

C O P Y

File #311-8

Regina, September 15, 1943.

Dear Sir:

I suppose you have seen by the newspapers that Edward Stonechild, one of our Indians from the Muscowpetung Reserve in the Qu'Appelle Agency, was in a drunken brawl in a shack on Albert Street North which resulted in the death of a young Indian girl from Kamsack by the name of Evelyn Severight. This happened over a month ago and Stonechild has since been convicted.

Upon his arrest Stonechild was found to have in his possession a Saskatchewan Liquor Permit, Serial Number 95424, issued from the liquor store on Scarth Street here in Regina. This whole matter was investigated by the R.C.M. Police and I understand you have a Police Report on it. What I wish to point out is that there are times when Indians obtain liquor permits by claiming to be half-breeds and in many cases it would be difficult for the issuer to determine whether the applicant was really a half-breed or an Indian, but in this case there was absolutely no excuse for the man in the liquor store to issue a permit to Edward Stonechild. This Indian has a very dark complexion with jet black hair and nobody could ever take him for a half-breed.

When the Treaties were made with the Indians the Canadian Government promised them that liquor would be kept away from them and I believe our Branch are doing their best to carry this out. However, knowing that you would not tolerate matters of this kind I appeal to you to take steps to see that the men who sell the liquor permits are instructed not to sell permits to Indians even if they are in uniform.

Yours very truly,

N.B. Williams, Esq.,
Chairman,
Saskatchewan Liquor Board,
Dewdney and Cornwall Street,
REGINA, Saskatchewan.

(signed) M. Christianson,
General Superintendent of Indian
Agencies.