Inuvialuktun	Uquutchiutiyaapunmiq / Shelter made from snow
Inuinnaqtun	Apittiq / Den
Chipewyan	Yáth yághe / In the snow

Spring melt

When snow and Ice thaw in the spring

Dogrib	Edàk'ò
Inuktitut	1. Aukpallianiq / The process of melting / 2. Sikuijarniq / Time of ice melting / 3. Tuvaijarniq / Sea ice disappearing
South Slavey	Łuk'éh gogha zhah gots'eh tē eedítla / Spring ice and snow melt
North Slavey	Łuk'é zha tarikw'a
Inuvialuktun	Augvingnaqtuq upinraksaq
Inuinnaqtun	Upinngamimahaktirvia / Spring melt
Chipewyan	Yáth nagı / Melting snow

Forecast

To predict or estimate a future event or trend, in this case concerning the weather.

Inuktitut	Silamik nalautaarutiit / Forecast of weather
South Slavey	Zhundaa gogha karı dágondíh gha ts'edı / Predicting/estimating how the weather will be
North Slavey	Kare dagóht'e gha kedi
Inuvialuktun	Sila / Weather
Inuinnaqtun	Hilapqanuruliuruhikhaa / Weather predictions, patterns
Chipewyan	Yátsı / How it's going to be tomorrow

