

Port Simpson, B. C.  
December 27, 1948.

Mr. F. Earl Anf'eld,  
Indian Superintendent,  
P. O. Box 187,  
PRINCE RUPERT, B. C.

Dear Mr. Anf'eld:

As a former educationalist you are familiar with the principle that at least part of an educational curriculum should be devoted to subjects and projects dealing with the locality concerned. On the West Coast it is not often that such subjects deal with anything but fishing, logging, and associated enterprises. In Port Simpson, for example, there is little of anything beyond fishing and a small bit of boatbuilding. While these activities are taken advantage of as much as possible in school work, there is another and outstanding activity which is not being taken advantage of; which is becoming latent and is rapidly dying out. I refer to the art projects fostered and developed by Charles Dudoward.

This man, as you may know, has from early youth travelled among related Coastal tribes and has recovered some of the almost forgotten designs, crafts and bits of history or fable, and has attempted to make them live again. In this connection he has placed on exhibition certain unique specimens of Indian Art and has attracted the interest of a number of prominent people such as Mrs. Mildred Valley Thornton, Art Critic of the Vancouver Sun.

It seems as though Canada can not afford, in its search for an expression of true Canadian Art and in its desire to develop talents along this line, to neglect this man. He is being neglected in that with some assistance and direction or encouragement he could devote a large proportion of his time to the re-establishment of dying arts, not for the sake of Indian welfare only, but for the welfare of all Canada.

While it would not be unwise to put this man on the staff of a large Industrial Arts department, we need not wait until someone makes this possible. We can put him to work among his own people. I propose that Mr. Dudoward be hired as a part-time instructor of crafts for Port Simpson Indian Day School. I would have him teach, for one hour each day, classes in any craft in which he is skilled - primarily those of most use to the pupils. Crafts taught, therefore, would increase the skill and confidence of the pupil, would provide him with an avocation useful and possibly profitable, and would give him something to hand on to the next generation. There is indeed a fourth value; namely, the creating of an interest in school life and consequent

RG 10, C-11-2, vol. 11306

INDIAN AFFAIRS  
AFFAIRES INDIENNES

National Archives of Canada  
Archives nationales du Canada

000014