

Riel's Prayer

by Andrea Menard, translated by Graham M. Andrews

Pashkowuk ninashko pitchikanak My great great grandchildren & grandparents
Ayacuniyow lii kayr d'buffloo You have the heart of the buffalo
Natootuk ninashko pitchikanak Listen grandchildren
Ayacuniyow lii kayr d'buffloo You have the heart of the buffalo

Lii kayr kwyesh ayacun You have a pure heart
Nimoo nipiyacoon You are not alone
Nipash pieyowinan ensaamb We are all together
Wakotowiniwuk We are family (we are all related)

Kashkey toewee wow la oomah Heal now
Ayacuniyow lii kayr d'buffloo You have the heart of the buffalo
Piey'sh k'kash' kitow ashchi koowuk Persevere. Don't give up.
Ayacuniyow lii kayr d'buffloo You have the heart of the buffalo

Lii kayr kwyesh ayacun You have a pure heart
Nimoo nipiyacoon You are not alone
Nipash pieyowinan ensaamb We are all together
Wakotowiniwuk We are family

Ashweytamik lii matcha tishiwahk Beware the violent beings
Ayacuniyow lii kayr d'buffloo You have the heart of the buffalo
Eyamiwuk pour lii poolysoon'wuk Pray for the ignorant
Ayacuniyow lii kayr d'buffloo You have the heart of the buffalo

Lii kayr kwyesh ayacun You have a pure heart
Nimoo nipiyacoon You are not alone
Nipash pieyowinan ensaamb We are all together
Wakotowiniwuk We are family

Ayn Feu Shansoon - Fire Honour Song
By Andrea Menard (translated by Graham Andrews)

Nimi shi' minaaaaa ayn feu	I carry a fire
Ayn feu aand'daan	A fire within.
Ninakamoo si shaansoon	I sing this song
Si shaansoon paki ti niew	This song releases it.

Ooway hee ya HA way hee ya hay ya
Ooway hee ya HA way hee ya hay ya
Ooway hee ya HA way hee ya hay ya
WAY hey yaha, WAY hay yaha

Nimiyoo tootaan lii flaam	I honor the flames
Akeewah tamwuhk tipaym'shoohk	They want to be free.
Enn liizhay amihaak shaansoon	Through prayer songs
Shaashki tewuk enn paiy	They burn in peace.

Ooway hee ya HA way hee ya hay ya
Ooway hee ya HA way hee ya hay ya
Ooway hee ya HA way hee ya hay ya
WAY hey yaha, WAY hay yaha

Mishim inwuk lii feu	We all carry a fire
Lii feu aand'daan	A fire within.
Nakimoowuk aansaamb	Sing together.
Shaashki tewuk enn paiy	They burn in peace.

Ooway hee ya HA way hee ya hay ya
Ooway hee ya HA way hee ya hay ya
Ooway hee ya HA way hee ya hay ya
WAY hey yaha, WAY hay yaha

Mahican Kita Oyoo (Wolf Healing Song)
By Andrea Menard (translated by Tom McCallum)

Kiyam moosihta	Allow yourself to feel
Mahican kita oyoo	The wolf will howl
Mahican kita oyoo	The wolf will howl
Oyooooo Oyoooo	Howl
Oyooooo Oyoooo	Howl
Ya wey hey ya ha Wey hey ya ha	
Oyoooo	

Pakeetehta kanayuhtumin	Let it go those things that you carry
Mahican kita oyoo	The wolf will howl
Mahican kita oyoo	The wolf will howl
Oyooooo Oyoooo	Howl
Oyooooo Oyoooo	Howl
Ya wey hey ya ha Wey hey ya ha	
Oyoooo	

Kikaweenow kanatawee'yimik	Our Mother will comfort & heal you
Mahican kita oyoo	The wolf will howl
Mahican kita oyoo	The wolf will howl
Oyooooo Oyoooo	Howl
Oyooooo Oyoooo	Howl
Ya wey hey ya ha Wey hey ya ha	
Oyoooo	

Kiyam moosihta	Allow yourself to feel
Mahican kita oyoo	The wolf will howl
Mahican kita oyoo	The wolf will howl
Oyooooo Oyoooo	Howl
Oyooooo Oyoooo	Howl
Ya wey hey ya ha Wey hey ya ha	
Oyoooo	

Kookoom la Loon

By Andrea Menard. Translated by Verna DeMontigny

Kookoom, ka-aah koo-chi dans la nwit (who hangs in the night)

Ya wey lawaya lawaya ha

Kookoom, pe aah ya meh haan (I come in prayer)

Ya wey lawaya lawaya ha

Nagumun mon maarsii nimay-akin (I sing my thanks)

Wey la waya la waya ha

Kookoom, di loo oo-chi pih-ta-mun (who pulls the water)

Ya wey lawaya lawaya ha

Kookoom, neh-sho tipishka tapinaan (we sit in the dark together)

Ya wey lawaya lawaya ha

Nagumun mon maarsii nimay-akin (I sing my thanks)

Wey lawaya lawaya ha

Kookoom, waashakay skum la tayre (who goes around the Earth)

Ya wey lawaya lawaya ha ha

Kookoom, niya ihko kiwaapaatahin (you show me myself)

Ya wey lawaya lawaya ha

Nagumun mon maarsii nimay-akin (I sing my thanks)

Wey lawaya lawaya ha

Ramant lii Riviere

By Andrea Menard (translated by Jules Chartrand & Paul Chartrand) © 2022

Ramant lii riviere,	(Paddling the rivers)
Arrivant dsu nott chez nous	(Arriving at our place)
En suivant mon kayre	(While following my heart)
J'eecut l'appelle d'la libertee	(I listen to the call of freedom)
Aen air amooreu et cri d'batawy	(A lover song and a battle cry)
Chuchotee comme ayn chanson	(Whispering like a song)
Avec rien qu'in paakay ('d)	(With nothing but a bundle)
D'preyaire 'pi ayn veeaylon	(Of prayers and a violin)
Avec rien qu'in paakay	(With nothing but a bundle)
D'preyaire 'pi ayn veeaylon	(Of prayers and a violin)

Ramant lii riviere	(Paddling the rivers)
Pres'd chez nous sur mon terrain	(Near my place on my land)
J'eecut li son des rires	(I listen to the sound of laughter)
R'gardun mii p'chis enfants	(Looking at my little children)
La femme que j'aime et cri du babe	(The woman I love and a baby's cry)
Chuchotee comme ayn chanson	(Whispering like a song)
Apportii ayn paakay	(Carrying a bundle)
D'preyaire 'pi ayn veeaylon	(Of prayers and a violin)
Apportii ayn paakay	(Carrying a bundle)
D'preyaire 'pi ayn veeaylon	(Of prayers and a violin)

Ramant lii riviere	(Paddling the rivers)
La ivousk salon piyee ma place	(Here they stole my land)
J'eecut mon kayre	(I listen to my heart)
Brawyee avec la pen	(Crying with pain)
Une pen d'amour et cri d'batawy	(Heartbreak and a battle cry)
Chuchotee comme ayn chanson	(Whispering like a song)
Avec rien qu'in paakay	(With nothing but a bundle)
D'preyaire 'pi ayn veeaylon	(Of prayers and a violin)
Moin j'ai ayn paakay	(But I have a bundle)
D'preyaire 'pi ayn veeaylon	(Of prayers and a violin)

Water Prayer Song

Written by Andrea Menard, translations by Maureen Belanger, Verna DeMontigny, Dianne Demarcke, Pascale Chartrand-Goodrich, Áina Seoighe

Pronunciations in Phonetics

Cree Michif – Maureen Belanger

Nina gamun nipi kitsi	I sing for the water
Nina gamun kiya kitsi	I sing for you
N'diyamhan nipi kitsi	I pray for the water
Miyo pimatsewin tamee goya	To give all of us a good life
Pima tsewin	Life
Sagahi tiwin	Love
Miyo mah tsihiwin	Peace
Miyo pimatsewin tamee goya	To give all of us a good life

Heritage Michif – Verna DeMontigny

Nina gamun pour di loo, hiy hiy	I sing for the water
Nina gamun pour kiya, hiy hiy	I sing for you
N'diyamhan pour di loo	I pray for the water
Miyo pimatsewin tamee goya	To give all of us a good life
Pima tsewin	Life
Sagahi tiwin	Love
Miyo mah tsihiwin	Peace
Miyo pimatsewin tamee goya	To give all of us a good life

French – Pascale Chartrand-Goodrich

Que les eaux dans mon cores, hiy hiy	May the waters of my body
Chante pour les eaux dans le tien, hiy hiy	Sing for the waters of yours
Je t'offre cette priayre et ce doo refrain	I offer you this prayer & this gentle song
Pour que les eaux on nous revienne	So the waters in us come back
Revienne. Revienne. Revienne.	Come back. Come back. Come back
or Renouvelle. Renouvelle. Renouvelle.	Renew. Renew. Renew.
or Retourn. Retourn. Retourn.	Return. Return. Return.
or Guérissent. Guérissent. Guérissent.	Heal. Heal. Heal.
Pour que les eaux en nous revienne	So the waters in us come back

Irish (Gaeilge) – Áine Seoighe

The English pronunciation of Gaeilge is 'Irish'.

The word 'Gaelic' is an anglicised version of the word Gaeilge.

Go may ohn tishke ahnnum
Eyg canah don ishke ahnut
Banneem on fad-yir is ohrun uhnorr
Go lyssso on tishke shaw ereest
Lyss. Lyss. Lyss.
or Anew. Anew. Anew.
Go lyssso on tishke shaw ereest

That the water in me
Sings for the water in you
I bless this prayer & honour song
That this water will heal again
Heal. Heal. Heal.
Renew. Renew. Renew.
That this water will heal again

English

May the waters of me hiy hiy
Sing for the waters of you hiy hiy
I offer this prayer and this honouring song
So the waters right here renew.
Renew. Renew. Renew.
or Return. Return. Return.
or Retreat. Retreat. Retreat.
or Release. Release. Release.
So the waters right here renew (or return, or retreat, or release)

Proper Spelling in Irish – Áine Seoighe

Go mbeidh an tuisce ionam
Ag canadh don uisce ionat
Beannaím an phaidir is amhráin onóir
Go leigheasfaidh an tuisce seo arís
Leigheas. Leigheas. Leigheas.
(or) Athnuaigh or athnú
Go leigheasfaidh an tuisce seo arís

That the water in me
Is singing for the water in you
I bless this prayer & honour song
That this water will heal again
Heal. Heal. Heal.
(or) Renew. Renew. Renew.
That this water will heal again

Nipi Nigamoonis (Little Water Song)

Written by Andrea Menard (translated by Maureen Belanger)

Niya nipskih teen nipi	I am a protector of the water
Kise Mantou, weh tsihin	Creator, help me
Sawiih tama nipi	Bless the water

Niwah patin atneegun	I see the future
Kisi Mantou, weh tsihin	Creator, help me
Tapski tama nipi	Protect the water

Yo weyaaaay yoho weyaaaay
Yoweeyaaaay heya waya

x2

Memmere's Rubaboo (key of E)

By Andrea Menard & Robert Walsh, translated by Marjorie Beaucage

My Memmere's in trouble with the law,
Cuz she killed another Canada goose
With skillful hands she wrung it by the neck,
Now I'm a wreck! Better check!
Cuz the mounties are coming, Coming with a noose
All because Memmere killed a Canada goose

The last few winters have been hard on us all
And the Métis folk are looking too thin
Although Memmere's the best cook around
She needs game to feed her kin
 Memmere dreams of the times of the buffalo hunt
 When she'd cook and feast for days
 But the buffalo are a distant memory...
 And she fears for traditional ways.

"Those Canadians have, come and taken all the land
And we're not allowed to hunt as we were taught."
She said, "There's rules for this and mounties for that
So if you hunt you better not get caught!"
 One day, Memmere looked hard at us all
 And she marched right out the door
 She didn't come back till the sun went down...
 And threw a goose right on the floor

My Memmere's in trouble with the law,
Cuz she killed another Canada goose
With skillful hands she wrung it by the neck,
Now I'm a wreck! Better check!
Cuz the mounties are coming, Coming with a noose
All because Memmere killed a Canada goose

She plucked and butchered and simmered that goose
Added herbs and roots she found
The sweet aroma of her tasty stew
Lured the people from miles around
 Came friends and neighbours and cousins and kids
 Came beggars and drunks as well
 Cuz when Memmere makes her famous rubaboo
 The whole settlement knows its smell

My Memmere is a Michif Matriarch
Known to laugh and sing and play
But when you cross a line with her
Even brave men run away

She knows what to do with the drunks and the beggars
But the one thing she can't stand
Is a Canadian thief who takes everything he sees
And hoards the gifts of the land

(Chorus in Michif)

Ma Memmere a aen chi problème
Elle a attrapi aen zwé canayen
Pis la police s'envien l'attrapii
Tapwe? C'est vrai!
La police s'envien, s'envien la cherchii
Jus parse quelle a tué aen maudjee zwé

When the mounties came, they had their weapons drawn
Memmere was so mad she could burst
"If you think you're dragging me out of here,
"Think again, you'll have to shoot me first!"

The mounties hummed and the mounties hawed
And they didn't know what to do
"While you boys are making up your mind.
Sit down and taste my rubaboo!"

Those redcoats tried very hard to resist
Their resolve was growing thin
They couldn't help themselves, such heavenly smells
Before long, they were digging right in.
With bellies full, their choice was made
And they threw their orders away
That's the power of the stew, Memmere's rubaboo...
It saved a few lives that day

My Memmere was in trouble with the law,
Cuz she killed another Canada goose
With skillful hands she wrung it by the neck,
Now I'm a wreck! What the heck!
Cuz the mounties are coming, With any old excuse
All because Memmere killed a Canada goose
And we hope that she bags a moose.

Sing Like a Fiddle

By Andrea Menard (translated by Paul Chartrand)

J'emrassa chanti comb ayn veyalon
Pour faire dansii toul' monde
Après aynp'chi coo ji joura dsu mon coo
Daboor omni moin ayn ott ronde

I would like to sing like a fiddle
I could make the people dance.
After a little drink I'd play on my neck
Therefore bring me another round

J'emrassa chanti comb ayn veyalon
Pour faire dansii toul' monde
Tout lee pee sa vu aynk jigi
Daboor toul' monde levii vous v'ni dansii
Ipi omni mwayn ayn ott ronde

I would like to sing like a fiddle
To make all the people dance.
All the feet all they want to do is jig
Therefore all the people get up, come & dance
And get me another round

Dzig dziga dziga dziga dzig
Dzig dsigidsiga dziga dzig dzig

J'emrassa chanti comb ayn veyalon
Pour faire dansii toul' monde
Après aynp'chi coo ji joura dsu mon coo
Daboor omni moin ayn ott ronde

I would like to sing like a fiddle
I could make the people dance.
After a little drink I'd play on my neck
Therefore bring me another round

J'emrassa chanti comb ayn veyalon
Pour faire dansii toul' monde
Tout lee pee sa vu aynk jigi
Daboor toul' monde levii vous v'ni dansii
Ipi omni mwayn ayn ott ronde

I would like to sing like a fiddle
To make all the people dance.
All the feet all they want to do is jig
Therefore all the people get up, come & dance
And get me another round

Nitootimuk: Visiting and Leaving

By Andrea Menard (translated with Tom McCallum)

Visiting Song

Nitootimuk
Oota kaweekiyeek
Ipi kihookiyan
Ipi nakomoyan
Kiyawow kici
Ooma eekaskih tayan
Ee nanaskomi taman
Kisiwatissiwin owow

My relatives
Who dwell in this place
I have come to visit
I come to sing
For you
This is what I can give
I am showing my gratitude
For your kindness

Leaving Song

Nitootimuk
Oota kaweekiyeek
Eekwa ee keewiyan
Tahki nakiskisin
Ooma nakomowin
Nanaskomowin
Kisiwatissiwin owow

My relatives
Who dwell in this place
I am going home now
I will always remember
This song
The feeling of gratitude
For your kindness

Kimeyootootin

By Andrea Menard, Translations by Graham Andrews
Originally written for "You Can Call Me Marie" by Tai Amy Grauman

Kiki chi 'i tayee mee tin	I honour you
N' pim oh tan, ahrra keeya	I walk with you
Pim oh tayo, ah vik nee ya	You walk with me
Ki me yoo too tin	I respect you
Ki me yoo too tin	I respect you

Waaay ya waay hey ya
Way hey hi yo hey
Waaay ya way hey ya
Way hi yo hee hi yo
Way hi yo hee hi yo

Kiki chi 'i tayee mee tin	I honour you
N' pim oh tan, ahrra keeya	I walk with you
Pim oh tayo, ah vik nee ya	You walk with me
Ki me yoo too tin	I respect you
Ki me yoo too tin	I respect you

Waaay ya waay hey ya
Way hey hi yo hey
Waaay ya way hey ya
Way hi yo hee hi yo
Way hi yo hee hi yo

(Key change – Repeat x2)

(Tag)

Way hi yo hee hi yo
Way hi yo hee hi yo

Wesahkotewenowuk

By Andrea Menard (translated by Tom McCallum)

Commissioned for Wesahkoteeweenowuk documentary by Judy Iseke

Oomee oota ninipowin	Here I stand before you.
Eeki chiti moyan	In all my pride (highest form of thinking)
Nees t'nan ooma	
Eepi mat siyak	Completing the circle of creation
Weesah kotee wee no wuk	We are the roots growing up (after a fire)

Way hey ya hey ya
Way hey hi yo hey
Way heya hi yo, Way heya hi yo
Weesah kotee wee no wuk

Michif pigiskwewin	The Michif language
Ooma kit chi tagwun	Is sacred
Takis keem soyak	To know ourselves
Ata yo ki tak	Let's tell our stories
Kan To t'now achimowan	We will listen to the stories

Way hey ya hey ya
Way hey hi yo hey
Way heya hi yo, Way heya hi yo
Weesah kotee wee no wuk

X 2

tag
Weesah kotee wee no wuk
Weesah kotee wee no wuk