

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: WILLIAM BEAVER
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: TROUT LAKE
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: TROUT LAKE
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION:
LANGUAGE:
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JANUARY 16, 1973
INTERVIEWER:
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: J. GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS &
RESEARCH
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA
TAPE NUMBER: IH-256
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 24
PAGES: 5
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- William Beaver, aged 41, councillor at Trout Lake.
- Complains that members of the Bigstone band who live away from Wabasca receive no help from the band.
- Stresses need for reserve in Trout Lake area with sports facilities.

Q: William Beaver is your name, how old are you?

William: I am 41 years of age.

Q: Today is 16 of January at Trout Lake, 11 o'clock p.m. This is what we came for, is to know how you understand about the old Indian people, if they were promised of anything.

William: I don't really know, because I was not from here, but if you talk to the other man, you would get more information for he was a councillor for a period of time. I'd really like to know, how things went on, but according to what I have heard from him, it is certain that the Indian people were promised of something. Like they should have reserves or just a piece of land where they can live and make a living from it.

Q: What is the old man's name?

William: Cree name, Collins.

Q: You are not stopped from hunting or fishing?

William: No, right now we are treated like anybody else, as we all stay together.

Q: When you go to another reserve, do they give you ammunition, netting thread and twine?

William: We get shells, but that's all we get. When we go to the reserve we get shells, but nothing else. They don't bring them to us, only when I go, if I remember about them. I couldn't bring all of them, 'cause they have different make of rifles.

Q: How about schooling, there is no trouble at all?

William: No, I think the children are taught good enough, right now. Only the adults are willing to go to school, but nothing has come up yet. We have one, where the adults can go to school, but as I said nothing went on yet, although it should be in process. But the man that was running it, had quit. So I don't know who is going to be in charge of it. But this one here is willing to teach school.

Q: How about the medicine and the hospital, you don't get any kind of trouble for the hospital?

William: Sometimes we get into some kind of a mix up, 'cause we don't all take treaty. That is the only thing that is putting us into that mix up. That's why we expected someone to look after this matter because the nuns or sisters are taking care of it. Although they run it good enough, some of them don't talk Cree, so most of the older people don't talk English. But right now the ones that are there talk Cree, so we do not get into any kind of trouble, because sometimes the radio here does not work, and we use the telephone also.

Q: Do you get any housing here, through Indian Affairs?

William: No. Since I've been a councillor, I inquired about this. Even they were to get tipis and they haven't received any yet. Since I can remember, people got the tipis. We never got any material, any lumber, to use and I have asked for these, but we haven't got any.

Q: You never got any of these, since you belong to Wabasca?

William: No, I have been investigating about it and I've asked the chief. And we are all from Wabasca, but to no avail. We did not get any of the money.

Q: You would be blessed if you got the money since it belonged to you.

William: Yes. It would sure come in handy for we need it too. Some are worse off, and they have no jobs and could not make a deal of any kind.

Q: You don't get no misfortunes of any kind from the Indian Affairs, when you suffer from lack of work?

William: It wasn't going too good for the treaty, but since I've been helping them, it did go pretty fair. Everything is getting in place, and the Indian agent comes once a month. Only he comes once a month. And our store is not very rich, 'cause the pensioners buy most of the groceries, and we get only orders for the store. So, they buy all the groceries.

Q: Since there is not enough fur, and when selling you don't get a price for it, and also food is so expensive, you should hit the Indian Affairs, to get lunches for the school children.

William: It would be very nice if this could be.

Q: Mostly for noon hour.

William: The children had received the lunches and I've talked to the Welfare Aide if they could keep on with it. I also have spoken to the Metis Welfare Aide. But they not get around to it 'cause we wanted these for our children. Finally the building burned down where the children had their lunches.

Q: The trap lines you still have, you still pay for the license?

William: Yes.

Q: Do you have them separately?

William: We do have them separately.

Q: The government that is building a road here, what do you think his intentions are?

William: I think I can see what they're about to do. The land is surveyed, but not put into quarters yet. Because the land and the scenery is so beautiful, for fishing and all kinds of sports. We are having a difficult time in getting some things through the government. We are, like, being fenced in, so we could not do anything for ourselves. 'Cause they got their eye on this wonderful land. That's the way I look at it myself. People should own their piece of land. And there are some graveyards, along to the point of the lake. They should own that piece of land.

Q: There is about 5 or 6 graves?

William: Yes, and this land was here before.

Q: Before the treaty was made?

William: Yes.

Q: Some of the people went for a visit to Wabasca and they got them into that reserve, although they would have preferred to

have stayed here.

William: Yes.

Q: About sports.

William: We could not come to any terms about money, although they had promised some money, about \$200.00 is all we would get but that wouldn't be enough to start with. We would like for someone to come and look up this place, 'cause in some parts it is pretty rough. It would have to be worked on, if we had to put some kind of a picnic or sport. Young people are interested in skating and playing hockey, but now the snow is piling up. In the summertime they play around, and there is not much drinking and they seem to enjoy themselves. But we haven't got that facility.

Q: You've got no money to start with?

William: No, we don't.

Q: They do not give you a red penny to help to get this sport going?

William: No.

Q: That old man that was mentioned, is it that you want some land to join into this reserve?

William: You mentioned the place, where they go for firewood, I think that's how far the reserve come to. And as far as where the other people live, over the hill that's as far as it goes. The reserve should join into, also some of the lakes surrounding the reserve. That is where the old people thought that they should have according to the treaty. They would have liked it if this meeting would go through.

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