# Michif – English Transcript:

## Elder Norman Fleury talks about old Michif ways

### Literal translation:

| **Kaa paykiiwookaychik** | **maaka niikinaahk** | **aashkow kaahkiyow kaykway** | **kii aatotamwuk,** |
|---|---|---|---|
| As they came for a visit | but at my house | sometimes everything | they discussed it, |

| **kii taashihtamwuk.** | **Akooshpii aashkow,** | **sa dipaan** | **kiishpin aan ivayr,** | **oo baen doon li praentaan,** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| they talked about it. | In those days sometimes, | it depends | if it was winter | or spring |

| **oo baen doon daan latonn,** | **oo baen doon aan itii.** | **Kii taashihtamwuk aashkow** |
|---|---|---|
| or autumn | or summer. | They talked about it sometimes |

| **leu zoovraazh** | **kaa ooshihtaachik,** | **Aashkow daan li truck** | **Atooshkaywuk,** | **aashkow pawaahikaywuk,** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| their work | that they were doing | sometimes on a truck | they work | sometimes they thresh |

| **aashkow lii faarmyii atooshkawaywuk,** | **aashkow mooshowuk.** | **Aashkow naandow** | **aen kii itoohtaychik** |
|---|---|---|---|
| sometimes they worked for farmers, | sometimes they picked berries. | Sometimes around | they had gone |

| **achimowuk** | **leu voyaazh.** | **Aashkow achimaywuk** | **awiyuk** | **aen kii paykiiwookaakochik** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| they tell stories about | their journey. | Sometimes they tell stories about | someone | who had come to visit them |

| **waahiyow ooshchi.** | **Aashkow taashihtamwuk** | **lii zaanfaan** | **l'ikol aen itoohtaychik.** | **Aashkow kiiwookatowuk** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| from far away. | Sometimes they talk about it | children | going to school. | Sometimes they visited with each other |

| **la paaraantii** | **kayaash** | **aen taashimachik.** | **Omooshoomiwawa,** | **oohkoomiwawa.** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| relatives/extended family | a long time ago | as they talk about them. | their grandfathers, | their grandmothers. |

| **Aashkow taashihtamwuk** | **kayaash maana** | **kaa kii pay ishi pimatishichik** | **lii Michif kaa noochihaachik** | **lii bufloo.** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sometimes they talked about it | a long time ago usually | the way they came to live | the Michifs that hunted them | buffalo. |

| **Baen doon,** | **aan voyaazh kaa paapayachik** | **aykwaa anikik li moond** | **kaa kii paapa atawakaychik** | **kaahkiyow kaykway** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Or, | when they were on a trip | and those people | they who went around selling it | all kinds of things |

| **daan la prayrii.** | **Kii atawaykaywuk,** | **aashkow,** | **kaykway kaa ayaachik** | **chi atawakaychik.** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| on the prairies. | They sold it, | sometimes, | something that they have | for them to sell it. |

| **Si koum lii...** | **la koomars aen ooshihtaachik,** | **tapishkoot aen paambichichik** | **aen atawaykaychik** | **kaykway aan lii waagoon** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| it's like the... | they were doing commerce, | like they were migrating | they were selling it | something on the wagon |

| **aen ayaawaachik.** | **Lii zhvoo** | **kii ayaawaywuk.** | **Aykwa miina** | **kii otaapahaywuk** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| that they had them. | Horses | they had them. | And also | they make them pull something |

| **lii beu.** | **Lii shaaret…** | **aen papaambichichik** | **avik lii shaaret** | **noochikoo itay** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| oxen. | Carts… | they were migrating | with carts | everywhere |

| **kii paapaa wiikiwuk** | **aashkow** | **daan lii for** | **kii naakiiwuk** | **aykoota** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| they lived here and there | sometimes | in the forts | they stopped | there |

| **aen ayaachik** | **aachiyow.** | **Aykoota kii atawakaywuk** | **leu, leu byaen,** | **kaykway** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| they had something | for a little while. | They sold things there | their, their possessions, | something |

| **kaa ayaachik aykoota** | **oo baen doon** | **kaa nakishkawachik** | **awiyuk** | **kaa papaambichichik.** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| that they had there | or | that they met others | someone | when they were migrating. |

| **Kiishpin** | **nakishkawaywuk** | **lii Syoo, lii Krii,** | **oo baen doon…** | **Aykoota** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| If | they met them | the Sioux, the Cree, | or… | There |

| **mayshtoonamatowuk** | **kaykway kaa ayaachik.** | **Taad baen** | **lii kootoo,** | **lii fiizii,** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| they swapped with each other | something that they had. | Maybe | knives | guns |

| **oo baen doon** | **li maanzhii,** | **oo baen doon** | **lii fooreur,** | **kaahkiyow kaykway.** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| or | food, | or | furs/pelts | all kinds of things. |

| **Taapitow** | **kii mayshtoonamatowuk** | **oo baen doon** | **kii atawakaywuk** | **kaykway,** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Always | they swapped with one another | or | they sold things | something, |

| **kiishpin** | **aen zhwaal** | **kitayawow,** | **awiyuk** | **kaa noohtay ayaawat** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| if | a horse | you have one (animate), | somebody | who wants to have him/her |

| **li zhwaal aykwana.** | **Kii mayshtoonamawow** | **kaykway** | **kaa ayaayen** | **kaa ayaat kaykway** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| that horse. | You exchanged with him/her | something | (for you) to have | what s/he has |

| **kaa noohtay kin'dawayhtamun.** | **Kii mayshtoonamawow** | **kaykway aykoota,** | **wiishta.** | **Aykooshi** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| that you want to have. | You trade with him/her | something there, | and s/he too. | That way |

| **kaa kii ishi pimatshichik** | **kayaash, kayaash maana.** |
|---|---|
| it is the way in which they lived | long ago, it used to be. |

**Dynamic translation:**

...They came to visit. But at my place, sometimes, they would talk about all kinds of things. In those days, it would depend on whether it was winter, spring, fall or summer. Sometimes they would talk about the work they were doing. Sometimes they worked on a truck, sometimes they were threshing, sometimes they worked for farmers, sometimes they went berry-picking. Sometimes they had gone somewhere and would talk about their journey. Sometimes they would talk about people who had come to visit them from afar. Sometimes they would talk about their kids going to school. Sometimes they would talk about their relatives from long ago, their grandpas and grandmas. Sometimes they would talk about how the Michifs of long ago used to live, when they hunted buffalo. Or those old Michifs would go around selling all sorts of things on the prairies. They would sell – sometimes – they had things they would sell. It was like...they were engaging commerce. It's like they were migrating and selling whatever they

had on their wagons. They had horses, and they also drove oxen. The carts, they would go around in their carts and live in different places. Sometimes they would stop at forts to get something. They would sell their possessions there and get something they needed. Or sometimes they would meet others going around. If they met Sioux, Cree, or...they would trade whatever they had. Perhaps knives, guns, or food, or furs, all sorts of things. They always traded or sold things. If you had a horse and somebody wanted that horse, you traded (the horse) for something of theirs that you'd like to have. You exchanged something right there, and the other person did too. That's the way they lived a long time; that's how it used to be.

## Useful Vocabulary:

*Verbs:*

**Taashihta** – talk about something; discuss something (inanimate)

**Mayshkootoona** – trade something; exchange something (inanimate)

**Mayshkootoonamawew** – s/he trades somebody (animate) to somebody else

**Atawakay** – sell something (inanimate)

**Papaambichi** – migrate

*Nouns:*

**Kaykway** – something; a thing

**Kaahkiyow kaykway** – all kinds of things; all sorts of things

**Aen beu** - ox

**Aen zhwaal; lii zhvoo** – horse; horses

**Enn shaaret** – wagon/cart (e.g., Red River Cart)

**Aen kootoo** – knife

**Aen fiizii** – gun

**Li byaen** – property; personal possessions

*Other parts of speech:*

**Aashkow** – sometimes

**Kayaash** – a long time ago

**Maana** – usually

**Kayaash maana** – used to (literally “the way it usually was a long time ago”)