**StatsUpdate**

**Topic:** Mother Tongue and Language Spoken Most Often at Home  
2011 Census of Population  
Released by Statistics Canada, October 24, 2012

**Background:** In 2011, Inuktitut was the most predominant mother tongue in Nunavut, with 21,230 persons declaring it as their only mother tongue, followed by English, with 8,925 persons. About 285 people declared that Inuinnaqtun was their only mother tongue.

The proportion of persons in Nunavut whose only mother tongue was Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun was 68% in 2011, down from 2006. The proportion of Nunavummiut who spoke Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun most often at home also declined slightly during that five year period, from 54% in 2006 to 52% in 2011.

Although English was the only mother tongue of about 28% of Nunavut residents in 2011, it was the language spoken most often at home for 46% of the population.

**Detail:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population by Mother Tongue and Language Spoken Most Often at Home, for Nunavut , 2006 and 2011 Censuses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother Tongue</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inuktitut Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inuinnaqtun Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Language only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English and Non-Official Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Multiple Responses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Notes:**

1. **Mother Tongue** refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.
2. **Language Spoken Most Often at Home** refers to the language spoken most often at home by the individual at the time of the census.
3. Data may not add to totals due to random rounding.
Background: In 2011, Inuktitut was the mother tongue of almost 7 out of 10 persons in Nunavut. This proportion was the highest amongst Nunavummiut aged 65 years and over, where about 80% of persons in that age group declared having Inuktitut as their only mother tongue. Youths aged 15 to 24 years had the second highest proportion of Inuktitut as their only mother tongue at 72%. On the other hand, adults aged 55 to 64 years had the lowest proportion (57%) of all age groups to have Inuktitut as their only mother tongue.

Detail:

| Population by Selected Mother Tongues and by Age Groups, Nunavut, 2011 Census |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
|                          | Total Population | Inuktitut Only | Inuinnaqtun Only | English Only | French Only |
| Total Age Groups         | 31,770          | 21,225         | 285              | 8,925         | 435          |
| 0 to 4 years             | 3,965           | 2,685          | 5                | 1,185         | 10           |
| 5 to 9 years             | 3,335           | 2,235          | 5                | 1,035         | 15           |
| 10 to 14 years           | 3,110           | 2,180          | 10               | 855           | 5            |
| 15 to 24 years           | 5,975           | 4,285          | 30               | 1,515         | 40           |
| 25 to 39 years           | 6,940           | 4,400          | 40               | 2,120         | 150          |
| 40 to 54 years           | 5,380           | 3,445          | 105              | 965           | 95           |
| 55 to 64 years           | 2,035           | 1,160          | 50               | 655           | 65           |
| 65 years and over        | 1,045           | 835            | 50               | 125           | 10           |


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