

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: PIERRE LABACANE
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: LUBICON LAKE
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: LUBICON LAKE
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE: CREE
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
INTERVIEWER: RICHARD LIGHTNING
INTERPRETER: RICHARD LIGHTNING
TRANSCRIBER: J. GREENWOOD
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Member of Whitefish Lake band.
- Need for reserve at Lubicon Lake.

I will be talking with someone else, he is also living here at Labacane Lake.

Richard: What is your name?

Pierre: Pierre Labacane.

Richard: How old are you?

Pierre: 55 years old.

Richard: What reserve do you belong to, as far as you know?

Pierre: I am from Whitefish Lake (Utikoomik) too, like the man who spoke before me, it is the same place. I belong there too, but I don't remember anything, I was never asked. I was registered there before, when the treaty money was being issued, although I don't remember any treaty over there. All I remember is this place here.

Richard: Did you ever belong there at Whitefish Lake?

Pierre: I'm registered there, but I never go there. It's about 10 years ago that I went there. That was when my father was still alive, I went to visit there. I only stayed there

about four nights.

Richard: Is that where your father lived?

Pierre: He was here all the time, but when he was getting old he went there to stay with my sister.

Richard: As far as you know did the people who are living here today ever live at Whitefish Lakes?

Pierre: None of the people within this community ever lived at Whitefish Lake. We were always here.

Richard: This place known as Lubicon Lake, is there a reserve here?

Pierre: No, there isn't any, but we were promised one.

Richard: Did the people here ever negotiate with I.A.B. to acquire a reserve?

Pierre: No, they are just starting again, this is since the chief died. But the promises were made.

Richard: Who is it that made the promises, do you know his name?

Pierre: I don't know his name, but he was the Indian agent.

Richard: Is he the most recent one, is he the one who came here last spring?

Pierre: It was still winter, around March 20.

Richard: What did he tell the people when he came to speak to them?

Pierre: I am not certain, other people did the talking. But it seems that he made a promise that he would look into the matter of a reserve. We told him it was written on the map.

Richard: And you haven't heard anything pertaining to this matter?

Pierre: Not as yet, people from here went along to a meeting. I'm always waiting, but we never even have a meeting here. We wait for word by mail.

Richard: The people at Lubicon Lake, do they realize the need for more land, your population must also be increasing?

Pierre: Yes, there are more treaties than Metis here and also at Cadotte Lake.

Richard: Do the treaty Indians and Metis people together live here in the same community?

Pierre: Yes, because we don't really have a place to live as

we do not have a reserve.

Richard: When the elders received their treaty payment, where did that take place?

Pierre: As far as I know, nobody ever came here to make treaty payments; that is the Indian agent. They used to go on horseback, there was no road for a wagon. Just a horseback trail, that is how the elders travelled to receive their treaty money.

Richard: How many miles away is that place you are referring to?

Pierre: On a summer road, it would be about 40 miles.

Richard: Where is that place?

Pierre: Whitefish Lake (Utikoomik).

Richard: When the old people were still alive, they must have had stories, did you ever listen to them telling stories?

Pierre: Sometimes I did listen to them. But I couldn't relate any of them now.

Richard: Do you recall anything related to reserves or treaties from the stories told by the elders.

Pierre: No, there was never a place for us to live. The people lived everywhere but during the summer they lived here because this portion of land they had already requested. This is why we started building homes here. But now our homes are in a bad state for waiting so long.

Richard: Were you also promised materials for your homes?

Pierre: No, because, it is only recently that people have been receiving assistance for home improvements. We don't get any assistance here as far as housing is concerned. We do get food assistance but nothing in housing or improvements inside the home.

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