

136-15-6352

Oct. 6, 1944.

P.B. Ashbridge, Esq., Indian Agent, Port Alberni, B.C.

Acknowledging your letter of the 2nd instant with reference to the disposal of funds derived from the sale of timber taken from Cypress Bay Indian Reserve No. 19, I would advise that it is noted that the Manhauset Band is almost extinct, there being but two members remaining who you state have been absorbed into the Ahousaht Band. This is a matter on which you should furnish a rather complete report. As you are probably aware, the Province has a reversionary right on Indian Reserves and on the extinction of a Band they automatically revert to the Province. It should also be borne in mind that the members of one Band cannot be absorbed into another Band without a formal resolution of the admitting Band and approval by the Department. It is not clear whether this procedure was followed.

It appears to me that an effort should be made to maintain the Manhauset Band as an entity, and if the remaining members are males of voting age have them vote in sufficient new members to the Band to ensure that it will not become extinct unless circumstances indicate very strongly against this course. Such transfers would, of course, have to be made with the approval of the Department.

I would request that you furnish me with full details in the matter, giving the names and ages of the remaining members and whether or not they were removed from the Band by official transfer as outlined above.

:KT

D.M. MacKay,
Indian Commissioner for B.C.

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