

Canada's National Research Council Builds Open AI Speech Tools for 27 Indigenous Languages

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Canada

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Canada's National Research Council built open speech and 'ReadAlong' tools for 27 Indigenous languages, guided since 2018 by an Indigenous advisory committee, peer-reviewed at COLING 2020, and used by visitors on all six continents by May 2024.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	2/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-22

National Research Council Canada (NRC), with Carleton University and Indigenous language communities — accessed 2026-08-22

NRC — Canadian Indigenous Languages Technology project — accessed 2026-08-22

NRC — ReadAlong Studio project page — accessed 2026-08-22

ACL Anthology — COLING 2020 peer-reviewed paper — accessed 2026-08-22

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