

27074-3

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER.

*for St. Maurice*  
*Approved*  
*AW*  
*AW*

The undersigned has carefully read all the correspondence referring to Reserves proposed to be set apart for the Indians inhabiting the St. Maurice Territory, and for the Abenakis of St. Francis and Becancour, commencing originally as far back as 1853, between Colonel Bruce, then Superintendent General of Indian Affairs and the Commissioner of Crown Lands, the Hon. John Rolph. In January of that year a Schedule shewing the distribution of the lands set apart (for the benefit of Indian Tribes in Lower Canada---230,000 acres--- was submitted to the Superintendent General: in it mention is made of 16,000 acres---or 25 square miles-- for the Tetes de Boule, Algonquin, and Abenakis "dwelling on the banks of the St. Maurice and St. Francis".

The Reserve in question was stated to be in the Township of La Tuque, and the Schedule itself is printed in the report of the Commissioner appointed to enquire into and report on the best means of securing the progress and civilization of the Indians in Lower Canada, &c., at page 260, and is dated at Quebec, on the 8th of June 1854---the acreage being erroneously given as 14,000 acres.

Almost continuous efforts have been made by the Department of Indian Affairs since 1878 to have the Reserves in the St. Maurice District defined, and steps were taken and expense was incurred in the direc-

*AW*