

APPENDIX GT

Lower Post, B.C.
via Watson Lake, Yukon Terr.
July 17, 1947.

The Special Joint Committee of the Senate
and the House of Commons, Investigating Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sirs:

We have taken some time to reply to the letter sent out by Mr. Norman Lickers, in June, 1946, and we appreciate this opportunity to express our views on Indian administration, and we hope this letter may not be too late.

Replying to the suggestions in the order they were listed:

(1) As we do not come under Treaty we cannot express views on this, but our Agent tells us that we may benefit from assistance under the B.C. Special grant.

(2) Band membership does not affect us greatly because we live a nomadic type of life, and reserves mean little to us beyond a place to camp when we come to town for supplies. We only have band funds of about \$200.00.

(3) We do not think our people should be obliged to pay taxes because we seldom earn enough to keep our families properly. This is owing mostly to the very high prices we pay for things. Compared with more settled places we pay three times as much for most commodities. Flour costs us between \$10.00 and \$12.00 per 98 pound sack. If we were taxed on our income it would be unjust because an income of \$3,000.00 up here only buys us \$1,000.00 worth of supplies at regular prices, say in Ottawa.

(4) We do not fully understand enfranchisement, but if it means that we should lose the protection and support of the government in times of need, we would not want it. Some of the people would like to be able to buy liquor in an honest way. Those people get it anyway, maybe from a white man who sells them lemon extract or shaving lotion, and for that reason we think things would be much better if those of us who want a drink should be able to buy a bottle of beer openly, and not have to poison our stomachs with extracts. If these people who wish to drink misbehave themselves treat them as you would a white man who gets rowdy on the street: Fine him \$50.00 or 30 days in jail. We think he would soon learn to stay home and keep out of trouble.

(5) First give us schools for our children so they may learn what government means, and what voting means, then let them vote when they get old enough. Right now we do not understand voting.

(6) We would not mind leasing a piece of land to some white person for rent, but no white person should be allowed to take our Reserve land because it was granted to us long ago as a place to camp, and we will always need that camping place. But our reserve at Lower Post is so large that we could easily lease some ground if it is needed by whites.

(7) Right now we really have no schools for our children. A few have gone 700 miles away to Alberta to go to Grouard Residential School, but this is too far. When the children get sick we cannot see them or be with them. One