Wasaho Ininîwimowin / Fort Severn Cree Web Dictionary

fortsevern.atlas-ling.ca

Guide to Using the Fort Severn Web Dictionary

This is the web version of a bilingual *Ininîwimowin*-English dictionary, designed specifically for use in the northern Ontario Cree community of Fort Severn (Wasaho). The dictionary is intended to be a resource for teachers and students of Ininîwimowin (Cree), as an aid to spelling in both Syllabic and Roman writing traditions, as a help in understanding meanings, and as a record of the richness of the Ininîwimowin language and culture as evidenced through its words. The dictionary should also be useful in the development of other language-related materials.

This web version offers two syllabics representations: the one with the w-dot on the left, as in the original print version, and the other with the w-dot on the right, following Western usage. In this guide, however, we only give the traditional w-dot on the left version of the syllabics.

Throughout this guide, grammatical terms are identified with **boldface** type. They are also included in a glossary which follows the guide, so that **grammatical** concepts and terms can be looked up at any time.

History of the Project

In 1989, a group of Native language teachers met in Sioux Lookout to discuss some common concerns, such as the lack of a Native language policy, the lack of teaching materials in the Native languages, problems of dialect diversity, the need for the development of Native language vocabulary for modern terminology, and the lack of effective communication among teachers in different communities. A list of recommendations was developed at the meeting, and used as the basis for drafting a language proposal under the joint cooperation of Shibogama Education, Keewaypinook Okimakanak, Windigo Education Authority, Independent First Nations Alliance, and the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council. In 1991, a Native Language Project steering committee was formed with representatives from each of these First Nations councils. Initially, research was carried out to assess the status of Native language vitality in the Ojibwe, Oji-Cree, and Cree communities in northern Ontario serviced by the participating education authorities. In 1994, the results of this survey were published in a report translated into the language of each of the three groups under consideration. The report showed clearly that there was a great need for Native language materials if these languages were going to survive and flourish.

In 1994, researchers developed plans for canvassing each of the three language areas, and then carried out dictionary work in many of the communities represented by the education authorities involved in the project. The beginning stages of work were greatly aided by the willingness of others to share their materials. For example, the Anishinaabemowin dictionary was based originally on a word list developed by John

Nichols for Oji-Cree, and the Cree dictionary benefited from a word list compiled by the Cree School Board of Québec, representing the speech of Cree communities on the east coast of James Bay and Hudson and points inland. All of these languages are related and share much structure and vocabulary. Having a head start, due to another individual's or group's willingness to share their work, made the task easier to accomplish in the limited time frame for which research funding was available.

Three dictionaries were prepared, for Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), for Anishininiimowin (Oji-Cree), and for Ininîwimowin (Cree), under the direction of Rand Valentine. To compile this Ininîwimowin dictionary, Marguerite MacKenzie first visited Fort Severn in the summer of 1994 to begin collecting terms from bilingual speakers, resulting in a list of over 6,000 Cree words. In the three years following, she offered courses on the structure of Ininîwimowin which included older speakers as resource persons. Through these sessions, she was able to gather more words, especially traditional vocabulary, and have the word list checked a number of times. There are just under 7,000 entries in this version of the dictionary and it is far from complete: the language has an almost limitless stock of words, so no dictionary will ever include every word in the language.

In 2014, funding was obtained from the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada to produce a web version, as part of a project of Algonquian online dictionaries and Algonquian linguistic atlas, co-directed by Dr. MacKenzie: www.atlasling.ca. This guide accompanies the web version which can be found at: fortsevern.atlas-ling.ca

Dialect Variation

It is well known that Native languages show much variation from place to place, giving rise to different **dialects** and **languages**. In Fort Severn, and in all the Ontario Cree communities, there is a fair amount of variation in **vocabulary**. In Fort Severn, this variation is the result of people moving in from different communities, such as York Factory, Weenusk (now Peawanuck) and even Big Trout Lake. In Fort Severn it is common to find that there are two words for many items. For example, the word 'scissors' can be **J**\$\mathcal{T}\cdot\mathcal{A}\sigma\text{m\delta}shitonin or \mathcal{L}\cdot\mathcal{T}\cdot\mathcal{B}\sigma\text{n}\text{m\delta}shitonin or \mathcal{L}\cdot\mathcal{T}\cdot\mathcal{B}\text{n}\text{m\delta}shitonin or \mathcal{L}\cdot\mathcal{T}\text{n}\text{n}\text{m\delta}shitonin or \mathcal{L}\cdot\mathcal{T}\text{n}\text{n}\text{m\delta}shitonin or \mathcal{L}\cdot\mathcal{T}\text{n}\text{

There are other reasons for dialect variation as well. Within any given community, elders may pronounce words somewhat differently or use different words than the younger people. Elders usually have a richer and more precise vocabulary than others, especially in areas of traditional life such as hunting and trapping, in part because the elders have had the opportunity to live the traditional life, while younger generations have grown up on reserves or in towns. On the other hand, the youth may have special vocabulary for things of interest to them, such as terms for rock music and hockey gear. And these 'youth' words may show different patterns of variation across communities than the elders' vocabulary does! So the picture is very complex and will never be completely reflected in a dictionary.

The Basic Dictionary Entry

Remember that in the notes which follow, key words appear in boldface type. Many of these words are terms of **grammar**, and are defined as they are introduced. However, all boldface words are also listed and defined in the glossary which follows these notes.

Each word (entry) listed in this dictionary has four types of information, and some have more. A standard, four-part entry, consists of: 1. a syllabic spelling; 2. a Roman spelling; 3. a specification of the word's part of speech (also called its word category); and 4. a simple English translation (also called a gloss). The following example shows these components:

∧>' pipon **vii** be winter

Here is a breakdown of the parts:

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4
Syllabic Spelling	Roman Spelling	Part of Speech	English Gloss
٧>>	pipon	vii	be winter

Some words have additional information, such as the **plural**, **diminutive**, or **reduplication** of certain **nouns** or the specific kind of pronoun or particle. These elements are described below. We will first address each of the common components of the dictionary entry.

Part 1. Syllabic Spelling

Part 1 Syllabic Spelling	Part Roman Spelling	2	Part Part of Speech	3	Part English Gloss	4
٧>>	pipon		vii		be winter	

This is the **Syllabic** spelling of the word. As anyone who uses Syllabics knows, there are many different ways of writing Syllabics. In this dictionary, we offer two representations to choose from.

1) the Syllabic spelling system decided on by the Cree of Ontario at the Syllabic spelling conference held in 1996. The decisions made at this conference are contained

in the document Omushkego Cree Syllabic Project: Final Report / ►J°9δ Δσσ·◊γαΔ9·Δ ◊<Πγ·Δ° LΓ- Π<ΓJ·Δ°.

This system writes the dot which represents the w (also called the w-dot) on the left, the same way it is used by Wawatay News. For example: '4>", wâposh.

2) the Syllabic system with the w-dot on the right, as in other Western syllabics. For example: **4.>**°, wâposh

Within Fort Severn, people may write words differently than the way they are written in this dictionary. For instance, people do not use the syllabic characters $^{\circ}$ $^{\circ}$ $^{\circ}$ $^{\circ}$ as much as do the people in communities down the coast. Nevertheless, a decision was made to use $^{\circ}$ $^{\circ}$ $^{\circ}$ $^{\circ}$ for all dialects and thus they are used in the dictionary. This will allow Fort Severn speakers to check on the correct usage when they need to. A further decision was made to write the **length dot** (as in $^{\circ}$ $^{\circ}$

The following characters, which are used in the dictionary, are the ones agreed on for all coastal Ontario Cree dialects. They are given with letter correspondences to the **Roman** (English-letter) writing system that is also used in this dictionary. We have also added here the Unicode number for each character, for consistency when using syllabic input on computers.

Please note: The greyed-out cells in this table indicate the w-dot on the right (Western Cree style) syllabic characters (like **L**·). Choose one or the other writing system, but do not mix them up! The Eastern style (w-dot on the left, like ·**L**) is what is standard for Coastal Ontario dialects.

The Roman writing system is discussed elsewhere in the Guide.

							Finals
V	Δ	À	\D	Ď	4	Δ.	II
e	i	î	О	ô	a	â	h
1401	1403	1404	1405	1406	140A	140B	1426
V	٨	À	>	>	<	·	ı
ре 142F	pi 1431	pî 1432	ро 1433	pô 1434	ра 1438	pâ 1439	р 144А
U	n	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i)	j	C	Ċ	/
te	ti	tî	to	tô	ta	tâ	t
144C	144E	144F	1450	1451	1455	1456	141F
9	ρ	ė	٩	d	Ь	Ь	\
ke	ki	kî	ko	kô	ka	kâ	k
146B	146D	146E	146F	1470	1472	1473	1420
1	r	Ļ	J	j	b	i	-
ce	ci	cî	co	cô	ca	câ	c
1489	148B	148C	148D	148E	1490	1491	1428
٦	Г	Γ̈́	L	ن	L	Ĺ	c
me	mi	mî	mo	mô	ma	mâ	m
14A3	14A5	14A6	14A7	14A8	14AA	14AB	14BC
٥	σ	Ġ	٩	ف	٥	ď)
ne	ni	nî	no	nô	na	nâ	n
14C0	14C2	14C3	14C4	14C5	14C7	14C8	1423
ר	_	–	ے	ن ا	ر	ز	т
le	li	lî	lo	lô	la	lâ	1
14D3	14D5	14D6	14D7	14D8	14DA	14DB	142A
۲	٦	نہ	ل م	بم	5	5	n
se 14ED	si 14EE	sî 14E0	80	SÔ	sa 14E4	sâ	S 1499
14ED \	14EF	14F0	14F1 ~	14F2	14F4	14F5	1422
she	shi	shî	sho	shô	sha	shâ	sh
1510	1511	1512	1513	1514	1515	1516	1525
4	4	خ	4	4	7	ن خ	۶
ye	yi	yî	yo	yô	ya	yâ	У
1526	1528	1529	152A	152B	152D	152E	153E

ъ	~	Ļ	7	÷	٩	Ġ	*	
re	ri	rî	ro	rô	ra	râ	r	
1542	1546	1547	1548	1549	154B	154C	1552	
w-dot on the left (Eastern style)								
·∇	. ♥	·Å	·Þ	·Þ	·Þ	٠ď	•	
we	wi	wî	wo	wô	wa	wâ	w	
140C	140E	1410	1412	1414	1417	1419	1424	
		w-dot	on the rig	ht (Weste	rn style)			
∇ ·	Δ.	Δ·	▶.	⊳ ·	4⋅	٩٠	0	
we	wi	wî	wo	wô	wa	wâ	W	
140D	140F	1411	1413	1415	1418	141A	1424	
·V					·<	À.		
pwe					pwa	pwâ		
143A					1444	1446		
V ·					<∙	<.		
pwe					pwa	pwâ		
143B					1445	1447		
·U					·C	·Č		
twe					twa	twâ		
1457					1461	1463		
U·					C.	Ç٠		
twe					twa	twâ		
1458					1462	1464		
٠٩					·P	·P		
kwe					kwa	kwâ		
1474					147E	1480		
۹۰					þ.	b ·		
kwe					kwa	kwâ		
1475					147F	1481		
์ า					ს	·Ĺ		
cwe					cwa	cwâ		
1492					149C	149E		
J.					l.	ل.		
cwe 1493					cwa 149D	cwâ 149F		
•7					• L	•i		
_					_	- .		
mwe 14AC					mwa 14B6	mwâ 14B8		
1470					14100	1400		

٦٠	L·	Ĺ٠	
mwe	mwa	mwâ	
14AD	14B7	14B9	
0	· o	·ġ	
nwe	nwa	nwâ	
14C9	14CB	14CD	
٠٥٠	o.	ġ.	
nwe	nwa	nwâ	
14CA	14CC	14CE	
j	ب	.خـ	
lwe	lwa	lwâ	
14DC	14E6	14E8	
٠,	٠.٢	٠.ن	
swe	swa	swâ	
14F6	1500	1502	
۲.	५	j.	
swe	swa	swâ	
14F7	1501	1503	
∙∿	.د	·نه	
shwe	shwa	shwâ	
1517	1521	1523	
∿	N.	is.	
shwe	shwa	shwâ	
1518	1522	1524	
.4	4.	٠.	
ywe	ywa	ywâ	
152F	1539	153B	
4.	۶.	<u>ځ</u> .	
ywe	ywa	ywâ	
1530	153A	153C	
		٠٩	
		rwâ	
		154E	
		વં∙	
		rwâ	
		154F	

Syllabary for Wasaho (Fort Severn, Ontario) Cree

Part 2. Roman Spelling

1 1111		Part of Speech	Part 4 English Gloss
V>,	pipon	vii	be winter

This is the **Roman** (English-letter) spelling of the word. It is included as a guide to pronunciation for those Cree who no longer speak Ininîwimowin as their first language, and for other people who might want to learn the language. Non-fluent speakers of Cree will not be able to pronounce correctly a word based only on its Syllabic spelling. This difficulty occurs because Syllabics often uses a form of 'shorthand' spelling, and many important aspects of pronunciation are often not represented in Syllabic writing, such as the dots on top to mark vowel length and the letter 'h'. For example, when written without length dots: **\b\b^1\D\b^2** could be the word that means 'screw', or it could be the word meaning 'lake'. These two words are often spelled the same way in Syllabics, even though they are actually pronounced differently. In Roman spelling, they are spelled differently in order to capture the difference between pronunciations:

sakahikan	'screw'	հե"∆ե ^չ
sâkahikan	ʻlake	ʹϛϧ··Ϫϧͻ

The Roman system of writing adopted here is the one used to write Cree by speakers in the west who do not use syllabics, and has been used in many story collections, including the book atalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimowina: Cree Legends and Narratives from the West Coast of James Bay by C. Douglas Ellis. By knowing this system, students will have access to a wide variety of materials available in these dialects and can gain a better sense of the diversity of Ininîwimowin linguistic heritage.

The Roman letters used to write Ininîwimowin, their rough English equivalents of pronunciation, and examples of Ininîwimowin words are listed below, organized into sets of **vowels** and **consonants**.

Vowels

Letter	English Equivalent	Example	Translation
a	<u>pu</u> ck	atim	'dog'
â	p <u>a</u> d	m â cîs	'here'
e	b <u>e</u> d, m <u>a</u> de	ehe	'yes'
i	p <u>i</u> t	ap i	'sit!'
î	p <u>ea</u>	n î na	'I, me, my'
О	p <u>u</u> t	o sâm	'too much'
ô	s <u>ou</u> p, s <u>oa</u> p	p ô s	'cat'

Roman Spelling of Vowels in Ininîwimowin

The vowels written with circumflex letters over the letter (\hat{a} , \hat{i} , and \hat{o}) are **long vowels**. The vowel e is also a long vowel but has no accent over it. The vowels a, i, and o are **short vowels**.

Consonants

Letter	English Equivalent	Example	Translation
W	<u>w</u> iggle	wiyâs	'meat'
p	to <u>p p</u> rize	p i p on	'be winter'
t	boa <u>t t</u> op	a t im	'dog'
k	pic <u>k c</u> orn	misti k	'tree, stick'
С	bea <u>ch ch</u> air	mîkwe c	'thank you'
m	<u>m</u> oney	m inistik	'island'
n	<u>n</u> ose	n îna	'I, me, my'
1	<u>l</u> ike	a l îkish	'frog'
S	ga <u>s s</u> tation	pîsim	'sun'
sh	bu <u>sh sh</u> irt	a sh âm	'feed her/him!'
у	<u>y</u> ellow	y âkwâ	'look out!'
h	a <u>h</u> em	e h e	'yes'

Roman Spelling of Consonants in Ininîwimowin

For speakers of Ininîwimowin, the sounds associated with p, t, k, and ch sometimes have a breath of air before the consonant sound. This breath of air is called **aspiration**. If you are not a fluent speaker of Ininîwimowin, you should listen carefully to the pronunciation of someone who is. This breath of air is written with h before the consonant: hp, ht, hk, hc.

Letter	English Equivalent	Example	Translation
p	(none)	ako hp	'blanket'
ht	(none)	mi ht	'firewood'
hk	(none)	ati hk	'beavers'
hc	(none)	pî hc i	'inside'

The Roman writing system used here capitalizes the first word in a sentence just as English does. **Prenouns** and **preverbs** (types of prefixes, discussed below) are set off with **hyphens** in Roman writing, but **person prefixes** are not. These rules are shown in the following example: *niwî-ohchi-wâpahten* I wanted to see it.

Part 3. Part of Speech (Word Category)

Part 1	Part 2		Part 4
Syllabic Spelling	Roman Spelling		English Gloss
٧>،	pipon	vii	be winter

The words of Ininîwimowin may be grouped into different classes or **parts of speech**. The main classes are **nouns**, **verbs**, **pronouns**, and **particles**. Each word listed in the dictionary has its class listed, in the form of an abbreviation. Nouns and verbs are grouped into subclasses on the basis of various properties discussed below.

The following part of speech categories are recognized in the dictionary. The abbreviation used with each is also listed.

Abbreviation.	Part of Speech	Example (Syllabics)	Example (Roman)
dim	diminutive	۸۰۰۹∿۰ ۰۹Cγ۰	ishkweshish watapîsh
impersonal	impersonal verb form	ċ Γἀσ∙∢٬	nîminâniwa
na	noun, animate	⊲ Γ^\ Δ^.9°	amisk iskwew

nad	noun, animate, dependent	ம்"d° சு∕்¢	nôhkom nishîm
na/i	noun, animate or inanimate	L _v U,	mistik
nap	noun, animate, participle	₽∇∿∙₫Ь५∖	kâishiwâkisit
ni	noun, inanimate	Ţ"٩ŗ, Ļŗ,	cîmân môkomân
nid	noun, inanimate dependent	L .∀ጋ₃ e. .β∖	niskât mispiton
Abbreviation.	Part of Speech	Example (Syllabics)	Example (Roman)
nip	noun, inanimate, participle	₽⊳╓┧२८ଡ଼୰୷	kâohciayaminâniwahk
р	particle	⊲ ₀٧٥	aspin
p,cnj	particle, conjunction	ĻυV2	kîspin
p,det	particle, determiner	v∩	nete
p,intj	particle, interjection	4.4 °	awas
p,intrg	particle, interrogative	Ġ.	nâ
p,man	particle, manner	ģΊ-	kîmoc
p,neg	particle, negative	V b	ekâ
p,num	particle, number	V ² /	peyak
p,quan	particle, quantity	ၑ" ዮ ௳ ∙	kahkinaw
p,space	particle, space	⊲β Γ"\	akâmihk
p,time	particle, time	·Δ<-	wîpac
pl	plural	⊳ገቦ ታ Ġ∾ባነ ካ ነ	omeciya nîshocesisak
preform	preform	C")	tahto

prenoun	prenoun	6 ι. ⊲۷ι.	apihci kihci
preverb	preverb	Δ√	ishi
pro,alt	pronoun, alternative	9Cb 2	kotakiya
pro,det	pronoun, determiner	ÞL	ôma
pro,eval	pronoun, evaluative	∇ ∙9Րხσ-	ekwecikâni
Abbreviation.	Part of Speech	Example (Syllabics)	Example (Roman)
pro,foc	pronoun, focal	V·por	ekwâna
pro,indef, pausal	pronoun, indefinite, pausal	식 ৮"ൎ<	ayahâw
pro,intrg	pronoun, interrogative	q.j >	kekwân
pro,pers	pronoun, personal	ġσ·∢₀	kînâwâw
recip	reciprocal	؋ۻ٠ ٩ ٥	wîkitowak
redup	reduplicated	< ∪°</th <th>papâmohtew</th>	papâmohtew
reflx	reflexive	¿cṛUԿ。	tôtamâtisow
vai	verb, animate intransitive	Ļ L Υ₀	mîcisow mihikitiw
vai/i	verb, animate intransitive and inanimate intransitive	⊳"Ր< σ° ѴՐ<σ°	ohcipaniw pecipaniw
vai+o	verb, animate intransitive plus object	⋖ <८८.	âpacihtâw
vii	verb, inanimate intransitive	6 L·⊲,	kimiwan mishâw
vii/ni	verb, inanimate intransitive or noun, inanimate	ę∙∆U ₂	kîwetin

vta	verb, transitive animate	.qq.∆. .q <j.< th=""><th>wâpamew âkohew</th></j.<>	wâpamew âkohew
vti	verb transitive inanimate	トレソC _c トリンC _c	wâpahtam ocipitam

Parts of Speech in Ininîwimowin

Nouns

Nouns are a basic part of speech found in all languages in the world. Nouns typically refer to persons, spirits, animals, plants, and physical objects in the world. Nouns are typically free words that answer the questions 'Who?' or 'What?' Most nouns are countable, and can be either **singular** or **plural**. Nouns function as the **subjects** and **objects** of verbs, as in the following sentence:

Here there are two nouns, $\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{h}$ môswa, 'moose' and $\mathbf{L} \mathbf{V}^{\circ}$ nâpew, 'man'. The subject of this sentence is $\mathbf{L} \mathbf{V}^{\circ}$ nâpew, 'man,' and the object is $\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{h}$ môswa 'moose.' The categories of **subject** and **object** are not nearly as obvious in Ininîwimowin as they are in English, but it is clear that in this sentence there are two nouns in some kind of relationship with a verb.

Nouns in Ininîwimowin group into animate and inanimate genders or classes, and dependent and independent groups. In addition, there are participial forms, that is, verbs used as nouns but keeping some of their verbal properties as well. These are all discussed below.

Gender: Animate and Inanimate Nouns

Nouns in Ininîwimowin group into two **classes**, or **genders**, **animate** and **inanimate**. All words for people, animals, spirits, and trees belong to the animate class. Most non-living things belong to the inanimate class, but there are exceptions: for example spoons, (smoking) pipes and pails are animate. A few words vary in their animacy from one community to another, being in some communities animate and in others inanimate. Animate nouns have plurals which end in $\triangleleft \cdot ak$, as in $\grave{a} \lor \cdot a \lor ak$ as in $\grave{c} \lor ak$ animate or inanimate.

na	noun, animate
ni	noun, inanimate

Ininîwimowin words can have a variety of elements called **prefixes** and **suffixes** attached to them to signal different meanings. A **prefix** is an element attached to the

front of a basic word in order to add some kind of meaning, for example $\underline{\sigma} \dot{\Gamma} \dot{L}^{\flat}$ $\underline{mic\hat{m}an}$, 'my boat' has the prefix σ \underline{mic} added to the basic word $\dot{\Gamma} \dot{L}^{\flat}$ $\underline{c\hat{m}an}$ 'boat'. Here this prefix adds the meaning 'my'. A \underline{suffix} is an element attached to the end of a basic word to add meaning. For example, $\dot{\Gamma} \dot{L} \underline{\alpha}$ $\underline{c\hat{m}ana}$ 'boats', has the suffix \mathbf{d} -a, which adds the meaning 'more than one' (plural). A word can have both a prefix and suffix, or more than one prefix or suffix, as in $\underline{\sigma} \dot{\Gamma} \dot{L} \underline{\sigma} \underline{\alpha} \underline{\alpha}$ $\underline{mic\hat{m}anin\hat{n}ana}$, 'our boats' which has the prefix σ \underline{mi} - and the suffixes $\Delta \dot{\alpha}$ - \underline{maning} 'we', and \mathbf{d} -a meaning 'more than one' (plural). The prefixes and suffixes taken together are called the **inflections** of the word.

Here are some forms of the basic word $\dot{\mathcal{F}}\dot{\mathcal{F}}^{\dagger}$ shîshîp with different prefixes and suffixes:

Syllabics	Roman	English
^	shîshîpak	'ducks'
゙	shîshîpa	'other duck(s)'
ݮ ሶ ៎៎᠕ ^ݛ	nishîshîpim	'my duck'
▷∵∵ <	ushîshîpima	'her/his duck'

Various Forms of the Word 🖍 (shîshîp) 'duck'

To look up a simple noun in the dictionary, you must remove any prefixes and suffixes attached to it. So, in these examples, several different elements would have to be removed:

Pre	fix(es)	Stem	Suffix(es)	
		ا ن ن	⋖ \ -ak	
		١ۥ۬ڽؙڹ	⊿	
σ	ni-	ا ن ن	∆¢/≠ -im	
>	o- \	ا ن ن	A ↓ -ima	
	* /	\	///*	
		These must	be///	
		removed before		
		looking up this		
		word		

Examples of Prefixes and Suffixes to be removed from Nouns before looking them up

Dependent and Independent Nouns

In Ininîwimowin, the words for relatives (family members, kinship terms) and body parts are almost never used without identifying *whose* body part or relative is being referred to, by means of elements (prefixes and suffixes) added to the basic noun. For example, the word 'AD'-spiton 'arm' never occurs alone, but always occurs with a prefix, such as **o** *ni-spiton*, 'my arm,' **P** *ki-spiton*, 'your arm', or **>** *ospiton* 'her or his arm'. In other words, to use this noun, you must say *whose* arm is being talked about. Nouns which *require* such specification of relationship are called **dependent** nouns and those that do not are called **independent** nouns. Nouns whose part of speech is given simply as *na* and *ni* in the dictionary are independent, but dependent nouns have special codes. Just as with independent nouns, dependent nouns can be animate or inanimate. The following codes are used to identify dependent nouns:

nad	noun, animate, dependent
nid	noun, inanimate, dependent

Since dependent nouns must be used with a prefix that specifies relationship, there is a question of what form or forms should be listed in the dictionary. We have chosen to represent body parts with a **third person form**, that is the one meaning 'her/his ___,' for example, $\triangleright r'$ osit 'her/his foot', $\triangleright \cap b'$ oskât 'her/his leg.' This practice means that when you want to look up a word such as $\sigma r'$ nisit 'my foot', you will have to remove the prefix σ ni- meaning 'my' and add the prefix \triangleright o or $\cdot \Delta$ w meaning 'her or his' in order to find the word in the dictionary.

Participial Nouns

Some nouns in Ininîwimowin are made from **verbs**, and keep some of their verbal properties, even though the words are used as nouns. A **participle** is a kind of hybrid word somewhere between a noun and a verb. For example, some speakers refer to a microphone for a bush radio as $\dot{\mathbf{b}} \triangleright \mathbf{l}^{\mathsf{II}} \wedge \mathbf$

Participial nouns may be animate or inanimate. The following codes are used for each sub-class of participial noun.

nap	noun, animate, participle
nip	noun, inanimate, participle

In Ininîwimowin, participial nouns all begin with the element \mathbf{b} $k\hat{a}$. Participles must be distinguished from **abstract nouns**, which are also nouns made from verbs, usually by adding the ending $\cdot \Delta^{\flat}$ -win, as in $\forall \Gamma \cdot \Delta^{\flat}$ ayimiwin 'word, utterance', and $\forall \Gamma \cdot \Delta^{\flat}$ atoskewin 'work.' These words, although they have been made from the verbs $\forall \Gamma^{\flat}$ ayimiw 'speak' and $\forall \Gamma^{\flat}$ atoskew 'work' are regular nouns, which you can tell by the fact that they can have a prefix added to them to signal 'my', 'your,' or 'her/his,' for example, $\sigma \cdot C \cdot \Gamma^{\flat} \cdot \Delta^{\flat}$ nitatoskewin 'my work,' $\Gamma \cdot \Gamma^{\flat} \cdot \Delta^{\flat}$ kitatoskewin 'your work'.

Specification of Other Categories of Nouns

Certain assumptions are made in the dictionary about the way that nouns work in Ininîwimowin, in the form of normal behaviour. These forms include **plurals**, **locatives**, **possessives**, **diminutives**, and **pejoratives**. Basically, the following ordinary patterns are assumed:

Category	Ordinary For	rm	Example	Example	Translation
Animate Plural	Add -ak	suffix	ጐጐ፞ <′	shîshîpak	'ducks'
Inanimate Plural	Add -a	suffix	ĊĹα	cîmâna	'boats'
Locative	Add -ihk	suffix	ĊĹσ"\	cîmânihk	'in the boat'

Possessive	No	m σἠĻσė,	nicîmâninân	'our boat'
Diminutive	Add suff	x ሶ Ĺ <mark></mark> ተረሳ	cîmânishish	'little boat'
Pejorative	Add suffix -iskîsh	Ċ ĹԺ^Ġ°	cîmâniskîsh	'worn-out boat'

Ordinary Forms for Various Noun Categories

Typically, when nouns conform to the patterns above, these forms are not listed in the dictionary. For example, the **plural** of \vec{r} is not listed, because it is predictably formed by adding \checkmark -ak to the basic noun.

We will now discuss each of these noun (**nominal**) categories, and how they are treated in the dictionary.

Plurals

The plural refers to more than one of whatever the basic idea of the noun is. For example, $\dot{\mathcal{F}}\dot{\mathcal{F}}<^{\backprime}$ shîshîpak refers to more than one duck, 'ducks.' Plurals of nouns are formed in Ininîwimowin by adding a suffix sensitive to gender. The following words show a variety of plural endings:

Syllabic	Roman	English Gloss
⊳∘bC	oskâta	'his or her legs'
λώbσΛ۶	pîshâkanâpiya	'ropes'
Ρ" Ь"ΔЬ α	kîkahikana	'axes'
⊲ ∘₽"⋅Ь′	askihkwak	'pails, kettles'
⊲L₀⋅₽/	amiskwak	'crows'
۵ ۲۵۶٬	asiniyak	'stones, rocks'

Some Ininîwimowin Plural Forms

In many cases, the plural for an animate noun ends in \checkmark , for example, as in \checkmark , sopwâkanak 'pipes.' Inanimate nouns often have plurals that end with \checkmark , as in \checkmark dLa, môhkomâna 'knives.' As mentioned above, usually such predictable plurals are not listed in the dictionary, but some words, however, are always plural and appear in the dictionary with their plural suffixes. Examples are:

Another feature to point out is that the **obviative** (out of focus) form of animate nouns can always be determined by changing the last sound of the plural to $\triangleleft a$ for obviative singulars and plurals. So, for example, the plural of $\triangleleft r \sigma$ asiniy 'stone' is $\triangleleft r \sigma r$ asiniyak; the obviative is $\triangleleft r \sigma r$ asiniya. Example: $\triangleleft r \sigma r$ σr

Plural forms are identified in the dictionary with the abbreviation pl.

Locatives

The **locative** form is used to express a location, translating into English with words such as 'on, at, to, in', for example, $\dot{\Delta}\Lambda \Pi^{II}$, wîpitihk 'on his or her tooth.' The most common form for the locative ending is Δ^{II} -ihk, as in $\dot{\Delta}\Pi^{II}$ oskâtihk 'on his or her leg'.

Syllabic	Roman	English Gloss
⊳∘Λdσ"\	ospiskonihk	'on her/his back'
⊳ 4 ⊁∆"\	okoyawihk	'on her/his neck'
⊳ ^dσ"\	oskonihk	'on her/his liver'
⊳ ⊀∩"\	ositihk	'on her/his foot'

Locatives of Some Body Part Words

Locative forms are identified in the dictionary with the abbreviation *loc*.

Possessives

In English, **possession** (ownership or having in one's possession) of something or someone is shown by the addition of a special pronoun word that shows who the possessor is, for example 'my book' or 'our book.' In Ininîwimowin, possession of a noun is shown by adding special prefixes and endings onto words. For example, among the possessive forms of the word 'book' might be the following:

Syllabic	Roman	English Gloss	
σ Γ ζσ"δρ	nimasinahikan	'my book'	
ΓΥσ"Δ βγ	kimasinahikan	'your (singular) book'	
⊳۲۲₀"۵۶٫	omasinahikan	'her or his book'	
σΕνα"Δ6σά,	nimasinahikaninân	'our (but not your) books'	

Ρ Εγα"Δ οσά ⁵	kimasinahikaninân	'our (and your) books'
Ρ Lィ ໑ "Δϧϭ·Ϥ·	kimasinahikaniwâw	'your (plural) book'
⊳L≀௳"∆b♂·∢°	omasinahikaniwâw	'their book'

Some Possessive Forms

In some cases, there is a special ending added to possessive words, having the form Δ^c im, as in $\sigma \dot{\mathcal{J}} \dot{\mathcal{J}} \Lambda^c$ nishishipim 'my duck' or the form ∇^c om, as in $\sigma C \Gamma \mathcal{J}^c$ nitamiskom 'my beaver'. The information about which words will add the Δ^c im is not included in the dictionary.

Diminutives

The **diminutive** ending is put on words to indicate that something is a young (non-adult) or small version of a person, animal, or thing. For example, a young duck is expressed with the following Cree word:

The usual way to make a diminutive of a noun is to add the ending \mathbf{f}^{\bullet} -ishish, as in $\dot{\mathbf{f}} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{\sigma} \mathbf{f}^{\bullet}$ câmânishish, 'small boat.' Verbs may not end in \mathbf{f}^{\bullet} -ishish but will usually have the \mathbf{f} -ishi sound near the end of the word. Diminutive forms are identified with the abbreviation **dim**.

Pejoratives

The **pejorative** form is used to communicate the idea that something is worn out or disliked, for example, $\mathring{\Gamma} \mathring{L} \sigma^{\alpha} \mathring{P}^{\alpha}$ cîmâniskîsh, 'worn out boat'. Although there are no pejorative nouns listed, they are easy to make by adding the suffix \mathring{P}^{α} -iskîsh, as in the example here.

Pronouns

Pronouns are usually described as 'words that stand in for nouns'. These are words in English such as 'I,' 'you,' 'someone,' and 'those', among many others. Ininîwimowin is rich in its variety of pronouns, including **personal pronouns**, such as **\(\sigma\circ\alpha\)** nîna, 'I', **indefinite pronouns**, such as **\(\sigma\circ\alpha\)** ane 'that (inanimate)'and **interrogative** (**question**) **pronouns**, such as **\(\sigma\circ\alpha\)** nan' what? (inanimate). Pronouns are identified in the dictionary with the following codes:

pro	pronoun	Syllabic	Roman	English Gloss
pro,alt	alternative pronoun	qC,	kotak	other
pro,det	determiner pronoun	⊲ .⊲	awa	this
pro,foc	focal pronoun	۷۰⊲۹	ewako	the very one
pro,indef	indefinite pronoun	⊲ ·∆,	awen	whoever
pro,pausal	pausal pronoun	۵ ۶"۵۰	ayahâw	whoever
pro,intrg	interrogative pronoun	٩. ن ٠	kekwân	what
pro,pers	personal pronoun	ĠФ	nîna	I

Types of Pronouns

Verbs

Verbs are another word category found in all the languages of the world. Verbs refer to actions, states, experiences, and qualities. Verbs answer the questions 'What is happening?' or 'What's the state of things?' Verbs in Ininîwimowin are sub classified according to their **transitivity** and the **gender** of their subjects or objects. These concepts are discussed in detail below.

Intransitive Verbs

One way that verbs are classified in Ininîwimowin is on the basis of how many distinct **noun roles** they have associated with them. One class of verbs has only <u>one</u> role associated with the verbal idea. For example, the verb $\Delta J^{II}U^{\circ}$ pimohtew 's/he walks along' has only one role, that of the walker; the verb $\dot{\sigma}\Gamma^{\circ}$ nîmiw 's/he dances' has only one role, that of the dancer. Verbs that have only one role associated with them are called **intransitive**. Another way of describing intransitive verbs is to say that they have only **subjects**, but no **objects**.

There are also two subclasses of intransitive verbs in Ininîwimowin, based on whether the noun filling the single role of the verb is **animate** or **inanimate**. The following forms show this difference:

animate	ር <i>ጐ</i> 。	misikitiw	's/he is big' 'it is big'
inanimate	ርዓይ	mishâw	
animate inanimate	△₩₩₩₽ •₩₩₽	apishîshishiw apishâshiw	's/he is small'

Verbs that have a single animate role are called animate intransitive verbs (vai); verbs that have a single inanimate role are called inanimate intransitive verbs (vii). The codes for these two classes are as follows:

vai	verb, animate intransitive
vii	verb, inanimate intransitive

Transitive Verbs

Other verbs have more than one role associated with them. For example, the verb $\mathbf{N} < \mathbf{N} < \mathbf{N}$ tipaha 'pay him or her' has both the roles of a payer and a payee; the verb $\mathbf{N} < \mathbf{N} < \mathbf{N} < \mathbf{N} < \mathbf{N}$ him or her' has the role of a giver of a kiss and the role of a receiver of a kiss. Verbs that have more than one role associated with them are called **transitive**. And just as Ininîwimowin divides intransitive verbs into two types on the basis of the animacy of the one playing the role, so too it divides transitive verbs into two classes on the basis of the animacy of one of the roles. The role that is relevant in transitive verbs is the receiver of the action; in the examples above this is the receiver of the pay and the receiver of the kiss. If the receiver of the action is animate, the verb is a **transitive animate verb (vta)**. If the receiver of the action is inanimate, the verb is a **transitive inanimate verb (vti)**, as in $\mathbf{\hat{\Gamma}}\mathbf{\hat{L}}^{\bullet}$ $\mathbf{\hat{L}}^{\bullet}$ $\mathbf{\hat{C}}$ $\mathbf{\hat{L}}^{\bullet}$ $\mathbf{\hat{C}}$ $\mathbf{\hat$

The following codes are used for these two classes.

vta	verb, transitive animate
vti	verb, transitive inanimate

The List Forms of Verbs

Verbs are very rich in **inflection** in Ininîwimowin, that is, in the combinations of prefixes and suffixes which indicate participants in the action, the time of the action, whether the speaker is certain that the action has actually taken place or is guessing, and whether the action takes place towards the speaker or away from the speaker. To list all of the possible forms for each Ininîwimowîn verb would fill many hundreds of

books. Rather, a consistent way of representing each subclass of verb must be used, so that with the proper knowledge a dictionary user can derive any needed verb form, with all of the appropriate prefixes and suffixes. Deriving these verb forms can really only be done with native speaker fluency or with access to a very complete **grammar** of the language. For now, we can at least consistently represent and label verbs in the dictionary.

Consider the following list, showing a few of the forms of the verb $\dot{\sigma}\Gamma^{\circ}$ $n\hat{\imath}miw$'s/he dances':

Syllabics	Roman	English Gloss
ό Γ°	nîmiw	's/he dances'
σĠΓʹ	ninîmin	'I dance'
ċ Γ·⊲\	nîmiwak	'they dance'
∆	e nîmiyân	'(that) I dance'
ჶ ӶϽ· 9 ݛ	nîmitokwenak	'perhaps they're dancing'
ċ Ċ<α′	nîmîpanak	'when they had danced'
Δ β &L/	ekâ nîmik	'don't dance!'

A Few of the Many Forms of the Verb & \(\bar{\chi} \bar{\chi} \) nîmiw 's/he dances'

The list here represents only a *very* small portion of the possible distinct forms of this verb. We have chosen to list the form that means 'she or he is __' in the dictionary for animate intransitive verbs (vai), transitive animate verbs (vta) and transitive inanimate verbs (vti). In the case of inanimate intransitive verbs (vii), we have used the form that means 'it is __', as in Pr·<' kimiwan, 'it is raining.' However, the words 'she, he' and 'it' have been left out of the English glosses, in order to save space and so that there is an emphasis on the meaning of the stem of the verb. As well, instead of writing 'her, him, it' for the object of transitive verbs, s.o. and s.t. are used as abbreviations for the more general words 'someone' and 'something', which usually refer to animate and inanimate goals.

Verb Class	Code	Form		Syllabics	Roman	Meaning
Animate Intransitive	vai	3rd singular, tense	person present	ċ Γ°	nîmiw	'dance'
Inanimate Intransitive	vii	3rd singular, tense	person present	6L·⊲	kimiwan	ʻrain'

Transitive Animate	vta	3rd personacting on present te	3 rd sing.	·4 <l°< th=""><th>wâpamâw</th><th>'see s.o.'</th></l°<>	wâpamâw	'see s.o.'
Transitive Inanimate	vti	3rd singular a 3 rd sing. tense	1	· ∢< "C¢	wâpahtam	'see s.t.'

List Forms for the Major Verb Classes

Minor Classes of Verbs

Most animate intransitive and inanimate intransitive verbs have different forms for the same meaning, for example, $\Lambda\Gamma \mathcal{F}$ pimishin, 's/he falls' and $\Lambda\Gamma^{\shortparallel}\Omega$ pimishin, 'it falls.' Both of these verbs express the idea of falling, but the animate verb of falling is pronounced and spelled slightly differently from the inanimate verb of falling. For some concepts, though, the basic verbal form is the same for animate and inanimate subjects, as for example, $\Lambda\Gamma < \sigma^{\circ}$ pimipaniw, can mean either 's/he arrives' or 'it (inanimate) arrives.' Rather than list such words twice, once as an animate intransitive verb (vai) and again as an inanimate intransitive verb (vii), a single code is used to collapse these two together, having the form:

vai/ii	verb, animate intransitive and
	verb inanimate intransitive

Occasionally a verb may also act as a noun, such as $\dot{\mathbf{P}} \cdot \nabla \Omega^{\bullet}$ kinetin 'it is north / north'. There are very few of these verbs, which are labelled as follows:

vii/ni	verb, inanimate intransitive or
	noun inanimate

There is a small set of animate intransitive verbs which can optionally have a second role associated with them. Such verbs include $\Gamma \sigma^{\prime\prime\prime} \cdot \P^{\circ}$ minihkwew 's/he drinks (it)' and $\triangleleft \dot{c} \cdot \nabla^{\circ}$ atâwew 's/he buys (it).' These verbs are labelled as follows:

vai+o	verb, animate intransitive with
	optional object

Prefixes, Prenouns and Preverbs

There is a very small group of **prefixes**, elements which attach to the beginning of verbs to indicate first, second, or third person subject or object, and to nouns to

indicate the possessor of the noun. The most common prefixes are σ *mi*-'first person', ρ *ki*-'second

person' and \triangleright o-, 'third person.' The third person prefix is used only with nouns, never with verbs. Prefixes are identified with the code *prefix*.

Prenouns are elements which attach to the front of nouns and describe them or pick them out in some way, such as ألَى nôshe- 'female' and كَلَى nôshe- 'male,' as in المُن الله nôshe-môswa 'female moose' and أله الله الله nôshe-môswa 'female moose' and الله الله nôshe-môswa 'female moose', as well as P" kihci-big' as in P" أله kihci-cîmân 'big boat'. Prenouns are identified with the code prenoun.

Preverbs are like prenouns, except they are attached to the front of verbs. Preverbs include elements such as $\dot{\mathbf{P}}$ $k\hat{\imath}$ 'past tense,' \mathbf{b} or \mathbf{C} ka- or ta- 'will (future preverb)', and $\mathbf{V}\mathbf{\Gamma}$ peci- 'towards speaker,' among many others. Preverbs are indicated with the code *preverb*.

Particles

The class of particles includes all of the items that do not belong to any of the other classes named. Particles include single words that indicate place (\hat{\lambda}"\Ob\Gamma\text{\lambda}"\phi\text{biling} pi\text{itikamihk} 'inside'), time (\hat{\lambda} \lambda' \nighta' \nighta' \text{recently'}), quantity and repetition (\hat{\sigma} \cdot \hat{\sigma} \hat{\sigma}' \text{twice'}), negation (\hat{\lambda} \Lambda \text{ or } \nighta \hat{\lambda} \text{ nama or } \epsilon \hat{\lambda} \hat{\text{oron}}'\text{, and many other concepts.} We have tried to list the different types of particles by giving each a sub-code, such as 'time' or 'space' for prepositions and 'manner' for words which act like English adverbs. Also included are interjections, words that express strong emotion or surprise, and are usually capable of standing alone, such as Ugh! or Wow! in English. Particles are identified with the following abbreviations:

p	particle	p,cnj	conjunction
p,intrg	interrogative / question	p,man	manner
p,neg	negative	p,num	number
p,quan	quantity	p,space	space
p,time	time	p,intj	interjection

Part 4. English Gloss (Translation)

Part 1 Syllabic Spelling	Part Roman Spelling	Part Part of Speech	Part English Gloss	4
٧>>	pipon	vii	be winter	

This is the English meaning of the Ininîwimowin word in very rough, simple translation. One problem in glossing dictionary items is that there are some clumsy matches between Ininîwimowin and English. For example, consider how **\sigma\cdot\delta\L^\circ}** niwâpamâw might be translated into English:

If talking about a woman... [Δ^•・9∇°] σ・ዻくἰ° 'I see her.'

If talking about a man... [ὑ∇°] σ・ዻくἰ° 'I see him.'

If talking about a kettle... [ຝ^ρ"\] σ・ዻくἰ° 'I see it.'

So the word $\sigma \cdot \dot{d} < \dot{L}^{\circ}$ niwâpamâw should be translated as 'I see her/him/it (animate).' This is very clumsy, though, and it is customary in Ininîwimowin dictionaries to use an abbreviation for an **animate object**, usually s.o., which is related to the English word 'someone' but different from it, because someone is never used in English to refer to things such as stones, pipes, and kettles, or even animals, only people. Inanimate objects are identified in this dictionary with the abbreviation s.t. The following entries illustrate these conventions for glosses:

In the case of **intransitive verbs**, no **subject** is provided in the gloss, as in the following examples:

The only way to know that $\Gamma \dot{\wp}^{\circ}$ mishâw is used to describe grammatically inanimate things such as $\dot{\Gamma}\dot{L}^{\circ}$ cîmân 'boat' and $\dot{\neg}b^{\shortparallel}\Delta b^{\circ}$ wâskahikan 'house', and that $\Gamma \dot{\Gamma}'P \cap \circ$ misikitiw is used to describe grammatically animate things, such as $\dot{\sigma}\dot{\nu}\circ$ nâpew 'man' and $\dot{\nu}\circ\dot{\nu}\circ$ ospwâkan 'pipe' is by looking at the part of speech designation for each word. Since $\dot{\nu}\circ$ mishâw is labelled vii, for verb inanimate intransitive, we know that it applies to inanimate noun and pronoun subjects. Since $\dot{\Gamma}\dot{\nu}\circ$ misikitiw is labelled vai, for verb animate intransitive, we know that it applies to animate noun and pronoun subjects. This is why it is so important for the user of the dictionary to understand the part of speech labels.

Glossary

This glossary contains entries for all of the grammatical concepts introduced in the notes on the dictionary. At the end of each entry, cross-references to related entries are given.

ABSTRACT NOUN. A noun made from a verb, usually by adding the suffix 'Δ' win, as in '\(\bar{\mathbb{P}}\)"\(\Delta\cdot\mathbb{O}\) sâkihiwewin 'love', made from the verb '\(\bar{\mathbb{P}}\)"\(\Delta\cdot\mathbb{O}\) sâkihiwewi 's/he loves'. These nouns are called abstract because they do not refer to physical objects, such as trees, animals, or people, but rather to general ideas and principles, concepts, or actions in a very general sense. Nouns that refer to physical objects, such as \(\bar{\mathbb{Q}}\) \(\mathbb{O}\) nâpew 'man' and \(\bar{\mathbb{D}}\) sâkahikan 'lake', are called concrete nouns. See Noun, Verb.

ALGONQUIAN. The family of languages that Ininîwimowin belongs to. This family includes Abenaki, Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), Arapaho, Atikamekw-Cree-Montagnais-Naskapi, Blackfoot, Delaware, Fox, Kickapoo, Malecite-Passamaquoddy, Menomini, Micmac, Potawatomi, and many others. See Language.

ANIMATE. One of the two gender classes of Ininîmowin nouns, consisting mostly of words referring to living things and some other nouns as well. Animate nouns have plurals that end in https://www.nounder.com/ as L"97. ** mahkesiwak 'foxes'. Compare Inanimate. See Gender, Noun.

ASPIRATION. A very brief puff of air that can be heard in the pronunciation of Ininîwimowin speakers when saying the sounds spelled *hp*, *ht*, *hk* and *hc* as in **◄d**!!\

akohp 'dress', **Γ"** *mihti* 'firewood' and **◄ ∩ "** *atihk* 'caribou'. The aspiration occurs before the consonant. Although it is marked in the dictionary, many people do not write the symbol when using Syllabics. See Consonant.

CLASS. See Gender.

CONSONANT. One of the two basic types of speech sounds (the other is **Vowels**). Consonants begin or end syllables, while vowels occupy the middle (core) of a syllable. Most consonants are not pronounced alone, but only with an accompanying vowel. The consonants of Ininîwimowin are *c*, *h*, *k*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *s*, *sh*, *t*, *w*, and *y*. Compare Vowel.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN. A pronoun which singles out or picks out a particular member or members of a class of nouns. For example, ◄ • ♦ †L² awa cîmân 'this boat' picks out a particular boat that the speaker is referring to. See Pronoun.

have a **possessor** prefix indicating the possessor, owner, or person in relationship to the noun, for example **\sigmar'** nisit 'my foot', with possessor prefix **\sigmar** ni- 'my', and **Pdr'** kikosis 'your son', with possessive prefix **P** ki- 'your'. Nouns for body parts and relatives (family relations) are dependent, as well as a few others. Compare Independent Noun. See also Noun.

DIALECT. A distinctive variety of a language used by speakers in a particular geographical region or in a particular social group. The dialects of Ininîmowin include Plains Cree, Woods Cree, Swampy Cree, Moose Cree, Atikamekw, East Cree, Montagnais (Innu) and Naskapi. See Language.

EASTERN SYLLABICS. One of the two basic Syllabic traditions. Eastern Syllabics uses finals which resemble smaller versions of the basic syllable characters, for example, final ¶ n corresponds to basic syllable character ← na/naa. Also in the Eastern tradition, the w-dot symbol precedes the symbol for the syllable it is associated with, for example, '◄• \(\Delta \text{ wâni 'egg', and } \Delta^n.9° \(\text{ isknew 'woman'}. \) Compare Western Syllabics. See Syllabics.

ENDING. See Suffix.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION. See Gloss.

ENTRY. An individual word, as listed separately in the dictionary.

FINALS. In Syllabic writing, the small, raised letters used to represent an isolated consonant sound at the end of a syllable, as in σ<"Λ' nipâhpin 'I laugh', or <"ρ"\ askihk 'pail, kettle'. See Syllabics.

roles in language communication. First person refers to the one or ones speaking. In English, the pronouns 'I', 'me' and 'my' are all first person singular, and 'we', 'us' and 'our' first person plural. In Ininîwimowin first person pronouns include '\(\bar{\phi}\) nîn 'I', '\(\bar{\phi}\)\(\bar{\phi}\) nînân, 'we, us (but not you)' and '\(\bar{\phi}\)\(\bar{\phi}\)\(\bar{\phi}\) nînân we, us (you and I),' among others. Compare Second Person, Third Person.

GENDER. The **grammatical noun** groups or classes in a language. Ininîwimowin groups nouns into two genders, **animate** and **inanimate**. Members of the animate class include people, animals, spirits, trees,

many plants, and many other objects, such as pipes, spoons, and the sun and moon. Members of the inanimate class include non-living things and a few plants. Each class requires verbs of the appropriate type. See Noun.

GLOSS. The simple English translation associated with an Ininîmowin word in the dictionary. For example, the gloss for $\mathring{\sigma}\mathring{\sigma}^{I}$ shiship is simply 'duck'.

GRAMMAR. The patterns and rules of a language, including pronunciation, how words are made from parts of words, and how words are put together to make new words, phrases and sentences.

GRAMMATICAL. Anything having to do with **grammar**. See Grammar.

INANIMATE. One of the two **genders** of Ininîwimowin **nouns**, referring to non-living things and some plants. Inanimate nouns have plurals ending in ◀ -a, such as †La cîmâna 'boats'. Compare Animate. See Gender, Noun.

INDEFINITE PRONOUN. A pronoun used when the identity of a thing or individual is not fully known, for example, ◀•▼• awena 'someone' and ¶••• kekwân 'something'. See Pronoun.

INDEPENDENT NOUN. A noun which can be used without a possessor; a noun which can stand alone, independently. Independent nouns are contrasted with dependent nouns, which require a possessor. Examples: †L' cîmân 'boat', · ¬'b''Ab' wâskahikan 'house'. See Noun. Compare Dependent Noun.

INFLECTION. Any prefix or suffix added to a word in order to add a meaning, such as who or what the subject is, who or what the object is or the plurality of the subject or object. Example: **¬CO^bà** nitatoskânân, 'we are working' has the inflectional prefix **¬** nit- and the inflectional suffix **a** -nân. See Noun, Prefix, Suffix.

INTERJECTION. A word that expresses strong emotion or surprise, and is usually capable of standing alone, such as Ugh! or Wow! in English.

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN. A pronoun used in asking questions, such as **9·b**² kekwân 'what? (inanimate) or **4·V**• awena 'who'. See Pronoun.

INTRANSITIVE. See Animate Intransitive Verb and IIV.

LANGUAGE. A system of communication used by human beings, in which meanings are associated with combinations of sounds. Sounds group together to form word parts and words, and words group together to form sentences. There are believed to be approximately 5,500 languages spoken in the world today.

LENGTH-DOT. See page 5 and Long Vowels.

LOCATIVE. The locative form of a noun expresses the noun as a location, for example, $\sigma r' \cap^{"}$ nisitihk means 'on my foot' from the basic word $\sigma r'$ nisit 'my foot.' Another example is racklet racklet

LONG VOWELS. The long vowels in Ininîmowin are **∇**, **∆**, **, , , d** (*e*, *î*, *ô* and *â*). See Vowels.

NOMINAL. Having to do with a noun. See Noun.

NOUN. One of the main parts of speech of Ininîwimowin. Nouns are words for living and non-living things, such as a Vr napesis 'boy', and L Pr' maskisin 'shoe'. Nouns answer the question 'who' or 'what'. There are two genders or classes of nouns, animate and inanimate. Nouns can be singular or plural. Nouns in Ininîmowin are also marked for obviation, that is, whether they are in focus in the story being told, or not. Nouns can also be diminutive or pejorative, as well as locative. See all of these categories for additional notes.

OBJECT. The **noun**, **noun phrase**, or **pronoun** in a sentence that expresses the receiver of the action, that is, the one whom the action is done *to*. Also called a Direct Object. Only transitive verbs have objects, and a few exceptional animate intransitive verbs. Compare Subject.

OBVIATIVE. In Algonquian languages, third persons (nouns and pronouns) are distinguished as being more prominent or less prominent in the discourse. Only one noun or third person pronoun may be in focus at any given time. Nouns which are less prominent (out of focus) have a special ending, called the obviative by linguists. Take, for example, the sentence ¿V·◀ ·i<1° A^·9° nâpewa wâpamew iskwew 'The woman saw a man' Here the word for man, which in its basic form is aV° *nâpew*, has an ending **◄** -a attached which designates it as being out of focus (obviative). The noun **\Delta^.9**° 'woman', however, has no such ending, and so is in focus, or highlighted in this sentence.

PART OF SPEECH. Also called Word Category. Any of the small number of classes or types into which the words of a

language are grouped, on the basis of their meanings, their word structures, and the way they are used in sentences. The main parts of speech in Ininîwimowin are Nouns, Verbs, Pronouns and Particles.

PARTICIPLE. A verb which is used as a noun. Many nouns in Ininîwimowin are made from verbs which describe the behaviour or use of the object, for example, b∆√1C·dσ·d"\
kâishimetawâniwahk 'hockey rink' (literally, 'that which is used for playing in a certain way). See Verb, Noun.

PARTICLE. One of the main parts of speech (word classes) of Ininîwimowin. Particles are simple words that express ideas such as location (Pr・d' kisiwâk 'near' and ・do' wânaw 'far'), time (do' anohe 'now, today'), manner, quantity and many other concepts.

PEJORATIVE. The **pejorative** form is used to communicate the idea that something is old, worn-out or disliked, for example, Γ˙Lσ^ˆρ˙ν cîmâniskîsh, 'old boat.'

PERSON. See First Person, Second Person, Third Person.

PERSON PREFIX. See First Person, Second Person, Third Person.

PERSONAL PRONOUN. A pronoun which identifies one of the basic communicative roles of speaker (first person), listener (second person) or item of conversation (third person). Personal pronouns may be singular or plural. Some examples are on the singular of the singular or plural. Some examples are on the singular or plural. Some examples are on the singular or plural. Some examples are one singular or plural. Some examples are one singular or plural. Some examples are

PLURAL. Plural indicates more than one of a thing. The plural is made from the singular in Ininîwimowin by adding an ending onto the singular. For example, the plural of $\dot{\sigma}\dot{\sigma}^i$ shîshîp 'duck' is $\dot{\sigma}\dot{\sigma}^i$ shîshîpak 'ducks'. Plural is contrasted with singular, which refers to one of a thing, for example, $\dot{\sigma}\dot{\sigma}^i$ shîshîp refers to one duck. Compare Singular. See Noun.

POSSESSION. Possession has to do with the close association between a person or thing and another person or thing. Possession may relate to close relationship, such as one's relatives or the parts of one's own body, or it may have to do with ownership or caretaking. Possession of a noun is signalled by means of prefixes and suffixes which indicate who the possessor $\sigma L \Gamma \sigma'' \Delta \rho_{2}$ for example, is, nimasinahikan takes the basic noun Lγο"Δb' masinahikan 'book' and adds a prefix **o** ni- which indicates a **first person** possessor, giving the meaning 'my book.'

POSSESSOR. See Possession.

PREFIX. A word-element attached to the front of the main word. For example, the word σ L r α "Δ b' nimasinahikan 'my book' has a prefix σ ni- attached to the main word L r α "Δ b' masinahikan 'book' to produce the word with the meaning 'my book.' See also Stem, Suffix.

PREFORM. A word-building element which attaches to the front of a noun. See prenoun and preverb.

PRENOUN. A word-building element which attaches to the front of a noun. In Roman spelling, prenouns are set off by hyphens. An example: P"r rL' kihci-cîmân big boat'.

PREVERB. A word-building element which attaches to the front of a verb. In Roman spelling, preverbs are set off by hyphens. An example: Δケ 「「つ」 ishi-mîchisow 'eat thus, in a certain way'.

PRONOUN. A member of a small class of words which are used as replacements or substitutes for nouns, for example Pakina 'you', I anima 'that (inanimate)', and I kekwân 'something'. There are many subtypes of pronouns, including personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, indefinite pronouns, focus pronouns and interrogative pronouns. See Part of Speech.

REDUPLICATION. A repetition of the first syllable of a word, usually a verb, to indicate repeated or continuous action or state. For example, AJ"U° pimohtew 's/he walks' and <<J"U° papâmohtew 's/he walks around'.

ROMAN WRITING. Writing based on the letters of the Latin alphabet, such as the writing system used by English. Compare Syllabics. See Consonant, Vowel.

SECOND PERSON. One of the three 'persons' or speech roles communication. Second person refers to whoever is being spoken to at the time of speaking. In English, the word 'you' is used represent second person. Ininîmowin, there are many second person pronouns, such as Pa kîna 'you' (singular), ᡠᡆ᠂ᢅᢒᢀ kînawâw, 'you (plural)' and Paà' kînanân 'we, us (you and I)'. Compare First Person, Third Person.

SHORT VOWELS. The short vowels of Ininîwimowin are *a, i, o*. See Vowels.

SINGULAR. One of a thing, for example, the word $\dot{\mathcal{F}}\dot{\mathcal{F}}^{I}$ shiship refers to one duck. Singular (one item) is contrasted with **Plural** (more than one item). Compare Plural.

STEM. A word or word part to which other parts may be added in building words. For example, to make the **plural** of $\dot{\mathcal{J}}\dot{\mathcal{J}}^{\dagger}$ shiship 'duck' a suffix \mathbf{J}^{\dagger} -ak is added to the **stem** $\dot{\mathcal{J}}\dot{\mathcal{J}}^{\dagger}$, producing $\dot{\mathcal{J}}\dot{\mathcal{J}}^{\dagger}$ shishipak.

SUFFIX. A word-element attached to the end of the main word. For example, the word Lrα"Δbα masinahikana 'books' has the inanimate plural suffix < -a attached to the main word Lrα"Δb masinahikan 'book' to produce the word with the meaning 'books.' See also Stem, Prefix.

SUBJECT. The **noun**, **noun phrase**, or **pronoun** in a sentence that represents the doer of the action. In sentences with intransitive verbs, the subject is the noun or pronoun filling the verb's single **role**. Compare Object. See Animate Intransitive Verb.

SYLLABARY. 1. A writing system in which the basic letters stand for syllables, that is, groupings of consonants and vowels. 2. A list of the symbols making up the Syllabic writing system.

SYLLABICS. A writing system used to write Ininîwimowin in which each basic letter stands for a syllable, that is, a combination of a consonant and a vowel sounded together. There are two main ways of writing Syllabics, an Eastern tradition and a Western tradition. These traditions differ in the way small Consonant value letters are written and in the position of the dot used to write the sound w. This Dictionary uses the Western system. Compare Roman Writing.

SYLLABLE. A sound grouping of 1. a single vowel, as in ∇"∇ ehe 'yes; 2. a consonant followed by a vowel, as in ÞL ôma 'that'; 3. a consonant followed by a vowel, followed by one or more additional consonants, as in ⟨¬¬¬¬ amisk 'beaver'. See Syllabics, Consonant, Vowel.

THIRD PERSON. One of the three 'persons' or speech roles in communication. Third person refers to whoever or whatever is being spoken about. In English, the words 'he', 'she' and 'it', and many others, are used to represent third person. In Ininîwimowin, there are many third person pronouns, such as 'Δ' wîn 'she/her, he/him, it (animate)', and 'Δα·<!

winawaw 'they'. In English, third persons are grouped into three **genders**, masculine (he), feminine (she), and neuter (it). In Ininîwimowin, third person divides into two genders or groups, animate and inanimate. So, for example, there are different third person pronouns meaning 'this' when referring to animate things as opposed to inanimate: **bL** ôma 'that' (inanimate), **d·d** awa 'that' (animate). Compare First Person and Second Person.

TRANSITIVITY. Transitivity is a property of verbs. Verbs express actions, states, experiences. Each verb has one or more roles associated with it. The roles are filled by nouns or pronouns. Some actions have only a single role involved, for example, in PlU∘ ⊲Ur kimotiv atim 'the dog is stealing' the verb **PJO°** kimotiw 'steal' has only the role of the one stealing, in this case filled by the noun $\triangleleft \cap$ atim 'dog'. However in ¿V·✓ PJCL·∇° ✓∩° (nâpewa kimotamawew atim, 'the dog steals from the man' there are two roles: the role of the one stealing, filled by the dog, and the role of the one being stolen from, filled by the man. Verbs which have only one role are intransitive. Verbs that have two or more roles are transitive. Intransitive verbs are sub classified according to whether their one role is filled by an animate noun or an inanimate noun. When the noun filling the single role is animate, the verb is an animate intransitive verb (vai), for example, TYPn° misikitiw nâpew 'the man is big'. When the noun filling the single role is inanimate, the verb is an inanimate intransitive verb 'the boat is big'. Transitive verbs are sub classified on the basis of the animacy of their objects: when the object is animate, the verb is a transitive animate verb (vta), as in j・h ゥ・ゴ<つ ふV° môswa kî-wâpamew nâpew 'the man saw a moose'. Here the object is **j.**\(\text{moswa} \text{ mose'}, which is animate. In CL' P .4<"CC **ċ-V°** *cîmân kî-wâpahtam nâpew* 'the man saw a boat' the object is inanimate, f'L' cîmân 'boat'. Verbs used with inanimate objects are called **transitive inanimate** verbs (**vti**).

TRANSITIVE ANIMATE VERB (VTA). A transitive verb having an animate object, as in J·\ P··d<7° &V° môswa kî-wâpamew nâpew 'the man saw a moose'. Here the object is the animate noun J·\ môswa 'moose'. Compare Transitive Inanimate Verb. See Verb, Transitivity.

TRANSITIVE INANIMATE VERB (VTI). A transitive verb having an inanimate object, as in $\dot{\Gamma}L^{2}$ \dot{P} · \dot{q} <"C $\dot{\omega}$ V° cîmân kî-wâpahtam nâpew 'the man saw a boat'. Here the object is inanimate, $\dot{\Gamma}\dot{L}^{2}$ cîmân 'boat'. Compare Transitive Animate Verb. See Verb, Transitivity.

TRANSLATION. SEE GLOSS.

VERB. One of the major parts of speech in Ininîwimowin. Verbs refer to actions, states, experiences, and qualities. Verbs answer the questions 'What is happening?' or 'What's the state of things?' or 'What does it look like?' Two very important properties of verbs are their transitivity and the gender of their subjects and objects. Based on these properties, there are four main subclasses of verbs, animate intransitive. inanimate intransitive. animate, and inanimate. See these topics for additional information.

VOCABULARY. 1. An individual word in a language. 2. All the words of a language taken together. See Word.

VOWELS. One of the two basic types of speech sounds. (The other is **Consonants**). Vowels occupy the middle (core) of a syllable. The vowels of Ininîwimowin are a \hat{a} e i \hat{i} o and \hat{o} . The vowels \hat{a} , e, \hat{i} and \hat{o} are long vowels. The vowels a, i, and o are short vowels. Compare Consonants.

W-DOT. The symbol in Syllabics used to represent the sound *w*, as in **'◄' △** *wâwi* 'egg'. See Syllabics.

WORD. The smallest unit of meaning in a language that is spoken by itself. For example, in answer to the question, **9.b** b · d < "CL" Kekwân kâwâpahtaman? What do you see?', one can answer r câmân 'boat', or **PrL** kicîmân 'your boat', but not just **P** ki- 'your...', because r can answer r can answer r câmân 'boat'. The basic, core part of a word is called the **stem**. Elements added to the

front of the stem in order to give additional meaning are called **prefixes**. Elements added to the end of the stem in order to give additional meanings are called **suffixes**. The prefixes and suffixes together are the inflections of the word. Some words consist of a stem alone, such as **PL** cîmân 'boat'; other words have inflections as well, such as **PrL** câmâninân 'our boat' have prefixes and suffixes. See Prefix, Suffix, Stem.

WORD CATEGORY. See Part of Speech.

This document is based on guides and glossary templates originally written by Rand Valentine for all Ontario dictionary projects in 1997. They were adapted to Fort Severn by Marguerite MacKenzie. They were subsequently revised and adapted for the web version of the Fort Severn Cree dictionary by Marie-Odile Junker, Marguerite MacKenzie and Rand Valentine in 2015.

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