

Agenda item 4a: Canada Report on Innu pronunciations

- Thank you madame chair, merci madame president
- It is my pleasure to present information on the project to include audio pronunciation files in the Canadian national database
- Audio pronunciations are an effective tool for disseminating proper pronunciations of place names and helps everyone to learn how to say a name
- This work was done in partnership with the Innu Nation of Labrador on the east coast of Canada and we are grateful for their willingness to share over 400 audio files with us
- The audio files are the intellectual property of the Innu Nation and are used by Canada under a license agreement
- To be hosted in the Canadian National Geographical Names Database
- links are incorporated on the public search tool allowing users, when looking at any of these Innu place name records, to click an icon on the name details page, and hear the Innu-aimun language speaker say the name of the place.
- In September 2022, we launched an interactive map to showcase the over 400 official names with audio in the Innu language - called Innu-aimon
- The points on the index map link to the audio, and further, provide a translation of the name to English and French, as well as hyperlinks to the records of the name in the CGNDB and to the Innu Nation's own web site (Pepamuteiati nitassinat: As we walk across our land).
- This map helps visitors to find these names specifically and increases the opportunity to hear this Indigenous language being spoken
- To announce the launch of this interactive map and the availability of the audio files, social media posts were developed in Innu-aimun as well as in English and French languages.
- Official recognitions, dissemination and promotion of Indigenous geographical names is ongoing and we recognize that place names have an important role in celebrating and strengthening Indigenous languages, many of which are endangered today.
- Methods to include audio recordings in the Canadian Geographical Names Database from other Indigenous Nations and in more Indigenous languages will be explored, be it by hosting the audio files themselves, or by linking to audio hosted elsewhere
- Like to acknowledge that these efforts are also aligned with marking the International Decade of Indigenous Languages as well as with Canada's implementation of the UNDRIP Act.