

wacask wêhci-išinâkwanilik osôw

- 1 pâyakwâ wêskac ê-tipácimâkaniwit wacask, kî-napakâliw osôw, ê-mišâlik máka tâpiskôc amisk. êko máka, nâspic ê-pakwâtahk awa wacask, ê-papâmâtakât. ê-papâmâtêmot máka, ê-ytâkaniwit šîpîšîšihk ê-miloskam'ilik¹ ê-papâmâtakât. êko mák' ôma, ê-ytahamâsot:
"nîpapâ-pwâwihôtân nisôyé,²
nisôyé, nisôyé;
m'pâ'-pwâwihôtân nisôyé,
nisôyé."
- 2 êko máka, ispîy ê-'ti-pêhtawâkaniwit, kî-mâcišîkâtêliw osôw îtaw itêhkê. ê'kwâni máka anohc wêhc'-išinâkwanilik wacask osôw.

How the muskrat got his long, tapered tail

- 1 Once long ago, as the story is told of the muskrat, his tail was flat and big like a beaver's. Well then, this muskrat disliked it very much as he swam around. He went around crying, so it is said of him, swimming in the creek during open water [in late spring, after the ice has broken up]. And so he took up this refrain:
"I'm dragging it around, My Tail,
My Tail, My Tail;
N'draggin' it around, My Tail,
My Tail."
- 2 So then, when he began to be heard, his tail was cut off on each side. And that is why the muskrat's tail looks the way it does now.