Michif – English Transcript:

Rita Ducharme and Beatrice Pelletier talk about family and growing up *Daan Li Kwayn* (Fouillard's Corner)

Literal translation: (Rita = blue, Beatrice = green)

Taanishi kiiya, Beatrice?
how are you, Beatrice?

All right, kiiya maaka?
All right, how about you?

Oh, si t'all right, niishta.	Tii zaanfaan	maaka?
I'm all right, same here.	Your kids	but/what about?

Toot	miyo ayaawuk.
All of them	they are doing well.

Trwaa lii zaanfaan	kitayawawuk	kiishta, eh?
Three kids	you have them	you too, eh?

Trwaa.
Three.

Lii zaanfaan	wiishtawow	ayawaywuk?
Children	they also	they have them?

Oh yeah,	lii zaanfaan	ayawaywuk.
Oh yeah,	children	they have them.

Tanimayikoohk?
How many?

Ma pleu vyey	trwaa ayawew,	moon gaarsoon deu,	Pi ma pleu zhenn	yaenk enn ayawew.
My oldest daughter	She has three of them,	my son two,	and my youngest daughter	only has one of them.

Henn?
One?

Yeah.
Yeah.

Niishta	ma fii trwaa,	moon gaarsoon pleu vyeu saenk	and li zhenn,	wiiya deu ayawew.
Me too	my daughter (has) three,	my oldest son (has) five	and the youngest,	he has two of them.

Oh.
Oh.

Nooshishimak	maaka?
(great) grandchildren	but/what about?

Sis dayawawuk.
I have six of them.

Sis?
Six?

Yeah.	Kaatr lii gaarsoon,	deu lii fii.
Yeah.	four boys,	two girls.

Jhis niiya dayawawuk.
I have ten of them.

Wah,	aan maas;	kii paashkiiyawin!
Wow,	many/a lot;	you beat me!

Aen paahpichik (they are laughing)

Ahaenk.	Francis, wiiya	ayawew	saenk lii zaanfaan.	Nancy wiiya trwaa,	and Mark deu.
Uh huh.	Francis, s/he	s/he has them	five children.	Nancy she (has) three	and Mark (has) two.

Aashay	aykooshi kititotin	aashay	gii waanihkaan.	Maachi li vyay iwinaan	ayish eh?
Already	I said thus to you	already	I forgot.	We're starting to get old	so it is, eh?

Aykooshi	etikway,	aen maachi waanihkayaahk.
That's it	I guess,	we're starting to forget.

Maachi kiish…	maachi li vyayiwinaan.
Starting to go…	we're starting to get old.

Kiishkway…kiishkwaypayinaan.	Taanishi	oota	kaa takooshiniyen	Saskatoon?
Go crazy…we're going crazy.	How	here	that you arrived	(in) Saskatoon?

Yayr	gii takooshinin	avik moon frayr.	Moon frayr	gii payshiwik.
Yesterday	I arrived	with my brother.	My brother	he brought me here.

Niishtanaan,	yayr a swayr	oota	gii takooshininaan.	Saenk eur
Us too,	yesterday evening	here	we arrived.	

zhi paans,	naandow sis eur	kaa takooshiniyaahk,	niishtanaan.
I think,	around six o'clock	is when we arrived,	us too.

Sis eur?
six o'clock?

Saenk eur	oo baen doon	sis eur.
five o'clock	or	six o'clock.

Trwaa zeur zhi paans	kaatr eur zhi paans,	avaan kaatr eur.	Trwaa zeur idmii zhi paans	kaa takooshiniyaahk oota.
three o'clock I think	four o'clock I think,	before four.	Three-thirty I think	is when we arrived here.

Moon frayr Gaspaar	payshiiwikonaan	oota.	Noo gishkayhtaynaan taanishi	oota chi paytoohtayaahk.
My brother Gaspaard	brought us	here.	We don't know how	to get here.

Noo kashkihtaw	kwaayesh,	Kenny noo kishkayhtam Saskatoon.	Regina ki wiikin	laa ooma, eh?
He can't do it	correctly	Kenny doesn't know Saskatoon.	You live in Regina	now, eh?

Regina ni wiikin, yeah,	anoosh	miina	giiwaypayishoon	apray.	apray mijii.
Yeah, I live in Regina	today	again	I'll head home	after.	afternoon.

Apray mijii?
afternoon?

Namoo paminikaan, but…
I'm not driving, but…

Ki pooshin,	ki pooshin!
You ride,	you're riding!

Aen paahpihk (laughter)

Wii, ni pooshin anyways.
Yes, I'm riding anyway.

Kishkishin…kishkishin chiin	l'ikol	aen kii maachihtayaahk?
Remember…do you remember	school	when we started it?

Yeah.
Yeah.

Kayaash anima.	Deu lii classroom kii ayaawuk.	Kiiyanaan grade 1 to 4 kiiyanaan,	loot classroom grade 5 to 8
That was a long time ago.	Two classrooms they had.	Us, grade 1 to 4 we were,	the other classroom grade 5 to 8

Gii miyeuyhtayn	aen ayaayaan	daan l'ikol.
I liked it	being	in school.

Yeah. Gii…	it's too bad,	kii mayshchitaet	l'ikol, huh?
Yeah. It was…	it's too bad,	it burned down	the school, huh?

Apray sa	daan la vil	aen kii toohtayaahk.	Binscarth l'ikol,	noo gii miyeuyhtayn	aykootay.
After that	in(to) town	we were going.	Binscarth school,	I didn't like it	there.

Ashay gii naakiin…
I had already stopped…

Gii naakiin	niiya wiiya
I stopped	as for me; for my part.

Niishta.	Namoo ahpoo gii [xxx]	Binscarth	Well, tool taan niiya, anyways.	Kishkishin?
Me too.	I didn't even [xxx]	Binscarth	Well, all the time I was, anyways.	Do you remember?

Binscarth gii itoohtaan,	Daan Li Kwayn.	Binscarth, Daan Li Kwayn.	Yeah. Tool taan.
I went to Binscarth,	[then to] Foulliard's Corner.	Binscarth, Foulliard's Corner.	Yeah. All the time.

Nimaamaa,	wiiyawow	tool taan	kii pichiwuk	ayish, eh?
My mom,	they/them	all the time	they moved houses	Because/that's why, eh?

Taapitow, yeah.
Always, yeah.

Yeah, kii atooshkaywuk	poor lii farmyii,	and then uh…	Koohkoom Rose, ana	avik Mooshoom Pete,
Yeah, they worked	for the farmers,	and then uh…	Grandma Rose, she	with Grandpa Pete,

kii oohpikihaywuk	nawuch	wiiyawow	ishpiishchi	nimaamaa pi nipaapaa
they raised them	more	them (my siblings)	than (compared to)	my mom and dad

Aashkow	poor enn smenn	shipwaytaywuk.
Sometimes	for a week	they leave.

Oh, toot leu vii	sa...yeah.
Oh, their whole lives	it's...yeah.

Lii graynrii, lii taant	chi nipaachik	chi ayaachik
[In] granaries, tents	to sleep (in)	To stay [in].

Ni maamaa	wiishta	kii atooshkayw	avik ni paapaa.	Ma seur kii kanawaymikooonaan.	La vyeu seur, ma seur Marie.
My mom	she too	she worked	with my dad.	My sister looked after us.	My older sister, Marie.

Mhm. Rose?	Apray sa	wiishta, Rose avik Foofoy	Winnipeg kii atooshkaywuk,	wiiyawow.
Mhm. Rose?	After that	she too, Rose with Foofoy	they worked in Winnipeg	they/them.

Yeah, daan li sanitorium	Winnipeg kii atooshkaywuk,	poor achiyow.
Yeah, in the sanitorium	they worked (in) Winnipeg	for a little while.

Kii li zhenniwiwuk,	kii li zhenniwiwuk.
They were young,	they were young.

Yeah, yeah. Aykootay	ni mooshoom kii nipoo.	Yaenk aen,	yaenk aen mooshoom	gii ayawanaan.
Yeah, yeah. There (that's where)	my grandpa died.	Just one,	just one grandpa	we had him.

Ni paapaa	soon paapaa,	kii nipoo Winnipeg.	Daan la pitaal	aykootay. Yeah.
My dad	his dad,	he died (in) Winnipeg.	In the hospital	there. Yeah.

Pi ni paapaa,	wiishta Winnipeg	daan la pitaal kii nipoo	aykootay daan la pitaal	aykoota taanday Kenny kaa atooshkayt
And my dad,	he too (in Winnipeg)	he died in the hospital	there in the hospital	there where Kenny worked.

Kenny	kii waapamew	too lii zhoor	ni paapaa
Kenny	he saw him	every day	my dad.

Si boon	ta bor eh?	Pi ki maamaa,	wiiya	oota, Saskatoon?
It's good	provided that, eh?	And your mom,	She/her	here, (in) Saskatoon?

Ni maamaa	oota	wiiya,	Saskatoon, yeah.
My mom	here	she/her	(in) Saskatoon, yeah.

University Hospital	aen kaa kii nipoot,	eh?
University hospital	is where she died,	eh?

Dynamic translation:

Rita: How are you, Beatrice?

Beatrice: All right, how about you?

Rita: Me too, I'm all right. And your kids?

Beatrice: They're all doing well.

Rita: You have three kids as well, h

Beatrice: Three.

Rita: And do they have kids themselves?

Beatrice: Oh yeah, they have kids.

Rita: How many?

Beatrice: Uh, my oldest daughter has three, my son has two, and my youngest has just one.

Rita: One?

Beatrice: Yeah.

Rita: My daughter also has three, my oldest son (has) five, and my youngest has two.

Beatrice: Oh.

Rita: How about (your grandchildren)?

Beatrice: I have six.

Rita: Six?

Beatrice: Yeah. Uh, four boys and two girls.

Rita: Mmm. I have 10.

Beatrice: Wow, a whole bunch. You beat me!

(Laughter)

Rita: Mhm, mhm. Francis, he has five kids. Nancy, she has three, and Mark (has) two. Did I already tell you? I've already forgotten.

(Laughter)

Rita: We're starting to get old, eh? That's how it is anyway, we're starting to forget.

Beatrice: Uh huh, we're starting to go...we're starting to get old.

Rita: Going crazy, we're going crazy.

Beatrice: A little bit!

Rita: Mhm. How did you get here, to Saskatoon?

Beatrice: I got here yesterday, with my brother. I got a ride from my brother.

Rita: Yeah, we also got here yesterday evening. It was five o'clock I think, around six o'clock when we arrived.

Beatrice: Six o'clock?

Rita: Five or six o'clock. Three o'clock I think you…

Beatrice: Four o'clock I think, before four. I think we got here around 3:30. My brother Gaspaar brought us here. We don't know how to get here.

Rita: Kenny couldn't do it, he doesn't know Saskatoon well.

Beatrice: Yeah.

Rita: You live in Regina now, right?

Beatrice: Yeah, I live in Regina. I'm heading back home today after this. This afternoon.

Rita: This afternoon?

Beatrice: Mhm. I don't drive, but...

Rita: You'll take a ride, right? You'll ride (as a passenger).

(Laughter)

Beatrice: Yeah, I'm onboard anyways.

Rita: Do you remember, do you remember when we started school?

Beatrice: Yeah.

Rita: That was a long time ago, eh?

Beatrice: Mhm.

Rita: We had two...two classrooms.

Rita: We had grades one to four, we did; that other classroom was grades five to eight.

Beatrice: Mhm. I enjoyed being in school.

Rita: Yeah… it's too bad the school burnt down, huh?

Beatrice: After that, we would go into town; I didn't like it there at Binscarth School.

Rita: Already…

Beatrice: As for me, I stopped going,

Rita: Me too. I never even [xxx] Binscarth. Well, anyway all the time I was going back and forth between Binscarth and Foulliard's Corner, do you remember?

Beatrice: Mhm, yeah.

Rita: On account of…my mom, they moved all the time, hey?

Beatrice: Yeah, all the time.

Rita: Yeah, they would work for the farmers, and then uh…Grandma Rose and Grandpa Pete raised them (my siblings) more than my mom and dad did.

Beatrice: Sometimes they (your parents) would leave for a whole week.

Rita: Oh, their whole lives, yeah.

Beatrice: Yeah, they would sleep in granaries or tents. Yeah, my mom too, she worked with my dad.

Rita: Mhm.

Beatrice: My sister looked after us. The oldest one, my sister Marie.

Rita: Mhm, Rose? After that, Rose also, and Foofoy[1], they worked in Winnipeg.

Beatrice: Yeah, they worked at the Winnipeg sanitorium for a little while.

Rita: They were young.

Beatrice: Hmm?

Rita: They were young.

[1] Beatrice's sister, Marie Pelletier's nickname

Beatrice: Yeah, yeah. My grandpa died there (at the Winnipeg sanitorium). We only had one, one grandpa (by then). It was my dad's dad, he died in Winnipeg, at the hospital there.

Rita: Oh.

Beatrice: Yeah. And my dad too, he passed away there in the hospital in Winnipeg. The hospital where (my brother) Kenny worked. Kenny saw him every day.

Rita: It's good that it worked out like that, eh?

Beatrice: Yeah.

Rita: And your mom was here in Saskatoon?

Beatrice: Yeah, my mom passed away here.

Rita: University Hospital is where she passed away, eh? Mhm.

Key Vocabulary:

Verbs:

Maachihta – start/begin something (e.g., ki maachihtanaan l'aasaamblii 'we started the meeting')

Tahkooshin – arrive (e.g., gii tahkooshinin yayr 'I arrived yesterday')

Paminikay – drive (e.g., namooya ni paminikaan 'I don't drive, I'm not driving')

Pichi – move to a different home; go live somewhere else (e.g., kii pichiwuk tool taan, 'they were always moving to different homes')

Payshiwayw – s/he brings someone hither (e.g., moon frayr gii payshiwik 'my brother brought me')

Ayawayw – s/he has someone (e.g., jhis dayawawuk, 'I have ten [grandchildren]')

Paashkiiyawayw – s/he defeats/beats someone in a contest (e.g., ki paashkiiyawin 'you beat me')

Kitotayw – s/he talks/speaks with someone (e.g., ni miyeuyhtayn kaa kitotitaan 'it was nice talking to you')

Kanawayimayw – s/he looks after someone (e.g., gii kanawayimikoonaan 's/he looked after us')

Waapamayw – s/he sees someone

***since gender information is not included in Michif verbs or personal pronouns, a verb like *waapamayw* can mean "she sees her," "she sees him," "he sees her," "he sees him," or, more plainly, "that person sees another person" – the specific English translation would be clear from the context. This applies to all verbs shown here ending in -ayw.

Nouns:

Lii zaanfaan – children

Nooshishim; nooshishimak – grandchild; grandchildren

La pitaal – hospital

Oota – here

Aykoota – there; over there

Aykootay – there; in that place (further away than **aykoota**)

Anima – that; that thing

Aykwanima – that; that thing (more distant)

Other items:

Kayaash – a long time ago

Tool taan – all the time; frequently

Taapitow – always; all the time

Aachiyow – a little while; a short time

Aykooshi – (it's) like that; that's it; that's the way it is (can also be used to close a conversation)

Niiya wiiya – as for me; for my part