## ê-išilawînâniwahk ê-oškinîkinâniwahkipan

- êkwâna mâka, mâk' kâ-kî-tôtamân nîštam, eighteen foot canoe¹ kâ-otinamân, pêyak French n'kî-wîcêwâw, êko nêsta pêyak kišê-'l'liw, kišê-sîpî'-'liliw.² êko mâka k'-âšaw'kâmiyâšiyâhk ôma ohci³ môsonîhk, ôta ohcih môsonîwi-ministikohk. kwayêsk akâmaskiy n'kîy-itâšinân, Cha..., Charlton Island⁴ kâ-išinihkâtêk. êko n'kî-..., n'kî-..., n'kîy-apinân anta pêyako-kîšikâw; nâ'c êlikohk kî-lôtin; môla n'kî-pimiškânân. êko mîna kâ-pôsiyâhk, misiwê kotak island⁵ n'k'-îši-âšawahênân, nêw'šâp tipahikan ispîhci⁵ âšaw'kâmayâw.
- mîna n'tôhci-... k'-âšaw'kâmêyâšiyâhk pêyakwan ê-kîšikâk anima, Cape Hope Island<sup>7</sup> n'k'-îši-mišakâmêyâšinân, forty ... nêmitana niyâlošâp tipahikana<sup>8</sup> ispîhtakâmêyâw. ê'kot' ânta mâka nâš' kâ-'ši-m... -lôtihk. kêkât n'kî-kostâcin ê-pimâšiyân antê tâwic. mwêhci kišê-cîmân kâ-'ši-pimipalik n'k'-îši-pimâšinân<sup>9</sup> piko a..., piko cîmân'šiš êy-âpacihtâyâhk. niyâlo-kîšikâw mâka n'kî-tašîwînân, kišê-sîpîhk êy-otihtamâhk<sup>10</sup> ôta ohci môsoni'-ministikohk.
- êko mîna kâ-pêci-kîwêyâhk. nîšo kîšikâwa n'k'-îhtânân kišê-sîpîhk. êko, n'kî-... nâš' kî-lôtin. âšay nîšitana-n'kotwâs'šâpo-konakisiw October. âšay nâs't takwâkin. nâš'c êlikohk mispon kâ-pimâšiyâhk. môla 'wâ'htênân<sup>11</sup> tântê kêy-itohtêyâhk; <sup>12</sup> pakwantaw ê-wâšahâk n'k'-îši-... n'k'-îši-wîhkwêyâšinân. <sup>13</sup> ê'kot' ânta kây-ihtâyâhk nisto-kîšikâw, nâtaw'-maskwamîwan. <sup>14</sup> kêka n'titâw, French ana, niwîciwâkan: "mâhti, ôtê nôhcimihk n'ka-itohtân," n'titâ', "kici-... mâht' êšinâkwahk antê kwêskitê, ôma kâ-macitêwêyâk," n'titâw.
- é-'ti-matâpêyân sîpiy kâ-p'mihtihk, môla môla 'wâc¹⁵ half a mile n'tô... m'pimohtân. niwâpamâwak ahlapiyak nêtê, ê-šâk'šihkik¹⁶ akâmihk itêhkê ôma sîpiy. ôma mâka sîpiy Paint Hill¹¹ 'šinihkâtêw. ê'kot' âna mâk' kâ-p'pon'šiyâhk, pîliš mitâhto-kîšikâw pwâmoši Christmas.¹ êko mîna kâ-iši-kîwêyâhk nêtê kišê-sîpîhk, ten days pwâmošê Christmas, êkotê kâ-ihtâyâhk mâka mîna, pâtimâ fifteenth of January¹ n'kî-pêciy-ot... -kihtohtânân kišê-sîpîhk ohci ôtê ê-itohtêyâhk môsonîhk. n'kî-niyâlinân mâka nîšow il'liwak n'kî-kanawêlimikonânak.
- êko mâk' anta kâ-ihtâyâhk, *Paint Hill*, môla kêkwân âlahkonâw n'kî-whci-mowânân, môla nêsta tiy, môla šôkâw. môla m'pîhtwânân ..., piko namês, pilêw, wâpoš, êko âhk'skiw, nêsta âhkik, misiwê wma kêkwân n'kî-mîcinân, âhkiko-pimiy ê-wsi-kîs'swâkaniwit, 20 ê-sâsot namês. êko nâspit

## Stories of youthful exploits

- Well then this is what I first did, when I took an eighteen foot canoe, I accompanied a certain Frenchman, and a certain old man also of Fort George. So then we sailed across from this place to Moosonee, from here, Moose Island. Straight across the water we sailed, to Cha..., what is called Charlton Island. Then we ..., we stayed there one day; it blew very hard; we couldn't paddle. So then we embarked again, we all crossed to another island, it was fourteen miles distant across the water.
- Again we de... we sailed across that same day, we sailed towards
  Cape Hope Island, at a distance of forty ... forty-five miles. There however,
  it was very, m... windy. I was almost scared as I sailed away out there.
  We sailed right where the ship went, only th..., we were using a small
  boat. It took us five days to reach Fort George from here, Moose
  Island.
- So then we came home again. We were two days at Fort George. Then, we..., it was very windy. Already it was the twenty-sixth of October. It was already late in the fall. It snowed very hard when we sailed. We couldn't see where we would go; we sai... we sailed into the very end of a bay, any old bay. Right there we stayed for three days; it got very icy. Finally I said to that Frenchman, my companion: "Let's see; I'll go this way in the bush," I said to him, "to..., let's see how it looks there on the far side of this point," I said to him.
- As I came out of the bush on the river which lay there, I didn't even wa... walk half a mile. I saw nets over there, protruding above the surface on the far side of this river. And this river, it was called Paint Hill. And that is where we wintered until ten days before Christmas. Then we went back to Fort George away over there, ten days before Christmas. And right here we stayed again, until after the fifteenth of January we came ..., we went away from Fort George to here, on our way to Moosonee.

We were five, and two Indians were keeping check on us.

So then, when we were there at Paint Hills, we ate nothing by way of bread, nor any tea, no sugar. We weren't smoking ..., only fish, partridge, rabbit, then pheasant, and seal, all this kind of thing we ate, with fried

n'kî-kâkwâtakimahcihonân kêka, êkâ '-sâpimahcihoyâhk anim' ê-'ši-mîcisoyâhk. êko mâka nêtê kâ-iši-kîwêhtahikawiyâhk, kišê-sîpiy, ê'k'ôta kâ-ihtâyâhk. êko mâka '-pêci-kîwêyâhk šâkitâto-kîšikâw, n'kî-p'm'pahikonânak atimwak, ôta kâ-otihtamâhk mâka, about mâškôc nîšitanawêkonakisiw January. nîšošâp mâk' askîwêtimwak<sup>21</sup> n'kîy-âpacihânânak; êko, tahtwâw ê-..., ê-kapêšiyâhk, pêyakwâw '-mîcisocik atimwak n'nakatênân.

êko mâka nîla ôta kâ-nâspic'-îhtâyân; kî-kîwêwak niwîcêwâkanak. nîšo okimâwak n'kî-pêci-wîcêwânânak, wâpišîšin-okimâwak<sup>22</sup> kâ-išinihkâsocik. kikiskêlimâwak aniki misiwê, êh?

âšay n'kîšihtân anima wîla.

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

Text Fifty-Eight

fish heated with seal oil. So we felt very miserable in the end, since we didn't feel well in ourselves from eating that way. And then we were taken back there to Fort George, and that's where we stayed. So then on our return trip over nine days, we were pulled by dogs, and when we arrived here it was perhaps about the twentieth of January. We used twelve Husky dogs. So, every time we ..., we camped, we left enough food [at the campsite] for one feed for the dogs.

Now I stayed for good; my partners went home. We were accompanied by two managers, "opposition" [Reveillon Frères] managers as they were called. You know all those ones, eh?

Now I've finished that one.