

DALLAS HUNT

*kinanâskomitin*

thank you  
to the families  
that feed us,  
soft-footed near  
traplines and  
ambling for  
tree lines

thank you  
for the hides  
and dry sinew  
that cracks between  
teeth and gently  
punctures the  
skin

thank you  
to all of the  
wolf willows and pin  
cherries that are  
just trying  
to make it  
to autumn in tact,  
as we all  
so often  
are

and kinanâskomitinâwâw  
to all  
the uncles  
that try  
and the  
aunties  
that do

though, let's  
be clear that  
trying is  
not the  
same as  
doing

note: "kinanâskomitin" means "thank you" (singular) and "kinanâskomitinâwâw"  
means "thank you" (plural) in Cree