

Department of Indian Affairs



Canada

Lands and Timber Branch

Ottawa, May 1, 1933.

Memo.

Deputy Superintendent General, -

In the year 1908 the Indians of the White Bear Reserve surrendered certain lands for the purpose of leasing the same to the Town of Carlyle for summer resort purposes. The lease which subsequently issued was for a term of ninety-nine years, and the consideration the payment to the White Bear Band of the sum of \$400. This transaction has for a number of years been the cause of very serious complaint on the part of the White Bear Indians, it being contended that when this surrender was given, the Indians understood that they would receive an annual rental payment of \$400.00, and not merely the one payment of \$400.00 for the ninety-nine year period.

The Department has given this matter serious consideration during the past two or three years, and without doubt a very grave injustice was done these Indians in the issue of lease originally on the terms and conditions stated. The Department re-opened the matter with the authorities of the Town of Carlyle, and it was expected that the case might go to the Courts for decision, but fortunately the Municipal officials have been disposed to recognize the rights of the Indians in this matter, and through the Agents of the Department of Justice in Regina, Messrs. Gordon & Gordon, some months ago, suggested re-adjustment of the situation on the following basis.

1. The existing lease to be surrendered and the Town to be released from any liability arising thereunder or by reason of any breach thereof.

2. A new lease to be granted for a period of twenty-five years from the 1st of January, 1933; the new lease to cover the territory now occupied by the Town and not to be limited to the territory described in the lease. We might say with reference to this, that it is now quite apparent from the blue print which you recently sent us that the Town has wrongfully entered into approximately 50 acres and has developed this along with the rest of the resort.