

Kevin McNeilly

Hungry

Where some kinds of people come from, you need to learn
another way to talk, the claims and protocols
of subsistence. You need to know what works or else.

You need to learn the politics of not eating
enough, the politics of nothing but fish broth
and bitter tea, the politics of refusing

to eat the words people put in your mouth. Where some
people come from, you need to refuse to settle
for second-hand adhesions and treaties, to know

how not to take or get taken. You need to know
how your gut will start to consume its own linings,
the science of starving yourself. Where some people

come from, you need to learn how to make a treaty
eat itself, how not to get fed more ministered
lines about claims and settlements. You need to learn

not to be told what else you need to learn, what works
or else. Where some kinds of people come from, you need
to know who shares your raw, unbroken politics.

re Victoria Island, 11 December 2012, and Winisk, 28 July 1930