

Nipukt **Apistana'wj's** **Forever Home**



Nipukt Apistana'wj's Forever Home

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Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey
UINR—Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources



A'A'....
pesetu'n na?
Mu koqoey aji-
wlima'nuk aqq nipukt.
Mawi-ksatm
etli-ktantekemk na'te'l.

Ahhh...
can you smell that?
*Nothing beats the smell
of nipukt—the forest.*
*This is one of my
favourite hunting spots.*



Pe'

Apukji'j net etlikasit
ala lame'k nipi'jk?

Wela'kwewey kiskattek!

Wla'sisoq wapusaq.

Kisna jujijk, mte'skmuk,
minijkl kisna kijka' minijkl.

Ketloqo na'sik mu tepjikeyu.

Katu kelu'k mita mu
naqamasianuk ketantumk
mijipjewey nike'.

Weliaq melkitai, kesikawa'si
aqq wisqisi ktantekewinu!

Hold on.

*Is that a mouse hiding
under those dead leaves?*

Dinner is served!

*A snowshoe hare
would have been nice.*

*Or some insects, a few snakes,
fruit, or maybe some berries.*

I am not that fussy to tell the truth.

*This is probably a good thing
because food is not easy
to come by these days.*

*Lucky for me I am a fearless hunter,
agile and fast!*



Ki's sa'q Unama'ki pikwelkipnl
sa'qewe'l nipuktl ta'n tett
pikwelikwekl snawe'l, nimnoqnk,
wksu'skl aqq kuowk.

Tetuji-pitoqikutijik kmu'jk jel
na'ku'setl aquaskua'titl.

Ta'n kaqjicatek masusi'l,
pisaqnatkwl, l'ketu'k aqq milamu'kl
saqliaqewe'l kaqi-anquna'tu'tij
maqamikew.

Maw-klu'kip etlqatmumk
na'te'l wjit Apistane'wj.

*Unama'ki was once covered with
old forests full of tall sugar maple,
yellow birch, hemlock,
and white pine.*

*Trees so tall they
blocked out the sun.*

*In the cool of the shade,
ferns, moss, mushrooms,
and other plants
covered the forest floor.*

*It was an ideal home for the
American Marten or
as the Mi'kmaq call me,
Apistana'wj.*



Na tujiw pikwelkip
mijipjewey aqq likasuti.

Maw-klu'kip etlqatmumk
na'te'l wjit ni'n aqq nikmaq.

Mu pikwelk nipukt
nemitu'n staqa na nike'.

*Back in those days food
and shelter was plentiful.*

*It was the perfect place
for my family to live.*

*You don't see many forests
like that around here anymore.*

Pekisitu'tipn ntimi'knn aqq
tma'kitaqnn aqq
poqji-tmta'tipnik kmu'jk.

Meskilultijik te'sipowk
panuatqayjima'tijik tmoqta'wk,
tujiw na tmoqta'wk paqaso'lujik
l'ko'qitinew mulink kiswa tepo'lujik
walipotl aqq elkimujik qame'k.

Pikwelkl nipuktl kaqi-musikta'sikl
ta'n ewi'ka'titaq wenik
wejita'jik qame'k.

Poqji-ksika'siksipnl nipuktl.

Pekije'k na tela'siksip koqoey, mu
wenik ankite'tmu'tiksip
wli-anko'tmnew sam'qwan
kiswa waqasultijik waisisk.

*They came with their axes and saws
and started cutting down the trees.*

*Logs were dragged off
by large horses, floated down
the rivers to mills, or loaded on
large ships to be sailed overseas.*

*Many forests were cut down
by the new settlers to make way
for their homes and farms.*

The forests started to disappear.

*For many years this was done
with little care for protecting
our water and wildlife.*



Wskwijinu'k poqji-
loqte'knika'luksie'k mita
weltaq ankeweyminen.

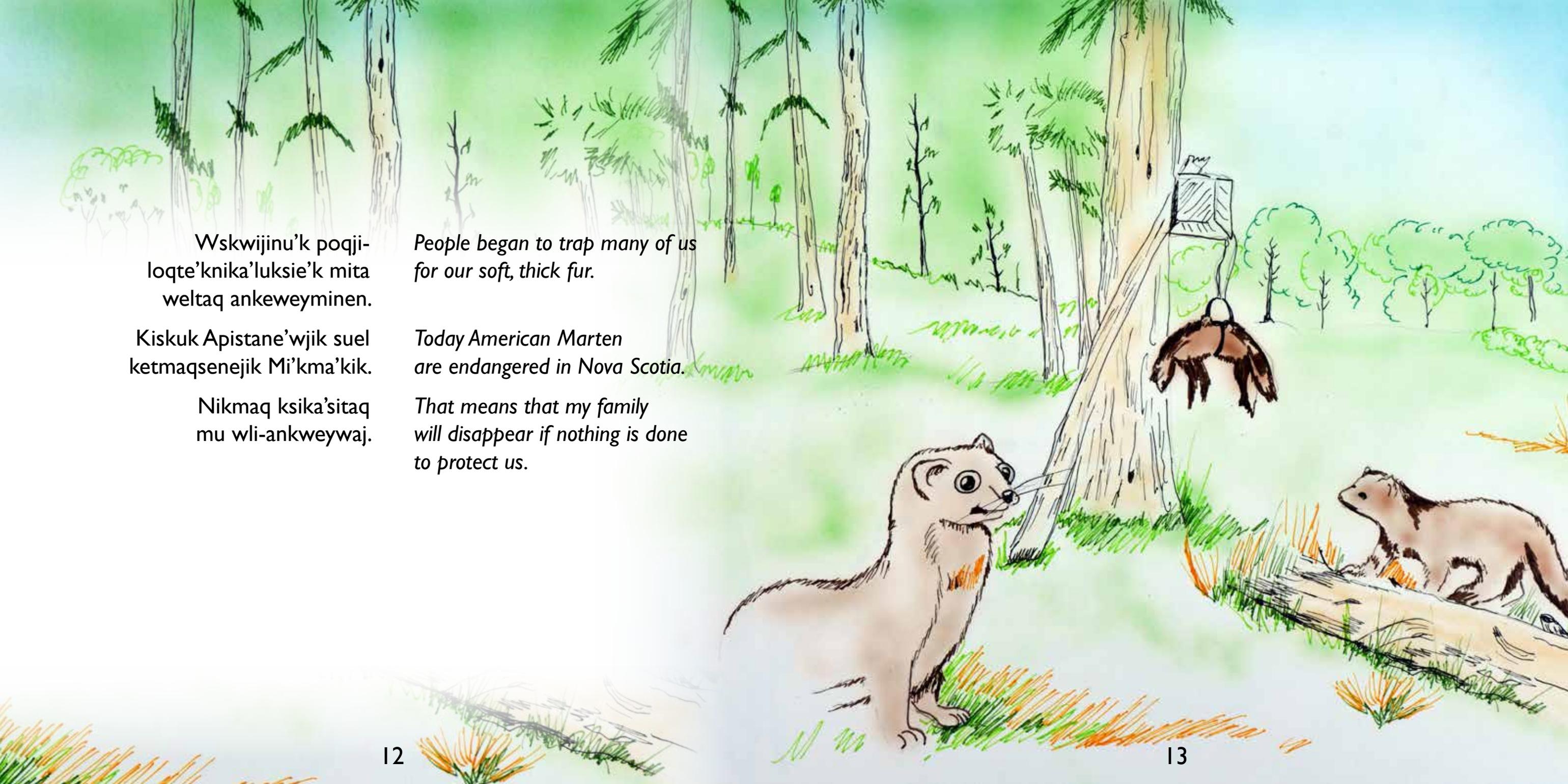
Kiskuk Apistane'wjik suel
ketmaqsenejik Mi'kma'kik.

Nikmaq ksika'sitaq
mu wli-ankweywaj.

*People began to trap many of us
for our soft, thick fur.*

*Today American Marten
are endangered in Nova Scotia.*

*That means that my family
will disappear if nothing is done
to protect us.*





Kiskuk kmu'je'kemk ewe'wasikl
mulinji'ja'sikl ta'n ajelkik kmu'jk
temasqita'jik newte'jk na'kwek
ta'n te'sijik temto'pnik tmi'kn-
iktuk kiswa tma'kitaqn-iktuk
newte'jk ekntie'wimk pemiaq.

Kesikaweta'ql aqq keslema'tekekl.

Na'sik nkutey waisisk,
wskwijinu'k nuta'tij nipukt.

Nipuktuk wejiaq puksuk wjit
ewi'kamk aqq askise'nmamk.

Kisite'tmuk koqoey piluey
wenik weja'tu'tij nipuktuk?

*These days forestry is mainly done
by machines that cut a lot more
trees in a day than axes or saws
can in weeks.*

They are also loud and smelly.

*But just like animals,
people need the forest.*

*The forest gives you wood to build
your homes and fuel for your fires.*

*Can you think of other things
that people use the forest for?*



Pikwelu'k elita'suatmu'k nipukt
wjit mimajuaqn aqq keknue'k
wenik kina'masultinew ta'n
menaqaj tel-wekasimkl nipuktl.

Kulaman wlikwetew nipukt
amujpa etekl saqliaqewe'l,
waqasultijik waisisk
aqq milamuksultijik aqq
pilu'kilultijik kmu'jk.

Welikwek nipukt na klu'ktital
sipu'l aqq sipu'ji'jl, ta'n wikultijik
nme'jk aqq waisisk.

Kmu'jk elt waqama'tu'tij
kamlamutiey.

*So many of us depend on the forest
for our survival and it's important
that people learn to harvest
in a more caring way.*

*For a forest to be healthy it must
have plants, wildlife, and different
kinds of trees of different ages.*

*Healthy forests make healthy rivers
and streams, which provide homes
for fish and other animals.*

*Trees also help to keep the air
we all breathe clean and fresh.*

Koqomk wela'sijik etli-etnesimk
wjit jipji'jk nkutey kitpu'k
aqq ku'ku'kwesk.

Nemi't ala pitoqsit
kmu'j kaqamit?

Tlia' na koqom me' wikultijik aqq
weja'tu'tij wilu'ew milamuksultijik
jipji'jk, jujjik aqq waisisk.

Ala apo'qejitk kesikawo'ltijik
kwilua'tijik jujjik malqumanew.

Kuwasink, psetkunn aqq nipi'jk
elt kelu'sijik wikultinew
emkoqejitk, taqtaloqq aqq
pikwelkik pilue'k waisisji'jk.

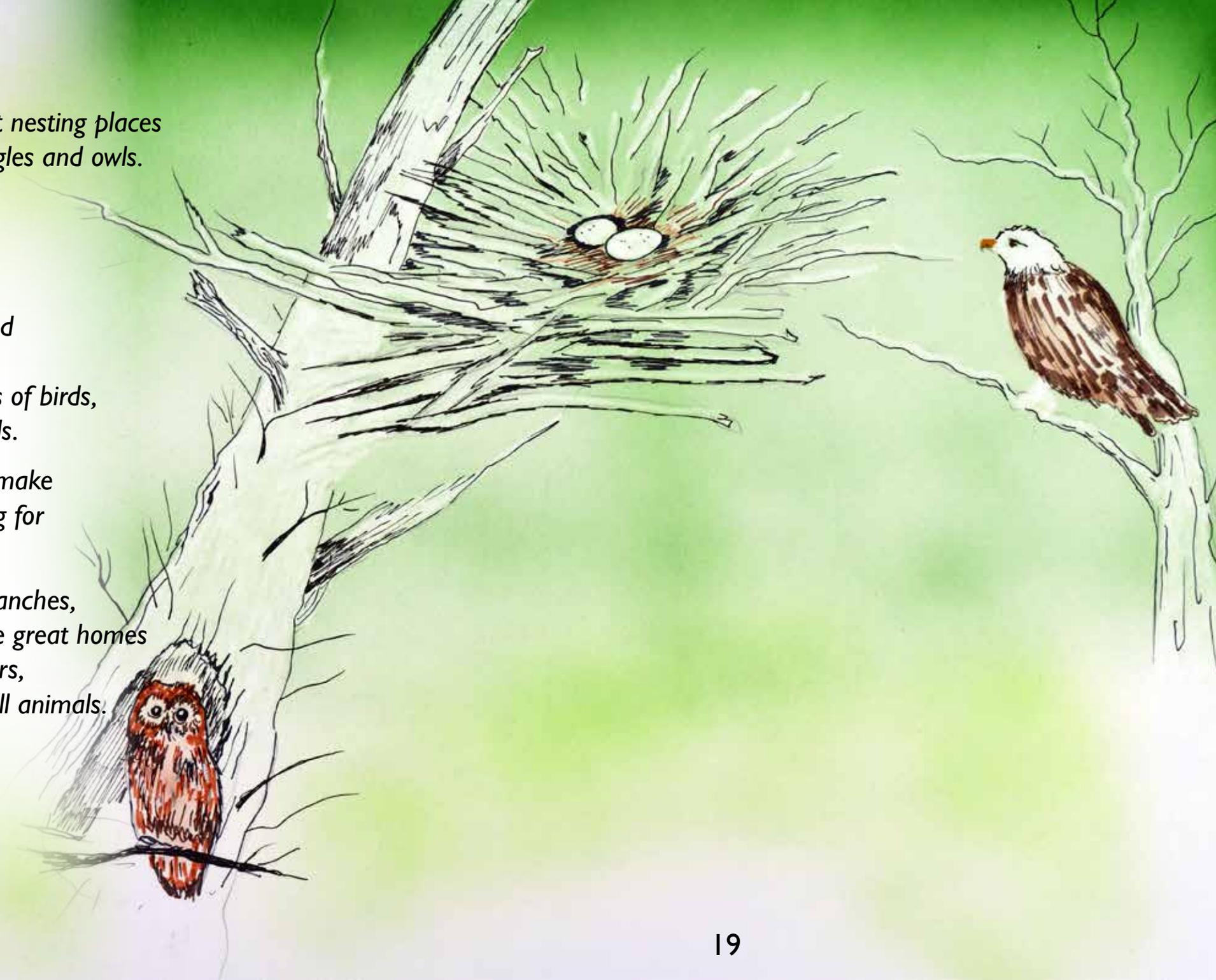
*Old trees make great nesting places
for birds like bald eagles and owls.*

*See that tall tree
standing over there?*

*Even though it is dead
it still gives a home
and food for all kinds of birds,
insects, and mammals.*

*Those woodpeckers make
quite a racket looking for
insects to munch on.*

*Fallen tree trunks, branches,
and leaves also make great homes
for toads, salamanders,
and many other small animals.*





L'nu'k weli-nenmi'tij ta'n
tel-wije'tultik msit mimajuaqn.

Lnu'k na wetapeksultijik nipuktuk
aqq kepmite'tmi'tij nipukt aqq ta'n
koqoey weja'tutij na'te'l.

Wesua'tu'tip pasik ta'n tel-nuta'tij.

Nipuktuk wejiaq mijipjewey,
likasuti, npisunn aqq
teli-apu'nusimk.

Waqasultijik waisisk ketana'tipnik
wjit wilu'ew aqq wutapsunuew.

Msit koqoey tepi'tultimkip
aqq mu koqoey emeko'tmi'tiksip.

*This connection between
all living things is well understood
by the Mi'kmaq.*

*The Mi'kmaq were people
of the forest and treated
her and her gifts with respect.*

They took only what was needed.

*The forest offered food, shelter,
warmth, and medicine.*

*Wildlife was taken
for clothing and food.*

*Everything was shared
and nothing wasted.*

Etek a'tukwaqn wjit ta'n wejejik
amskwesewe'k kuowk.

Ula a'tukwaqn aknutmi'tij
nikmaq wejkwa'ta'nik.

Ki's sa'q , niskamijinenaq
apoqnmuasnl Klu'skapal aqq
eykis telia'q ula a'tukwaqn.

Mawqatmu'tisni'k ne'sitki'k
wijikitultitki'k ji'nmuki'k.

Nutmasnik Klu'skap elui'tmasis
iknmuan ta'n koqoey wenl
pewatmlij pkisinlij ta'n wikit,
na kisa'matultijik l'ta'new.

*There is a Mi'kmaq legend about
the creation of the first pine trees.*

*The story has remained
in my family for generations.*

*You see, in times long ago,
my ancestor was Kluskap's helper
who saw this story happen.*

*There were three brothers
who lived together.*

*They heard that Kluskap promised
to grant the wish of anyone who
reached his magic lodge, so they
decided to make the journey.*





Amskwesewey wijikitultijik pitoqsis aqq mekite'tkis telkilk.

Aji-pitoqsis aqq pilue'k ji'n muk, katu pewatkis me' aji-pitoqsin kulaman msit wen mkite'lmatal.

Ta'puewey wijikitultijik pewatkis ne'kaw kisi-siawqatmn nipuktuk aqq kisi-iloqaptmn tetuji wlamu'k nipukt toqo mu elam lukwen app.

Si'stewey wijikitultijik pewatkis pkitawsin aqq ne'kaw wlein.

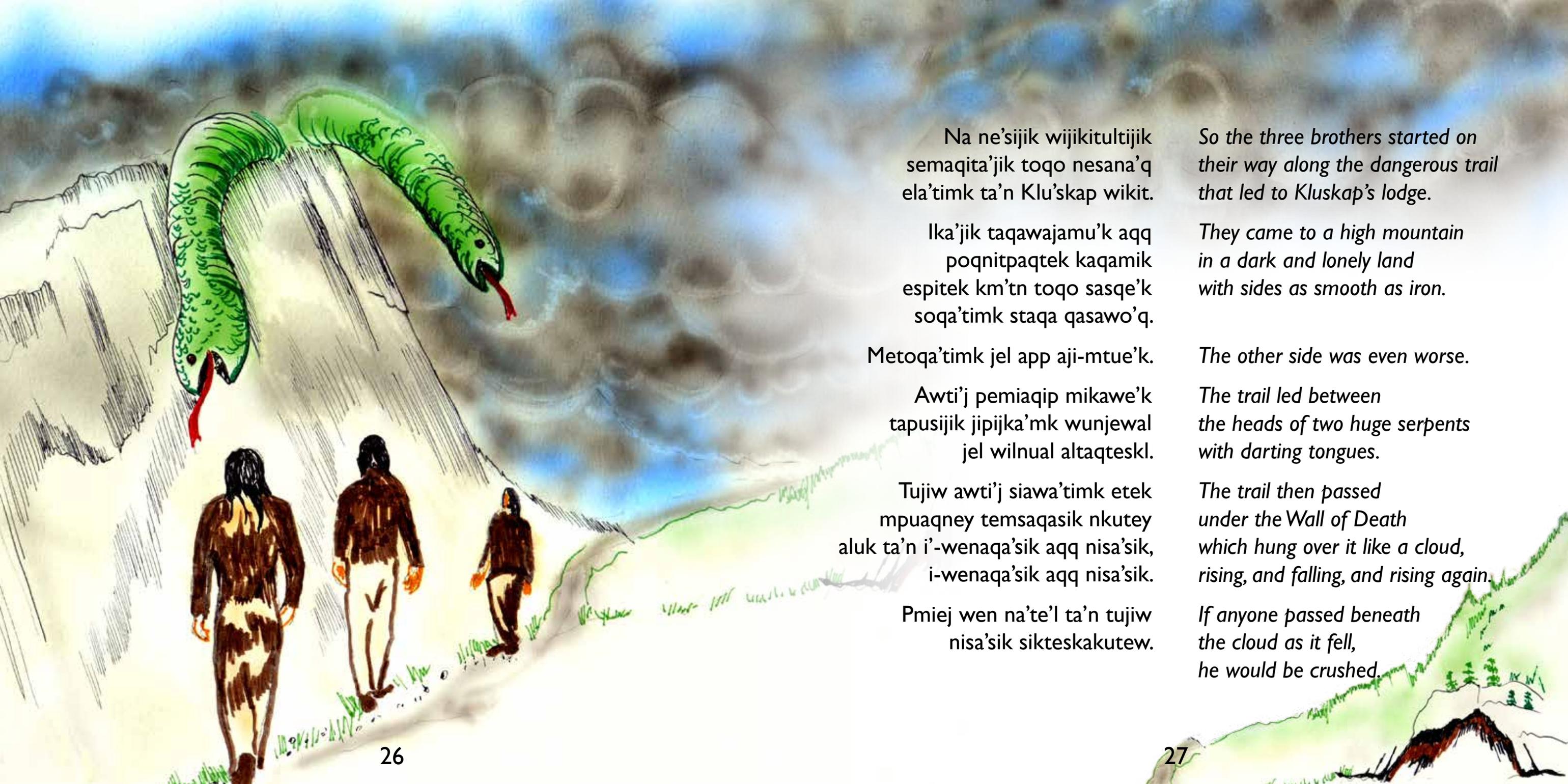
The first brother was very tall and proud of his height.

He was much taller than other men, but he wished to be even taller so everyone would admire him.

The second brother wished he could stay in the forest admiring its beauty and never have to work again.

The third brother wished to live to a very old age and always be in perfect health.





Na ne'sijik wijikitultijik
semaqita'jik toqo nesana'q
ela'timk ta'n Klu'skap wikt.

Ika'jik taqawajamu'k aqq
poqnitpaqtek kaqamik
espitek km'tn toqo sasqe'k
soqa'timk staqa qasawo'q.

Metoqa'timk jel app aji-mtue'k.

Awti'j pemiaqip mikawe'k
tapusijik jipijka'mk wunjewal
jel wilnual altaqteskl.

Tujiw awti'j siawa'timk etek
mpuaqney temsaqasik nkutey
aluk ta'n i'-wenaqa'sik aqq nisa'sik,
i-wenaqa'sik aqq nisa'sik.

Pmiej wen na'te'l ta'n tujiw
nisa'sik sikteskakutew.

*So the three brothers started on
their way along the dangerous trail
that led to Kluskap's lodge.*

*They came to a high mountain
in a dark and lonely land
with sides as smooth as iron.*

The other side was even worse.

*The trail led between
the heads of two huge serpents
with darting tongues.*

*The trail then passed
under the Wall of Death
which hung over it like a cloud,
rising, and falling, and rising again.*

*If anyone passed beneath
the cloud as it fell,
he would be crushed.*

Katu wijikitultijik kisi-tepsikmi'tij
nesana'q aqq ika'jik
Kluskapal wikilij.

Klu'skap welta'sualajik aqq
Apistane'wj wisku'pajik.

Kisatalulti'tij aqq kisi-atlasmulti'tij,
na telima'titl Kluskapal
ta'n koqoey pewatmi'tij.

*But the three brothers escaped
all these dangers and came
to the lodge where Kluskap lived.*

*The mighty Kluskap welcomed them
and asked Apistana'wj to feed them.*

*After they ate and were rested,
they told their wishes.*



Wejuow wikis Kiwkw.

Kisi-pmiet maqamikew-iktuk aqq
kisa'toq msit koqoey enketeskn.

Klu'skap wikumatl Kiwkw aqq
telimatl ksua'lan ne'sijik wijikitultijik
aqq wkwatual nikana'siktn ta'n
tujiw ika'taquaj maqamikewiktuk.

Kiwkw pet-tukwi'k, koqqwa'lajik
ne'sijik wijikitultijik,
aqq ika'taquajik nipuktuk.

Ta'n wijikitultijik ji'numuk
kaqamultipni'k nike' kaqamultijik
ne'sijik pektaqikijik kuowk.

*Now, in another lodge nearby
lived Kuhkw the Earthquake.*

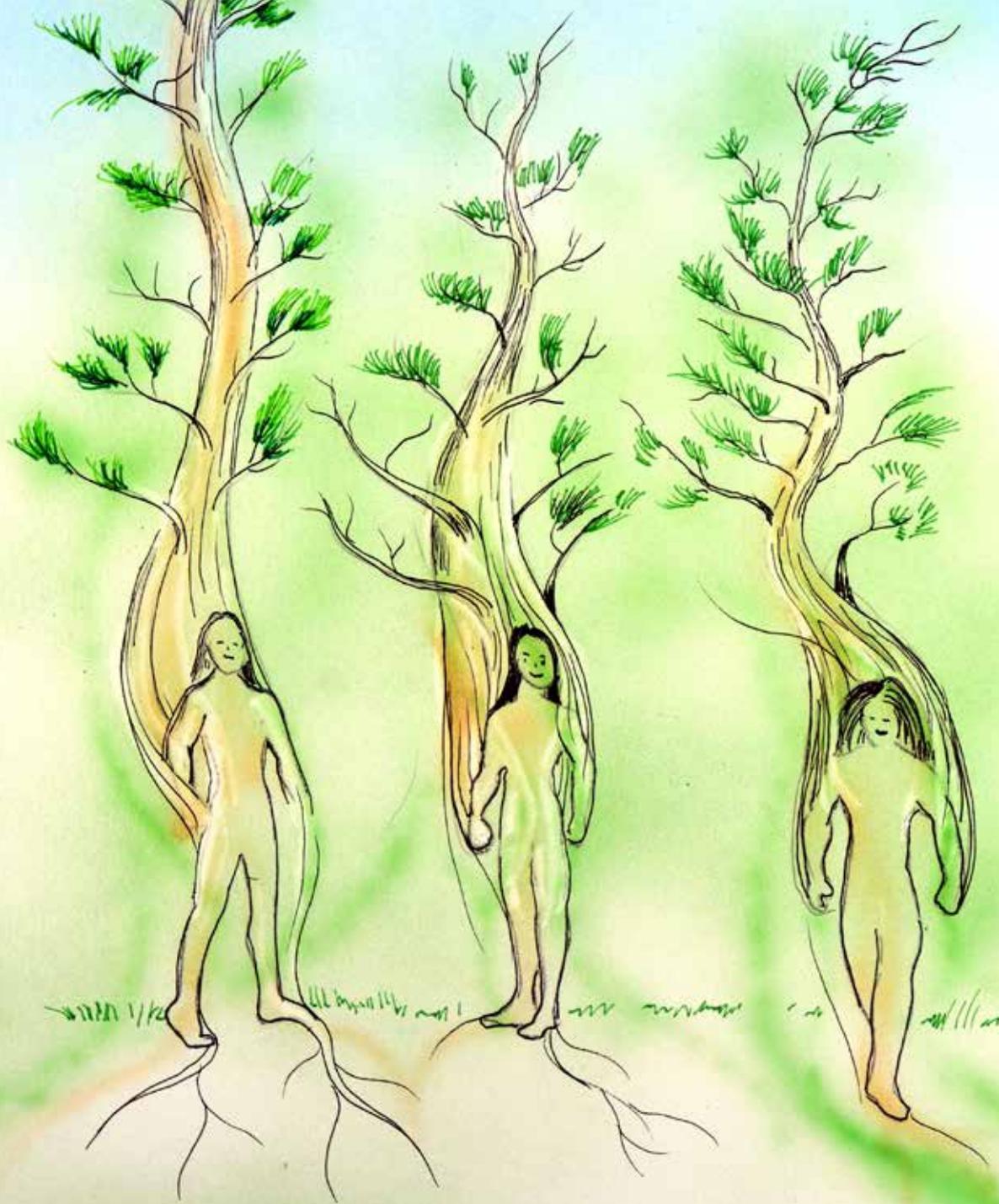
*He could travel along the land and
make everything shake with terror.*

*Kluskap called Kuhkw and told him
to take the three brothers and plant
them feet first in the ground.*

*Kuhkw came rushing from his lodge,
grabbed the three brothers,
and planted them in the forest.*

They became three straight pine trees.





Amskwesewey wijikitultijik ta'n
pewatkip pitoqsin, nike' maw-
pitoqsit kuow wsitqamu'k.

Knekk neyapukuit nipuktuk aqq
wju'sn meteta'q psetkunmk.

Ta'puewey wijikitultijik ta'n pewatkip
ne'kaw kisi-siawqatmn nipuktuk aqq
kisi-iloqatmn tetuji wlamu'k nipukt
toqo mu elam lukwen app, ma' elam
kisi-nqatmuk mita wjipiskl eliaql
knekk lamqamu'k.

Si'stewey wijikitultijik, ta'n pewatkis
pkitawsin aqq ne'kaw wlein elp
mesnkek ta'n tel-pewatk.

Kiskuk me' kaqamit tajike'k
aqq wele'k nipuktuk,
mi'soqo na'tuen tmasqita'j.

Na nekmowk teko'tmi'tij
wejisaqaliaq koqoey!

*The first brother,
who wished to be tall,
was the highest pine tree on earth.*

*His head rose above the forest
and wind whistled through his branches.*

*The second brother, who wished to
stay in the forest and admire its beauty
without working, could never leave it
again because his roots were dug deep
in the ground.*

*The third brother, who wished
to live to a very old age,
in perfect health, also got his wish.*

*Today he stands fit and hearty
in the forest, unless of course,
people have cut him down.*

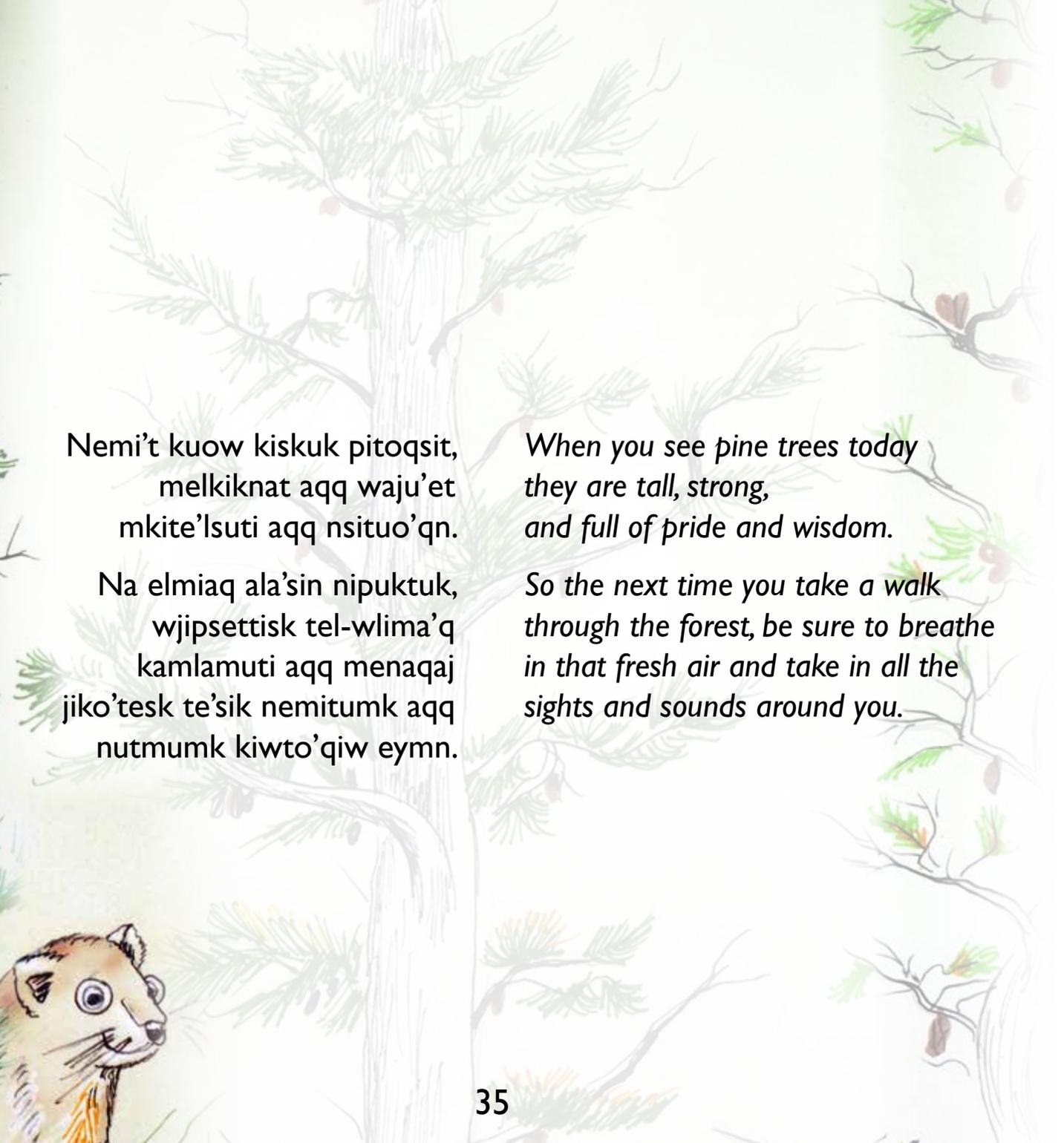
*Talk about being one with
nature!*





Nemi't kuow kiskuk pitoqsit,
melkiknat aqq waju'et
mkite'lsuti aqq nsituo'qn.

Na elmiac ala'sin nipuktuk,
wjiptsettisk tel-wlima'q
kamlamuti aqq menaqaj
jiko'tesk te'sik nemitumk aqq
nutmumk kiwto'qiw eymn.



*When you see pine trees today
they are tall, strong,
and full of pride and wisdom.*

*So the next time you take a walk
through the forest, be sure to breathe
in that fresh air and take in all the
sights and sounds around you.*

Pikwelk koqoey
etek wji-kina'masin
nipuktuk aqq waisisk
ta'n wikultijik na'te'l
pasik jiko'teken aqq
jiksitmakwen.

*There is a lot
to learn from the forest
and its animals
if you take time
to watch and listen.*





At one time, **Apistane'wj** (American marten *Martes americana*) was abundant in Unama'ki, but today it is endangered with estimates of 100–200 animals left.

A member of the weasel family, a mature, male marten can weigh up to 900 g and a body up to 80 cm long (including their 20 cm tail.) Most active at night, they are very curious, excellent swimmers, and fearless.

For several years, UINR has assisted our partners at Parks Canada and Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources to introduce new animals to the Highlands to help increase the population. We hope Apistane'wj will once again thrive in our forests.

Lisa Young is a Mi'kmaw from Membertou. She lives in Eskasoni with her husband, Richard 'Buddy' Young, and two children, Maria and Spencer.

After graduating in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from York University, she began working with Unama'ki First Nations on natural resource management issues. One of her first responsibilities was the moose management initiative, assisting Parks Canada and DNR with moose population studies in the Highlands.

Lisa is the Executive Director of UINR and enjoys working with the Unama'ki communities on a wide range of environmental issues such as water quality, forestry, wildlife, and fisheries. Lisa also co-wrote *Tiam: This is Our Story*.

Mark MacPhail graduated from the University of New Brunswick with his Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Environmental Studies in 2000. From River Denys, Mark resides in Ben Eoin with his wife, Joan, and three children, Lucas, Andrea, and Holly. Since 2002, he has been UINR's Director of Forestry.

As well as overseeing our crown forestry operation, he has tracked Canada lynx and monitored the live release of American marten. Mark was recently appointed co-chair of the Black Ash recovery team for Nova Scotia. He co-authored *Awakening: Living with Today's Acadian Forest*.

Mark loves hiking and the outdoors but spends many hours in the gym training. He is a national champion in armwrestling and power lifting, taking home a bronze medal at the World Armwrestling Championship in 2008.



Arlene Christmas (Dozay) spent much of her life cultivating a passion for art. Growing up in western New Brunswick on the Tobique Reserve, Dozay is the middle child in a large family.

At eighteen, she left the banks of the Tobique River to pursue a formal education at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Although she always displayed an interest in art, her initial intention was to pursue a career in education.

It wasn't until her third year at NSCAD that Dozay decided to switch to the fine arts program and pursue a full-time career as an artist.

Dozay has created and displayed her work at galleries and exhibits across the Maritimes, Ontario, Europe, Australia and the United States.



Barbara Sylliboy is a Mi'kmaw educator from Eskasoni First Nation. She is employed with the Eskasoni School Board as a Mi'kmaw Language Curriculum Developer for the Ta'n L'Nuey Etl-mawlukwatmumk/ Mi'kmaw Curriculum Development Project.

Barbara is a fluent Mi'kmaw speaker and writer and, in her spare time, has worked on the translation of various government documents and the stories *Work in Our Time* on the Cape Breton CAP site.



UINR has other publications on Apistane'wj and other topics including: **Environmental Stewardship, Natural Resource Management, Traditional Mi'kmaw Knowledge.**

Visit our library at

uinr.ca



**UINR—Unama’ki Institute
of Natural Resources**
is Cape Breton’s Mi’kmaq
voice on natural resources
and the environment.

UINR represents the five Mi’kmaq
communities of Unama’ki in
forestry, marine science research,
species management, traditional Mi’kmaq
knowledge, water quality monitoring,
and environmental partnerships.

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