

APPENDIX HZ
CONFEDERACY OF THE INTERIOR TRIBES
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Special Joint Committee of the Senate and
the House of Commons on the Indian Act,
House of Commons, Ottawa.

Honourable Members of the Committee:

One million dollars is needed in B.C. for housing on native reserves, for example. On May 9th I took pictures of homes at Deadman's Creek, 35 miles west of Kamloops City. In this picture hereto attached, as it can be seen, are approximately 18 homes made out of logs, average size 20' x 18', with mud on roof, average 1½" to 2' thick, must be replaced immediately. The Kamloops Residential School has made wonderful progress in trying to build new homes at Deadman's Creek Reserve. With their own saw mill they have built and completed three 4-room houses, at the total cost of one thousand seven hundred dollars each, for the natives of Deadman's Creek Reserve, also two 4-room houses in other villages. Pictures of the old houses taken the same day with mud on roofs instead of shingles also attached. This is hard to believe in modern times. I should like to indicate that during the year 1948 such conditions should not exist in B.C. with all its resources and timber.

At the Kamloops Reserve, just two miles from the prosperous city of Kamloops, there are approximately 40 houses that should be replaced within the immediate future, at a cost of \$68,000, to alleviate deplorable and unhealthy unsanitary conditions. This could only be done by having this saw mill operated at the Kamloops Residential School with all their equipment such as trucks to haul lumber, which saves transportation costs when you have to haul thousands of feet of lumber. This particular saw mill which is now established is only operating in a small way and should be duplicated in other schools in other parts of B.C. Also a Government policy in the way of long-range assistance to Indians to operate commercial saw mills where feasible, and saw mills and fish canneries to Indians on coastal waters; also fruit canneries in interior areas. A special grant for this purpose should be immediately set up to give various natives self-sufficiency. A special grant of one million dollars as a start towards a continual housing programme, which should be spread out over a period of years.

Dated at the City of Vancouver in the province of British Columbia,
this 12th day of May, A.D., 1948.

Confederacy of Interior Tribes of British Columbia.

(Sgd.) FRANK ASSU,
President.