

APPENDIX IG

Kitamaat, B.C.

January 5, 1948.

To the Honourable Gentlemen of the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons.

Gentlemen,—Whereas the purpose of your Committee is to revise the Indian Act, and

Whereas we believe that one of your main interests is the improved administration of Indian reserves and villages,

Therefore we humbly petition your Committee to make the following recommendation to the Department concerned,

That the Kitamaat Band, its village and reserves be transferred from the Bella Coola Agency to the Prince Rupert Agency.

While this may be a small matter as compared with your other interests it is of considerable importance to the Kitamaat people as the following reasons show:

1. Prince Rupert is the centre of the geographical district of which Kitamaat is a part and a considerable amount of Kitamaat business is already taken care of by the Prince Rupert Agency.

2. Mail service is a lot better between Kitamaat and Prince Rupert than between Kitamaat and Bella Coola and we get our mail returned in one week from Prince Rupert as compared with three weeks from Bella Coola.

3. Kitamaat is already under the supervision of the Prince Rupert office of the Department of Health and Welfare.

4. Kitamaat is only forty miles from Hartly Bay which is in the Prince Rupert Agency and the agent from that agency could reach us by adding only about four hours to his travelling time. He can, then, visit us much oftener than can the Bella Coola Agent who is lucky if he can visit us twice in a whole year.

5. It would increase the efficiency of the Bella Coola Agency by eliminating the long, four day trip needed to reach us. This would give the Bella Coola Agent more time in which to take care of the troubles of the rest of his far too extensive agency.

Because the Prince Rupert Agency, like the Bella Coola Agency, is at present under staffed we would also ask your Committee to recommend to the Department that the Prince Rupert Agency be provided with a staff sufficient to handle its present duties as well as the added duties which our transference would impose upon it.

We believe that this is a matter which should have been taken care of long ago and we know that if it is done it will be very much to our advantage as to that of the Bella Coola Agency. If your Committee will do this much for us you may be sure of our very hearty "thank you".