

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Cultural Impact Assessment Terminology Edition / Gwich'in



Intangible

Norm

Authenticity

Customs

Mitigation

Guideline

Culture

Kinship

Archaeology

Ethno-geography

Diverse languages and cultures in the North mean interpreters and translators have an important and challenging job. Whether it is explaining what has been said or what has been written, superior translation and interpretation helps people understand and it is important to good decision-making.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board strongly believes by building the capacity of interpreters and translators, communities, industry, government and regulators can be more confident that what is being communicated has been accurately translated.

At the Review Board's interpreter/translator workshops, the participants discuss English words and ways to explain them in their aboriginal language. The result is a glossary of terms, which contains the English concepts and ideas and the aboriginal-language equivalents.

This glossary of terms is the result of the Review Board's fifth translator workshop, which focused on developing cultural impact assessment terminology. The translations included in this glossary may require further revisions depending on how the words are used during interpretation and translation. Because the Review Board has not been able to work with and record each dialect, translators are encouraged to speak to elders and community experts for translations. The glossary provides spaces for interpreters and translators to write in their own translations, correct errors, or add general notes.

This glossary can be downloaded from the Review Board's website, in the reference library, at reviewboard.ca.



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Cultural Impact Assessment Terminology

Guidelines

A document that explains how to do something.

Nits'òo dagwiheedyaa
gwi'dineht'èe'

Back Translation

Paper for how things will be done.

Notes:

Cultural Impact Assessment

Looking to see if a proposed development will change a way of life.

Yi'eenoo nits'òo tr'igwiindai' ejuk
nigwidaadhak tr'igwinah'inh'

Back Translation

Looking at how a way of life is changing.

Notes:

Culture

A way of life.

This includes customs, ideas and traditions that are passed down through generations.

Yi'eenoo nits'òo Tr'igwiindai'

Back Translation

How we lived long ago.

Notes:



Culture Holder

A person who has culture.

e.g.: People of the Sahtu who are from there and practice their way of life.

Yi'eenoo nits'òo gwíidàndaıı
guk'anaatıı

Back Translation

Keeper of how we lived long ago.

Notes:

Traditional Knowledge

Knowledge, skills and beliefs rooted in a traditional way of life.

Yı eenoo nits'òo tr'ıgwıındàı'
gàhgwıdandaıı

Back Translation

Knowledge of how we lived long ago.

Notes:

Traditional Knowledge Holders

People who have knowledge, skills and beliefs rooted in a traditional way of life.

Yı eenoo nits'òo tr'ıgwıındàı'
guk'anaatıı

Back Translation

Keepers of the knowledge of how we lived long ago.

Notes:



Cultural Impact Assessment Terminology

Concerns

Things that interest people.

Jìdìi ganìnjì'tr'àdhat

Back Translation

What we are thinking about.

Notes:

Community Engagement

Ways used to get communities to pay attention to a project.

e.g.: Hosting public meetings, information sessions, going door to door to inform people and get them interested.

Kaìk'it gwizhit dagwidi'in
tr'ìgwahnah'aa gugwahtsìi

Back Translation

Community, in what they are doing, looking at, making them.

Notes:

Heritage


A people's history and tradition.

Yì eenoo dà'nìts'oo gwìndhat
guk'atr'inahtìi

Back Translation

Long ago, what was done, looking after.

Notes:



Heritage Value

Worth something because of our history and tradition.

Yi eenoo nits'òo tr'igwiindà'
tr'igwichł'ee

Back Translation

How we lived long ago is valued.

Notes:

Physical Heritage Resources

Things that show our history and tradition.

e.g.: Traditional trails, old buildings, spruce root and birch bark baskets, etc.

Yi'eenoo jidii vit'atr'idahch'ù'

Back Translation

What things was used long ago.

Notes:

Place Names Research

Looking at traditional names for a place.

Kaik'it gòozrì' katr'igwinah'in,

Back Translation

Looking for, place names.

Notes:



Cultural Landscape

Land changed, influenced or given special meaning by people.

e.g.: The story of Yamoria, Bear Rock or the Idaa Trail.

Yi'eenoo nành' nìkì'edanh'
yüinjitr'igwichì'ee

Back Translation

Long ago, land, different places is respected.

Notes:

Traditional Use Studies

Looking at the way people use the land.

Yi eenoo nit'sòo nan t'atr'idahch'ù'
guyukatr'igwinah'in

Back Translation

Long ago, looking at how the land was used, looking for.

Notes:

Archaeology

Looking for what humans left behind from long ago.

I: The old things can often tell us about the ancient way of life, like how people used to live, hunt, trap, believe, and much more.

Yi eenoo dàr' ejìch'ü ekhè'tr'oonuu
katr'igwinah'in

Back Translation

Looking for things left behind from long ago.

Notes:

Artifact

Something made by humans long ago.

e.g.: Old spruce root baskets, old moccasins, stone arrowheads.

I: Sometimes we find artifacts at archeological sites, or they are items kept by someone for a very long time.

Yi'eenoo ejıich'ıı shık ełtsaıı

Back Translation

Old things made long ago.

Notes:

Archaeological Resources

Things that humans left behind long ago.

e.g.: Stone arrowheads, old caches and tent rings.

Yi'eenoo ejıich'ıı shık ekhè'tr'oonuu

Back Translation

Old things left behind from long ago.

Notes:

Archaeological Sites

Places we look for what humans left behind long ago.

e.g.: Looking at places where people used to gather to see the old stuff left behind, like stone arrowheads, tent rings, and other stone tools. Edahcho, Saoyue, Edaiilla (Scented Grass Hills, Grizzly Bear Mountain and Caribou Point) are examples of archaeological sites.

Kwànk'ıt gwıshık gwa'àn nan zhıt ejıich'ıı katr'ıgwinah'ın gwıdeek'ıt

Back Translation

Looking for things around old campsites.

Notes:



Kinship

Family relationships.

e.g.: Grandmother, mother, father, brother, sister, cousin, auntie and uncle are examples of people who are family relatives.

Dii'daazhii

Back Translation

Relatives.

Notes:

Kinship Studies

Study of family relationships.

Nihłidaazhii kat ik'itr'aanji

Back Translation

Study of relatives.

Notes:

Cultural Networks

The way groups work together.

In our communities, there are Elders, youth, leaders, etc. How is it that they work together?

Y'eenoo nits'òo nihkhah gwitr'it
t'igugwah'ii

Back Translation

How they work together.

Notes:



Ethno-Geography

Looking at where people are spread across the land and how they adapted to the environment.

e.g.: The Dene and Inuit people have adapted to their land in different ways. Dene used to live in teepees and the Inuit used to live in igloos.

Nan kak nits'oo tagoo'ee k'iighè' adatr'igwidaandaa

Back Translation

Land on, how formed, our way of life.

Notes:

Cultural Practices

Things that people do to practice their culture.

e.g.: Speaking your languages and practicing religious ceremonies.

Nits'òo gwíidandaa gwíinjik tr'eedaa

Back Translation

Following the way we live.

Notes:

Cultural Indicators

Things that show the way a culture is changing.

e.g.: How much or how often people speak their language is a good indication of how a culture is changing.

Yí'eenoo nits'oo gwíinindhat juk ejuk gweedhaa

Back Translation

How it used to be, it is different now.

Notes:



Cultural Maintenance

Things we do to practice our culture so that our culture stays strong.

To keep our culture strong, we often speak our language, drum dance and play hand games.

Yi'eenoo nits'oo tr'igwiindai' ndoo gwiniint'aii łidatr'igwehdee'ah

Back Translation

How we lived in the past, we continue to keep strong.

Notes:

Mitigation

Make bad changes better.

e.g.: When there is not enough caribou, we only hunt the bulls and not the cows.

Gwiizuu gwiinzii natrigwahtsii

Back Translation

Making something bad better.

Notes:

Mitigation Strategies

Ways to make bad changes better.

Nits'òo gwiizuu gwiinzii natr'igwahahtsaa

Back Translation

How to make something bad better.

Notes:



Cultural Transmission

The way culture is passed down to future generations.

Yi eenoo nits'oo
tr'igwiindai'nikhwik'eejit kat
gahgiheedindaii tr'agwahaatsah

Notes:

Back Translation

How we live long ago, we pass onto future generations.

Vulnerable Populations

People more likely to experience bad changes.

Gi'gwadhan guuveenjit gwiiizuu
gwiheelyah

Notes:

Back Translation

They will easily experience bad times

Limits of Acceptable Change

The most that something can change before it is no longer pleasing.

e.g.: Adding a boardwalk to a traditional trail for easier walking is acceptable, but turning the trail into a paved road would no longer acceptable.

Ejuk gwilii dagwahchii jiidinuu
gwizrih shoh ha' tr'ooheendal

Notes:

Back Translation

We say that is as far as we will go with happiness.



Cultural Impact Assessment Terminology

Sense of Place

Knowing that a certain place is special.

Nành' nihł'ehdanh' yinjit
tr'igwichł'ee

Notes:

Back Translation

Lands in different places are valued.

Oral History

History told through oral tradition.

Yi'eenoo ganatr'igwaandak

Notes:

Back Translation

Telling others about long ago.

**Cross-Cultural Awareness Training
(Cultural Sensitivity Training)**

Classes to learn about aboriginal people and culture.

Yeenoo nits'òo tr'igwiindà' geenjit
gik'inihłitr'aanjih

Notes:

Back Translation

Teaching each other about how we lived long ago.



Inter-Generational Relations

Relationships between people of different ages. Like, how do youth and elders get along?

e.g.: How or why a 20 year old interacts with a 50 or an 80 year old. Perhaps they have a friendship, or they are a parent or grandparent.

K'eejit anjoo hàh nihkhah gwtr'it
t'agwah'in

Back Translation

Young people and elders working together.

Notes:

Valued Component

Parts that are important and worth something.

Jidlii isrits'at chidhaa'ee

Edjiich'ii lat

e.g. Nikhwiginjik, nin, chuu,

Back Translation

What we really value ,some of that- (language, animals, water etc.).

Notes:

Authenticity

An object, activity or event that is real or true to the culture it comes from.

e.g.: Some people may believe that the story of Yamoria (Hácho) is a myth or a legend, but most Dene believe that it is a true story.

łi'dagwidlii

Back Translation

It is true.

Notes:



Intellectual Property

Knowledge that belongs to a person or a group.

Gahdàndaii vit'san goonlii.

Gah'gidindaii guut'san guunlii

Back Translation

What one person know's, belongs to him.

What they know,belongs to them.

Notes:

Greenfield Development

Development happening in a place that has never been touched before.

Nán k'eejit kák gwitr'it

t'igugwichi'in'

Back Translation

On new land, they are starting to work.

Notes:

Brownfield Development

Development happening in a place that already has other projects that have happened there before.

Gwitr'it gwiltsaii danh gwitr'it

t'igugwah'in'

Back Translation

Working where work, was done before.

Notes:



Cultural Impact Assessment Terminology

Customs

The way a community feels people should behave.

e.g.: Shaking hands when you first meet someone is a sign of respect.

Nikhwi'gwiniiin'ee, yiinjitr'igwichi'lee

Back Translation

Respecting our ways.

Notes:

Norm

The usual or normal thing.

Shik nihk'it t'agoonch'uu

Back Translation

It is always the same.

Notes:

Use Value

Judging how much something is worth based on how much we use it.

e.g.: We like trees because they can be used as firewood.

Jidii t'atr'ijahch'uu, yiinjitr'itchi'lee

Back Translation

What we use, we value.

Notes:



Bequest Value

Something natural that is worth preserving to pass on to future generations.

e.g.: We want to save the forest so that our children can also benefit from it.

Nikhweh'ndo gwit'ahgahdahch'aa

Back Translation

Future generation will use.

Notes:

Existence Value

Something that we value because it exists.

e.g.: We like the forest because it is there and nice to have around.

Shik ezhik nilii eenjit chidhaa'ee

Back Translation

We value what is there.

Notes:



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