

27027-1 1/2
May 30, 2.

Mr. Williams, -

Referring to the Minister's request as indicated in Mr. Buskard's memorandum of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to submit the following information concerning the matter dealt with in letter addressed to Hon. Mr. Murphy by the Minister of National Defence, Hon. Dr. Sutherland, of the 25th instant.

Stephen Elliott, a member of the Scugog Band, has for some years been endeavouring to establish a claim to the ownership of the Scugog Indian Reserve lands, on the ground that he is a direct heir of one of the original purchasers. This man has been informed time and again that the Department, following careful investigation, has come to the conclusion that his claim is not well founded, and could not be substantiated following investigation. Elliott seems to be misinformed, or in any case he misunderstands the circumstances of the original occupation of these lands. Briefly, the circumstances are as follows.

In the Spring of 1843, the Mississagua Indians residing at Balsam Lake, in the Newcastle District, through their Chief, Jacob Crane, petitioned His Excellency, Sir Charles Metcalfe, then Governor General, to be permitted to remove to a new location on Scugog Lake, in the Township of Cartwright. The reason given for their desire to remove from Balsam Lake was that the lands they then occupied were unsuitable for agriculture, and it was proposed that the new reserve should be purchased out of their annuity funds. His Excellency, Sir Charles Metcalfe, in due course authorized the removal of these Indians from Balsam Lake to Scugog Lake, and for the purpose of providing these Indians with a reserve, Lots 6 and 7 in the 11th concession, and Lots 7 and 8 in the 12th concession of the Township of Cartwright, were purchased for the price of £600, from James Henderson, of the Town of Kingston.