

## wêhci-kî-šîwâkamihk wînipêk

- 1 wêhci-kî-šîwâkamihk wînipêk,<sup>1</sup> n'k'-áta...<sup>2</sup> n'kay-áh..., -álimôtên.  
wêsk..., wêskac wêsa kî-makošéhêpan awiyâšiša ê-šînihkâsac<sup>3</sup>  
wîsahkwêcâhk. misiwê máka kî-n'tomêw 'wiyâšiša. kêkwân'tokwê piko  
ká-míciwâkwê mola n'kiskêl'htên. šákoc máka misiwê 'wê'hkân, misiwê  
'wiyâšiš k'íhtâw anta. êko máka, êko máka kî-ati... pâyak piko 'wênihkân<sup>4</sup>  
mola kiy-ohci-n'tomêwak,<sup>5</sup> kîhkwhâkêwa. ê'kwâna êká  
ká-kîy-ohci-n'tomâcik. anima ..., anima máka is..., ispihc<sup>6</sup> kîhkwhâkêw  
misiwê 'wênihkâna kî-kostikow. kî-kostikow 'wiyâšiša piliš anohc. ê'kwâni  
máka êká wêhci-n'tomâwâkopanê.
- 2 kêka 'sa máka mêkwâc ê-..., ê-'ti-..., âpihta ê-'ti-k'-îškwâ-mícisocik, êko  
man' oti pâyak k'-išic'ahwâ'n<sup>7</sup> 'ci-ašawâpit.  
"mâht' ê-pêci-nôkosilikwê!"<sup>8</sup>  
"níla nêsta máka," itwêw mahkêšiw, "níla mawac n'kišipalin."  
"môla," itwêw. "môl..., môla kila ka-kaškihtân," itwêw šihkošiw.  
"níla n'ka-itohtân," itwêw šihkošiw. "n'ka-kî-šî... šîpâ... -šêkwâkonêwin<sup>9</sup>  
ê-papâm'pahtân ê-'šawâpamak."
- 3 êkwân' isa māk' kâ-itâcik, kici-n'tawi... kic'-itohtêl'ci. êkw isa máka ášay  
tâpwê pêcih-wâpamêw ê-pêci-nôkosil'ci. kiwêpahtâw man' oti māk' awa  
šihkošiw. n'taw'-wîhtamawêw wici-'wiyâšiša.  
"ášay tâpwê pêci-nôkosiw," itêw. êko mîna wêwêlâpamâcik<sup>10</sup> 'wênihkâna  
kêko<sup>11</sup> nakiškawâl'ci.  
êko, "níla n'k'-êtohtân," itwêw maskwa.  
"môla," itâkaniwan. "wêsâ kila kih..., kipêhkâcin," itâkaniwan.  
êko 'sa máka, êko 'sa máka wilah, mahihkan: "mêh..., níla n'k'-êtohtân,"  
itwêw. "níla, náhtâ n'kaškihon,<sup>12</sup> wayêš ê-tôtawak 'wênihkân," itwêw.
- 4 "môla," itwêw, kêka šikák wêhci-ayamit. "níla, n'k'-êtohtân," itwêw. "môla  
wila níla 'wênihkân n'kostâw," itwêw.  
ê'kwân' tâpwê kâ-itâkaniwit. šikák isa máka kî-pakitinâkaniwan  
kic'-itohtêl.  
ášay šákoc itohtêw šikák. wîpac nášic kî-nakiškawêw. ášay man' oti  
kakwêcimâkaniwin kîhkwhâkêw: "tânt' êtohtêyin?"  
"nêsta níla niwî-pêci-makošan kâ-makošihwêl ana wîsahkwêcâhk," itwêw.  
"môla kila ka-itohtân. môla kin'tawêlimikwak 'wiyâšišak. kikostikwak.  
wêsâ misiwê k'êwâ'hkân<sup>13</sup> kiwî-têh... -tipêl'htên. kiwî-'ti-n'šîwanâcihtân

## Why the water in James Bay is salt

- 1 Why James Bay is salt water, I'll tell the leg..., I'll t... tell about it.  
Long ..., long ago, as it happened, Weesahkwechahk, as he was called,  
made a feast for the animals. And he invited all the animals. Whatever  
they must have eaten I don't know; but everyone, every beast was there.  
So then, so then they began ... one person only they did not invite, the  
wolverine. That was the one whom they did not invite. Then ..., and  
ever since then the wolverine has been feared by everybody. The  
animals have been afraid of him right up to now. That must be why they  
had not invited him.
- 2 At last, however, while, as they began ..., when they were half way  
through eating dinner, one of them was sent to keep a look-out.  
"See whether he's coming!"  
"I'll go too," said the fox. "I go the fastest."  
"No," said [another]. "You ca..., can't do it," said the weasel. "I shall go,"  
the weasel said. "I'll be able to un... under ... tunnel under the snow as I run  
about keeping a look-out for him."
- 3 So then they told him, to go to ... to go. And now, sure enough, he came  
and saw him as he came into view. Then this weasel ran back. He went to tell  
his fellow creatures.  
"Now he's really coming into sight" he said to them. So again they went  
around the circle making a choice of someone who would meet him.  
So then, "I will go," said the bear.  
"No," he was told. "You are too s... slow," he was told.  
And so then, and so then the wolf said: "I will go. I'm very good at dealing  
with a person one way or another."
- 4 At last the skunk spoke up. "No," he said. "I shall go. I am not afraid of  
anybody."  
That's what he was told. And so the skunk was allowed to go.  
Now the skunk set right out. Very soon he met him. Now then, the  
wolverine was asked: "Where are you going?"  
"I too want to come to the feast which that Weesahkwechahk has given,"  
he said.  
"You must not go. The animals don't want you. They are afraid of you.  
You're too anx... anxious to be in ch... charge of everything. You want to spoil

máka misiwê kékwan, k'itêw. [coughs]

- 5 êko 'sa [coughs] ... 'sa wíci-wí... mola 'sa má'<sup>14</sup> milwêl'htam kihkwahákêw  
ôm' ê-tákaniwit. "atoskam nila n'k'-étóhtân," itwêw. ášay man' ôti máka  
w'-ítohtêw. kwêskitiyêpalihow 'sa mák' awa šikák. ê'kwân' isa mák' anima  
ká... ká-ohcipalik kékwan êká ohci..., ê'kwân' isa mák' êši-mâkomât.  
mâkomêw kihkwahákêw ê-wí-kakwê-kiponât šikákwa.

mitoni 'sa máka ki-kiškwêhokow ôma šikák, -ôma kihkwahákêw. mola  
kiskêl'htam tánt' éhtât. mitoni ki-kiškwêhokow. êko máka ká-kiwêw mák'  
awa šikák. "mola kata-takošin," itwêw.

- 6 wálaw 'sa mák' anta mēkwayêš,<sup>15</sup> ôma k'-iši-makošêwak wálaw, wálaw  
kihikamihk ohci. ášay man' ôti máka wih-... násipêw 'wah, êká  
ê-ki-wápit, ê-wí-kiškwêw nêst' awa kihkwahákêw. ášay man' ôti  
násipêw ê-tatêl'htahk kihikamiliw. kē... kē... nānakacāškošin<sup>16</sup> isa mák'  
êká ê-wápit.

"awên'kân kila?" itêw mistikwa.

"minahik," itwêw.

ášay mîn' ati-p'mohtêw. mīna nakacāškošin: "wê'hkân<sup>17</sup> kila?"

"waškwayáhtik," itwêw.

mīn' an' át'-..., ati-kihtohtêw. mīna nakacāškošin: "wê'hkân  
kila?"

ay'haw, "waškwayáhtik," itwêw.

kēka kihkwahákêw itwêw, "ê'kwāni pēyakwan ô't ê-ih'tâyân  
mēkwēyāmatin. mola n'kiskêl'htên tánt' éhtakwahk. êkoši mīna  
n'ka-kocihtân," itwêw.

- 7 kēka mīna kī-'ti-kihtohtêw. mīna nakacāškošin. "wê'hkân<sup>18</sup> kila?" itwêw.  
"i'lástik," itwêw.

"ášay, ášay," itwêw. "ášay n'-'ti-pēš'wápahtên<sup>19</sup> nīpiy, itê...<sup>20</sup> itwêw  
'sa mák' awa kiškwahákêw. kiyápac ati-kakihtohtêw.

kēka mīna ê-nakac..., -nakacāškošihk ášay, mīna kī-..., "wê'hkân kila?"  
itwêw.

"māsakisk, nīl," itwêw.

"ê'kwāni pēyakwan ôta ê-'htâyân," itwêw awa kihkwahákêw.

êko 'sa, êko 'sa máka mīna k'-ati-kihtohtêw. êko māmāš nawac  
kī-p'mohtêw. ášay mīn' ati-n'... nawac ati-... mīna nakacāškošin  
kē'wá'hkāniliw.

"wēnihkân kila?"<sup>21</sup> itwêw.

ay'haw, "wīkopīy," itwêw.

everything," he said to him [coughs].

- 5 So then [coughs]... then his fellow ... f... but the wolverine didn't like being  
spoken to this way. "I'm going all the more," he said. Now then, he was about  
to go. But the skunk suddenly swung his backside around. And so, naturally,  
that ... that thing came out not from ..., then he bit him. The wolverine bit  
him as he wanted to block the skunk.

At this point the skunk, - at this point the wolverine was knocked utterly  
senseless. He didn't know where he was. He was knocked crazy. So then the  
skunk went back. "He will not be arriving," he said.

- 6 It was far away in the country where they had their feast, far, far away  
from the ocean. But now the wolverine wanted ... to go down the bank,  
because he couldn't see and he wanted to run amuck. Now then, he went  
down the bank, making a guess that the sea was there. To ... to ... he kept  
bumping into trees since he couldn't see.

"Who are you?" he said to a tree.

"A spruce," it said.

Now he started to walk along again. Again he bumped into a tree. "Who  
are you?"

"A birchwood," it said.

Once more he beg..., began to go away. Again he bumped into a tree. "Who  
are you?"

Well, "A birchwood," it said.

At last the wolverine said, "I might as well stay here among the knolls.  
I don't know where it is. So I'll try again," he said.

- 7 At last he began to move off again. Again he bumped into a tree. "Who are  
you?" he said.

"A balsam," it replied.

"Now, now," he said. "Now I'm beginning to draw close to the water," th...,  
said this wolverine. He began to move about aimlessly some more.

At last as he bump... bumped into a tree again, again he ... "Who are  
you?" he said.

"I'm a cedar," it answered.

"It amounts to the same thing if I stay here," said the wolverine.

Now then, but now then he started walking away again. So he walked  
about pretty much at random. Now again he ... pretty well began ... he  
bumped into something again. "Who are you?" he said.

Well, uh, "Willow bark," it said.



- 8     ānt' āši<sup>22</sup> sikilēsiw. "āšay pēšoc n'tat'-ihtān kihciwē-nipīhk,"<sup>23</sup> itēl'htam  
awa kihkwahākēw. ēko 'sa mīn' āti-kihtohtēt, āšay 'sa šācoc mīna  
nakacāšk'šin. "wē'hkān kīla?"  
"atōspīy," itwēw.  
āšay nāht' ati-sikilēsiw ē-'ti-p'mohtēt. kēka, kēka mōla kē'wān'kān  
miskoškam. kēka pēhtam kē'wān'kāniliw, mwēhci ē-lōtihk ē-'tihtākwānilik.  
āšay 'nta kiskēl'htam ..., mōla māka kiskēl'htam tāntē tatwē...  
ē-tatwēkamahāšikēt.<sup>24</sup> kēka [coughs] kēka māka kī-'ti-p'mohtēw. kē...  
kēhcawil,<sup>25</sup> kēhcawil nakacišin mīna kē'wā'hkān. "kē'wā'hkān<sup>26</sup> kīla?" itwēw.  
"asiniy, nīla," itwēw.  
kēka nāhtā sikilēsiw. kēk' āšay pēhtam. kēk' āšaw...<sup>27</sup> kēka iš... kē...,  
kēka kiskēl'htam ē-'ti-pahkopēt. ēkw āšay 'ti... kī-'ti-pahkopēw piliš  
ē-'ti-liskipēt. kē<sup>28</sup> k'-āti-kistāpāwalot. ē'kwānima māka wēhci-kī-šiwāk,  
šiwākamihk<sup>29</sup> kihcikamiy.

- 8     Now he was very glad. "Now," thought this wolverine, "I'm beginning to be  
near the proper water." So now he began to walk away again, and now he  
bumped right into a tree. "Who are you?"  
"The black alder," it said.  
Now he became very happy as he walked along. At long last he didn't  
discover anything with his feet. Finally he heard something sounding just like  
the wind. Now he knew that there ..., but he didn't know where the rol... the  
rollers were coming in over there. At last [cough], but at last he began to walk  
on. Su..., suddenly he bumped into something again. "What are you?" he said.  
"I'm a stone," it said.  
At last he was very happy. Now at last he heard it. At last he jum...  
finally then fi... finally he knew he was beginning to wade out. So now he  
began... he began to wade up until it started to be covered with water. At last  
he began to wash himself. And that is why the ocean is salt.