



Office of the Commissioner of  
**INDIGENOUS  
LANGUAGES**

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM MME GILL -  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS**

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**Question:** The Commissioner said that his office is doing some general research on the current state of Indigenous languages. Is this research being done because the Department of Canadian Heritage (or Crown-Indigenous Relations or Indigenous Services) does not have this information? Does the department have any information, statistics or data that it shares with the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages?

**Response:**

The Commission is currently undertaking, pursuant to section 24(1) of the *Indigenous Languages Act* (the Act), research relating to the provision of funding for Indigenous languages and with respect to the vitality of Indigenous languages across Canada. The intention at this stage is to establish a baseline of information that will inform the Commission's future reporting obligations.

The Commission, upon request, has received publicly available information from the Department of Canadian Heritage. As Commissioner Ignace noted, the Commission is independent of the government and takes this independence seriously. As such, to maintain the Commission's integrity and to objectively report on the use and vitality of Indigenous languages, the needs of Indigenous peoples in relation to Indigenous languages, the adequacy of funding provided by the Government of Canada, and the implementation of the Act, the Commission is required to undertake its own research and studies.

*Provided February 10, 2023*