

## APPENDIX GY

LILLOOET, B.C.,

May 1, 1947.

A Brief Containing Recommendations to be Incorporated in the Proposed Revision of the Indian Act, from the Native Indians of British Columbia.

To the Honourable Members,  
Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Honourable Chairman and Members:

We who are Native Indians of British Columbia, registered under the Indian Act, beg to submit to you these recommendations on behalf of ourselves and of our dependent women and children.

We take this opportunity to present to you who have been appointed to examine the Indian Act, some of our conclusions regarding the several sections of the Indian Act as they have been applied to us, with our resolutions which we have made after long and careful discussion.

May we express the hope that the Indians of British Columbia, and all of Canada as well, will be eminently satisfied with the results of your deliberations, and that Parliament will confirm your recommendations with suitable legislation.

We B.C. Indians do not expect, nor would we welcome, legislation that would favour us above other races and groups who make up the population of Canada. But, it should be evident to the elected representatives of the Canadian people, that there is a growing understanding and a popular feeling that the Native Indians, considered individually and as a group, have not yet, but should have, as quickly as the necessary legislation can be enacted, equal opportunities and equal rights, in addition to the obligation of duties imposed upon us without our consent by existing Canadian Statutes.

*General Remarks.*

1. That it should be the purpose of Parliament to remove, by legislative enactment, any disabilities which the present Indian Act imposes or allows, to the Executive Branch, because of our Indian racial origin.

2. That the principle of self-government for the Indian Bands in civil affairs be accepted by Parliament and incorporated specifically where necessary in the new Indian Act.

3. That legally constituted Chiefs and Councillors be elected by the Indians and appointed by the Department of Indian Affairs, without delay, for every Indian Band. The elections and appointments should be officially posted in a prominent place on the reserves so that all the Indians may be informed of them.