

THE ALLIED INDIAN TRIBES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A SUMMARY

Prepared by General Counsel of allied Tribes

1st September, 1925

Throughout more than half a century there has been between the Indian Tribes of British Columbia and the Province of British Columbia a controversy known as the land question.

The Indian Tribes have always claimed territorial land rights preserved to them by the British North America Act and being an interest in all lands of the Province under Section 109 of that Act.

The Province of British Columbia has always claimed that Article 13 of the "Terms of Union" providing for the setting aside of reserved lands governs everything and that all the obligation of the Province is that of arriving at agreement with the Dominion of Canada under that Article.

From the time at which British Columbia entered Confederation until the year 1912 the claim of the Indian Tribes was always supported by the Dominion of Canada.

In the month of August 1910 Sir Wilfrid Laurier, having been advised by the Department of Justice that the Indian land controversy should be judicially decided, met the Indian Tribes of Northern British Columbia at Prince Rupert and speaking on behalf of Canada said - "I think the only way to settle this question that you have agitated for years is by a decision of the Judicial Committee, and I will take steps to help you".

In the year 1912 the Dominion of Canada and the Province of British Columbia entered into an agreement known as the McKenna-McBride Agreement providing for the adjusting of reserved lands by means of a Joint Royal Commission and providing that the carrying out of its stipulations should be a "final adjustment of all matters relating to Indian affairs in the Province of British Columbia".

INDIAN AFFAIRS
AFFAIRES INDIENNES

RG 10, C-II-2, vol. 11047
File/dossier 33/General
pt 6

National Archives of Canada
Archives nationales du Canada

001825