

30-14-3207

Feb. 27th, 1946.

Indian Affairs Branch; Dept. of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

Your File 13167-42

I have your letter of February 16th with further reference to Mr. C. M. Hockridge's letter to the Department dated December 28th last and your reply thereto. I should say the position is well taken insofar as it applies to the Department accepting responsibility for the costs involved, but not where such costs could properly be made a charge against Band funds by agreement between the lessees and the Indians.

In my letter of January 29th to which you refer and which you say forms the basis of your reply to Mr. Hockridge, I purposely pointed out that the existing system was installed by the Indians of the Squamish Band as a charge against Band funds, because of any claim to a continuation of the service the lessees might have. The views expressed in the first sentence of the last paragraph of that letter was in accordance with the instructions issued in your letter (page 3) of June 12, 1945, your file 13167-42, dealing with an appraisal of the Reserve's subdivided lands, which reads as follows:

"The appraiser should bear in mind that the Department does not commit itself to the installation of any improvements, roads, water, etc., which the tenants must themselves supply during the currency of the leases."

It was definitely my intention to advise the Department against assuming responsibility for the costs involved in maintaining the water system which in my opinion should be met by the Indians themselves from the revenue derived from the use of their land, which I should say the Indians would agree to do.

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