

The Language Acts



The 5 Things You Need to Know

1 Do Nunavut's Language Acts affect me?

If you own or run a business or society operating in Nunavut, the Nunavut Language Acts apply to you. Inuit represent the largest percentage of your customer base; the Acts will ensure that Inuit have fair and equal access to services in their own language, and feel welcome when conducting business.

2 What do I need to do?

Every business and/or organization in Nunavut needs to ensure that:

- Signs, posters, and advertising directed at the public are in the Inuit Language, in addition to any other language used. That includes exterior, interior, emergency and exit signs and aisle signs in stores.
- Inuit Language text on signs, commercial advertising, and posters is at least as prominent (the same size) as any other language used.
- Customer and client services (including reception) for the general public are available in the Inuit Language. That includes bills, invoices, notices, warnings, and instructions for services.
- Labels on products produced in Nunavut should be in both English and Inuit Language.

3 How much time do I have?

Most provisions of the Acts that affect the private sector will come into force by spring, 2016. This will give businesses time to prepare procedures and materials to ensure compliance, and to establish the required level of in-house language capacity.

You can ensure your timely compliance by preparing an Inuit Language Plan, which lists the measures, policies and practices your company will use for communicating in the Inuit Language with the public; your schedule for putting these into effect; the number of your staff who are fluent in the Inuit Language and able to communicate with or deliver services to the public; and the ways in which you'll publicize your plan.

4 Which version of the Inuit Language should I use?

You can use syllabics or roman orthography on public signs, posters and commercial advertising. If you are servicing all of Nunavut, your materials must be published in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

5 Thanks, but what if I still have questions?

Sources for additional help, information and tools include:

Office of the Nunavut Languages Commissioner

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Phone: 1(867) 975-5080

Toll Free: 1(877) 836-2280

Fax: 1(867) 979-7969

Email: langcom@langcom.nu.ca

Website: <http://langcom.nu.ca/>

Dept. of Economic Development and Transportation

Ph (Toll Free): 1(888) 975-5999

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Ph: 1(867) 975-5553

Toll free: 1(855) 232-1852

The community EDO at www.nunuvuteda.com



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