

Amherstburg 6th November 1823

Sir,

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Letter of the 16thth accompanying the Sketch of the Chippewas of Deer Hamlet and Wabigoon; and in answer thereto by Law to state, that with respect to the Promises said by these Indians to have been made to them by the late Mr Ashin of a larger sum than they now receive, I can directly contradict them - having been present at all the Councils held by him on the subject of the purchase of their Lands; It is within my own knowledge that at no time was it promised by him to give them more than \$400 per annum: It is true they wanted to expect the Payment would be made in Cash; They however afterwards informed them that the Government had decided otherwise and that they should receive Lands at Montreal Prices; to this arrangement they certainly assented during Mr Ashin's life - After his death it became my duty to enter into both the Provisional and Final Agreements with them, and these Deeds being fully explained to them were readily and cheerfully executed. Their complaint of the amount of Lands given is equally unfounded. They have received at two separate times the full amount of three Years annuities, as by reference to the Purchase in the Commissioner's Report, to which is annexed the Certificates of the Officers Commanding at this Post, and their own receipts (already transmitted to You) must fully appear.

Their assertion of my dupes having plighted them is to the best of my knowledge totally untrue; these people,

The Honorable Colonel Claus
Deputy Superintendent General
Indian Affairs
Niagara