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FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987  
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

TREATMENT OF NAMES IN MULTILINGUAL AREAS

Resolutions adopted at the native geographical names symposium

Paper submitted by Canada

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\* E/CONF.79/1.

The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names sponsored a symposium on native geographical names in Ottawa, May 7-9, 1986. The symposium provided an opportunity for fruitful discussions among over 80 participants, including representatives from Australia, Greenland and the United States. From the workshops several recommendations put forward lead to the endorsement of 27 resolutions; three additional resolutions were discussed at the symposium, but did not receive the approval of the participants.

The resolutions were considered by members of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names at its plenary session in October 1986. During 1987 the resolutions will be more widely distributed by the toponymic authorities and resubmitted to the CPCGN for possible adoption, at the next plenary session in October 1987.

#### PREAMBLE

The geographical names of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are an important and integral part of Canada's cultural heritage. The aboriginal peoples have inalienable rights regarding the perpetuation and use of their geographical names, which are preserved mainly in the oral tradition of the elders, the wise bearers of cultural knowledge and customs of their respective communities.

The collection of native geographical names should be accelerated throughout Canada and systematic and spatial coverage of cultural and linguistic areas of the indigenous peoples should be ensured. Indeed, there is an expressed need to record native geographical names and associated information efficiently and accurately as soon as possible.

The collecting and recording of native geographical names require specialized knowledge and involve complex procedures. In fact, previous and current research in the field varies as to quality and completeness, and many questions still remain unanswered, as, for example, the spelling of native geographical names. As well, it is important to harmonize the objectives of standardizing native geographical names while at the same time maintaining respect for the special characteristics of the native languages as reflected in the writing of their toponyms.

For these reasons, there has been a need for some time to have an open dialogue by the federal, provincial and territorial governments with the native peoples with regard to the treatment of native geographical names.



Jaani Annack providing place names at Kangiqsualujjuaq, Quebec

#### RESOLUTIONS

Be it resolved:

##### COLLECTING NATIVE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

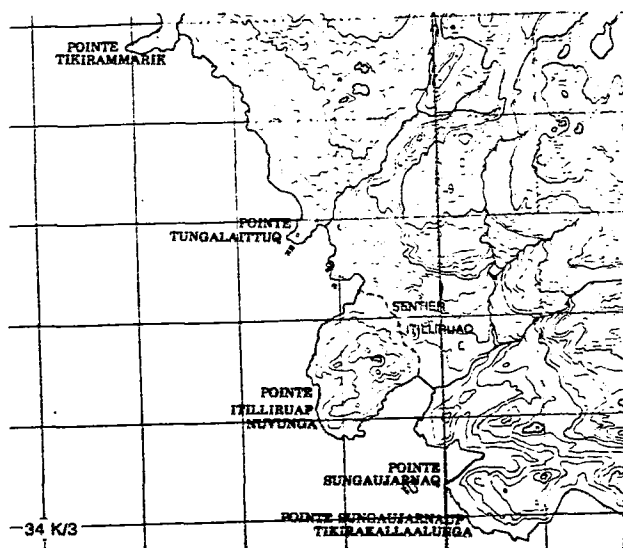
1. That a document explaining clearly the steps of collecting, processing, endorsing, notifying and ultimately approving native geographical names be produced by the appropriate toponymic authorities, and be widely distributed among the native communities.
2. That an instruction manual for the field collecting, recording and office treatment of native geographical names be prepared as a cooperative effort between appropriate federal, provincial and territorial agencies and organizations, native groups and institutions, and experts.

3. That the manual include instructions on the following topics:
  - a) protocol in approaching native groups and informants;
  - b) knowledge and experience required by field investigators;
  - c) supplies and equipment;
  - d) area to be covered;
  - e) kinds of information to be collected;
  - f) selection of informants;
  - g) methods of enquiry, recording and checking;
  - h) funding of field investigations.
4. That this manual be made available in the languages of the indigenous peoples concerned.
5. That local surveys already performed be recognized and integrated into other authorized surveys.
6. That an inventory of field surveys undertaken be compiled by the appropriate toponymic authorities.

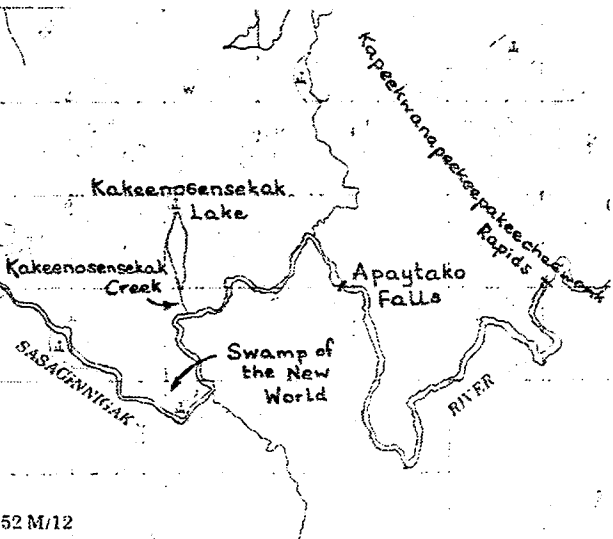
7. That the training of native persons to undertake toponymic surveys be encouraged, and organized to include instruction in linguistic, geographical and historical aspects of toponymic inventories.
8. That, whenever possible, field workers receive instruction in available standardized or adopted orthographies, and use these writing systems.
9. That field workers submit collections of toponyms to the appropriate native authorities for endorsement, prior to submission to provincial or territorial geographical names authorities.
10. That provincial and territorial geographical names authorities agree to cooperate in respect to toponymic surveys, if native cultural areas overlap such jurisdictions.
11. That toponymic research include the provision for surveys in settlements and, as far as possible, also in the field and in archives.
12. That, following field surveys in native communities, prompt follow-up and feedback to the communities be encouraged.

#### WRITING NATIVE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

13. That the specific writing characteristics of native languages be reflected in the orthography of geographical names.
14. That, as part of the handling of native toponyms, generic terms may be translated and geographical names may be otherwise shortened, only if the meaning of such terms is in no way modified or affected.
15. That the appropriate toponymic authorities study the question of the status that might be given to variant forms or to other unofficial names which are in parallel use with official names.
16. That the toponymic authorities encourage the preparation of information for the general public on the history, origin and meaning of native toponyms.
17. That, with respect to native geographical names, documentation be prepared to explain the writing systems and pronunciation of native languages.
18. That the CPCGN stimulate and encourage the provincial and territorial authorities to compile regional maps to show toponyms known to native groups in their own languages.
19. That, after such regional maps are compiled, appropriate authorities and institutions assemble this material and propose to the appropriate authorities the production of a map of Canada in the native languages.



Shores of Hudson Bay, southeast of Inukjuak, Quebec



52 M/12

Updated base map (52 M/12), Sasaginnigak River, Manitoba /



Sachs Harbour, Banks Island, N.W.T., as seen from the air /

Population 1981 : 101. Local name: Ikaahuk

#### FUNDING

20. That the toponymic authorities prepare a list of potential sources of funding for native toponymic research projects.
21. That the toponymic authorities support researchers working on native geographical name projects in applying for funds for the following purposes:
  - a) development of technical tools adapted to toponymy research;
  - b) research fellowships at academic institutions (e.g. universities, institutes), and at acquisition institutions (e.g. libraries, archives, museums);
  - c) writing fellowships for researchers;
  - d) funding for publishing programmes to produce primary resources, research studies and popular works.

#### PROSPECTS

22. That each of the authorities at the federal, provincial and territorial levels make known by appropriate means to senior government authorities supporting them and to other government departments, the approved resolutions of the symposium.

23. That ongoing formal relations be established between the provincial and territorial names authorities on the one hand, and the native communities, groups and authorities on the other, on the subject of developing inventories of native geographical names, with the necessary procedures to be put in place as soon as possible.
24. That representation of aboriginal peoples, including their national organizations, be encouraged on provincial and territorial geographical names boards and national committees.
25. That federal, provincial and territorial names authorities be encouraged to hold further symposia with the native peoples of Canada on particular regions, or on more specific themes, including writing systems of native toponymy.
26. That, at each annual meeting of the CPCGN, the agenda include a specific item on the state of native toponymy and on the implementation of the approved resolutions in each jurisdiction.
27. That the CPCGN and its members undertake, in association with the competent authorities in the United States and Greenland, and, where appropriate, in other countries and regions, the exchange of information on practices, policies and activities associated with native geographical names.

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