

# Angus Firth Vikaiik'it

## Angus Firth's Place



Mary Martha Firth vigwandak, Leslie McCartney yidinuut'oh  
By Leslie McCartney with Mary Martha Firth

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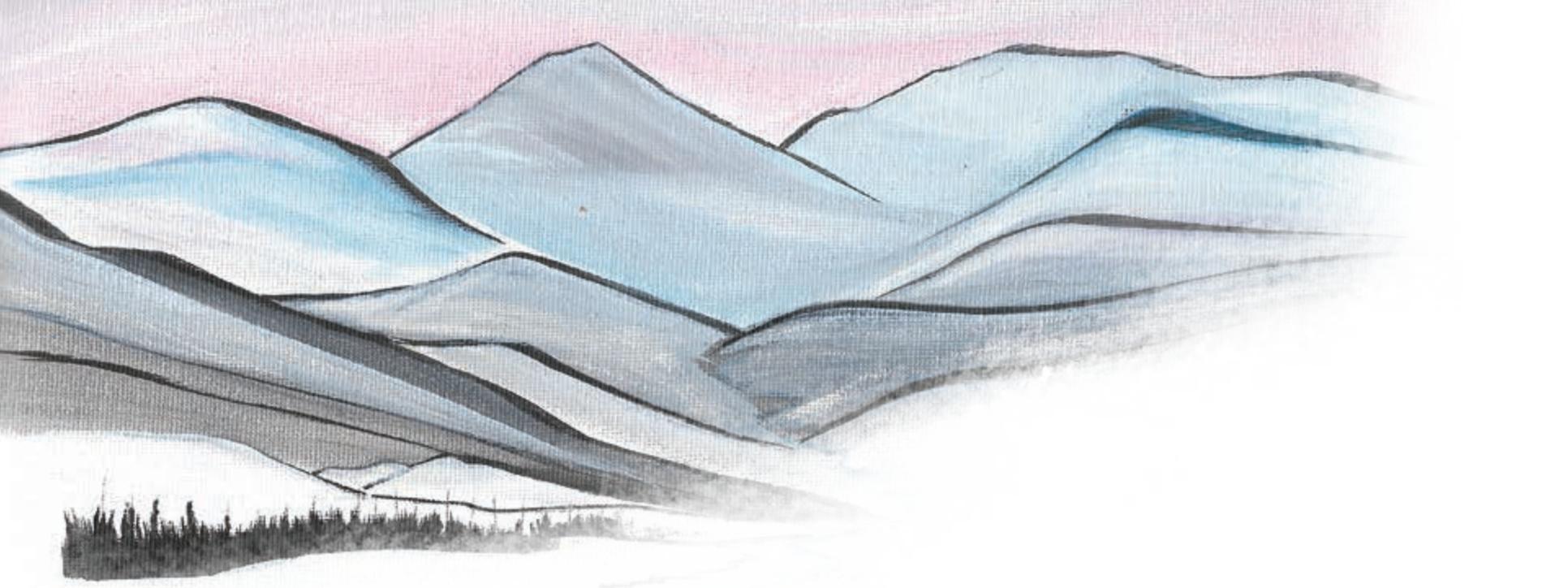
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**Angus Firth Vikaiik'it**

*Angus Firth His place*

**Angus Firth's Place**



**Nits'oo diik'iidhat ts'àt nihloodhiidinjik**

*How I grew up and we got married*

**t'ee shidinjii' nits'oo gwatat**

*after my husband how on the land*

**gwiheendaii gaonidhiitinh geenjit**

*he will live I taught him or it*

**nikhwah gwahaldàk nihthanh.**

*with you I will tell I want.*

I want to tell you story  
about the way I grew  
up and how I taught my  
husband the bush life  
after we were married.

**Mary Martha Firth vilzih.**

*Mary Martha Firth my name is.*

My name is  
Mary Martha Firth.

**Annie G. Martin ts'àt Robert George**

*Annie G. Martin and Robert George*

**shiyuugwan kat t'igiinch'ù'.**

*my parents they were.*

My parents were  
Annie G. Martin and  
Robert George.

**K'eejit ihłih dai', nan kak**  
*Young I am at that time, and on*  
**khehtak dhàatsaih.**  
*we travelled.*

When I was  
young, we  
travelled the land.

**Khaii, sreendit, shin ts'at khaiints'àn'**  
*Winter, spring, summer and fall time*  
**guuzhik nànhkak nihłinehch'i'**  
*during that time on the land different*  
**gwits'at khehtak dhàatsaih.**  
*to we traveled.*

In each season,  
we travelled to a  
different place on  
the land.

**Khaii, sreendit, shin ts'at khaiints'àn'**  
*Winter, spring, summer and fall time*  
**guuzhik gwitr'it nihłi'ejuk t'igwaa'inh.**  
*during that time work different kinds we did it.*

In each season,  
we did different  
activities.

**Khaiints'àn' dài', Teet'it Gwinjik,**  
*Fall time at that time, Peel River*  
**Viht'òo Tshik gwits'at nachiididał.**  
*Road River to we went.*

In the fall, we would  
go up the Peel River  
to Viht'òo Tshik.

**Ezhik gwizraih khaii hee t'iidich'uh.**  
*There only during winter we stayed.*

That was the only  
place we lived  
every year.

**Aii tʼee Drin Tsal gwits'at nyahgwan**

*After that Christmas to not long*

**dai' Teet'it Zheh gwits'at chiidijah.**

*at that time Fort McPherson to we are going.*

Then, just before Christmas,  
we would come into town, to  
Fort McPherson.

**Drin Choo tʼee nikhwikaiik'it**

*Christmas after our place*

**gwits'ee chididaʔ.**

*back to we went.*

After New Year's, we went back  
down to our camp.

**Khaii tthak, nikhwikaiik'it gwats'at**

*Winter all, our place from*

**ddhah gwits'at nachiidadaʔ.**

*mountains to we went.*

All winter, from our camp, we  
went up into the mountains.



**Ezhik danh vàdzaih eenjit nahaazrii**  
*At that place caribou for it we will hunt*  
**geenjit gwits'at chidadaŋ.**  
*for that to there we went.*

We went there to  
hunt caribou.

**Vàdzaih tri'dhiŋkhaih tŋ'ee ezhik**  
*Caribou it was killed after there*  
**t'iidich'uh ts'at nilii gaii leii àahtsih.**  
*we stay and meat dry lots we are making.*

Once a caribou was killed, we  
would stay there and make  
lots of dry meat.

**Nitr'aazrih tŋ'ee, Nanigwaalii Drin**  
*Hunting after Easter*  
**gwichih nikhwikaiik'it Vihtŋ'òo Tshik**  
*before our place Road River*  
**gwits'ee nachidadaŋ.**  
*back to we go.*

After hunting, and before  
Easter, we would travel back  
to our place at Vihtŋ'òo Tshik.



**Ezhik naazhih t'ee Nanigwaalii Drin eenjit**

*There we rest after Easter for it*

**Teet'it Zheh gwits'at nachidadaŋ.**

*Fort McPherson to we go.*

We would rest there and then go to Fort McPherson for Easter.

**Ezhik dai' gwinòo dinjii kàt jùu digeedi'in'.**

*At that time people this they did.*

This is what people did in those days.

**Nikhwijaa kat eenaiidi'oh ts'at**

*Our friends we visited them and*

**Nanigwaalii Drin geenjit ezhik t'iidich'uu t'ee**

*Easter for it there we stayed after*

**gwatat nikhwikaiik'it, gwits'ee nachidadaŋ.**

*on the land our place, back to we go.*

After we visited friends and spent the Easter holidays in town, we begin our trip back to our bush camp.



**Dachan tət nikhwikaiik'it danh**

*Among the trees our place there*

**adigwaagwàn' aii t'ee dzan kaiidi'inh.**

*we passed spring after that muskrat we are hunting for.*

We would pass  
spring in our bush  
camps and then go  
muskrat hunting.

**Vananh Adaghoo**

*June*

**gwizhìt drin**

*in it day*

**ihʔak juutyin ts'ət ihʔoogwinli'**

*fifteen*

**goo'aai dòi' dzan**

*it is there at that time muskrat*

**katr'idi'in ndò nyàa'ài' ts'ət**

*hunting for it it is finished and*

**Teet'it Zheh gwits'ət**

*Fort McPherson to*

**nachidadaʔ.**

*we go.*

When the muskrat  
hunting season ended on  
June 15th we would head  
to Fort McPherson.

**Vananh Yidichuu gwits'at ezhik**  
*July to there*  
**t'iidich'uh aii t'ee tuk kakhiidi'aa**  
*we stayed after that we will fish*  
**gukaiik'it gwits'at nichidadaŋ.**  
*its place to we go.*

We would stay there until July and then we would go to our fish camps and start fishing.

**Shin tthak tuk kaiidi'inh.**  
*Summer all we are fishing.*

We would fish all summer.

**Shiyuugwan gwiinlit gashigoonitinh.**  
*My parents lots they taught me.*

My parents taught me many skills.

**Diik'iidhat t'ee nits'oo**  
*I grew up after how*  
**khanahaldaii tthak**  
*I will make a living for myself all*  
**gashiguunitinh.**  
*they taught me.*

They taught me all the survival skills and traditional skills I would need when I grew up.

**Shahanh jùu dinihkhwahnuh,**  
*My mother this she told us,*  
**"Nikhwinoh'inh, jii k'it t'ohookhwi'aa."**  
*"Watch us like this you will all do."*

My mother would say to us, "Watch us, this is the way to do this."

**Aii ts'àt nikhwindah gwitr'it**

*That and in front of us work*

**gugwahtsih.**

*they are doing.*

And they did  
whatever they were  
doing in front of us.

**Aachin guuhaa'aa geenjit ezhik hiidilyah.**

*We will watch them for it there we will be.*

We had to be there  
and watch them.

**Nilli gaii gahtsii d'ài**

*Meat dry they are making at that time*

**nikhwint'eh guuk'it t'iiidi'inh.**

*us too the same as them we are doing.*

When they made  
dry meat, we did  
the same.

**Uutsik gahtsii d'ài' nikhwint'eh**

*Dry fish they are making at that time us too*

**guuk'it t'iiidi'inh.**

*the same as them we are doing.*

When they made  
dry fish, we did  
the same.

**Diik'iidizhit t'ee nikhwahanh dadi'ii**

*We grew up after that our mother what she did*

**vik'it t'ihiiidya'aa aii geenjit**

*the same as her we will do that for*

**jùu diidi'inh.**

*we did this.*

We did this so that  
when we grew up,  
we could do the  
same thing as our  
mothers had done.



**Jii gwinjik gik'inyaanjik.**  
*This following we learned.*

**This is how we learned.**

**Tr'iinin kat tthak gwitr'it gwiintsal guuts'an**  
*Children all work small theirs*  
**tr'igwahtsih.**  
*it is made.*

**Jii gwinjik chan gik'inyàanjih.**  
*This following too we learn.*

**Nikhwigwitr'it ndòo nyaa'àì' t'ee**  
*Our work it is finished after*  
**nihdee nokhwijah nikhwitr'ahnuu gwits'àt**  
*you all come back in we were told to that time*  
**chiitaii tsii'iidi'inh.**  
*outside we played.*

**Tr'iinin ihtii dàì' shiyuughwan**  
*A child I am at that time my parents*  
**ts'àt Anjoo kat nits'oo digigwitr'it t'igah'in**  
*and Elders how their work they did*  
**ts'àt shiyuughwan nits'oo kheenjit**  
*and my parents how for themselves*  
**nigaandaii ganaldaih.**  
*they tried I remember.*

All children were  
given little chores  
to do.

This was also how  
we learned.

When we were  
finished, we could  
play until we were  
told to come inside.

As a child, I  
remember how my  
grandparents, the  
Elders, worked, and  
how my parents  
provided for  
themselves.



**Gik'ahaldal geenjit dageedi'in' tthak aachin guuvil'ih.**

*I will learn for that what they did all I watch them.*

I watched all that they did so I could learn.



**Guuvuudaḥkat ts'àt gwiinzii gashiguunitinh.**

*I asked them and good they taught me.*

I asked questions and they taught me well.

**"Diik'iindhat t'ee jii gwik'it t'ihindya'aa, ginuh.**

*"You are grown up after this the same you will do they said.*

They would say, "When you are older, you will do the same."

**Khè' nizheh nidi'in ts'àt nitr'iinin kat goonlii, nizheh k'oo**

*Your own house you have and your children there is your family*

**nidi'in d'ai' nikhwik'it t'ihindya'ah."**

*you have at that time the same as us you will do."*

When you have your own home and you have your children, when you have a family, you will do just like us."

**Łi'dagidlih.**

*They were right.*

They were right.



**K'eejit ih̄hìh d̄ai' ejiich'ii**  
*Young I am at that time things*  
**nikhweenjit tr'it̄tsaii iidi'inh kwàh.**  
*for us it was made we have not.*

When I was young,  
 we never had things  
 ready-made.

**Jidii tthak geenjit gwitr'it t'agwaa'in',**  
*Everything for it work we did*  
**gwitr'it tthak t'agwaa'in' nikhweenjit**  
*work all we did for us*  
**gwiieendoo gwiinzih aii k'iighè'**  
*much more good because of that*  
**tr'iguujidinjik kwàh.**  
*we are lazy not.*

We did all the work and it  
 was good that we had to  
 do all the work because  
 this taught us never to  
 be lazy.

**Gwitr'it nikhweenjit gugoontrii**

*Work for us difficult*

**niidadhanh kwàh; nikhwigwitr'it**

*we thought not our work*

**diinch'uu niidadhanh.**

*it is we thought.*

We never looked at it as hard work; we just looked at it as things that had to be done.

**Khanaandaii geenjit gwiniint'aih**

*We make a living for that strongly*

**gwitr'it haatsah ts'àt nikhweenjit**

*work we will make and for us*

**gwiinzih.**

*it is good.*

We had to survive by working hard, and it was good for us.

**Aii gwinjik gwiidandaii**

*That following we are living*

**gat'iiniidadhanh.**

*we loved it.*

We loved that life.

**Khyah t'aa'in ts'àt naazrih.**

*We set traps and we hunted.*

We trapped and we hunted.

**Nikhwiuughwan kat nilii eenjit**

*Our parents meat for it*

**nigaazrii aii k'iighè' nikhwizheh k'oo**

*they are hunting because of that our family*

**aga'ah.**

*they are eating.*

Our parents hunted  
for meat that would  
feed our family.



**K'eejit ih̄ih d̄ai'**

*Young I am at that time*

**sh̄ih leīī īidi'ìn'.**

*food lots we had.*

When I was young, we had  
lots to eat.

**Gwiiyeendoo sh̄ih nizii īida'àl'!**

*Much more food good we ate!*

And oh, the food we ate!

**Shiyuughwan ts'àt Anjoo kat**

*My parents and Elders*

**vikè'gahch'uu d̄ai'**

*they are cooking at that time*

**gwiiyeendoo gat'iinihthanh.**

*very much I like it.*

I loved it when my parents  
and Elders cooked.

**Tr'iinin ih̄ii d̄ai' vadzaih chi'**

*Child I am at that time caribou head*

**īitsii nyùu' gahch'uu gwiiyeendoo**

*stove along side they roast very much*

**at'iinihthan ganaldaih.**

*I love I remember.*

As a child, I remember I  
loved it when they roasted  
a caribou head to the  
woodstove.

**Gwiinzii ih̄ih'aa nihthanh!**

*Good I will eat I thought!*

Oh, I'm going to eat good  
I used to think!

**Ezhik dhiidii ts'at aii vadzaih**  
*There I'm sitting and that caribou*  
**chi' heech'uu noodhil'ih.**  
*head it will roast I waited.*

And I used to sit there and  
wait there for that head to  
be roasted.

**Echi' iitsii nyuu' nadits'aii**  
*Head stove on the side it is hanging*  
**guuzhik noodhil'ih, ts'at**  
*while that I'm waiting and*  
**noodhil'ih, ts'at noodhil'ih.**  
*I'm waiting, and I'm waiting.*

I would wait, and I would wait,  
and I would wait as the head  
hung down by the stove.

**Vadzaih chi' tr'ahch'uu dai'**  
*Caribou head it is roasted at that time*  
**niinzhuk vah gweedhah,**  
*long time with it it happens,*  
**ezhik dai' nihthanh.**  
*at that time I thought.*

It sure took a long time to  
roast the head of a caribou, I  
used to think.

**Geenjit niinzhuk noodhil'ih ts'at**  
*For it long time I waited and*  
**ats'andoo k'avah shidinahtak.**  
*eventually I fell asleep.*

I couldn't wait for it any  
longer, and I would fall asleep  
just waiting.



**Vadzaih ndèe' gwiiyeendoo**  
*Caribou its eye very much*  
**at'iinihthanh – vindee gwizraih kwaa**  
*I loved it its eye only not*  
**goo vi'oo nilii chan at'iinihthanh.**  
*but around it meat too I loved it.*

I used to love the eye  
of the caribou—not the  
eye itself, but the meat  
around the eye.

**Aii ih'aa gwiiyeendoo at'iinihthanh.**  
*That I eat very much I loved it.*

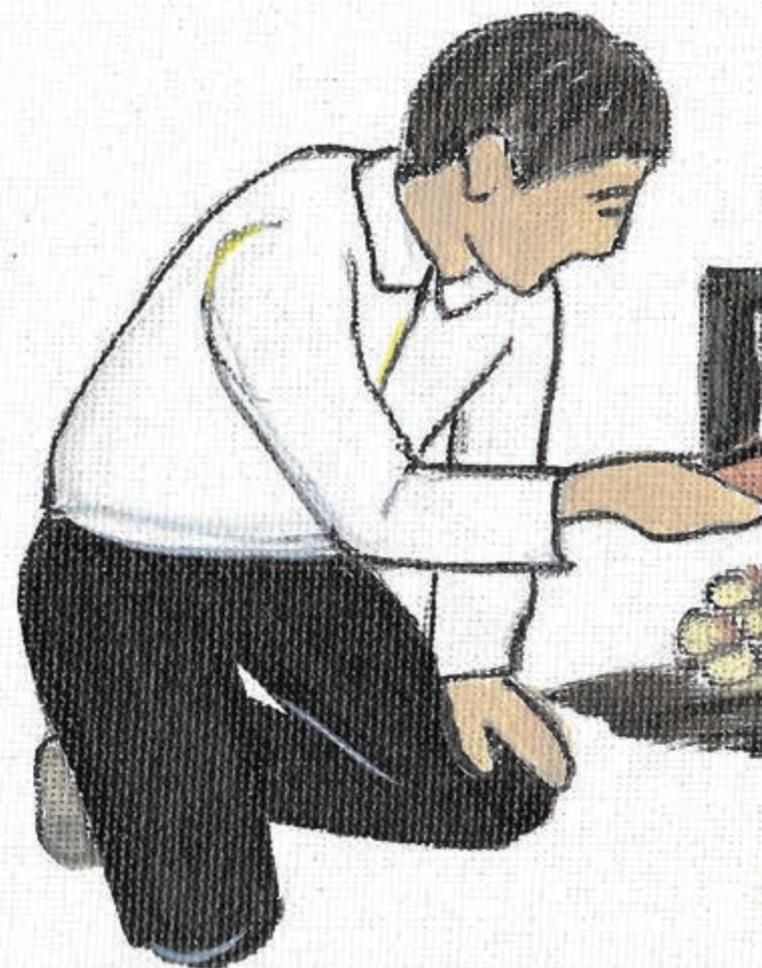
That's what I used to  
love to eat.

**Shiti' ts'àt shahanh guuk'ideetak**  
*My father and my mother in the middle of them*  
**k'avah shidinahtak.**  
*I fell asleep.*

I would fall asleep between my  
father and my mother.

**Khachisha'aih dòi' shiti'**  
*I woke up at that time my father*  
**gwijahk'ih.**  
*he is making fire.*

When I would wake up, my father  
would be making the fire.



**Kanhts'at niinji'ihthat!**

*Quickly I'm thinking!*

Then suddenly I  
thought, oh!

**Vadzaih chi' heech'uu noodhil'inh.**

*Caribou head it will roast I'm waiting for it.*

I was waiting for  
a caribou head to  
be roasted.

**Dagwidizhik?**

*What happened?*

What happened?

**Duuleh k'avah shidiniñnaih!**

*Maybe I fell asleep!*

I must have fallen asleep!

**Sheenjit lee tr'ooniniindhat geenjit**

*For me is there left over for it*

**niinji'ihthat.**

*I'm thinking.*

I wonder if there is any left  
over for me.



**Shahanh lee sheenjit**

*My mother is there for me*

**yilat k'anahtih?**

*some of it she is keeping?*

**Jii geenjit niinji'ihthat guuzhik**

*This for it I'm thinking meanwhile*

**gwehneedhaa gwits'at ts'at zhit**

*it will be warm to blanket in*

**t'ihch'uh.**

*I am.*

**Khachiisha'aii shahanh gahdandaih.**

*I woke up my mother she knows.*

**Vitt'ande' athichoo shits'an a'tsai**

*Something wrapped up mine she made*

**ts'at zhit uudhiinjik ts'at vizhit**

*blanket in I took it and in it*

**indee dha'aih.**

*eye it is there.*

**Indee sheenjit k'anahtih!**

*Eye for me she is keeping!*

Did my Momma keep some  
for me?

This I would think and  
then I had to stay in the  
blanket until it warmed up.

I guess my mother knew  
that I was awake.

She would give me  
something wrapped up  
and I would take it in the  
blanket with me and there  
was the eye.

She had saved the eye  
for me!

**Ts'at zhit**

*Blanket in it*

**vadzaih ndèè' ih'ah.**

*caribou eye I am eating.*

Then I would eat the  
caribou eye in my blanket.

**Aii t'at vanh shizhii diinch'uh.**

*That is morning my food it is.*

That was my breakfast.

**Ts'at zhìt indee ii'àl'.**

*Blanket in it eye I ate.*

I would finish eating this eye  
underneath in the blanket.

**Aii t'ee zheh gwizhit gwiniidhah**

*After that house inside it is warm*

**ts'àt khachiisha'ak.**

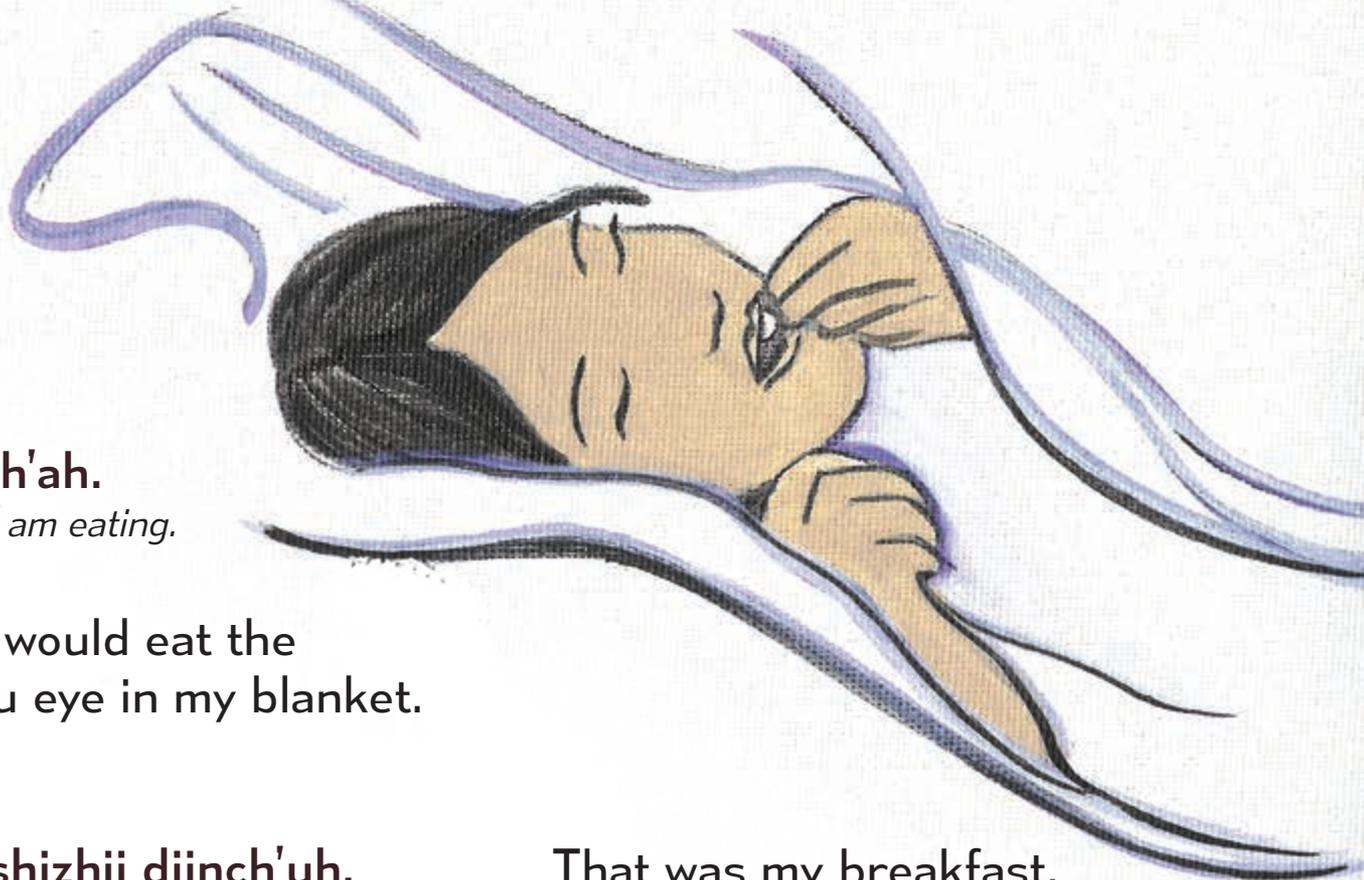
*and I got up.*

Then the house would be  
warm and I would get up.

**Jii gwiinzii ganaldaih.**

*This good I remember.*

I remember this very well.



**Diik'iidhat t'ee Teet'it Zheh**  
*I grew up after Fort McPherson*  
**gwats'àt Angus Firth shoonjik.**  
*from Angus Firth married me.*

When I grew up, I  
married Angus Firth of  
Fort McPherson.

**Angus, William Firth ts'àt**  
*Angus, William Firth and*  
**Mary Sibbeston guuzhuu iinli'.**  
*Mary Sibbeston their son he was.*

Angus was the son  
of William Firth and  
Mary Sibbeston.

**Nihloodhiidinjik t'ee Teet'it Gwinjik**  
*We got married after Peel River*  
**nji' nachidhiidi'oh.**  
*above we went.*

After we got married,  
we went up the  
Peel River.

**Nitaiinlaih nji' njuu goo'aih.**  
*Eight Miles above island it is there.*

Above Nataiinlaih, there  
is an island there.

**Łuh tr'uu choo diinch'uh.**  
*Sand bar big it is.*

It is a big sand bar.

**Gwiiyeendoo gwiinzii ezhik goo'aih.**  
*Much more it is good there it is there.*

It's a very nice place.

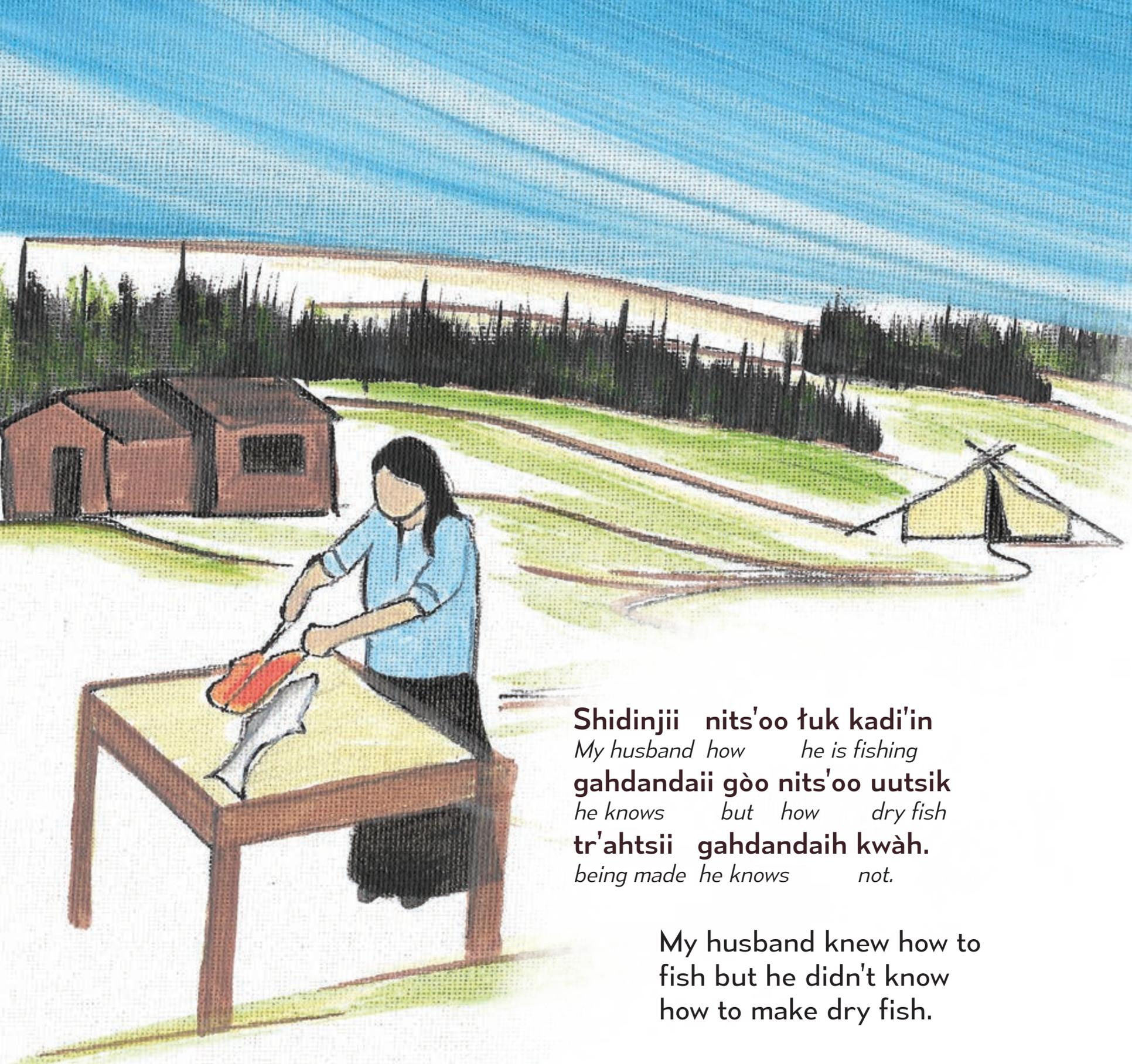
**Ezhik ok nizii dha'aih ts'àt**  
*There eddy it is good it is there and*  
**łuk katr'idi'in geenjit gwiinzih.**  
*fishing for it it is good.*

There's a good eddy and  
it is a good fishing place.

**Ezhik danh nikhwikaiik'it**  
*There our place*  
**dhàatsaih.**  
*we made.*

So, that's where we made  
our bush camp.





**Shidinjii nits'oo ʔuk kadi'in**  
*My husband how he is fishing*  
**gahdandaii gòò nits'oo uutsik**  
*he knows but how dry fish*  
**tr'ahtsii gahdandaih kwàh.**  
*being made he knows not.*

My husband knew how to  
fish but he didn't know  
how to make dry fish.

**Adanh chihv yah chahchuu**

*Him net he is setting*

**ts'at shii uutsik e'tsih.**

*and me dry fish I'm making.*

So, he would set the net, get the fish and I made the dry fish.

**Viyuughwan William Firth ts'at**

*His parents William Firth and*

**Mary shik zeh gugwich'in**

*Mary always town they live*

**aï k'iighè' shidinjii nits'oo**

*because of that my husband how*

**gwatat tr'igwindaii gahdandaih kwàh.**

*in the bush living he knows not.*

His parents, Old William Firth and Mary, they used to live in town all the time so my husband did not know too much about bush life.

**Nits'oo chihv yah chahchuu ts'at khyah**

*How net he is setting and he is*

**t'ah'in gahdandaii gò nits'oo uutsik**

*trapping he knows but how dry fish*

**tr'ahtsii gahdandaih kwàh.**

*it is made he knows not.*

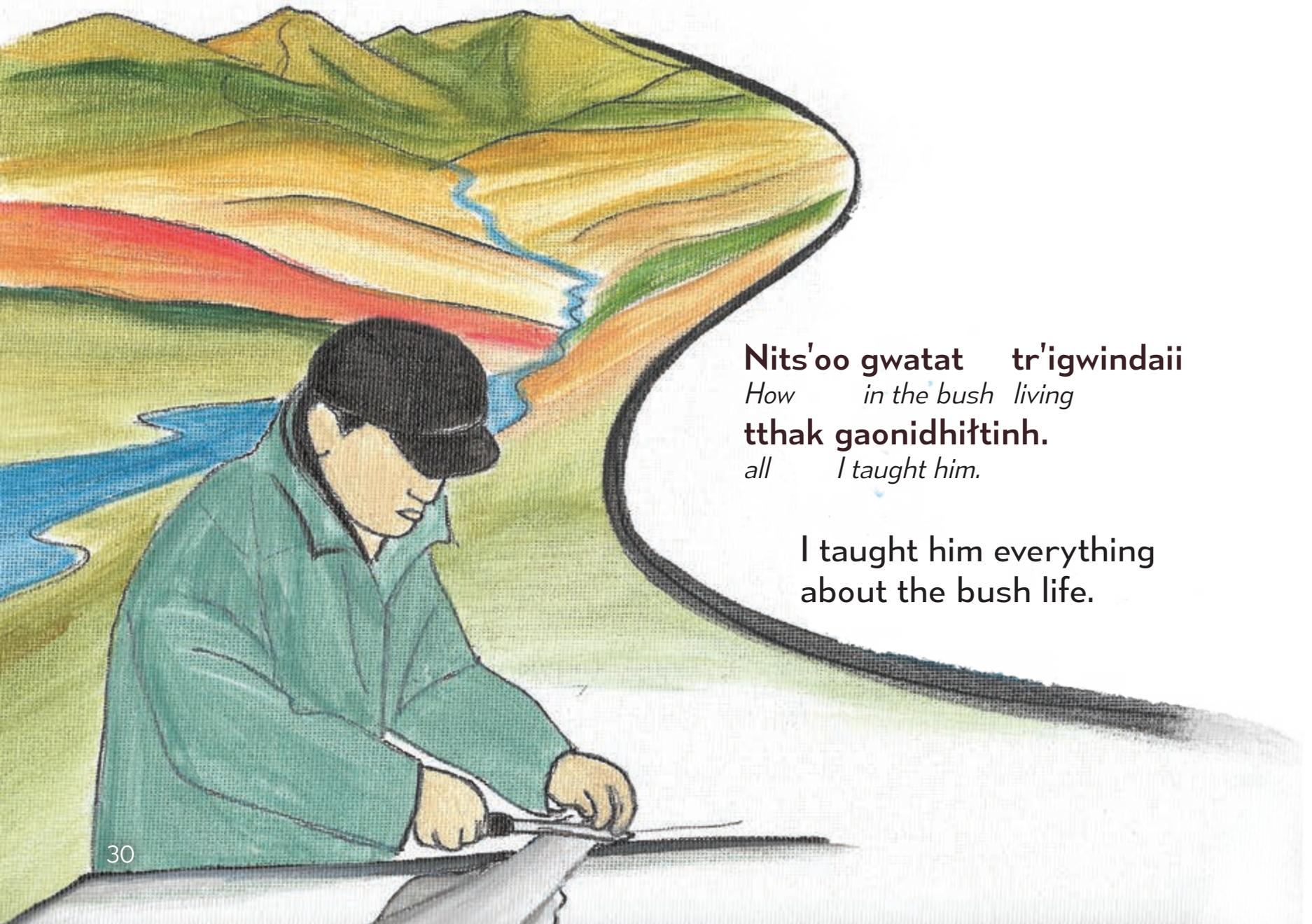
He knew how to set net and trap, but he did not know how to make the dry fish.

**Nihłoodhiidinjik t'ee gwatat**  
*We got married after in the bush*  
**nikhwikaiik'it danh tr'oochit**  
*our place there first*  
**gwiidich'inh.**  
*we lived.*

When we started our  
married life, we lived at our  
bush camp.

**Nits'oo gwatat tr'igwindaii**  
*How in the bush living*  
**tthak gaonidhiłtin.**  
*all I taught him.*

I taught him everything  
about the bush life.



**Shidinjii tr'iguudidinjik kwàh.**

*My husband he is lazy not.*

My husband wasn't a  
lazy man.

**Tr'oochit gwatat nikhwikaiik'it,**

*First time in the bush our place,*

**t'iidich'uh dàì' kicker tsal**

*we lived at that time kicker small*

**ts'at tr'ih tsal di'inh ts'at**

*and boat small he has and*

**chihvyah chahchuh.**

*net he is setting.*

When we started having  
our own bush camp, he  
had a small kicker and  
canoe and he set the net.

**Chihvyah zhìt łuk dàì' taih kak**

*Net in fish at that time hill on*

**nikhwizheh goo'aii gwits'at nayihilik.**

*our house it is there to he carried it.*

When he caught the fish,  
he would bring them up  
the hill to our camp.

**Łuk sheenjit digyuh ts'at**

*Fish for me he is scaling it and*

**uutsik ełtsih.**

*dry fish I'm making.*

He would scale the fish  
for me and I would make  
the dry fish.

**Tr'oochit shin nihkchah t'iidich'uu**  
*First summer together we are*  
**uutsik leii dhaatsaih.**  
*dry fish lots we made.*

We made lots of dry fish  
that first summer that we  
were married.

**Khaiints'an' d'ài' Viht'òo Tshik gwits'at**  
*Fall time then Road River to*  
**iididaa ts'at khaii tthak**  
*we are going and winter all*  
**shiyuughwan guuvah ezhik t'iidich'uh.**  
*my parents with them there we are staying.*

In the fall, we would go  
to Viht'òo Tshik and  
spend the winter with  
my parents.

**Ezhik guuvah t'iidich'uu geenjit**  
*There with them we are for that*  
**gwiiyeendoo shòh giinlih.**  
*very much happy they are.*

They were very happy  
that we came to live at  
this place with them.

**Khaiints'an' ih'at shidinji' khyah**  
*Fall time one time my husband traps*  
**t'ahah'aa geenjit Teet'it Gwinjik**  
*he will set for that Peel River*  
**nji' chuuzhih.**  
*up to he went.*

One fall, my husband  
went further up the  
Peel River to set traps.

**Walter ts'at Robert Alexie kat hàh**  
*Walter and Robert Alexie with them*  
**Tr'atr'aatai Tshik gwits'at chuuzhih.**  
*Trail Creek to he went.*

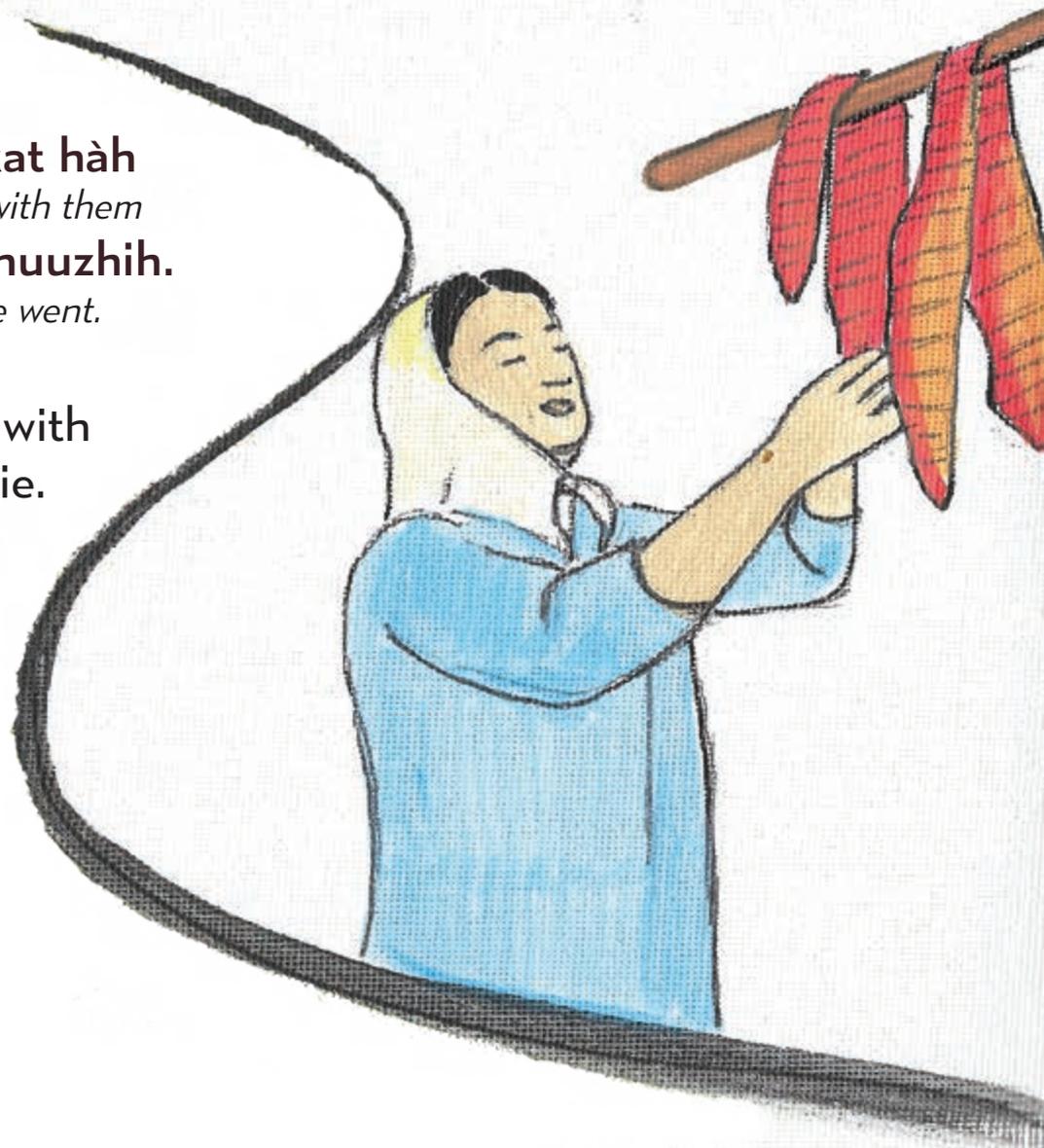
He went up Trail Creek with  
Walter and Robert Alexie.

**Drin Tsal gwits'at**  
*Christmas to*  
**nyahgwan dài'**  
*not long at that time*  
**nikhwits'ee gichithijit.**  
*back to us they came.*

They came back just  
before Christmas.

**Sriit'ahshuk nagaazhih tt'ee gisrii naanjik ts'at Drin Tsal**  
*For a while they rested after we got ready and Christmas*  
**geenjit Teet'it Zheh gwits'at chidhiidijit.**  
*for it Fort McPherson to we went.*

They rested a few days and then we prepared ourselves to  
go to Fort McPherson for Christmas.



**Njuu nduh ts'aai danh nikhwikaiik'it**  
*Island across side there our place*  
**goo'aai shin tthak ezhik t'iidich'uh.**  
*it is there summer all there we are staying.*

Every summer we spent  
at our fish camp, on the  
west side of this island.

**Ezhik danh nikhwitr'iinin kat iidi'inh.**  
*At that place our children we had them.*

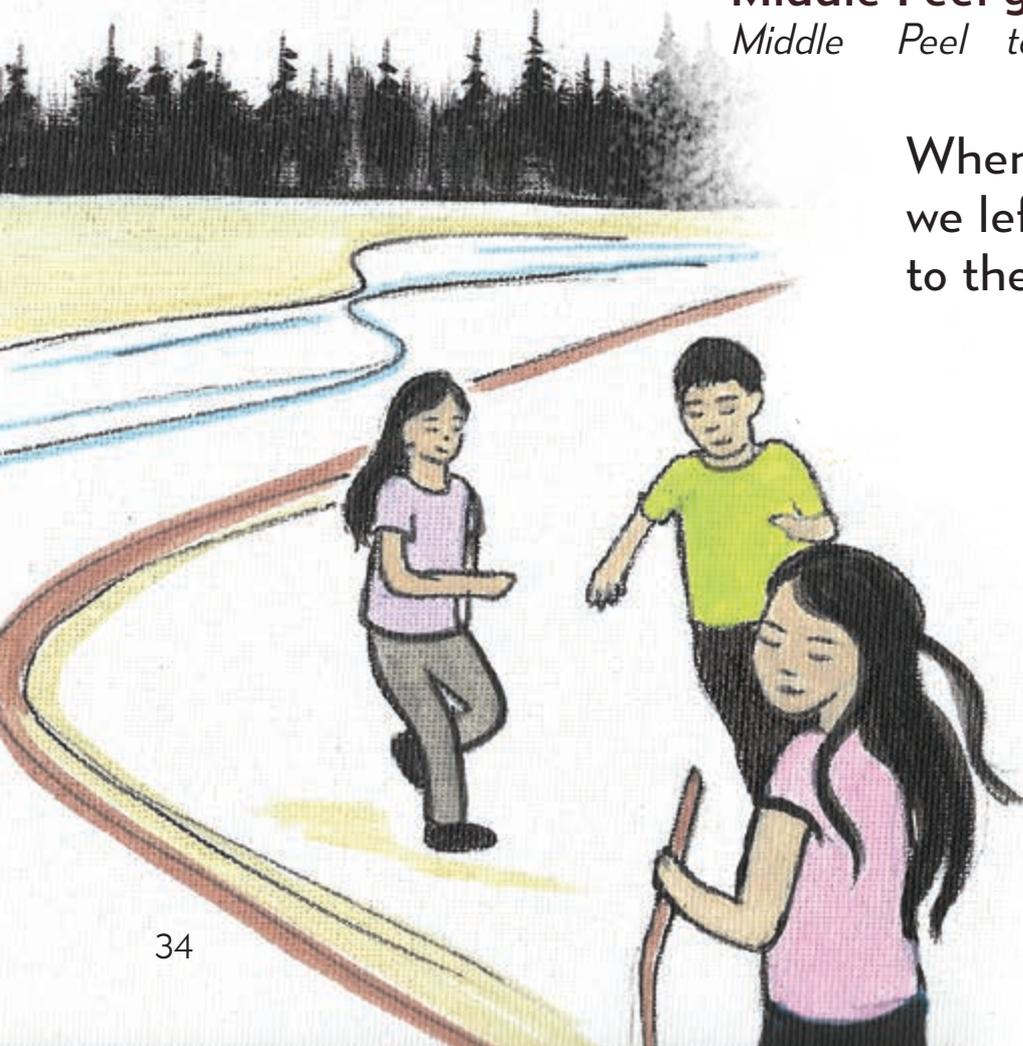
We had our  
children there.

**Nikhwitr'iinin kat jidii tsal giinlii dai'**  
*Our children small they are at that time*  
**Middle Peel gwits'at chidhiidi'oh.**  
*Middle Peel to we went.*

When our children were still young,  
we left this place and we went down  
to the Middle Peel.

**Ezhik danh shidinjii**  
*At that place my husband*  
**zheh gwitsaih.**  
*house he made.*

This is where my  
husband built a  
log cabin.



**Jùk Angus Firth vikaiik'it gatr'ahnuh.**  
*Now Angus Firth his place it is called.*

It is now called Angus  
Firth's Place.

**Aii gwats'àt shin tthak**  
*From that time summer all*  
**ezhik t'iidich'uh.**  
*there we live.*

From then on, we  
stayed at this place  
every summer.

**1989 dài' shidinjii vikwah.**  
*1989 at that time my husband he died.*

My husband died in 1989.

**Juk drin Nitaiinlaii danh**  
*Today Eight Miles there*  
**shikaiik'it goo'aih.**  
*my place it is there.*

Today I have a camp  
at Nataiinlaii.

**Shin dài' ezhik danh**  
*Summer at that time at that place*  
**ʔuk kashi'in ts'àt uutsik eʔtsii**  
*I'm fishing and dry fish I'm making*  
**gat'iinihthanh.**  
*I like it.*

I like to fish and make dry  
fish there in the summer.

**Shizhuu kat gwiiyeendoo**

*My sons very much*

**shits'àt tr'igiinjih.**

*to me they help.*

My sons really help me.

**Shin guuzhik shiʔuk zhèe' gwizhìt**

*Summer during my fish house inside*

**uutsik leii dadhidlih.**

*dry fish lots it is put up.*

In the summers, I have lots of dry fish that's hanging in my smokehouse.

**Shinli' tsal gwileii gwitr'it tthak**

*My hand small poor work all*

**t'agwah'inh.**

*it is doing.*

It's my poor little hands that did all that work.

**Yeenoo dàì' nits'oo tr'igwiindai' gwik'it**

*Long ago how they lived the same*

**gwihdaii guk'agwihdaih.**

*I'm living I'm trying.*

I try to live my traditional life as best I can.

**Juk drin gwiiyeendoo ejuk**

*Today much more different*

**t'igoonch'uh.**

*it is.*

Today there are many changes.

**Shòh t'ihṭyaa guk'agwihdaih.**  
*Happy I will be I'm trying.*

I try my best to be happy.

**Tr'iinin kat guuts'àt ginikhii**  
*Children to them I'm talking*  
**gat'iinihthanh.**  
*I like it.*

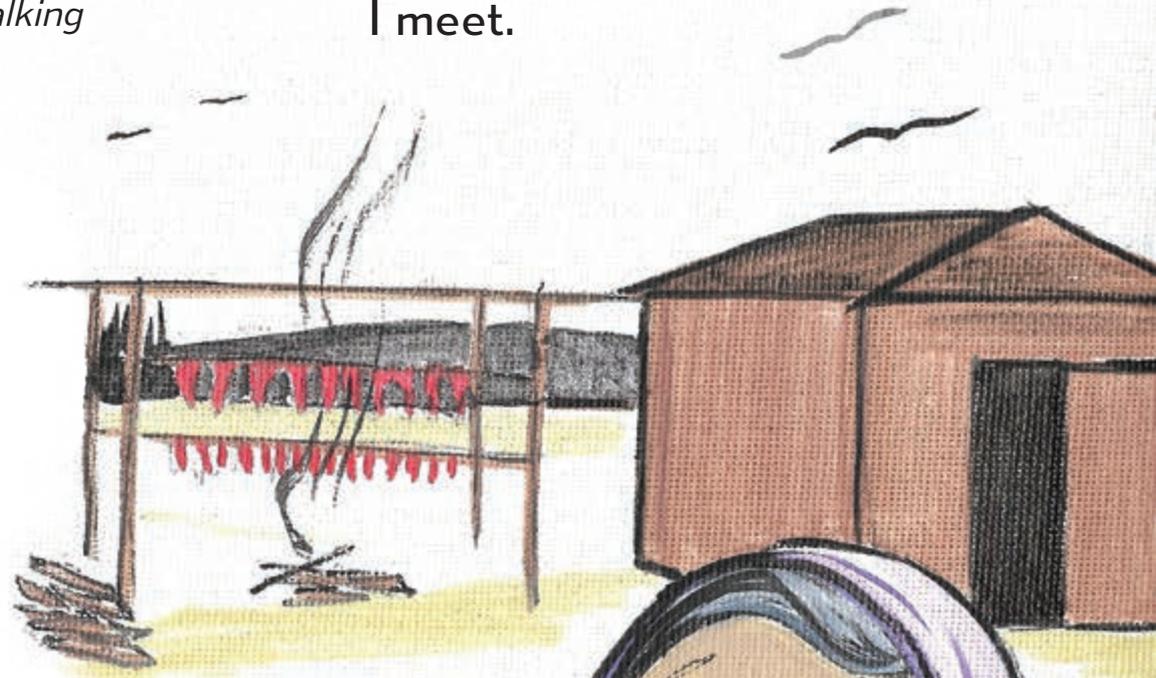
I like to talk to the children  
I meet.

**Shinoh'in jì', "Hello**  
*If you see me, "Hello*  
**sheek'aai," shohnuh.**  
*my auntie," all of you tell me.*

If you see me, say,  
"Hello Auntie."

**Aii jì' gwiiyeendoo**  
*Because of that very much*  
**shòh tiṭyah.**  
*happy I will be.*

That will make me  
very happy.



## GLOSSARY

**Angus Firth's Place.** This place name refers to a cabin on the Peel Channel. "Angus Firth's Place," ID 1880, Gwich'in Place Names Atlas, <https://atlas.gwichin.ca/index.html#eyJ0IjoieClslmkiOiJnd2ljaGluLnBsYWNIbmFtZS4xODgwliwicyl6MTcwMjgyODE5MDg2MX0=>.

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**Nataiinlaih.** The name literally means "water flowing from all directions." It is known in English as Eight Miles as it about eight miles upriver from Fort McPherson. Nataiinlaih is located where a creek flows into the Peel River less than one kilometre above the Peel River ferry crossing of the Dempster Highway. There are several fish camps located at Nataiinlaih and used by many of the Teet'it Gwich'in people in the summer. "Nataiinlaih," ID 1446, Gwich'in Place Names Atlas, <https://atlas.gwichin.ca/index.html#eyJ0IjoieClslmkiOiJnd2ljaGluLnBsYWNIbmFtZS4xNDQ2liwicyl6MTcwMjgyODIxNDA0NH0=>.

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**Vih't'òo Tshik** means "blue/green-at the mouth of." It is called Road River in English. This is a place that refers to the mouth of a river that flows from the Richardson Mountains into the Peel River, between the Vittrekwa River and Trail River. According to Elders, there are blue/green flat stones found in the river and these were used for making fire (flint). Near this place can be found sulphur dripping out of the rocks. Another translation of the name Vih't'òo Tshik could have something to do with fish scales and slime. "Vih't'òo Tshik," ID 1174, Gwich'in Place Names Atlas, <https://atlas.gwichin.ca/index.html#eyJ0IjoieClslmkiOiJnd2ljaGluLnBsYWNIbmFtZS4xMTc0liwicyl6MTcwMjgyODIzNjc0MH0=>.

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Jii gwandak tr'oohadhahch'aa geenjit jii  
*This story it will be listened to for this*  
thumb drive gwakak diinch'uh.  
*thumb drive on it it is.*

The thumb drive enclosed here will allow you  
to listen and read along to this story.

This story talks about the Gwich'in values of:

Yiinjihñetr'ichil'eh (Respect)

Chigwijuu'ee Tri'igwindaii (Honesty)

Yiinjitr'ichil'eh (Honour)

Zhuh Ghat T'igwidich'uu (Kindness)

Nihk'atr'inaatii (Sharing and Caring)

---

This story talks about Gwich'in Principles of:

Our Elders play a crucial role as teachers. They are keepers of our knowledge, history, language, protocol and culture.

Our way of life is based on a unique and special economic and spiritual relationship between each other and the land, air and water.

Our family history and linkages to our relatives in the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska is important to our identity.

Cross-cultural understanding and awareness between Gwich'in and non-Gwich'in, is essential in building a new relationship based on respect, reconciliation and cooperation.



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