

NATIVE VOICES

The Canadian Journal of Native Studies is deeply committed to the promotion and preservation of Aboriginal languages in Canada. As part of that end, in each issue of the journal we intend to publish short original creative work written in any one of Canada's First languages. Thank you. Lorraine Mayer, Editor, *The Canadian Journal of Native Studies*.

Awena Oma Nina

Written by Lorraine Mayer

Translated by Gail Ledoux, Marilyn Hall, Barbara Nasikapow, Rose Turner, and Jennie McKay
Misipawistik Elders

Mona nina nanaway inninew
Mona mina pakoyes
Mona mina nina Nakaway inninew
Maka akosi niki pay kiskanimison 1953.
Aye ati opikiyan niki kiskantain aye apitikosanowiyān
Ke kiskantain oma ke nisitotain mina.
Maka ispi 1970 ka ispanik
Akona awa cheemits okimawinik aysi mamitonantak,
Niki wetamak aye apitaykosanoyān
Ki witamak tipanchikain aye aya yan, aye
apitaikosanoyān
Mona mina to machanimikawi yan ako ta pakotikawi
yan?
Mona anis awasimay.
April 16, 2016
Section 91(24)
Ki itastanowan aye inninewiyān
Maka,
Mayaw nina iskonikani inninew
Mona mina nina nitisikapawin ta iskonikan inninewiyān
Maka nina oma, mina moch nina
Maka kichi okimakanowinik keyapich
nitipaynimakwin.
Awena maka oma nina tapwe?

Who Am I?

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I am not Cree
I am not French
I am not Saulteaux
I am all of them in 1953.
Growing up I was a halfbreed
I understood that.
But came 1970
My politically minded brother informed me I was
Metis.
He said I had rights as a Metis
Did that mean no more beatings?
No more mockery or hatred?
Of course not.
April 16, 2016
Section 91(24)
It is decreed that I am an Indian
But,
I am not a Status Indian
I am not a non-status Indian
I am but I am not
Yet the Federal Government is responsible for me.
Who am I?