Tsel qwelqwáleqwemet te Halq'eméylem lite 1996

I started speaking Halq'eméylem in 1996…

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…kw'élse lam te íwesáwtxws thel tal lite stó:lō shxwelí.

when I went to my mom's classroom at Sto:lo Shxweli.

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I'i te shxwtelíms kw's íwestes kw'ewátes.

It was in a fun way that she taught everyone.

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Li xwúlh xwe sthethíy qesu tóltelmel kw'es halq'eméylem …

If you want to do it proper and learn Halq'éylem…

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… qex̱ te xwe skwi'kw'áy skwoyxthetlómet.

… sacrifices are many.

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Olu sx̱áx̱es the Tselóythelwet ew íweséleq.

Tseloythelwet was a very determined teacher.

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Áylexwstexwes te sqwéltel lis yóyes….

She made the language come to life at her work…

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…lis sta qas lis leq'áleqel.

… at her home, and while he travelled.

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Tl’ólse thélmet kw’els tólexw lhe’á thútl’ò.

I admired her and I learned through her.

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X̱éyelthet tolt kw'e halq’eméylem kw'e xwem.

I signed up for learning halq’emeylem quickly

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Kw’élse iyóthet tolt, isále xwelált kw’els xwe hélem.

When I started learning, it was two evenings that I went

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Tset statá líte máthakwi.

My mom and I both lived in Matsqui.

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Tl'o tset tu yáysele íte kyo.

It was just us two in the car

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Olu ey te ste'á.

It was very good like that.

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Tset qwólqwetel íte halq'eméylem...

We were speaking with each other in haqemeylem…

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...xwe hélem te syóys qas ye t'ót'ekw'.

…when going to work and on our way returning home.

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Tset ew tí'ti'lt ye x̱ax̱a ste'ltí'lem xwelá kw'e sqéylemáls.

We just were singing sacred songs Hyms for funerals.

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Sq'os ye ste'ltí'lems ye emómel

Along with songs for litte ones.

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Líte xolhmílh qas ye qays skwúlkwel.

At daycare and preschool (just before school)

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Tsel xwe halq'eméylem sq'eq'ótel.

I became a part of the halq'emeylem family.

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Tsel tl'xwéleq',

I won/gained/had the advantage

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kw'else tólexw te sqwéltel telí thel tal.

That I learned the language from my mom

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Tel shxwelí lexwóyewel kw'else telómet.

My spirit was excited to learn.

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Tsel híylexw mekw' skwúlkwel.

I finished all schooling

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Tsel xwel íweséleq te halq’eméylem.

I am still a Halq’eméylem teacher

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Tsel sxwóxwelxes kw'els tólexw te s’íwesthóxes thútl’o.

I am very uplifted (honoured) that I learned what she has taught me.

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Ey tel sqwálewel kw’else télexw te halq’eméylem.

I am very thankful I learned Halq’eméylem.

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