

Rigolet Inuktitut Documentation Project Report
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We are very pleased to report that with the assistance from the Institute of Social and Economic Research that the Rigolet Inuktitut Documentation Project has made significant headway. Though the project has since altered from its original form – a development due in equal parts to the nature of funding we were able to secure from other agencies as well as issues relating to subject availability – the work we were able to achieve during the tenure of this award was significant. It lays the foundation for continued work on the larger project.

During May of 2011 we were able to travel to North West River and Rigolet to interview a range of subjects about this critically endangered language. Chief among them were Ms. Phyllis Mucko and Mr. Hubbard Palliser, two of the remaining speakers of the language. With the invaluable assistance of Ms. Bertha Holeiter as translator and interviewer, the sessions we were able to conduct with Ms. Mucko and Mr. Palliser expanded upon the work we had conducted with them during September of 2010. Recording them at their homes (in North West River and Back Bay respectively), these sessions revealed the particular connection between language practice and material surroundings, between *language* and *home*. Taken together with the work conducted during the September 2010 sessions and those interviews we were able to conduct with residents of Rigolet that have lived adjacent to the dialect, we have been able to generate a set of rich audio-visual documents. The timeliness of this work could not have been more appropriate. Since our 2011 sessions, both Ms. Mucko and Mr. Palliser have died. One speaker of the Inuktitut language remains.

Work continues on our two primary research outcomes: a documentary film and an audio-visual archive. With additional funding from the Labrador Institute of Memorial University, transcripts and translations of the 2011 sessions are now being prepared at the Torngâsok Cultural Centre. Once these and the transcripts of the 2010 sessions have been finished, we will be able to commence the task of preparing these materials towards both ends.