

Preserving and Revitalizing Indigenous Languages and Cultures in Canada: New Initiatives at Library and Archives Canada

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Indigenous Cultures and Languages in Canada



Revitalization: An Indigenous Right



United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Article 11: Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs...States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms.

Article 13: Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons. States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected.

Budget 2017: Taking Steps to Preserve, Revitalize and Enhance Indigenous Languages and Cultures

Canada is investing \$89.9 million over the next three years to support Indigenous languages and cultures, including \$14.9 million at LAC



1. See Our History

- Government files
- Books and publications
- Treaties
- Photographs
- Audio-visual recordings
- Dictionaries and lexicons
- Correspondence
- Portraits and other artwork
- Explorers' journals and observations
- Maps and plans



2. Hear Our Voices

- Support for community efforts in digitization, digital preservation and provision of access
- Focus on spoken word recordings
- Individualized and collaborative approach
- Control and ownership to remain in Indigenous communities



Employment Opportunities

Multi-disciplinary positions for Indigenous people will be available at locations across Canada for the duration of the initiatives.



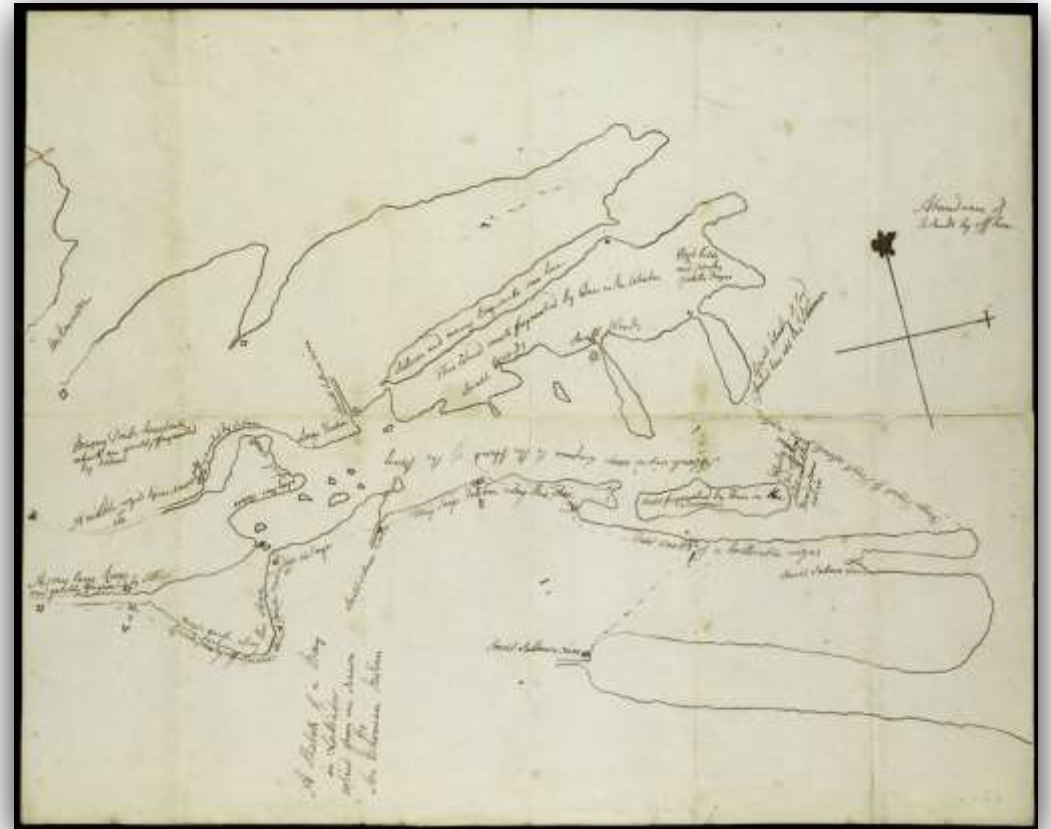
Informed Engagement: Institutional Awareness

- Creation of dedicated engagement and awareness positions
- Horizontal “Indigenous Matters Forum”
- Consultation on public services
- Training and learning activities for employees



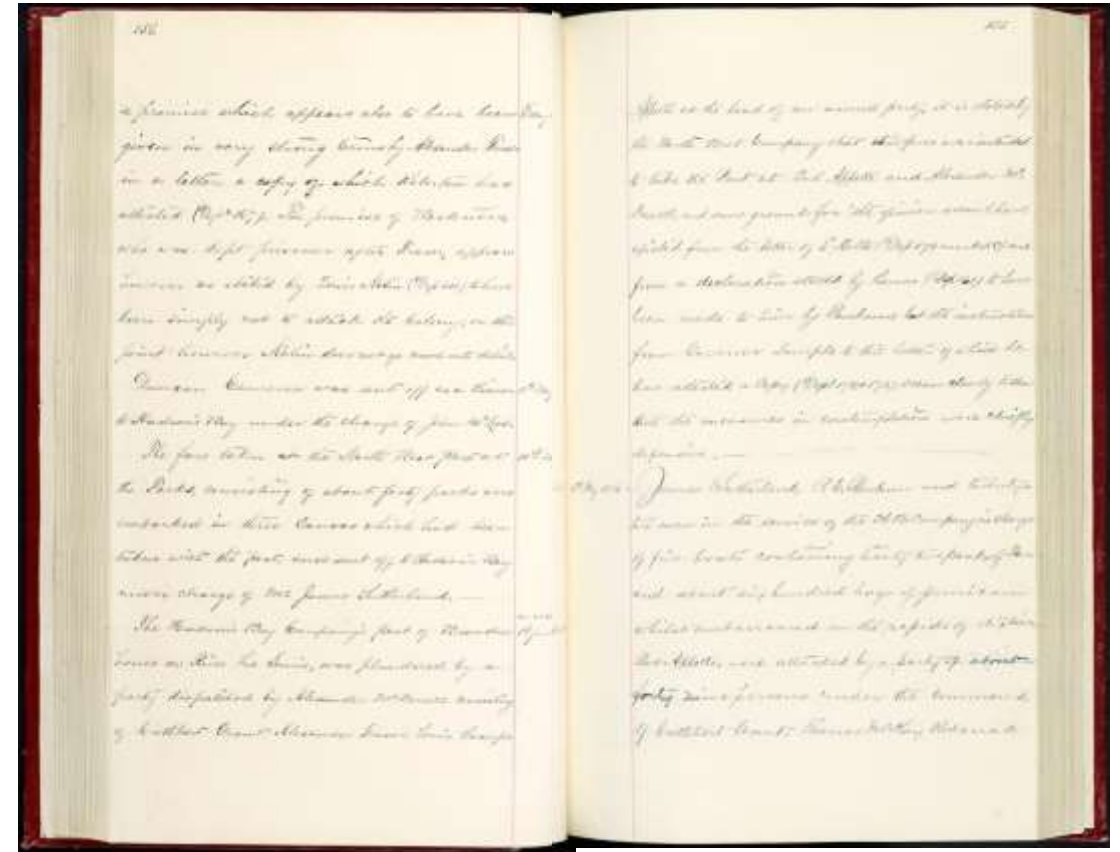
Representative Engagement: Advisory Circle

- Representative membership of elders and knowledge keepers
- Role of the Advisory Circle:
 - Act as project champions
 - Approve frameworks and content
 - Provide historical and cultural context
 - Identify priorities for digitization
 - Assist in contacting institutions and communities



Individual Engagement: Crowdsourcing

- Identify names, places, dates and subjects
- Transcribe textual and audio-visual records
- Correct historical inaccuracies in existing descriptions



Next Steps

- Establish advisory networks and collaborative tools
- Develop, scope and prioritize initiatives in consultation with the Advisory Circle
- Digitize pre-identified LAC collections
- Identify existing oral recordings
- Staff dedicated initiative positions



Library and Archives Canada

www.bac-lac.gc.ca

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