

this band the committee seem to ask us frankly what we think of the present administration of us and our affairs. With great respect to the Crown and government in Ottawa we state our case:

Walpole Island was set aside as a reserve according to treaty 6 dated September 7, 1796.

The treaty surrendering Lambton County was completed on July 10, 1827 by Treaty No. 29 made with the bands of Sarnia Reserve, Kettle Point and Walpole Island reserve. This surrender did not include Walpole Island and it was not then nor has it since been surrendered to His Majesty Our King nor to our government of Canada. This band has never received any payment or token from the Crown for the surrender to the Crown of its original ownership or control of these lands as provided in the treaties.

We do not consider this as in any way that our government has broken faith with us. . . but we consider it important as affecting our own relationship on this reserve, and our dealings with other people, and the welfare of the members of our own band.

In 1882 our people consented to the lease of St. Anne's Island. . . The Indian dept. called it a surrender of all our rights on this island. . . A lease was drawn up and we were given \$750 a year. . . the lessees had a ten year lease and they still have that lease. . . Our chief and council have never been consulted about any terms of renewal. Each renewal has been more harmful to us and more beneficial to these people who call themselves the St. Anne's shooting club. Every condition of this original lease has been broken. Each additional lease has taken from us more of our rights. The department has engaged to deal with this part of our reserve as if we had no ownership. . . and with or without their consent the lessee or someone under them has used the territory covered by the lease for the purpose of commercial fishing and has received many thousands of dollars for fish sold illegally and contrary to the provisions of our original lease. The members of our band were entitled under the terms of the original lease to fish, hunt and trap on the territory included in the lease. This right has been denied to them and in later renewals the Department has forgotten those terms and helped the lessee rather than us.

Mr. Edward Pinnance a member of our band was charged by this club with trespassing and shooting on the St. Anne's lease held territory and only after great expense was he able to prove that he was not shooting on lease held land. . . whereas by terms of original lease every band member had that right.

We ask that all leases held for this reserve be cancelled and all future leases be for four years only and that no renewals be given by the department without the consent in general council of the band. We ask that compensation be given to this band for the improvident renewals of leases given without our consent. We ask for a survey of our entire reserve and request that Orville Rolfsen, Dominion Land Surveyor and Ontario Land Surveyor be directed to do this because Mr. Rolfsen in connection with the aforementioned case of Edward Pinnance spent some time on the reserve and obtained the statements of many of our old and chief men which statements would greatly assist in determining the bounds of our reserve. We ask a complete revision of the Indian Act. We also ask that when our band agree to giving a lease their rights be safeguarded. We ask that granting a lease for ten years or any term of years be not construed as meaning that the Indian department can continue renewing this lease for fifty years at the same rental. . . and upon each renewal, changing the original terms. We ask a more democratic allowance in handling our own affairs and the things done by chief and council be not subject to revision, rejection or recommendation of the Indian agent. We ask why having made treaties as men with our rulers now dead and with past governments. . . we are now regarded as wards. . . Did these treaties make us wards, and irresponsible persons and if so why in time of war are