The Innu Medical Glossary:

A Tool for Interpreters
The need

- Innu-aimun interpreters working in hospitals and medical clinics in Labrador, St. Anthony and St. John's for many decades
- never provided with training in medical terminology or in translation techniques
Compiling the English list

- list of medical terms compiled by nurse & physiotherapist who have worked with the Innu in Labrador for many decades
- Three sub-list: medical terms, body parts, medical prefixes and suffixes
Other lists

• the Medical Dictionary for Fort Severn Cree, Sioux Lookout MenoYa Win Health Centre
• Inuktitut wordlist from Nunavut Arctic College
• list of medical terms for Labrador Inuttut
• the Pan-Innu dictionary database
Health professionals: Liz & Robin, Mary Jane & Emma
Translators

• Innu speakers who work as medical interpreters (Madeline)

• Innu speakers who nursing training (Mary Jane, Emma)
Translators: Mary Jane, Emma, Madeline
Two Innu dialects

• Sheshatshiu : closer to Innu of south-eastern Quebec

• Mushuau : closer to Naskapi and Cree dialects of northern Quebec
Elders consulted on an ongoing basis
Akat and Mani Shushet (Mushuau)
Kathleen (Sheshatshiu)
The workshops

• Three workshops for translation in 2012
  – March 1-7 in St. John's (Sheshatshiu)
  – March 26-28 in Goose Bay (all together)
  – April 5-8 in St. John's (Mushuau)
  – many short follow-up meetings to fill in terms
Toolbox database

• master list of terms entered into database program:
  – main English term
  – plain English explanation of terms
  – the translation in each dialect
  – additional fields for longer explanations and notes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>innu</th>
<th>Sheshashti term</th>
<th>utshitshikuma anite mutat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mus</td>
<td>Mushuau (Natuashish) term</td>
<td>utshitshikuma anite mutash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>def</td>
<td>definition in English</td>
<td>Warts, genital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>def2</td>
<td>Plain English explanation (if needed)</td>
<td>A Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV); a risk factor for cancer of the cervix. Also called Venereal warts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>tpe</td>
<td>topic</td>
<td>D repro immune sex</td>
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<td>note 1</td>
<td>recorded</td>
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<td>ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>note</td>
<td>programmer’s note</td>
<td>del's script added id on 2013-02-28</td>
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</tbody>
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The book

• shared, standardized spelling used
• Flip-over format so no dialect has priority

• Innu has few nouns and many verbs
• often difficult to translate English by the same part of speech (e.g., noun to noun)
• Innu verbal form or explanatory phrase used
Innu Communities
Innu Medical Glossary
Natukun-aimuna
Sheshatshiu Dialect

Editors / Ka aitashttaht mashinakannu
Marguerite MacKezie    Elizabeth Dawson
Robin Goodfellow-Balica    Laurel Anne Hasier

Workshop collaborators / Ka uauitusshiaushitt
Madeleine Breton    Marie-Eveline Nuna
Mani Shan Edmonds    Emma Ashiri
Mani Shizashet Mistenapeo    Aliat Piwas
Eted Piwas

Mamu Tishibutamashutu – Innu Education, Inc.
Sheshatshiu, Nl. A1P 1M0
Main list

Sickness
akushun

Side effect
eshtatshemakats
Any reaction to a medication or therapy; may be unwanted or dangerous.

Sigmoidoscopy
uashtenimakan utatshishin pitshiteiapekamutakanu
anite uesh mishit tshetshi nanatu-tshissenitakanitsitshi
utatshinapekua
A hollow tube with a light at the end of it is put in the rectum and in
the lower part of the large intestine.

Signs
 e nukuats tshekuane eshi-uapatakanits
Something that can be seen, heard, or measured.

Silicosis
akushishkaku tshekuannu e minatak anite etusset
Occupational lung disease caused by inhalation of crystalline silica
dust.

Sinus / Sinus cavity
 e pakuneiats atamish mishkutish
Four pairs of air spaces in the bone around the nose area.

Skeleton
ushkana aven

Skin
ushakaia

Skin cancer
mutemu anite ushakanish
Prefixes and suffixes

**GLOSSARY OF MEDICAL TERMS**

-**emia**
  *umik*<sup>v</sup>
  Relating to blood

**Gastr-**, **Gastro-**
  *ushkatash*
  Stomach

**Glyc-**, **Glyco-**, **Gluc-**, **Gluco-**
  *kashiuasht*
  Sugar, sweet

-**gram**
  *akunikan*
  Record, measure

**Gravid-**, **Gravido-**
  *e otavassimit ishkveu*
  Pregnancy

**Hemi-**
  *pushk*<sup>v</sup>
  Half

**Hem-**, **Hema-**, **Hemo-**, **Hemat-**, **Hemato-**
  *umik*<sup>v</sup>
  Blood

**Hepat-**, **Hepato-**, **Hepati-**, **Hepatico-**
  *ushkun*
  Liver

**Hyper-**
  *uesham, ushtetshe*
  Excessive, above, beyond
Body parts

Clitoris
*nishkueu mutash*

Coccyx
*tshakanikan*
Also called Tailbone.

Cochlea
*atamish mitukesh*
Snail-shaped organ found deep inside each ear, behind and slightly below the eyeball.

Collagen
*no word*
Gelatinous protein from which body tissues are formed.

Collarbone
*upikan*
Also called Clavicle.

Colon
*ka mitshapekats utatshishinapek*
Also called Bowel or Large Intestine.

Common carotid artery
*ka mitshapekats mikueuiapi*
Artery in the neck.

Connective tissue
*utsheshita mak utsheshtiapi*
Ligaments or Tendons

Cornea
*no word*
Clear, see-through covering on the front of the eye.
Body part diagrams

- labelled with English and Innu terms
Ushkana (nikan)
Bones (front)

- utukun: hip
- upitshikai: pelvis
- upuamikan: thigh bone
- utshitikua: kneecap
- ka apishashit
- ushkan anite
- ushkatit: tibia
- ushkatikan: fibula
- ushit: foot
Ishkueu utetakushua mak uniapi
mak ushishiunapui
mamu atussemakana (nikan)
Female urinary system (front)

- utetakushua kidney
- utatshishia shishiunapui
  uetshipanit
  anite utetakushut
  ureter
- utatshishi shishiunapui
  uetshipanit
  urethra
- uniapi bladder
Recordings for the apps

- people may not know the pronunciation of the English term
- many Innu do not read their language fluently
- apps for IOS & Android in development
  - over 1,000 terms recorded for mobile app
  - recorded in English, Sheshatshiu-aimun and Mushuau-aimun (3,000 sound files)
Available when??

• Early in the new year (we hope)