

**Twenty-third Session
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006**

**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda:
Activities relating to the Working Group on Training
Courses in Toponymy**

Workshop on field work in Nunavut, Canada

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The Government of Nunavut - Inuit Heritage Trust Place Names Meeting was held 22 to 24 February 2005, at the offices of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in Ottawa. About 20 field researchers and other names collectors met during this three-day workshop conducted by the Inuit Heritage Trust (IHT) (Web page at <<http://www.ihti.ca/english/home.html>>).

Participants were given overviews of the responsibilities on the Inuit Heritage Trust, the Culture and Heritage Division of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY), and the Government of Nunavut's Toponymy Program. The Nunavut policy for geographical names was passed in December 2004 and the Nunavut Geographic Names Committee was established in January 2005. There are six members on this Committee, two from each administrative region (Kitikmeot, Qikiqtani, Kivalliq) of the territory. They will serve for two-year terms.

Participants at the meeting provided information on their learning experiences while doing toponymic research. Many indicated that they had started to collect the names for reasons other than toponymic study. However, they found that they had to learn about and understand what the names mean to really understand the information they were collecting. Depicting the extent of the features recorded also turned out to be a learning experience as many of the researchers did not have cartographic backgrounds. Different types of software were used to produce maps showing the names collected. One researcher was able to input new information and have a map showing this data ready for the next day's interviews of Elders and local residents in areas being researched.

Participants learned about place naming in Canada and internationally with presentations on the United Nations and Geographical Names, the Geographical Names Board of Canada, the Gazetteer Atlas Project, and Parks Canada.

Other sessions included:

- "Current Research in Nunavut – Kitikmeot" about work being undertaken by the Kitikmeot Heritage Society, a look back at the Inuinait Place Names Survey (NWT and NU), the Naonaiyaotit Traditional Knowledge Project, and a summary of place names work in Taloyoak.
- "Current Research in Nunavut – Qikiqtani" covered work done in Igloolik, Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, and Clyde River. A video made by Béatrice Collignon while checking names and their spelling during one phase of her Inuinait Place Names Survey was shown.
- "Current Research in Nunavut – Kivalliq" covered work done in Naujaat (QC) and Haningajuq, a graduate thesis project near Baker Lake, and mapping interests and needs of the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

The last day dealt mostly with making maps. Presentations were given on the Digital Amendment Map (DAM) Project, CLEY and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and preliminary place names map production issues and observations. A presentation was made on the software (at that

point still under development) that will be used for quality control of the 1:1 million map delineations used by the Atlas of Canada for the Gazetteer Atlas Project. Various mapping products are used by field researchers to make maps showing the results of the field work – for example, Fugawi, in conjunction with Etopo map bases.

An interesting item to come out of this session was the preference for maps at the 1:250,000 scale rather than the 1:50,000 scale, except in densely named areas around communities. It is easier for the Elders who more readily understand these maps in relation to their travels. Maps at 1:250,000 also take less space for display on walls or spread out on tables.

The last session dealt with various aspects of naming. Participants made suggestions about the type of information needed to submit geographical names to the Nunavut Geographic Names Committee for approval in the hope of having a standard submission form created.¹ Other suggestions were made about the technology (film, tape, etc.) used in interviews and about issues of data quality.

Three recommendations were made at the end of the workshop:

- to create a technical working group (Nunamik Atilirijiit)
- to hold an Inuktitut terminology workshop
- to create a Nunavut map series (by Nunavut), on a 1:250,000 base, for which a target group needs to be determined (e.g., search and rescue). Such a series would provide a framework for researchers to provide input into a consistent map coverage across Nunavut and could include cultural attributes of the names collected locally. A pilot project may be done first to determine feasibility.

The report of the GN-IHT Workshop was published by IHT as *Atilirijiit Nunamik*.

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¹ The suggested fields to be used to submit names data were subsequently prepared and included in the report of the workshop.