JOHN WYNNE

nîšo ililiwak ê-nakiškawâcik wâpaskwa

- pêyakwâ ê-kišêpâyâk ê-n'taminahocik ê-nîšicik 'wênihkânak, môna ohci-kihciwitâwak môs'-asinî-pâskisikaniniw, ê-mispohk ohci, êkâ 'y-kî-nakatahkik ocîmâniwâhk ê-'šaw'hikêcik. ispî mâka wâ-pêci-kîwêcik, kî-wâpamêwak kêtahtawin wâpaskwa ê-'ši-kîškâyawânik.
- ana mâka wâpask kî-namipalihototâkowak,1 kî-kapatêsipalihowak mâk' ê-kap..., ê-kapatêtâpêpahtwâcik ocîmâniwâw.

pêyak mâk' âna kîy-ošimow. êko mâka kâ-têpwâtât ana, "êlikohk, êlikohk, kihcipahtá! ášay ki'micišahok," ana k'-îtêw.

ispî mâk' êtâpipalihot, kî-wâpamêw wâpaskwa kwêskakâm itêhkê ê-kihcipahtân'ci [laughs].

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends and Narratives from the West Coast of James Bay" (1995)

Text Thirty-One

Two men meet a polar bear

- One morning as two persons were hunting, they did not carry a moose-shot rifle since, because of the snow, they were not able to leave it in their canoe as they came across [one of the small, northern rivers on the west coast of James Bayl. But when they were about to come home, they suddenly saw a polar bear where it was deep.
- That bear passed them close by, but they quickly got out of the canoe asho..., dragging their canoe ashore on the run.

One of them got away. Then that one shouted to the other, "As hard as you can, as hard as you can, run away! He's already running after you," he said to him.

When he quickly turned to look, however, he saw the polar bear running away across the water [laughs].