

REPORT

To His Excellency the Governor General in Council,

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the Commissioners, appointed in accordance with the terms of an Order in Council dated the 18th day of February A.D. 1958, to inquire into and report on:

- (a) the desirability of establishing a new band of Indians in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of Section 17 of the Indian Act composed of those Indians residing on Seabird Island in the Province of British Columbia; and
- (b) the reserve lands and funds which should, in accordance with subsection (2) of Section 17 of the Indian Act, be held for the use and benefit of such a new band if it is established.

Beget to submit to Your Excellency the following report:

IT IS RECOMMENDED:

1. There be established a new band of Indians in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of Section 17 of the Indian Act composed of those Indians presently residing on Seabird Island in the Province of British Columbia.

2. (a) That all the reserve lands known as Seabird Island be held for the use and benefit of the newly established band.

3. (b) That the funds, both capital and revenue, known as Seabird Island Account, be divided, as of the date of the establishment of the new band, on a membership per capita basis, between the following bands, that is to say: Hope, Chamil, Peters, Popkum, Skawahlook, Union Bar, Yale and the newly established band.

(c) That any member of the Hope, Chamil, Peters, Popkum, Skawahlook, Union Bar and Yale Bands, may within two years from the date of the establishment of the new band transfer to and enjoy full membership in the newly established band.

The Commission held hearings at Seabird Island on the 27th day of March, 1958, and the 19th, 20th and 24th days of June and met in New Westminster on August 11th and 18th, 1958. Notice of the Commission hearings were sent by the Indian Department to all Bands concerned. The hearings were well attended

and the Commissioners encouraged all parties to give any testimony or submission they wished to submit. The Commission received the fullest co-operation from the Indian Department, and all relevant documents and files were made available to the Commission by the Department.

We enclose a transcript of the proceedings, together with the exhibits that were submitted and entered.

Commissioner Oscar Peters intimated that he would be submitting a minority report but it has not come to hand.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DATED this 25th day of August 1958.

"Geo. L. Cassady

George L. Cassady, Chairman

"Vincent Harris"

Chief Vincent Harris, Commissioner.

P.O. Box 116, Hope, B.C.,
August 26th, 1958.

His Excellency, Governor General of Canada,
The Federal Government of Canada,
House of Parliament,
Ottawa, Canada.

Honourable Ecclesiastic servants to Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen.

As one of The Commissioners by Order-in-Council P.C. 1958 - 281 A.D. To inquire into the possibility to constitute a New Band at Seabird Island Indian Reserve pursuant to Sec. 17, - Subsec. 1 Paragraph (a) of the Indian Act.

1. Indians on Seabird Island Indian Reserve be constituted a Band, fully approved by the Seven Bands who own that Reserve.
2. Said Seven Bands, Yale, Union Bar, Hope Skowahlook, Ohamel, Peters and Popkum, still retain their common interest on that Reserve, as it is Our Great Inheritance.
3. Seabird Island Capital Fund be maintained intact as the Reserve, but release the Revenue Fund to the newly constituted Band as, the case maybe, for the development of their welfare, habitation and farm implements.
4. Any of the members of said Seven Bands who desire to take up land on Seabird Island Reserve be admissible at all times, as was the purpose established by Our Ancestors.
5. The evidence of findings of the Inquiry session be ignored on the grounds of too many omissions and alterations whether deliberately or error, but on behalf of those concerned, I personally do not accept it, it therefore, be tabled until such time there be instituted by Parliament, a Royal Commission to investigate all problems confronting the Native Indian of B.C. as was requested by the Indian Delegation at the Conference with officials of the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, at Vancouver, B.C., April 15th to 18th, 1958 A.D.

The Seven Bands shall constantly stand on Their Petition of The Tenth Day of May, 1958, A.D. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Chief Oscar D. Peters.

"O.D. Peters"