New on-line Cree dictionary
itwêwina

altlab.ualberta.ca/itwewina
Key functionalities – available now

• Draft version available via:
  – altlab.ualberta.ca/itwewina

• Computational model – comprehensive treatment of complex structure of Cree words
  – analyze almost all (Maskwacîs) Cree word forms and present lexical entry and structure of the word
  – Generate exhaustive word form paradigms of all verbs and nouns

• Orthographical standards that are supported
  – Full support for Cree syllabics in word form analysis and generation
  – Full support for SRO (circumflex/macron) in word form analysis and generation

• Fuzzy matching in search
  – Model for matching search words with orthographic variation (vowel length, occurrence of –h-, influence of English in spelling) with lexical entries

• Partial matching with search words in addition to linguistic analysis
Key functionalities – under work currently

• Incorporation of multiple dictionary sources
  – Maskwacîs Cree Dictionary
  – Cree : Words / nêhiyawêwin : itwêwina (Wolvengrey)
  – Proper indication of dictionary sources for matches
  – Amalgamation of dictionary entries from multiple sources when English translations are practically equivalent

• Incorporation of spoken word examples (gradual expansion)
  – To be added as validation process progresses
Dictionaries

Plains Cree → English

Written Variant

 aio âéï
 aio âéâ

English → Plains Cree

Plains Cree (aio âéï) → English

Search for a word, or an inflected form. Click the word for a list of inflected forms.

You can also search for the word in a text corpus, or for all inflected forms of the word by clicking the 'texts' link next to it in the search results.
All lexical entries matching the beginning of the input string are shown.

Interface language is English for now.

English-to-Cree direction selected.
Search with *see* results in a large number of matches with lexical entries, demonstrating the richness of Cree vocabulary.
Search with *see* results in a large number of matches with lexical entries, expressing e.g. variation of the Cree verb form dependent on whether there is (1) no object, (2) an inanimate object, or (3) a transitive object, and other more specialized forms.
Clicking on the wâpamêw (on the previous page) provides various versions of paradigms – what is seen here is the smallest selection, designated as the **basic** paradigm.
Clicking on the 2s → 1s row title gives a pop-up window expanding this code. This can be replaced by less linguistic terminology.
One can also choose the full paradigm, which provides all forms for all the basic tenses.
The full paradigm shows all the imperative forms of this verb.

All the word forms in the paradigms are dynamically generated using the computational model.
We can also change the interface language to Cree, i.e. nêhiyawêwin.
With nêhiyawêwin as the interface language, we can look up the form *ka-kîsi-kanawâpahtamahk* which can be found in Solomon Ratt’s Dog Biscuits story, by pressing the nitona button.
This then takes to the lexical entry *kanawâpahtam*, indicating that it is a transitive verb taking an animate object (VTI).

In addition, the morphological analyses of the lexical entry, and its root form *kanawâpaht-*, are provided.
Clicking on the preverb kîsi-, we can get a pop-up window with its English translation.
Clicking on the kanawâpahtam (on the previous page) provides again various versions of paradigms – what is seen here is the smallest selection, designated as the basic paradigm.
The results of the searches can also be selected to be presented in syllabics.
The results of the searches can also be selected to be presented in syllabics.
The same applies to the presentation of the word paradigms.
The searches themselves can also be selected to be presented in syllabics.
And the results are then presented in syllabics.
Click-in-text functionality

Alpha-version at this stage

IMPORTANT: Does not work in the Safari browser
Clicking on the ‘Click-in-text’ tab takes one to this page, which allows for the installation of a bookmarklet version of the dictionary.
Dog Biscuits – Salamô áçimow


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.

The bookmarklet allows us to access the itwêwina from any webpage containing Plains Cree text, such as the Dog Biscuits story by Solomon Ratt, made available via the Cree Literacy Network.
Clicking the bookmarklet starts the Click-in-text dictionary functionality. We are selecting Cree-to-English, with the lexical entries in SRO.
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Alt-clicking a word provides us the English translation of the lemma.
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We can choose syllabics for presenting the lexical entries.
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Clicking the bookmarklet, we can also select English-to-Cree, with the lexical entries in SRO.
Alt-clicking an English word provides us all the Cree words associated with the English translation.
Maskwacîs/MESC community feedback and suggestions welcome and needed for further development
Application should meet community needs