

Indians of Canada have . . . an abiding confidence in the Government of the Queen, or the Great Mother, as they style her. This must not, at all hazards, be shaken.

(Morris, "The Treaties of Canada," p. 285.)

His parting statement upon conclusion of the Treaties was as follows:—

Let us have a wise and paternal Government faithfully carrying out the provisions of our Treaties, and doing its utmost to help and elevate the Indian population who have been cast upon our care, and we will have peace, progress and concord among them in the North West; and instead of the Indian melting away, as one of them in older Canada tersely puts it, "as snow before the sun," we will see our Indian population loyal subjects of the Crown, happy, prosperous and self-sustaining, and Canada will be enabled to feel, that in a truly patriotic spirit, our country has done its duty by the red man of the Northwest and thereby to herself.

(Morris, "The Treaties of Canada," pp. 296-297.)

It was then clearly the objective of the Indian Treaties to promote progress among the Indians and make them self-sustaining, loyal citizens of the Crown and, to these ends, to faithfully administer the treaties.

4. *Right to expect redress of grievances assured.*

Lieutenant-Governor Morris, in the course of negotiating the North-West Angle Treaty, said:—

The ear of the Queen's Government will always be open to hear the complaints of her Indian people, and she will deal with her servants that do not do their duty in a proper manner.

(Morris, "The Treaties of Canada," p. 72.)

The right to be heard by the highest authorities and the right to expect the redress of grievances by those authorities were conditions upon which the Indian Treaties were signed. These are rights which this Organization asserts on behalf of the Indians of Canada to-day and which, it is submitted, the Government of Canada is duty-bound to honour.

5. *Treaty rights are inviolate; changes without consultation should not be made.*

The rights given by Treaties stand inviolate and above all other relationships between the Crown and the Indian people. Although their precedence over any other enactment was understood between the parties when the Treaties were signed, legislation passed by the Parliament of Canada without the concurrence of the Indians has, in practice, taken precedence. The Indian Act was passed without consulting the representatives of the Indian people of Canada and, in some cases, Treaty rights have been abrogated. The Indian people object to any enactment by legislation having the effect of decreasing their Treaty rights and have explicitly set out in Part II of this submission the changes necessary in the Indian Act if all the Treaty rights are to be reinstated and the spirit of Treaty negotiations maintained. Furthermore, the Indian people believe that any change in legislation affecting their status, directly or indirectly, should be made only after proper representation of their interests.

B—STATUS OF INDIAN CHIEFS AND COUNCILLORS

6. *Affirmation of Indian loyalty to the Crown.*

The Indians submitting this brief wish to re-affirm their loyalty to the British Crown and to re-assert their duty to obey and abide by the law between them-