

VIBSSOID

Gr.8 Politics of Water

NORTHERN WATERS

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 the political issues surrounding the use of fresh water in the NWT.

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.

Downstream

To be further down the watercourse in the direction of flow from the point of observation.

South Slavey	Godų tu gohdádélų / Where water flows down
Inuvialuktun	Ataaqtuaq
Chipewyan	Dez yaghe / Down stream

Extractive Industries

Industries whose primary activity is extracting resources from the earth such as mining or logging.

Inuktitut	Ammuqaijiit nunamik angijunik sanaaqtut /
	Large work places that work at extracting from the land
South Slavey	Eghálaedacho ndéh ts'ęh t'ahsíı kágeleke / Industries that extract products from the land
Inuvialuktun	Nunami aniuqtuaq /
	Removing objects from the land – no word for 'extractive' in Inuvialuktun

Upstream

To be further up the watercourse contrary to the direction of flow from the point of observation

South Slavey	Tu godų gots'eh nılı / Where the water is flowing from
Inuvialuktun	Kilumun
Chipewyan	Dez daghe / Above the stream

Carbon Emissions

Carbon dioxide that is released as a result of the combustion of fuels, particularly fossil fuels.

Dogrib	Tłehtsį lòò
Inuktitut	Purjurluit
South Slavey	Tłeh tsį / Fuel / Fossil Fuel emission
Inuvialuktun	Suviluktuaq / Air is coming in through a small opening
Inuinnaqtun	Uqhuryuaqtuqtuppuyuunga / Smoke from things that use fuel

Stewardship

The act of taking responsibility for something and maintaining a desirable state.

Inuktitut	Paqqijiuqatauniq / Acting as responsible members to ensure safety of something
South Slavey	Nezųų agóot'é gha t'ahsíı ts'é k'aots'edhe edets'éhtsı /
	Taking charge of something in order to protect it
Inuvialuktun	Munaqsi
Chipewyan	Ní ts'ën kárílde / Owners of the land

Contaminants

Something that makes a place or a substance (such as water, air, or food) no longer suitable for use.

Dogrib	T'ası wexèèhdı t'à nezį le
Inuktitut	Sururnaqtut / Things that are of a destructive or spoiling nature
South Slavey	Náídíh łınį dúle mets'įhzǫ́ó tu gots'ęh ndéh tsį́dhı /
	Bad chemicals that could destroy the land and water
Inuvialuktun	1. Qakiqtuaq / Something spoiled for being in the sun too long
	2. Asiuyiyaa inuumun / It spoiled it for the human
Inuinnaqtun	Huungiqtauhimaniq / Damaged
Chipewyan	?asıé tsé¿Łde / Spoils things

Stakeholders

Persons with an interest or concern in something

Dogrib	Amęę̀ wexèidı ha sıì / Who ıt wıll affect
Inuktitut	 Nangminiqaqataujut / Co-owners of something Ilauqattarialiit / People who should be included in activities
South Slavey	Nezųų agóot'é gha t'ahsíı ts'é k'aots'edhe edets'edéhtsı/ Takıng charge of something in order to protect it
Inuvialuktun	Piliun
Chipewyan	Ní húl kun / Holding the land

Methane Gas

A potent greenhouse gas, that occurs naturally when organic material decomposes.

Inuktitut	Pulatuqait nunamik / Old gas from inside the land
South Slavey	Tłeh nįhts'I mets'įhzǫ́ó zhat'ah gonídhıh
	/ Gaseous gas that contributes to greenhouse effect
Inuinnaqtun	Puplakuunautivalliayuqikiarmigaasilinguqhuni
	/ Smoke and smog that causes heat and creates a gas