

INSPECTOR OF INDIAN AGENCIES



CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

October 13, 1938.

Memorandum:

Mr. MacInnes.

While on a recent visit to the Sarnia Agency, an Indian of the Band, Billie Bunce, came to the office and complained that he had been stopped from digging the foundations for a house on the Sarnia Reserve by an official of the Provincial Highways Department who told him that the regulations called for buildings to be not less than 150 feet from the boundary line of the King's Highway. This official gave the Indian the attached form to be completed and warned him not to proceed with the building until he received the necessary authority. I took the responsibility, however, of telling the Indian to go ahead with the building and in the meantime the question would be referred to this Department.

For future guidance, I would like to be advised what jurisdiction, if any, the Provincial authorities exercise over land on an Indian Reserve outside of their purchased sixty-six feet roadway.

We are likely to run into similar occasions as a number of Provincial highways run through Indian reserves in Ontario.

W. W. Goodwin

Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Ontario Inspectorate.

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