

As these bands belong to different Agencies, it would be necessary for one of them to be transferred to the other Agency, and this matter was given very careful thought both from the administrative point of view as well as the effect it would have on the Indians. After considerable study, it was felt if the amalgamation was approved, the combined bands would be best administered from the Kwawkwalth Agency, for the following reasons:-

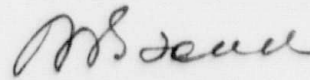
1. If the combined bands were placed under the administration of the Kwawkwalth Agency, it would merely be extending the boundaries of that Agency to Comox, a distance of approximately 28 miles from Campbell River, which could easily be covered by stage, car or boat at minimum cost. The reserve next to Comox in the Cowichan Agency is Cowichan Reserve, a distance of 35 miles from Comox. The transfer of the Comox Band to the Kwawkwalth Agency would reduce the extent of the Cowichan Agency by that distance, with the subsequent reduction in cost of administration.

On the other hand, if the amalgamation were approved and the combined bands were placed in the Cowichan Agency, it would be rather costly and inconvenient for Mr. Moore to reach the reserve of the Salmon River Band. It would mean a 30 mile car trip both ways as well as a 45 mile boat trip through Seymour Narrows, which would take him near the centre of my Agency. It would mean that the Cowichan Agency would have one reserve to administer within the boundaries of the Kwawkwalth Agency.

2. As the Cowichan Agency is already a large one with an approximate population of 2200, it would reduce the work there slightly if the Comox Band were transferred to this Agency, which has a population of 1303.

Taking everything into consideration after giving the matter very careful thought, I am of the opinion the amalgamation of these two bands would work to the mutual interest of both and reduce the cost of administration to the Department. As every effort is being made by the Government to economise and make Indians self-supporting, I particularly favour this amalgamation, and recommend that it be approved on the terms outlined in the resolution.

Your obedient servant,



(M. S. Todd)  
Indian Agent

Major D.M. MacKay,  
Indian Commissioner for B.C.,  
Department of Mines and Resources,  
Vancouver, B.C.

RG 10, C-111-2, Vol. 11296  
File/dossier 156/3-1-3

INDIAN AFFAIRS  
AFFAIRES INDIENNES

National Archives of Canada  
Archives nationales du Canada

001857