

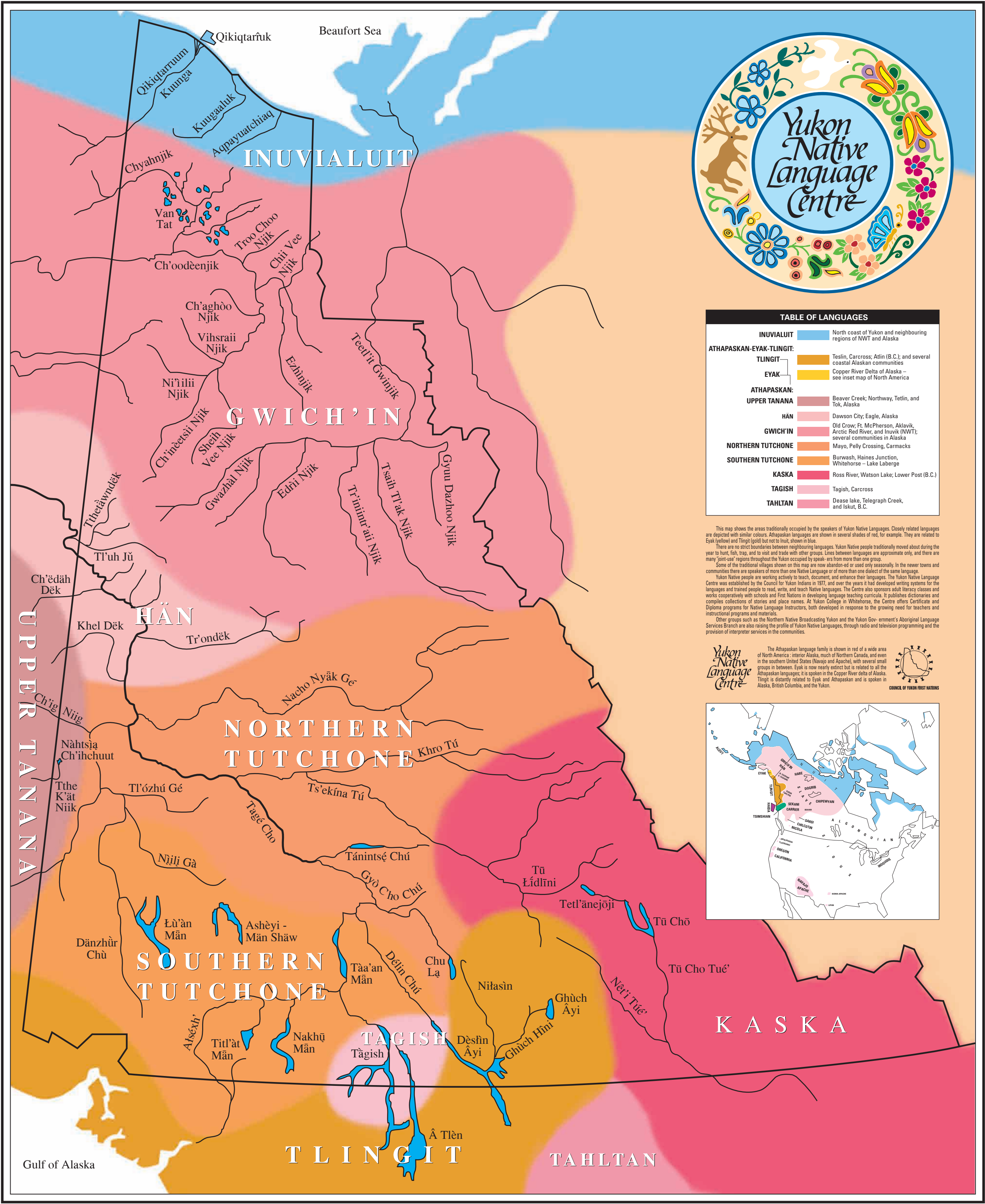


TABLE OF LANGUAGES		
INUVIALUIT		North coast of Yukon and neighbouring regions of NWT and Alaska
ATHAPASKAN-EYAK-TLINGIT:		
TLINGIT		Teslin, Carcross; Atlin (B.C.); and several coastal Alaskan communities
EYAK		Copper River Delta of Alaska – see inset map of North America
ATHAPASKAN:		
UPPER TANANA		Beaver Creek; Northway, Tetlin, and Tok, Alaska
HÀN		Dawson City; Eagle, Alaska
GWICH'IN		Old Crow; Ft. McPherson, Aklavik, Arctic Red River, and Inuvik (NWT); several communities in Alaska
NORTHERN TUTCHONE		Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Carmacks
SOUTHERN TUTCHONE		Burwash, Haines Junction, Whitehorse – Lake Laberge
KASKA		Ross River, Watson Lake; Lower Post (B.C.)
TAGISH		Tagish, Carcross
TAHLTAN		Dease lake, Telegraph Creek, and Iskut, B.C.

This map shows the areas traditionally occupied by the speakers of Yukon Native Languages. Closely related languages are depicted with similar colours. Athapaskan languages are shown in several shades of red, for example. They are related to Eyak (yellow) and Tlingit (gold) but not to Inuit, shown in blue.

There are no strict boundaries between neighbouring languages. Yukon Native people traditionally moved about during the year to hunt, fish, trap, and to visit and trade with other groups. Lines between languages are approximate only, and there are many 'joint-use' regions throughout the Yukon occupied by speakers from more than one group.

Some of the traditional villages shown on this map are now abandoned or used only seasonally. In the newer towns and communities there are speakers of more than one Native Language or of more than one dialect of the same language.

Yukon Native people are working actively to teach, document, and enhance their languages. The Yukon Native Language Centre was established by the Council for Yukon Indians in 1977, and over the years it had developed writing systems for the languages and trained people to read, write, and teach Native languages. The Centre also sponsors adult literacy classes and works cooperatively with schools and First Nations in developing language teaching curricula. It publishes dictionaries and compiles collections of stories and place names. At Yukon College in Whitehorse, the Centre offers Certificate and Diploma programs for Native Language Instructors, both developed in response to the growing need for teachers and instructional programs and materials.

Other groups such as the Northern Native Broadcasting Yukon and the Yukon Government's Aboriginal Language Services Branch are also raising the profile of Yukon Native Languages, through radio and television programming and the provision of interpreter services in the communities.



The Athapaskan language family is shown in red of a wide area of North America: interior Alaska, much of Northern Canada, and even in the southern United States (Navajo and Apache), with several small groups in between. Eyak is now nearly extinct but is related to all the Athapaskan languages; it is spoken in the Copper River delta of Alaska. Tlingit is distantly related to Eyak and Athapaskan and is spoken in Alaska, British Columbia, and the Yukon.

