

the day following the Annual Meeting of the Society, viz : on Friday, May 15th ; and it is hoped there will be a goodly number of Indian delegates, from the various Reserves, present. So far as at present ascertained, the movement seems to be a popular one among the Indians, and the proposal has also been very favorably entertained by persons of influence among our white population, whose advice and assistance have been sought. It is hoped that arrangements may be made for the free entertainment of our Indian guests, during the period of their visit.

In order to provide subject matter for the coming Conference, and to draw out the ideas of the Indians on various points affecting their welfare, the following circular letter has, by order of the Canadian Indian Research and Aid Society Council, been addressed to the Chiefs and head men of the various Ontario Reserves :—

SHINGWAUK HOME, SAULT STE. MARIE, ONT.,  
March 10th, 1891.

DEAR SIR,—You are probably aware that there is in existence now a Society called the “CANADIAN INDIAN RESEARCH AND AID SOCIETY,” of which the Governor-General is Patron, and Sir William Dawson, President, and that one of the chief objects of the above Society is to promote the welfare of the Indians and to guard their interests.

I have to inform you that at a Council meeting of the above Society held in Ottawa on the 21st February last, it was decided among other things to hold an “Indian Conference” in Toronto, on Friday, the 15th May next, and to invite the best educated and most advanced of the Indians on the various Reserves to attend as delegates.

We wish you to understand that this movement is not in any way connected with the Government, but is an independent action on the part of those who are specially interested in the history and progress of your people ; and their desire is, in this way, to draw the Indians together from various parts of Ontario, so as to hear from their own lips what their views are in regard to their present position and their prospects for the future.

In inviting members of your tribe to attend the Conference, our Council wishes it to be understood that the proceedings will be conducted in the English language, and it is therefore desirable that those who attend should be able both to understand and to speak English. The object too will be not to listen to grievances, or to deal with any matter that may seem to encroach upon the affairs of the Indian Department ; but rather to draw out from the most intelligent and advanced of your people their views as to how Education, Civilization, and Christian teaching may be best promoted in your midst. Our Society is undenominational, so that all, of whatever church, will be welcomed to the gathering.

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