

askîy kitotîminaw (The Land is Our Relative)

Sherryl Sewepagaham
Woodland Cree text

With passion
♩ = 60

S. *mp* a - skîy a - skîy

A. *mf* a - skîy a - skîy a -

T. *mf* a - skîy a - skîy a - skîy

B. *mf* a - skîy a - skîy

10 **A**

the land is our relative *the land teaches us*

S. *mf* skîy ki - to tîm' - naw ki - tas - kî - naw kis - kin - wa - ha - mâ - ka -

storytelling

A. skîy ki - to tîm' a - skîy - ki - to tîm' - naw ki - tas - kî - naw kis - kin - wa - ha - mâ - ka -

T. *mf* a - skîy ki -

B. *mf* a - skîy ki -

16 *the land teaches us* *the land is our relative*

S. *mp* *mf*
 naw kis - kin-wa-ha - mâ - ka - na - aw as - kîy ki - to - tîm' - naw a -

A. *mp* *mf*
 naw kis - kin-wa-ha - mâ - ka - na - aw as - kîy ki - to - tîm' - naw a -

T. *mp* *mf*
 tas - kî - naw ki - tas - kî - naw ah a - skîy

B. *mp* *mf*
 tas - kî - naw ki - tas - kî - naw a - skîy

22 *the land is our relative* *the land teaches us*

S. skîy ki - to - tîm' - naw ki - tas - kî - naw kis - kin - wa - ha - mâ - ka -

A. skîy ki - to - tîm' - naw ki - tas - kî - naw kis - kin - wa - ha - mâ - ka -

T. ah a - skîy a - skîy ki -

B. ah a - skîy a - skîy a - skîy ki -

26 *mp*

S. naw - kin - wa - ha - mâ - ka - na - aw

A. naw kis - kin - wa - ha - mâ - ka - na - aw

T. *mp*
 tas - kî - naw ki - tas - kî - naw

B. *mp*
 tas - kî - naw ki - tas - kî - naw

B *With elation and unity*

30 *ff* *f* *mf*

S. wee-yah ha - ee-yo wey, wey-ya-wee ya ha ya ha wâh - kôh - to - win wâh-

A. *ff* *f* *mf*

A. wee-yah ha - ee-yo wey, wey-ya-wee ya ha ya ha wâh - kôh - to - win wâh-

T. *ff* *f* *f*

T. wey ya ya ha ya wâh - kôh - to - win

B. *ff* *f* *mf*

B. wey ya ya ha ya wâh - kôh - to - win

35 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

S. kôh - to - win kî - yâ - naw kî - yâ

A. *mf* *mp*

A. kôh - to - win kî - yâ - naw kî - yâ - naw

T. *f* *mf* *mp* *mf*

T. ah kî - yâ - naw kî - yâ - naw wee-ya haw - oh wun-day hey

B. *f* *mf* *mp* *mf*

B. ah kî - yâ kî - yâ - naw wee-ya haw - oh wun-day hey

42 *mf* *mf*

S. a - skîy ki-to-tîm' - naw ki-

A. *mf*

A. a - skîy ki-to-tîm' - naw a - skîy - ki-to-tîm' - naw ki-

T. wee-ya haw - oh wun-day hey wee-ya hah wun-day hey wee-ya haw - oh wun-day hey

B. wee-ya haw - oh wun-day hey wee-ya hah wun-day hey wee-ya haw - oh wun-day hey

48 *the land teaches us*

S. *mp* *mf*
tas - kî-naw kis - kin-wa-ha-mâ - ka - naw kis - kin-wa-ha-mâ - ka - na - aw - as -

A. *mp* *mf*
tas - kî-naw kis - kin-wa-ha-mâ - ka - naw kis - kin-wa-ha-mâ - ka - na - aw - as -

T. *mp*
wun-day hey wun-day hey ki - tas - kî - naw ki - tas - kî - naw

B. *mp*
wun-day hey wun-day hey ki - tas - kî - naw tas - kî - naw

54 *the land is our relative* *f* *the land teaches us*

S. *f*
kîy ki - to - tîm' - naw, as - kîy ki - to naw ki - tas - kî-naw kis -

A. *f*
kîy ki - to - tîm' - naw, as - kîy ki - to tîm' - naw ki - tas - kî-naw kis -

T. *mf*
ah a - skîy ah a - skîy a - skîy

B. *mf*
ah a - ah a - skîy a - skîy

59 *the land is our relative* *mf*

S. *mf*
kin-wa - ha - mâ ka - naw kis - kin-wa - ha - mâ - ka - na - aw -

A. *mf*
kin-wa - mâ - ka - naw kis - kin-wa - ha - mâ - ka - na - aw -

T. *mf*
a - skîy ki - tas - kî - naw ki - tas - kî - naw

B. *mf*
a - skîy ki - tas - kî - naw ki - tas - kî - naw

64 *ff* with elation and unity *f* *mf*

S. *ff* with elation and unity *f* *mf*
wee-yah ha - ee-yo wey wey-ya-wee ya ha ya ha wâh - kôh - to - win wâh -

A. *ff* with elation and unity *f* *mf*
wee-yah ha - ee-yo wey wey-ya-wee ya ha ya ha wâh - kôh - to - win wâh -

T. *ff* *f* *mf*
wey ya ya ha ya ha wâh - kôh - to - win

B. *ff* *f* *mf*
wey ya ya ha ya ha wâh - kôh - to - win

69 *f* *mf* *mp* **C**

S. *f* *mf* *mp*
kôh - to - win kî - yâ - naw kî - yâ - naw

A. *f* *mf* *mp*
kôh - to - win kî - yâ - naw kî - yâ - naw

T. *f* *mf* *mp* *mf* with gratitude
ah kî - yâ - naw kî - yâ - naw wee-ya haw-oh wun-day hey wee-ya haw-oh

B. *f* *mf* *mf* with gratitude
ah kî - yâ - naw kî - yâ - naw wee-ya haw-oh wun-day hey wee-ya haw-oh

77 *mf* with gratitude *mf*

S. *mf* with gratitude
ya ha ya ha ay ya ya ya ha

A. *mf* with gratitude
ya ha ya ha ay ya ya ya ha

T. *mf*
wun-day hey wee-ya haw - oh wun-day hey wee-ya haw - oh wun-day hey wee-ya haw - oh

B. *mf*
wun-day hey wee-ya haw - oh wun-day hey wee-ya haw - oh wun-day hey wee-ya haw - oh

83

S. *mp* *poco rit.*
ya ha ay ya ya ya ya ha ya ha ay ya ya ya

A. *mp*
ya ha ay ya ya ya ya ha ya ha ay ya ya ya

T. *mp*
wun-day hey wee-ya haw-oh wun-day hey ya ha ya ha ay ya ya

B. *mp*
wun-day hey wee-ya haw-oh wun-day hey ya ha ya ha ay ya ya ya



Sherryl Sewepagaham (Cree-Dene) is a member of the Little Red River Cree Nation in northern Alberta, Canada, is an accomplished composer, educator, and singer deeply committed to Indigenous song practices and language revitalization. She is currently pursuing Doctoral studies in Ethnomusicology at the University of British Columbia, of which she has been awarded a 2024 Vanier Scholar title, and was awarded a SSHRC Doctoral Award and a UBC Indigenous Graduate Fellowship award in all the same academic year. Sherryl holds degrees in Education, Music Therapy, as well as a Master of Education focused on Indigenous curriculum and pedagogy. Her research examines how song practices impact language reclamation, and she advocates for the resurgence of nêhiyawêwin (Cree language) songs sung by women—work that contributes to her ongoing efforts in music education, research, the choral arts, and community song revitalization. Sherryl's work also centres nêhiyawêwin through Standard Roman Orthography (SRO) to establish linguistic sovereignty within her choral compositions and infusing Indigenous epistemologies of sound and voice creating a distinct Indigenous sonic space that disrupts Eurocentric choral aesthetics.