La Paysh sur l’Lac
Ice Fishing

Written by Patricia Millar
A Louis Riel Institute Book

Thank you to the families who provided photos for this book. Without your help this project would not be possible.

Thank you to the St. Laurent Aboriginal Headstart for providing the beautiful site to film, gathering the volunteer families, and being incredibly helpful.

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Choosing a Spelling System for the Michif-French language

Michif is historically an oral language and as a result there is no standardized spelling for either the Michif-Cree or the Michif-French languages. Michif speaker and teacher Patricia Millar took on this project to create a teaching resource in her beloved Michif-French, however she has had the difficult task of deciding how the language should be spelled.

A group of local women, all fluent speakers, convened to help with the decision making. They chose to make the spelling phonetic to aid with pronunciation. They also tried to get rid of ‘unnecessary’ silent letters. The phonics they used are English for two reasons; 1 to help English speakers to decode the language, 2. To differentiate it from the French. Michif-French is a dialect of French but has different pronunciation, many shortened words and uses some vocabulary not common in today’s French language.

This is the first project of its kind for the Michif-French language, and as a result the spelling system used here is just a start and will likely be refined in future projects before it is standardized. Please make use of the DVD to hear the language and learn the pronunciation.
On a iti a la paysh en Bombardier.

We went fishing in a Bombardier.
Ethan ili didan l’Bombardier.

Ethan is inside the Bombardier.
Li z’enfan sont apray fayr la paysh sur l’lac.

The children are fishing on the lake.
Tyrell ito fayr la paysh sur l’lac.

Tyrell is also fishing on the lake.
Jewel loves to fish on the lake.
Donald ili bin interesì di fayr la paysh.
Donald is really interested in fishing.
Elizabeth and Chase also like to fish on the lake.
Rylee em sa fayr la paysh avek son Pepere.

Rylee likes fishing with her Pepere.
Noah fay la paysh ito avek son onk.

Noah is also fishing with her Pepere.
Kelkin y la poygni ain pwayson.

Someone has caught a fish.
Hailey li fier di montre li pwayson kil on poygni.

Hailey is quite proud to show the fish that they caught.
Thank you to the families and staff at the St. Laurent Aboriginal HeadStart for sharing their photos for this book. Without you this book would not be possible.

Art by Deborah Lavallee