

368017  
SKEENA AGENCY

INDIAN AGENT'S OFFICE

No. 17-2, A.

BELLA COOLA, B. C. Sept. 29,



*1 check*  
*J.S.*  
*\$800 paid*  
*File 102604*  
*payments via 113905*  
373106

Sir,

Referring to your letter of July 27 NO. 368817, I have the honor to state that I had a meeting with the Indians of Bella Coola Sept. 21st. to get their consent to the erection of said boathouse. There were not many Indians at home at the time; thus the attendance was not large. They positively refused to lease any more land; it was not a question of high or low rent.

*rental*

As the Department is aware, 20 acres of land on the Bella Coola Reserve has, since 1894, been leased by a white man, the yearly being \$ 50.00. It appears that the Indians, at the time, were under the impression that this money was to be paid to them direct, and that they now believe that if it is placed to their credit at all, it is done in such a way that they can not get the benefit of it. They claim that they have asked for it for public improvements, such as sidewalks, fences etc., but in vain. This will, at least in part, explain their present frame of mind.

As the reserve takes in practically all the waterfront on the north side of the river, their attitude may be of great consequence to this growing community.

Would the Department allow part the trust fund to go towards public improvements? A sidewalk would be a convenience to all, and particularly to children attending the new school.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*J. D. McLean*  
Indian Agent.

*auth at CR*  
*all int*  
*mm*

J.D. McLean Esq.,

Assistant Deputy Superintendent General,

Ottawa.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 4052, file 368,817)

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