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**Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity
(including indigenous, minority and regional language names)**

Pikangikum project: a dialogue-based approach to indigenous naming in Ontario (Canada)

Summary**

Ontario's Far North Act, 2010, makes available funding for the collection and processing of geographical names in the indigenous communities of the northern part of the province. However, early field work in a pilot study revealed a clash between indigenous naming traditions and the principles and procedures used by the Ontario Geographic Names Board for the approval of names. The report explores the nature of these conflicts and the solutions that led to the approval of 17 Ojibway toponyms in the Pikangikum First Nation, a remote community near the Ontario-Manitoba border. Issues such as unusually long toponyms, the application of dual or alternate names, the choice between Roman or syllabic writing systems and strategies to facilitate the pronunciation of indigenous names by non-indigenous users are covered. The Pikangikum project promotes the preservation of indigenous names while preserving the status of previously approved non-First Nation names.

* E/CONF.101/1.

** The full report was prepared by André Lapierre, Chair, Geographic Names Board of Ontario, Canada, and is available in the languages of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.

