Overview

Between 1944 and 1969, the Canadian government implemented the Eskimo Identification Tag system. These tags were given to "...every Inuk living in the Western and Eastern Arctic. Each disc was about 2.5 centimetres in diameter, made of hard cardboard or leather and sienna-like in colour. The expectation was that each Inuk would keep the disc, which had a hole punched in its top, on his or her person at all times.

One side of the disc was embossed in its centre with a black image of the seal of the Crown, with the words "Eskimo Identification Canada" circling the perimeter. The other side had a line of code beginning with either the letter "E" (for Eastern Arctic) or "W" (for Western Arctic), followed by a number representing the community or region where the individual was living. (A "6," for example, indicated the Pangnirtung/Broughton Island region.) Completing the code was a set of identification numbers specific to the Inuk carrying the disc. (If you didn't have the disc on you, it was considered wise to have memorized the line of code.)," (Adams, 2016, Para 3-4, Retrieved from **http://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/art-and-architecture/barry-pottles-photography-explores-inuit-objectification-by-id-tags/article30060124**/).

Design Rationale

The rationale for the Eskimo Identification Tag system was, "Federal agents deemed Inuit names to be too long, difficult to spell and frustrating to pronounce. In addition, Inuit naming traditions were complex. There was no gender specificity, no surnames. Women didn't take the family name of their husbands upon marriage. Children would carry several names for a time, then discard or change them as their personalities became more fixed," (para. 5-6).
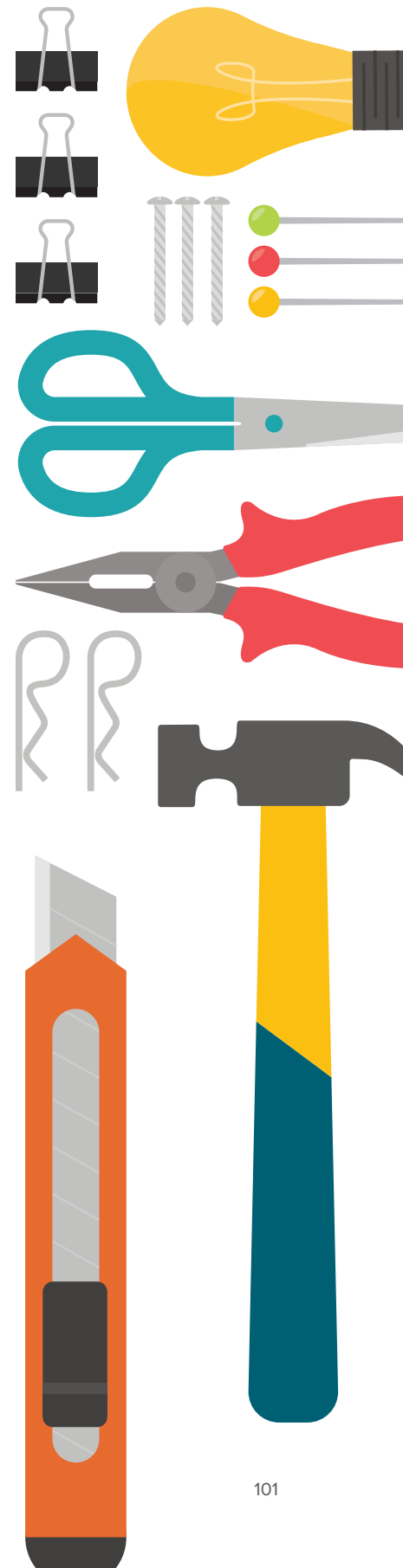
Identity and identification are important in a civil society. Globally, obtaining legal identity is a struggle in some places. Organizations such as United Nations work with independent groups and companies to design ethical and respectful ways of providing identity to refugees and others disposed by global challenges. Biometrics is one way (see *Client Study: UNHCR: Identity management system uses biometrics to better serve refugees*, Retrieved **https://www.accenture.com/us-en/success-unhcr-innovative-identity-management-system**).
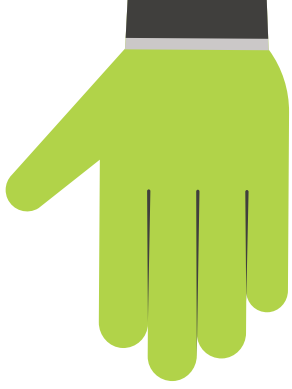
In Canada, identity and proper identification are essential for access to social services such as medical assistance, financial aid, and even job certification.

Problem Scenario

Your team has been selected to design a respectful yet secure way of providing identification for new immigrants, refugees and/or elderly or very young Canadians who might not have ready access to existing forms of complex identification records.

Your option also needs to be secure, flexible, portable, reasonable, and respectful to a large sector of the population.

Success Determinants

Success will be determined by the degree to which your design solution:

❒ Addresses the issues suggested in the design challenge

❒ Is useful and respectful

Parameters

❒ Choose consumable items and materials found in the shared pantry to aid in the enhanced development of your group's prototype.

❒ Use social media options or other digital technology as a portion of your solution.

❒ Use the tools that have been provided at the shared tool station.