

# **Living On The Land**

**By James Pasteen, Annette Pokue, Melody Gregoire,  
Sammy Benuen, Terence Rich, Julia Piwas**

**Set: 1 dimensional tent, stove, real branches, tent, kettle,  
chairs/stumps for sitting on. Additional scenes: Garbage can,  
stop sign, bench for Montreal; Lockers for School; bushes and  
rocks for berry picking scene**

*Opens in dark with tent scene set up. James comes out first and starts to make fire and put on the kettle and the frying pan. Annette joins him and they start cooking while voices play in background. Julia comes out and eats, Melody joins, and Terence last.*

**Annette:** Good morning! Do you want some of this breakfast?

**Terence:** Sure, what did you make?

**Annette:** Eggs, bacon and bannock!

**James:** And I made tea!

**Terence:** Sounds delicious - let's go fishing after we eat.

**Julia:** Okay! I already ate - I'll chop some firewood and one of you guys can bring it inside.

**Melody:** We have to get fresh water when we go fishing too (said in innu, holding up bucket)

**James:** Good idea - we're getting low on water. We should go hunting for partridges too.

**Annette:** It's been so long since we've been out here together. Feels good to be back at Border Beacon.

**Terence:** This is my first time out here - I love getting up early in the morning, have my tea and bread and then go fishing. It's hard when people want to go to the country but can't go.

**James:** You should come with my family when we go again in May or April! (*Terence nods thank you*)

**Julia:** Our ancestors have been coming here for generations.

**James:** And we still come - it's important we continue to teach kids about hunting and the culture on the land.

**Annette:** The land is so healing too - when I'm struggling, being on the land is how I find happiness (*picks up her sewing*)

**Melody:** (*to Annette*) What are you working on?

**Annette:** A pair of slippers! I'm making them for my Grandma. She taught me how to sew, so I am going to give her these.

(*Pause, everyone looking peaceful*)

**Terence:** I wish life was always like this - it's hard when people don't understand our culture.

**Melody:** And they don't even know us and our history, or come to our community. They just judge us.

**Julia:** And treat us badly. Or call us mean names. Every time I go to Goose Bay someone says something racist.

**Terence:** When I was living in St John's, it was so bad in the group home and the school (*tent vignette dims, light up on vignette stage left. Terence walking down the hall, back pack on shoulder, looking at*

*his phone. A group of students back on say to Terrence as he walks by)*

**Students:** Hey! Gas sniffer!

**Students:** Go back home! *Terrence just keeps walking, lights fade to black. Lights back to tent*

**Annette:** That's terrible - how did you deal with that?

**Terrence:** I'd just walk off, and pay nonot attention. And hoped they'd get bored of it.

**Annette:** Did they get bored of it?

**Terrence:** By the end of the school year it wasn't so bad.

**Annette:** One time when I was in Montreal something like that happened to me.....

*(Tent vignette dims. Lights up on Montreal Scene. Annette, Melody, Julia, James are walking down the street chatting in Innu. Terrence walks in opposite direction and yells at the friends)*

**Passerby:** Hey! Go back to your country, so sick of this! (*Walks off stage*)

*Annette and friends freeze, look at each other.*

**Annette:** What did he just say?

**Melody:** I think he thinks we're from Asia.

**Julia:** So racist, he doesn't even know what Indigenous people look like.

*(They all laugh and walk off stage)*

**Melody:** And even when we're back in Natuashish, it feels like we aren't treated the same as other towns. Like the store.

**Julia:** Yeah! We have one little store, and there's hardly any food in there. And it's so expensive!

**James:** I'm so used to never drinking tap water that I don't even drink it in other towns!

**Terence:** And at the clinic, sometimes it feels like they won't see us even if it's an emergency.

**Annette:** Goose Bay emerge is even worse - I feel so disrespected there.

**Julia:** This conversation is stressing me out.

**James:** Let's go berry picking.

**Everyone:** Yeah great idea. Let's go. (*James passes out ziplocks*)

**Terence:** I'm going to go hunting for partridge.

**Melody:** I'll come with you

*(Melody and Terence exit stage right, everyone else moves to stage left and starts to berry pick)*

**Julia:** There's so many berries here!

**Annette:** And they're big! These will make really good jam.

**James:** I'm putting some in my pancakes tomorrow morning.

*(Everyone continues to pick berries, David Hart song plays in background)*

**James:** I've got enough berries.

**Julia:** Me too *(Annette nods)*

**James:** Let's go back to the tent

*(They walk back to tent, Terence and Melody enter stage right with partridges, Terrance holds them up)*

**Annette:** Two partridges!

**Melody:** And 3 fish!

**Julia:** Wow - let's cook up and eat!

*(everyone begins to prepare fire and food)*

**Terence:** I feel so much better after hunting and fishing.

**James:** Yeah me too - berry picking clears my mind.

**Annette:** It relaxes me - imagine how different our life would be if our community wasn't exposed to white society.

**Melody:** Yeah like chemicals, and processed food. Things that just weren't a part of our lives.

**Terence:** And just forcing us to live somewhere we didn't want to live - life in a tent is more work, but more peaceful.

**Julia:** And it wasn't that long ago that we lived the way that was best for us - like less than 100 years ago.

**Annette:** Let's pray before we eat.

*(Prayer in Innu. Everyone starts eating. After a minute, Annette comes forward and looks out to the audience)*

**Annette:** Our culture isn't lost, it just needs to be awakened. There are boundaries around us, but together we can break them!



**Cast**

James – James Pasteen

Annette – Annette Pokue

Julia – Julia Piwas

Melody – Melody Gregoire

Terence – Terence Rich

Students - Annette, Julia,

Melody

Passerby - Terence Rich

**Crew**

Stage Manager: Sammy

Benuen

Director: Joanna Barker,

Music/Drama Teacher

**Prop List**

Boil up kettle\*

Firewood

Axe

Chopping block/stump

Boughs

1 Dimensional tent with stove  
pipe\*

Two cast iron frying pans

Backpack\*

Small buckets/ziplocks for berry  
picking\*

Lockers

Park bench

Outdoor garbage can

Berry bush cut outs\*

Stuffed partridges\*

Fake fish\*

\*Prepared to bring with us