Michif – English Transcript:

Elder Norman Fleury tells Elder Rita Ducharme about *lii bufloo*

Literal translation:

Ita gaa niipawiyaahk	**anoosh**	**lii bufloo pen,**	**kanawapamamaayakohk.**	**Niiya gaa kii pay apishiishishiyaan,**
Where we're standing	today	the buffalo pen	we're watching them.	Me, when I was little,

noohkoom, nimooshoom	**kii tashimaywuk**	**taapitow**	**lii bufloo.**	**Lii Michif,**
my grandma, my grandpa	they talked about	always	buffalo.	The Michifs

ayish,	**kayaash**	**wiiyawow**	**Kaa pay apishiishichik,**	**naandow 1879, 1880**
because,	a long time ago	them	when they were little	around 1879, 1880

kii nihtaawikichik.	**kiiyapich**	**kii tashimaywuk**	**lii bufloo.**	**aykooshi**
when they were born.	Still	they talked about	the buffalo.	And so

kii noochihaywuk	**aykooshpii**	**lii bufloo.**
they hunted them	at that time	the buffalo.

Foolay.
it was necessary.

Aykooshpii	**la business**	**kii ooshihtaachik**	**Kii doo nipahaywuk**	**naandow waahiyow**
At that time	business	as they did it.	They went to kill them	someplace far away

kii mishchaytiwuk	**lii bufloo**	**aykooshpii.**	**Aan shaaret**	**kii otaapaashowuk**
they were numerous	the buffalo	at that time.	In carts	they rode

waahiyow daan li sud	**ootay**	**daan lii Ziitaa**	**aen kii itoohtaychik.**	**Aykoota**
far down south	there	in the United States	they would go.	There, at that palce

kii doo minahoowuk	**li moond**	**aanmaas.**	**Kii mishchaytiwuk,**	**naandow saen saan li moond**
they went to catch wild game	people	many.	They were numerous	around five hundred people

naandow.	**Lii shaaret,**	**naandow [xxx]**	**aen mil lii shaaret,**	**lii zhvoo,**
approximately.	Carts,	around [xxx]	a thousand carts,	horses,

mishchayt lii zhvoo	**naandow saenk, sis saan zhvoo.**	**Lii beu**	**ootaapahachik**	**daan lii shaaret.**
a lot of horses	around five, six hundred horses.	Oxen	they made them pull	in the wagons.

aykooshi	**kii pay ishi achimooshtakwuk**	**apishiishishiyaan,**	**noohkoom.**	**Aykwaa**
Thus	they told us stories like that	when I was little,	my grandpa.	And

kii paytoohtaywuk ootay.	**Namoo waahiyow**	**oota ooshchi,**	**Round Prairie, La Prayrii Roond**	**kii itamwuk,**
they came over there.	Not far	from here,	Round Prairie, Round Prairie	they called it that,

aykoota	**kii mishchaytiwuk**	**lii Michif.**	**Avaan**	**aykoota**
there, at that place	they were numerous	the Michifs.	Before	there, in that place

li risaarv kaa ashtayk,	**White Cap,**	**aykoota kii wiikiwuk,**	**lii Michif.**	**Kiiyapich**
there was a reserve,	White Cap,	there they lived	the Michifs.	Still

aykoota wiikiwuk.	**Gii wahkoomananik.**	**Lii Fleury, lii Trotchie.**	**Aykwaa**	**mooshoom**
there they live.	We are related to them.	The Fleurys, the Trotchies.	And	

li vyeu Lepine	**niiyanaan**	**noohkoom**	**si opaapaawa**	**kii pay noochihchikaywuk.**
the old Lepine	us (but not you)	my grandpa	it is his father	they would come hunting.

Li daarnyii	**aykwanima,**	**la shaas di bufloo.**	**Aykwaa Parks Canada**	**kii ataamikowuk**
the last one	that one	the buffalo hunt.	And Parks Canada	they bought from people

lii pchi voo.	**pleu zhenn**	**nawut**	**ookik**	**ashpiishchi [xxx]**
little calves.	younger	moreso	these ones	than (comparative) [xxx]

ishpiihchishiwuk.	**Kii atawakaywuk.**	**Akooshchi**	**ga miyeuyhtamaan**	**lii bufloo**
they're that little.	They sold it/them.	So, therefore	I am happy	the buffalo

niiya aen waapamakik
as I see them.

Niishta.	**Maaka**	**'makaykway**	**gishkayhtayn**	**maaka, ayi**
Me too.	But	nothin'	I know	but, well, hmm

Ni mooshoom	**zhamayn**	**kii tashimew,**	**noohkoom,**	**wiiyawow.**
my grandpa	never	he talked about him/her,	my grandma,	them.

Zhamayn	**kii tashimaywuk.**
Never	they talked about them.

Ashay	**kayaash**	**aen kii waanihkaychik**	**lii bufloo**	**aytikway,**
Already	a long time ago	as they forgot	the buffalo	I guess, perhaps,

wiishtawow;	**namoo**	**kii achimaywuk, eh?**
them too	no/not	they told stories about them, eh?

Noo.
No.

Maaka oota,	**kiiyanaan,**	**Metis Nation-Saskatchewan**	**aen kii ooshihtayaahk**	**aen maarshii**
But here,	us (including you)	Metis Nation-Saskatchewan	we have made	a deal

avik Parks Canada.	**aykoota ooshchi**	**kaa ohtinaayahkok**	**ookik.**	**Vaen saenk**
with Parks Canada.	there from	as we got them	those ones.	Twenty-five

oota	**lii bufloo ayaawuk.**	**Naandow kaatr**	**lii beu, lii tooroo**	**zhi paans.**
here	there are buffalo.	approximately four	steers, bulls	I think.

Aykwaa li rest,	**lii torr.**	**Aykwanihin**	**aykwaa apihtow ooshchi**	**ka oohpikihaanaanik lii pchii.**
And the rest,	heifers.	Those ones there	and half of them	will bear/raise little ones.

Maaka noo shaymaak,	**daan deu zaan naandow,**	**daan deu zaan.**	**Ka maachi awaanaanik**	**lii pchi voo.**
But not right away,	in two years roughly,	in two years.	they will start to carry them around	little calves.

Maaka oota	**ka wiikiwuk,**	**kii ooshihtawuk**	**aen graan paar.**	**Namoo gishkayhtayn**
But here	they will live,	they built	a big fence.	I don't know

taanimayikohk	**lii zaarpaan,**	**lii zaakr.**	**Oota mishow.**	**Maaka oota [xxx]**
how many	acres,	acres.	It's big here.	But here [xxx]

naandow	**toot l'ivayr oota.**	**Ka ashamaywuk,**	**kaahkiyow.**	**Maaka kiiya**
about	the whole winter here.	They will feed them,	everything.	But you

kaa apishiishishiyen	**Lii zanimoo kii ayaawaywuk,**	**lii farmer alantoor kiiyawow.**
when you were little	they had animals	the farmers around you guys.

Aenhaenk.
Uh huh.

'moo oohkaat	awiyuk	lii bufloo	kii payayawew.	Tapishkoo ana
Never	someone	buffalo	they had them.	Like that one

moon	ma yayns, Linda…	Soon gaarsoon ana Bobby,	ayawew,	wiishta kii ayawew
my	My niece, Linda…	Her boy, that one, Bobby	s/he has them,	s/he also had them.

lii bufloo.	Kii oohpikihew lii bufloo.	kii maachi ayaawaywuk,	Virden kaa wiikiyaan	daan la farm,
buffalo.	S/he raised buffalo.	they began to exist,	Virden where I lived	on the farm,

aykoota	kii oohpikihaywuk miina	lii bufloo.	Alantoor di moon vwaazayn	kii pishkaapamawuk.
there	they raised them as well	buffalo.	Around my neighbours	they watched over them.

Aashkow	naandow	kaa itoohtaychik naandow	kii doo pishkaapamawuk	lii bufloo.
Sometimes	anyhow	they would go somewhere	they went to watch over them	the buffalo.

Maaka	namoo kataat	araa	aen ayaayen,	lii wild ookik.
But	not necessary	near(by)	that you be there,	those ones are wild.

Zhamayn,	si pa koom lii zanimoo.	Aykooshiishi	tapitow	ka ayaawuk
never,	it's not like (domesticated) animals.	In this way	always	they will exist

ookik [xxx]	Maaka nimiyeuyhtayn	oota anoosh,	taypiyaahk	gii paywaapatamwuk.
those ones.	but I'm happy	here today,	at least	I came and saw them.

Niishta, niishta.
Me too, same here.

Dynamic translation:

NF: We're standing here today at the buffalo pen watching them (the buffalo). When I was little, my grandma and grandpa always talked about the buffalo. Because the Michifs from a long time ago – when they (my grandparents) were little, it was around 1879, 1880 when they were born – people still talked about buffalo. And they would have still hunted buffalo at that time.

RD: They had to.

NF: At that time it was a business. They went to kill the buffalo somewhere far away where they were plentiful at the time. They rode wagons way down south; they went into the United States. They went and harvested the animals. There were a lot of them, around five hundred people, some one thousand carts, lots of horses, maybe five or six hundred horses. They had oxen pulling the carts. That's what my grandpa told me when I was little.

And they came to a place not far from here, Round Prairie, Round Prairie they called it. There were lots of Michifs there. Before the reserve was put there, White Cap Dakota First Nation, the Michifs lived there. And they still live there; we're related. The Fleurys, the Trotchies, and old grandpa Lepine, our grandma's father, they would come hunting. That would have been the last buffalo hunt.

Parks Canada bought little calves – younger than those ones there, smaller than that – and then sold them. So, I'm happy to see the buffalo.

RD: Me too. But I don't know anything (about them). You know, my grandpa never talked about them, nor did my grandma; they never talked about them.

NF: It was a long time ago, maybe they had already forgotten about the buffalo. They never told stories about the buffalo, eh?

RD: No.

NF: But here, we at Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, we made a deal with Parks Canada, that's where we got them from. There are twenty-five buffalo. Something like four bulls I think; the rest are heifers. Half of them will bear young, but not anytime soon. In two years or so. In two years they'll start bearing calves.

Here where they live, they build a big fence. I'm not sure how many acres, but it's big. They'll spend the winter here. They (the groundskeepers) will feed them and everything.

So when you were little, the farmers in your area had animals?

RD: Uh huh.

NF: But nobody ever had buffalo. Like, my niece Linda – her son there, Bobby has some, he raises buffalo. They started getting them in Virden where I lived, on the farm, they raise them there too. Around my neighbour's place, people would check on them. Sometimes they would go around and go check up on the buffalo. But it's not necessary for you to be around them, they're wild. Never – they're not like (farm) animals. In that way, they will always be around.

Anyway I'm happy here today, at least I came and saw them.

RD: Same here, me too.