

Itwêwina

<https://itwewina.dev/>

A renewed, morphologically smart on-line Cree dictionary
Walk-through of key functionalities

Antti Arppe

Alberta Language Technology Lab

in collaboration with

First Nations University of Canada

and

Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission

Key functionalities – available now

- Two Cree dictionary sources
 - Maskwacîs Cree Dictionary
 - Cree : Words / nêhiyawêwin : itwêwina (Wolvengrey)
- Computational model ← complex structure of Cree words
 - recognizes almost all inflected Cree words forms
 - Generates exhaustive word form paradigms of all verbs and nouns
- Orthographical standards that are supported
 - Cree syllabics
 - Standard Roman Orthography (SRO): with circumflexes or macrons
- Incorporation of spoken examples of Maskwacîs Cree words
 - currently over a thousand words with multiple thousands of carefully pronounced audio recordings by Cree speakers in Maskwacîs, AB.
 - to be added as validation process progresses

Basic usage scenarios

- What is the Cree word for X (English)?
 - *see, speak, eat, X, ...*
- How do I say X (English) in Cree
 - *I see you – you see me*
 - *I say to you – you say to me – say to me!*
- What does Cree word X mean (in English)?
 - *kâ-ki-awasisiwiyân – nikî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin*
- How do I write X in Cree syllabics
 - *nikî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin*

What is the Cree word for X?

see, say, eat, X, ...

itwêwina: the online Cree dictionary X +

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itwêwina **SRO (êîôâ)**
Plains Cree Dictionary

Search in Cree or English 🔍

tânisi!

itwêwina is a Plains Cree Dictionary.

Type any Cree word to find its English translation. You can search for short Cree words (e.g., *atim*) or very long Cree words (e.g., *ê-kî-nitawi-kâh-kîmôci-kotiskâwêyâhk*). Or you can type an English word and find its possible Cree translations. You can write words in Cree using standard Roman orthography (SRO) (like *acimosis*) or using syllabics (e.g., ᐃᑦᑎᐃᑦ).

itwêwina was made by the University of Alberta ALTLab, in collaboration with the First Nations University and Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission (MESCC). The dictionary entries are courtesy of Dr. Arok Wolvengrey and MESCC.

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see — itwêwina: the online Cree x +

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itwêwina SRO (êîôâ)
Plains Cree Dictionary

see

wâpamêw (Verb) ⓘ

1. s/he sees s.o., s/he witnesses s.o. cw

wâpiw (Verb) ⓘ

1. s/he sees, s/he has vision cw

2. [generally in negative phrases:] s/he is blind cw

wâpahtam (Verb) ⓘ

1. He sees it. MD

2. s/he sees s.t., s/he witnesses s.t. cw

The English translations from both the Maskwacîs Dictionary (MD) and Cree Words (CW) are shown.

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itwêwina Plains Cree Dictionary SRO (êîôâ)

see

wâpamêw (Verb) **i**

1. s/he sees s.o.

wâpiw (Verb)

1. s/he sees, s/he has vision cw

2. [generally in negative phrases:] s/he is blind cw

wâpahtam (Verb) **i**

1. He sees it. MD

2. s/he sees s.t., s/he witnesses s.t. cw

The (i) button tells us the linguistic analysis for *wâpamêw*

→ Action word (Verb)

+ like: *wîcihêw, itêw* (Transitive animate: someone acts on someone)

+ ni-/ki- word (independent)

+ something is happening now (present tense)

s/he → him/her them

→ *s/he sees him/her/them* (lemma)

wâpamêw:
 Action word
 like: *wîcihêw, itêw*
 ni-/ki- word
 something is happening now
 s/he
 → him/her/them

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itwêwina Plains Cree Dictionary SRO (êîôâ)

see

wâpamêw (Verb) **i**

1. s/he sees s.o., s/he witnesses s.o. *cw*

wâpiw (Verb) **i**

1. s/he se
2. [genera

wâpahtam (Verb) **i**

1. He sees it. *MD*
2. s/he sees s.t., s/he witnesses s.t. *cw*

wâpiw:
Action word
like: mîcisow
ni-/ki- word
something is happening now
s/he

The (i) button tells us the linguistic analysis for *wâpiw*

→ like: mîcisow (Intransitive animate)

→ (someone acts without an explicit goal)

s/he is blind *cw*

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Plains Cree Dictionary

see

wâpamêw (Verb) **i**

1. s/he sees s.o., s/he witnesses s.o. cw

wâpiw (Verb) **i**

1. s/he sees, s/h
2. [generally in r

wâpahtam (Verb) **i**

1. He sees it. MD
2. s/he sees s.t., s/he witnesses s.t. cw

The (i) button tells us the linguistic analysis for *wâpahtam*

→ like: *nâtam*, *mîciw* (Transitive inanimate)
→ (someone acts on something)

wâpahtam:
Action word
like: *nâtam*, *mîciw*
ni-/ki- word
something is happening now
s/he

blind cw

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Search in Cree or English

wâpamêw (Verb)

1. s/he sees s.o., s/he witnesses s.o. *cw*

Something is happening now

<i>Actor → Goal</i>	ni-/ki- word
<i>I → you (one)</i>	kiwâpamitin
<i>I → him/her</i>	niwâpamâw
<i>you (one) → me</i>	kiwâpamin
<i>you (one) → him/her</i>	kiwâpamâw
<i>s/he → me</i>	niwâpamik
<i>s/he → you (one)</i>	kiwâpamik
<i>s/he → him/her/them (further)</i>	wâpamâw

A recording is also made available

Clicking on the wâpamêw (on the previous page) provides the basic paradigm, using plain English terminology.

How do I say X in Cree?

I see you

You see me

I speak to him

Speak to me!

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Plains Cree Dictionary

Search in Cree or English

wâpamêw (Verb) 🔊

1. s/he sees s.o., s/he witnesses s.o. cw

Clicking on the *wâpamêw* provides the basic paradigm, using plain English terminology.

Something is happening now

<i>Actor</i> → <i>Goal</i>	ni-/ki- word
<i>I</i> → <i>you (one)</i>	kiwâpamitin
<i>I</i> → <i>him/her</i>	niwâpamâw
<i>you (one)</i> → <i>me</i>	kiwâpamin
<i>you (one)</i> → <i>him/her</i>	kiwâpamâw
<i>s/he</i> → <i>me</i>	niwâpamik
<i>s/he</i> → <i>you (one)</i>	kiwâpamik
<i>s/he</i> → <i>him/her/them (further)</i>	niwâpamâw

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Something is happening now

<i>Actor → Goal</i>	ni-/ki- word	
<i>I → you (one)</i>	kiwâpamitin	I see you.
<i>I → him/her</i>	niwâpamâw	
<i>you (one) → me</i>	kiwâpamin	You see me.
<i>you (one) → him/her</i>	kiwâpamâw	
<i>s/he → me</i>	niwâpamik	
<i>s/he → you (one)</i>	kiwâpamik	
<i>s/he → him/her/them (further)</i>	wâpamêw	
<i>s/he/they (further) → him/her</i>	wâpamik / wâpamikow	

<i>Actor → Goal</i>	ê-/kâ- word	
<i>I → you (one)</i>	ê-wâpamitân	I see you.
<i>I → him/her</i>	ê-wâpamak	
<i>you (one) → me</i>	ê-wâpamiyan	You see me.
<i>you (one) → him/her</i>	ê-wâpamat	
<i>s/he → me</i>	ê-wâpamit	

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itwêwina SRO (êîôâ)
Plains Cree Dictionary

say

itêw (Verb) ⓘ

1. That's what he says to him. MD
2. s/he says thus to s.o., s/he says thus about s.o.; s/he calls s.o. thus cw

itam (Verb) ⓘ

1. He speaks of it as so. MD
2. s/he says thus to or about s.t.; s/he calls s.t. thus cw

itwêw (Verb) ⓘ

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itwêwina SRO (êîôâ)
Plains Cree Dictionary

say

itêw (Verb) ⓘ

1. The ... MD
2. s/he ... says thus about s.o.; s/he calls s.o.
thus c

itêw:
Action word
like: wîchêw, itêw
ni-/ki- word
something is happening now
s/he
→ him/her/them

itam (Verb) ⓘ

1. He speaks of it as so. MD
2. s/he says thus to or about s.t.; s/he calls s.t. thus CW

itwêw (Verb) ⓘ

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Plains Cree Dictionary

Search in Cree or English

itêw (Verb)

1. That's what he says to him. MD
2. s/he says thus to s.o., s/he says thus about s.o.; s/he calls s.o. thus cw

Something is happening now

<i>Actor</i> → <i>Goal</i>	ni-/ki- word
<i>I</i> → <i>you (one)</i>	kitititin
<i>I</i> → <i>him/her</i>	nititâw
<i>you (one)</i> → <i>me</i>	kitisin
<i>you (one)</i> → <i>him/her</i>	kititâw
<i>s/he</i> → <i>me</i>	nitititâw

I say to him/her.

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<i>s/he/they (further) → him/her</i>	itik / itikow
<i>Actor → Goal</i>	ê-/kâ- word
<i>I → you (one)</i>	ê-ititân
<i>I → him/her</i>	ê-itak
<i>you (one) → me</i>	ê-isiyan
<i>you (one) → him/her</i>	ê-itat
<i>s/he → me</i>	ê-isit
<i>s/he → you (one)</i>	ê-itisk
<i>s/he → him/her/them (further)</i>	ê-itât
<i>s/he/they (further) → him/her</i>	ê-itikot

Command/Request

<i>Actor → Goal</i>	Right now
<i>you (one) → me</i>	isin
<i>you (one) → him/her</i>	isi

I say to him/her.

(You), say to me!

What does Cree word X mean (in English)?

[<https://creeliteracy.org/2014/01/20/dog-biscuits-y-dialect-with-audio/>]

Browser tabs: itwêwina: the online Cree dictionary | Dog Biscuits (y-dialect) | Cree | X

Address bar: <https://creeliteracy.org>

Cree Literacy Network

miywâsin, kîspin ta-kakwê-nisitohtamêk êkwa mîna ta-wîchisoyêk anima, ôma nêhiyawêwin kîspin kinôhtê-k

There is value indeed in trying to understand the Cree language, trying to study it in earnest if you want to learn it.

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← [Solomon Ratt: The Old Man and the Wihtikow \(th-dialect\)](#) [Neil Young's Pocahontas – via Art Napoleon, in Cree](#) →

Dog Biscuits (y-dialect)

Posted on [January 20, 2014](#) by [Arden Ogg](#)

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Search Input:

Search Results:

ispîhk (Particle) ⓘ

1. when cw

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Browser tabs: [kā-kî-awâsisîwiyân — itwêwina](#) | [Dog Biscuits \(y-dialect\) | Cree](#)

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Plains Cree Dictionary

Search input: **kâ-kî-awâsisîwiyân** 🔍

kâ-kî-awâsisîwiyân (Verb) ⓘ
Form of [awâsisîwiy](#)

Preverb: [kâ-](#) ⓘ

[awâsisîwiy](#)
1. s/he is a child cw

ka-kî-awâsisîwiyân (Verb) ⓘ
Form of [awâsisîwiy](#)

Preverb: [ka-](#) ⓘ

Browser tabs: **kâ-kî-awasisiwiyan — itwêwina** | Dog Biscuits (y-dialect) | Cree

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Page title: **itwêwina** Plains Cree Dictionary SRO (êîôâ)

Search bar: **kâ-kî-awasisiwiyan**

kâ-kî-awâsisîwiyan (Verb) ⓘ
Form of [awâsisîwiw](#)
Preverb: **kâ-** ⓘ

[grammatical preverb; defines a changed conjunct clause; often a relative clause, i.e. who, which] cw

1. s/he is a child cw

ka-kî-awâsisîwiyan (Verb) ⓘ
Form of [awâsisîwiw](#)
Preverb: **ka-** ⓘ

Hovering over the analysis
Preverb: *kâ-* gives us a pop-up
window proving its meaning:
*grammatical preverb, ... often a
relative clause, i.e. who, which*

Browser tabs: **kâ-kî-awâsisîwiyân — itwêwina** | Dog Biscuits (y-dialect) | Cree | X

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Search bar: **kâ-kî-awâsisîwiyân**

Result 1: **kâ-kî-awâsisîwiyân (Verb)** ⓘ

grammatical preverb; defines a changed conjunct clause; often a relative clause, i.e. who, which + awâsisîwiw:

Action word
like: mîcisow
ê-/kâ- word
something happened earlier
I

1. s/he is a child cw

Result 2: **ka-kî-awâsisîwiyân (Verb)** ⓘ

Form of awâsisîwiw

Preverb: **ka-** ⓘ

The (i) button tells us the full linguistic analysis for *kâ-kî-awâsisîwiyân*

- Action word (Verb)
- + like: mîcisow (Intransitive animate)
- + ê-/kâ- word (Conjunct)
- + something happened earlier (Past tense)
- + I (1st person singular)
- *When I was a child*

nikî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin - x Dog Biscuits (y-dialect) | Cree | x +

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Plains Cree Dictionary

nikî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin

nikî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin (Verb) ⓘ

Form of [kiskinwahamâkosiw](#)

Preverb: [nitawi-](#) ⓘ

[kiskinwahamâkosiw](#)

1. He is being taught. He's learning. He is going to school. MD
2. s/he learns; s/he is a student, s/he attends school; s/he is taught cw

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nikî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin - X Dog Biscuits (y-dialect) | Cree | X +

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nikî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin

nikî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin (Verb) ⓘ

Form of [kiskinwahamâkosiw](#)

Preverb: **nitawi-** ⓘ

kiskin go and, go to; engaged in **siw**

1. He is being taught. He's learning. He is going to school. MD
2. s/he learns; s/he is a student, s/he attends school; s/he is taught CW

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Hovering over the analysis Preverb: nitawi- gives us a pop-up window proving its meaning: 'go and; go to; engaged in'.

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Dog Biscuits – Salamô âcimow

[1] ispîhk kâ-kî-awâsisîwiyâr nikî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosir ohpimê nitiskonikanihk ohci.
 kistapinânihk mâna kâ-kî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosiyân, êkota Residential School ê-kî-
 ohtahikawiyâr. mistahi mâna ni kî-kitimâkihikawinân, mâka namôya êwako niwî-âtotên, niwî-
 imâwak nîci-kitimâkisak, nîci-okiskinwahamâkanak.

ΔⁿΔˣ b̄ p̄ <Δ̄īr̄Δ̄ī> σ̄p̄ σ̄CΔ PⁿPq:Δ̄Ld̄r̄ Δ̄ΛΓ σ̄Nⁿdσbσˣ Δ̄ΛΓ PⁿCΛàσˣ Lq
 b̄ p̄ σ̄CΔ PⁿPq:Δ̄Ld̄r̄, Δ̄C Residential School ∇ P̄ Δ̄D̄CΔbΔ̄ī> ΓⁿCΔ Lq
 σ̄p̄ P̄N̄L̄P̄ΔbΔ̄ī>, Lb q̄j̄ ∇<d̄ σ̄Δ̄ <D̄U>, σ̄Δ̄ <Γ̄L̄<ⁿ σ̄r̄ P̄N̄L̄P̄h̄,
 σ̄r̄ Δ̄PⁿPq:Δ̄Lbqˣ

Pretty good match for the 3 Cree words

When I was a child I went to school away from my reserve. It was at Prince Albert where I went to school, there was a Residential School there where I went. There was a lot of ill treatment, but I'm not going to talk about that, I'm going to tell a story about my fellow pitiful ones, my fellow students.

[2] pah-piskiic mâna nikî-kitêyimikawinân, pêyakwan kâ-itahtopiponêyâhk ê-isi-
 kitêyimikawiyâhk. êkwa mâna âtiht kâ-misikiticic nâpêsisak kî-kah-kitimahêwak anihi nâpêsisâ
 nawac kâ-apisîsisiyit. êkwa mîna kî-nâh-nôtinitowak nâpêsisak mahti awîna nawac kâ-maskawisêt.

Why should anyone care of Cree word structure?

Word-form Recognition + Analysis

ispîhk kê-kî-awâsisîwiyân nikî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin ohpimê nitiskonikanihk ohci.
kistapinânihk mâna kê-kî-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosiyân, êkota Residential School ê-kî-
itohtahikawiyân. mistahi mâna nikî-kitimâkihikawinân, mâka namôya êwako niwî-âtotên,
niwî-âcimâwak nîci-kitimâkisak, nîci-okiskinwahamâkanak.

Δ^oΔ^x b̄ p̄ ◀◀◀◀Δ◌◌◌ σ̄ σ̄ CΔ
P^oP^o◌◌◌◌Δ◌◌◌ Δ◌◌◌ σ̄ P^odσ̄bσ^x Δ◌◌◌ P^oCΛ◌◌σ^x L^o b̄ p̄
σ̄ CΔ P^oP^o◌◌◌◌Δ◌◌◌, ΔdC Residential School ∇ p̄ Δ◌◌◌C◌◌ΔbΔ◌◌◌x Γ^oC◌◌Δ L^o
σ̄ P̄ P̄◌◌P̄◌◌ΔbΔ◌◌, L^o b̄ ◌◌◌◌ ∇◌◌◌ σ̄ Δ◌◌◌ Δ◌◌◌, σ̄ Δ◌◌◌ Δ◌◌◌ ◌◌
P̄◌◌P̄◌◌, ◌◌ Δ◌◌P^oP^o◌◌◌◌Δ◌◌◌x

Red – uninflecting particles (10/19 words) ← these are the **only ones** that would be recognized, using word list **without a computational model**

Blue – more complex forms outside the full core paradigm (2/19 words) ← **not** usually in any **word list**.

Dog Biscuits (Plains Cree / Y-dialect), by Solomon Ratt

Cree Literacy Network: <https://creeliteracy.org/2014/01/20/dog-biscuits-y-dialect-with-audio/>

How do I write X in Cree
syllabics?

niki-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin - x Dog Biscuits (y-dialect) | Cree | x +

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itwêwina SRO (êîôâ)
Plains Cree Dictionary

niki-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin

niki-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin (Verb)

Form of [kiskinwahamâkosiw](#)

Preverb: [nitawi-](#) ⓘ

[kiskinwahamâkosiw](#)

1. He is being taught. He's learning. He is going to school. ^{MD}

2. s/he learns; s/he is a student, s/he attends school; s/he is taught ^{cw}

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Show Cree words in
SRO (êîôâ)
SRO (ēīōā)
Syllabics

Clicking the top right corner allows us to choose Cree syllabics, instead of SRO, with either circumflexes or macrons.

niki-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin - x Dog Biscuits (y-dialect) | Cree | x +

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Most Visited Read with itwêwina Edmonton, AB - 7 D... Read with Kidwinan Read with Gunáhà

[Δ U Δ a](#) **Syllabics**

Plains Cree Dictionary

niki-nitawi-kiskinwahamâkosin

σP̣ σCΔ· P̣^P̣a·"ΔLdP̣^P̣ (Verb) ⓘ

Form of P̣^P̣a·"ΔLdP̣^P̣

Preverb: σCΔ· ⓘ

P̣^P̣a·"ΔLdP̣^P̣

1. He is being taught. He's learning. He is going to school. MD
2. s/he learns; s/he is a student, s/he attends school; s/he is taught cw

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Now, all Cree content is shown in Cree syllabics.

Key functionalities – next developments

- In progress
 - Addition of full inflectional paradigms
 - More spoken Cree word examples
 - Giving more inflectional information
- Gathering of feedback from users
 - Cree language learners
 - Cree language instructors
 - Any other users
 - Further development of *itwêwina* based on feedback

More information + how to provide feedback

- Instructions and how-to videos
 - <https://altlab.artsrn.ualberta.ca/itwewina/>
 - Basic usage
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yUHOXrueHk>
 - Advanced usage
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbqR24bEqKA>
 - Syllabics
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROZ2em5V7kl>
- Feedback form
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsBPVPoadoRQEV9ZRKAHbHgolFtmvjWnfpZZYCvX-n2EFwZg/viewform>
 - Email: altlab+itwewina@ualberta.ca

kâ-nêhiyawî-pîkiskwêcîk maskwacîsihk – Maskwacîs Cree Speakers



Mary Jane Littlechild



Louise Wildcat



Jerry Roasting



Harley Simon



Annette Lee



Arlene Makinaw



Rosie Rowan



Rose Makinaw



Kisikaw



Betty Simon



Brian Lightning



Linda Oldpan



Debora Young



Ivy Raine



Paula Mackinaw



Norma Linda Saddleback

<http://altlab.ualberta.ca/maskwacis/Speakers/speakers.html>

Questions / suggestions ?

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