Niin awe Name
I am a Sturgeon

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Acknowledgements

Name, the Lake Sturgeon, has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My parents, Albert and Bella Hunter were commercial sturgeon fishers when I was growing up. Back then, the sturgeon allowed my parents to put food on the table for our large family. I thank my parents, and Name for all they have provided to me.

Today, I am so honoured to be able to give back to Name. Since 1995, I have been involved in the sturgeon hatchery on the Rainy River First Nations. I am grateful to have learned so much about Name and to have helped so many areas in North America bring the sturgeon back to their waters. I thank my community.

I’d like to thank those who are teaching me the language and wish to thank Marilyn Copenace for helping with the translations, allowing us to learn about Name in Anishinaabemowin.

I thank the Ontario Ministry of Education, Seven Generations Education Institute and the SayITFirst Anishinaabemowin Language Revitalization Project.

Miigwech
Boozhoo! Niin awe name.
Hello! I am a Sturgeon.
Mikinaak minis endayaan.
Turtle Island is my home.
Niibowa nindinanwemaaganag nindiyaawag miziwe maamaanaan aki.

I have many relatives across Mother Earth.
Nindizhidaa imaa niibowa zaaga’iganan idash.
I live in many lakes and rivers.
Nidaabimaadiz ningodwaak daso-biboonagiz.
I can live 100 years.
Aanind dinenimigood zaam nimaanaadiz.
Some people think I am ugly.
Gikendaa dash gaawiiin nimaanaadizisiin.
I know I am not.
Gego ojaanimendagen, gaawiin inga-dakwamisinoon.
Don’t worry, I can not bite you.
Inga-gikinoo’amawin gidizhi-aayaayaan.
Let me teach you about me.

Indaa-waabijiwiz dash ge indaa-ozaawiz.
I can be grey or brown.
Ge gii-agashii'ayaan, bakaan ningii-izhinaagoz.
When I am little, I look different.
Ningaa-zootawaa awe ginoozhe.
I can hide from Northern Pike.
Gichi-inendaanan onowe Niiwin miishidoonaanesan gaa’ayaayaan.
I have four whiskers that are very important to me.

Ninda-abajitoonan nimiishidoonaanensan chi-miikaman ge miijimaan.
I use my whiskers to find food.
Nindoong zhiibiigise wii-wiisiniyaan.

My mouth stretches out to eat food.
Mii sa go gii-mashkawaag niiywa niwiiji'igon chi-bimaadiziyaan gabe a'ii.
My tough body helps me survive a long time.
Ge nindoonzheesh.
So you see, I am beautiful.

Niin awe name.
I am a Sturgeon.
Mewinzhaa niggi-pi-bimaadiz.
I am from way back in time.
Ningii-izhi-ozhichigaazowaan, mii wenji-ayaayaan ge niin omaa maamaanaan aki.

How I am made, has allowed me to share Mother Earth with you today.
Join Name in exploring his underwater world and learn how he relates to the environment around him. Name is the story of a prehistoric fresh water fish who continues to survive and thrive in the waters he swims in, as he is able to adapt and live in harmony with humans and caretakers of the waters.

A critical step to improving the vitality of Anishinaabemowin is to increase the sounds transferring from the parent to the child at an early age. This book is designed to allow both speakers and non-speakers the ability to pass the Ojibwe language onto their youth. The translations in the book give parents the ability to practice and to read this book to their children in Anishinaabemowin.

The Rainy River District area is undergoing an effort to put Anishinaabemowin back into the homes of the Anishinaabeg. Anishinaabemodaa – Let’s speak Ojibwe, is the Ontario Ministry of Education sponsored partnership between the Rainy River District School Board, SayITFirst and 7 Generations Education Institute with support of the ten area Anishinaabe Nations to help Wake Up Ojibwe within individuals in our community.

Audio support can be found on our website. Videos can be viewed on a cell phone or iPad by hovering the camera over the front cover of this book or viewed directly off of our site. A free app will need to be downloaded.

Download instructions and videos provided for audio support can be found at:
www.anishinaabemodaa.ca and wakingupojibwe.ca