

# Official Languages of the Northwest Territories

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*Chipewyan*

Mamawi kitaskenaw, mihcet  
 pīhtākosowina.  
*Cree*

One land, many voices.  
*English*

Un territoire aux voix multiples.  
*French*

Nan ihlak, duᑎeezhuu leii.  
*Gwich'in*

Atauhiq nuna, uqauhiriaktuq.  
*Inuinnaqtun*

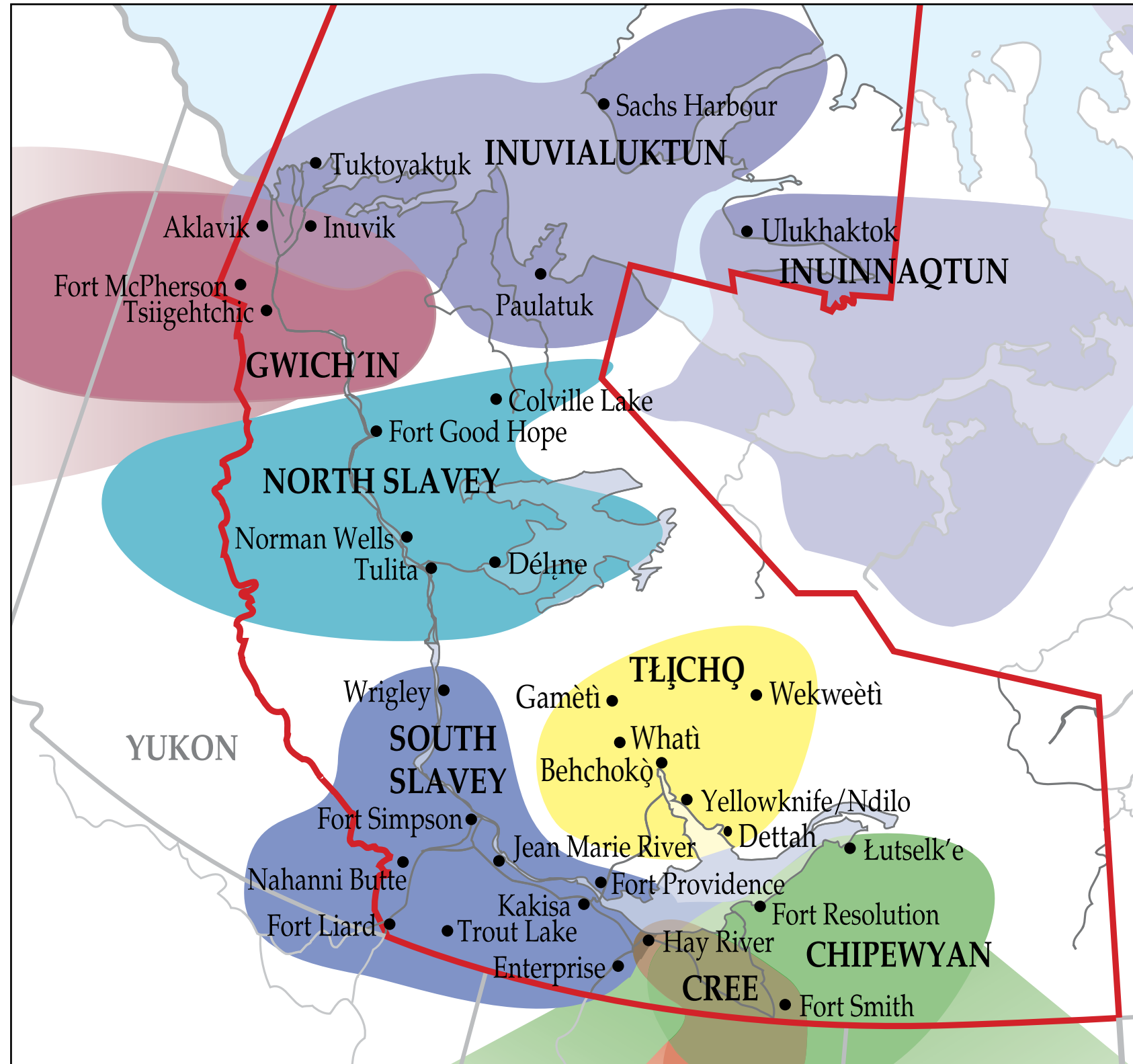
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*Inuktitut*

Atausiq nuna, inugiaktut  
 uqallausiit.  
*Inuvialuktun*

Ne léé, kede lo.  
*North Slavey*

Ndeh híé, zhahtié lo.  
*South Slavey*

Gonè ihlè, go yatí nelò.  
*Tłı̨chǫ*



The Northwest Territories (NWT) is the only political region in Canada which recognizes 11 official languages.

Of these, nine are Aboriginal and belong to three different language families: Dene, Inuit and Cree. Aboriginal languages are most frequently spoken in smaller communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

The Dene languages spoken in the majority of the NWT are part of the Athapaskan family. Included in this group are Chipewyan, Tłı̨chǫ (Dogrib), Gwich'in, North Slavey and South Slavey.

The Inuit languages recognized in the NWT are Inuvialuktun, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut. In the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, 20% of the Inuvialuit population speak either Inuvialuktun or Inuinnaqtun. The majority of people that speak Inuktitut in the NWT live in Yellowknife.

A small number of people, living mostly in the Fort Smith and Hay River area, speak Cree. Their language belongs to a different linguistic group, the Algonquian family.

Approximately 3% of the population states that French is their first language. The use of French and English is more common in Yellowknife and the regional centres.

**FRENCH** is mostly spoken in Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife.

**ENGLISH** is spoken throughout the Northwest Territories.

**INUKTITUT** is mostly spoken in Yellowknife.



Languages Commissioner of the N.W.T.



Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment