



Proposal for a Legislation Framework

Indigenous languages in Canada encompass a diversity of worldviews, histories, identities, cultures and knowledges that are vital to the identity of Indigenous peoples, and are intrinsic and inherent in each of these languages.

What do we want?	Outcome	Questions
Reclamation & revitalization	Investment that results in <u>fluent speakers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preschool language nests ● Adult immersion (Mentor-Apprentice programs, immersion classes, language houses) ● Family-based immersion programs ● Silent speaker programs ● Increase in domains of use Extensive, high quality <u>documentation</u> of fluent speakers, with the infrastructure to support it (training, equipment, transcription, archiving, etc.)	<p><i>How can the government support revitalization, beyond funding?</i></p> <p><i>What policy is needed?</i></p> <p><i>What organizations / institutions need to be on board?</i></p>
Indigenous language education	All Indigenous people must have access and opportunity to <u>learn their Indigenous homeland language</u> regardless of place of residence, and all who choose for their children (from preschool to Grade 12) to be educated in the medium of their mother-tongue must have that option. The legislation must include guarantees of adequate funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare curriculum ● Train fluent speakers to be teachers ● Train non-fluent teachers to be speakers ● Train <u>all</u> teachers in immersion practices ● Provide for parallel programs (immersion and non-immersion) in communities where not everyone will opt for immersion 	<p><i>What supports do you need to make language education happen?</i></p> <p><i>What policies and infrastructure will support your goals?</i></p>
Recognition	National recognition with local implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognition for all Indigenous languages? (List to be developed in consultation with Indigenous experts.) ● Official status in local domains? (e.g., bilingual signs in traditional territories) 	<p><i>What does recognition or official status mean to you?</i></p> <p><i>What does it achieve? What is the outcome you want?</i></p>



Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national office of an Indigenous Language Commission with regional offices to support the revitalization and documentation of each language • A coordinated and collaborative approach and investment across all ministries, institutions and organizations 	<p><i>What kind of infrastructure for funding, training and support is going to help you?</i></p>
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence-based language planning to support all communities at their diverse levels • Target young people to be trained to lead community-based revitalization activities 	<p><i>What kinds of skills are needed? What are the best ways to receive training and support? Who are your language teams that will lead this work going forward?</i></p>
Guaranteed support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statutory guarantee of the funding necessary to support language revitalization initiatives • Funding must be based on the cost of what is needed to implement initiatives to recover, restore and maintain the vitality of Indigenous languages wherever Indigenous people reside 	<p><i>How is the funding delivered? Who receives and administers the funding at the community level?</i></p>
Indigenous leadership and control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All decisions and actions for Indigenous language development and implementation must be a collaborative process led by Indigenous language experts and Indigenous people of each Indigenous language • Funding must be made available for immersion proponents to be involved in the development of this legislation as soon as possible • Ensure that the appropriate principles of ownership, control, access and possession (OCAP) apply to Indigenous languages 	<p><i>Who are your language leaders? What is the body that speaks for/ protects your language?</i></p>

Strategy: we must be forward-looking. Emphasis on the “endangered” status of the languages does not result in action. We need to focus on the outcomes we want to see and the strategies needed to reach our desired outcomes.

Reference:

Galley, V., Gessner, S., Herbert, T., Thompson, K. T., & Williams, L. W. (2016). *Indigenous Languages Recognition, Preservation and Revitalization. A Report on the National Dialogue Session on Indigenous Languages.* (Simultaneously published as *Reconnaissance, préservation et revitalisation des langues autochtones. Rapport sur la séance de dialogue national sur les langues autochtones.*). Victoria, BC. Retrieved from http://www.fpcc.ca/files/PDF/General/FPCC_National_Dialogue_Session_Report_Final.pdf