

*Answer to the Questions on the Indian Act**I. Treaty Rights and Obligations*

A. It is in our desire that the rights guaranteed to us by the Act of Treaty and all the obligations assumed by the Federal Government be at all times respected and fulfilled, specially regarding our Hunting and trapping Privileges.

B. It is our desire, too, that the measures to be taken in the future by the Provincial Governments and Laws respect those rights too. It should be clearly and explicitly stated in the New Indian Act and in those Provincial Laws, that those Provincial Laws are not to be applied to Treaty Indians in any case or for any reason.

C. Since Treaty, 1899, we must state that a great number of our Hunting, Trapping and Hunting Privileges were taken away from us, or restricted in a very great deal, so that finally we don't see how we may be able to make a decent living for us and our families. The New Indian Act should reestablish our former privileges and rights guaranteed to us solemnly in 1899.

C. For us, Treaty Indians of Fort Chipewyan, residents of Wood Buffalo Park, we must state specially we have now in 1947, no more means of decent living. Some fur is strictly closed, and there is very little other fur. The moose hunt is restricted to one buck for a season, by family, the Bear hunt is closed all Summer, the duck hunt is closed till September. Although we depended for a great deal on those for our food supply.

So, we have, now, no chance to have, all Summer, even an ounce of fresh meat, which is pretty hard for us, like for any white people.

For the moose, we depended on it for hide necessary for moccasins, the only shoes we wear in this country, and for mitts and gloves in cold winter. We must state that one moose only for one family is unquestionably insufficient. We depended on it for our meat supply in Winter.

So, we Treaty Indians, of Fort Chipewyan, we ask the Government to allow us to kill ducks, moose and bear like before, like it was promised to us by the First Treaty.

D. We know that Government promises the Indians to help them when they will be hungry, on account of the very numerous restrictions on our trapping and hunting rights. But we must state that the help promised will be very insufficient, according to what happened in the past. That help is not fit for us, because the rations don't practically include any meat, or only a very small quantity.

We, like our ancestors, we live always in the Bush, and we need very badly meat in our Food supply. If we are deprived of any ounce of fresh meat all Summer, our general health will be worse and worse, although it is already very poor. We hope you will understand our hard situation, on account of the Regulations restricting all our Hunting privileges.

The white people have something to depend on for their living, but we are not like them. The little amount of fur we may catch in a year is not, even, in many cases, sufficient to clear the credit we have in the stores. So, how could we be able to get a sufficient supply of food, out of the wild life supply, namely by killing moose, bear and ducks without any restriction at all like you promised us by the First Treaty.

II. Band Membership

We believe that all the Indian Bands should have the right of accepting in their membership, upon a favourable vote, any child or person with Indian blood.

III. Liability of Indians to Pay Taxes

Indians have been till now exempted from real taxes, for any property owned by them on Indian Reserves, but we believe that this exemption should include all others taxes, even Royalties to be paid on Fur. We stress to be always exempted from Licenses Fees for trapping or fishing.