## French Glossary

Visit www.nikkirajala.com/resources to hear how the French words are pronounced.

Adieu Farewell. (when people will not meet again, as at death)

Allez Go!

Allons Let's go! (person giving command is leading)
Au revoir Goodbye (literally "Until I see you again.")
Avant Primary steersman in the bow of the canoe
Beaucoup Very much, as in "Thank you very much."

Bon-à-rien Good for nothing

Bourgeois Owner of the fur trade company, a high-ranking company officer or

gentleman trader from the upper class, the boss

Capote Woolen coat, made from a heavy blanket

Crèche Cradle or stable scene of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Décharge Process of guiding a canoe over a rapids too dangerous for a loaded canoe (which

may be fully or partially loaded or unloaded, due to danger or water depth)

Engagé Voyageur, person engaged to paddle and portage in the fur trade Gouvernail Steersman, second in command a canoe, steers from the stern or back

Je suis voyageur. I am a voyageur. (spoken with great pride)

L'Enfant Jesus The infant Jesus

Livre Money. On the voyageur contract wages were listed wages in livres, but men

might be paid in Spanish pieces of eight or English shillings and pennies.

M' aidez! Help me!

Marchons! Let's go! March! (implies hard work or struggle)

Merci Thank you.

Merci beaucoup Thank you very much.

Mon dieu! My God!

Milieu, milieux Middleman, middlemen; paddlers in the middle of the canoe

Non No

*Nous sommes voyageurs.* We are voyageurs (spoken with great pride).

Oui Yes

Pas! Not! (very dismissive)

Rendezvous Annual meeting of bourgeois of the fur trade, including voyageurs from Montreal

and winterers from inland fur posts

Rubbaboo Stew made from dried corn and pemmican, a staple in voyageurs' diets

Sault Rapids, cascade

Sou, sous Money, a very small coin, a penny

Tourtière Spiced pork meat pie eaten in French Canada Tuque Tight-fitting knitted cap worn by voyageurs

*Un, deux, trois* One, two three

la Vielle The old woman, a poetic description of the changeable Lake Superior

Voila! Aha! Oh look!

Voyageur Canoe-man transporting trade goods along fur trade routes, an engagé