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N.W.T. Teachers Urge Use of Eskimo Language in Schools

A resolution calling for a greater use of the Eskimo language in teaching Eskimo students was passed at the annual Northwest Territories Teachers Association early in 1970.

The association, meeting in Yellowknife, N.W.T., said that it "is to the cultural enrichment

of all Canadians to preserve the Eskimo language as a working language."

It added that many basic concepts can be most readily presented to students in their native language.

Thus, the teacher's group asked that instruction to Eskimo

students be given in the Eskimo language in the core areas of the primary grades accompanied by a strong emphasis on the English language. And, at the more advanced grade levels, the teachers said, Eskimo language instruction should be provided.

The association also asked that school instruction be provided as much as possible in a student's home settlement, that more adequate adult education materials be made readily available, and that Eskimo adults be encouraged to preserve traditional arts, crafts, and skills.

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