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Ottawa, 11th November, 1905.

Sir,-

Referring to your letter of the 30th ultimo, I have to say that the Department is not disposed to permit the closing of a road across an Indian reserve which has long been in use. By reference to the plan, it would appear that when Boucher wishes to go to a point west of the Escoumains reserve he would necessarily have to cross it, and consequently would require to use this portion of the old road. If, however, he wishes to go to the Northwest, it would appear that it would be better for him to go North along the Indian-boundary to the new municipal road. This, however, would necessitate the construction, by himself, or the opening of a new road for some distance. Kindly look into this matter when you next visit Escoumains, and endeavour to settle it in a fair manner both for the settler and the Indians. In the meantime Boucher should be allowed to use the old road.

It is also to be remembered that when the new road to the wharf was granted across the reserve, it was intended that the old road should be closed.

Your obedient servant,

A. Gagnon, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Bersimis, Que.

J. B. McLEAN
Secretary.