Brief summaries of interviews with three Cold Lake elders, touching on a variety of topics.

This is the right move. There are not many Indians that are acting as Indians. The white man and Indians were friends. Reason for this the British government know they have the Canadian land from the Indians. The time when the treaty was signed the Indians did not show the animals and fish. The government animals were going to be branded. This would belong to the government. The Indian animals have no brand. I and my brother when we first saw the white man in this continent. Him and his father were going astray from the campsite when they found footprints which indicates the footprints of shoes. Later they saw this white man. He was hungry, not eating for several days. He was on foot and he had a packsack containing money like today. This white man stayed overnight in a spruce timber. He kept on going northward. He was at what is now Le Goff. He stayed five days at our home. My brother took him out on a team of horses towards the east where he bought a homestead.

Alex: The former elderly people.

There was a special Indian by the name of Wikuskokesano. He was the first person that sold the land to the government.
He was paid a large sum of money. No one knows how much, but there was a big box containing the money. This box that contained money was given to the Catholic missionaries. When the land was sold the other Indians did not agree. This particular Indian made the deal privately.

This person left with the missionary down to the east coast. That is where he made the agreement. Indians found out later that it was he who sold the land. After he got home his brother-in-law was mad at him. That was when the money went to the Catholic missionaries. They got the money instead of the Indians.

Alex: This is about a person named (Chachaiswkais - means - look up).

This Indian also went down to the east (coast). When he came back he had forty head of horses formerly owned by the North West Mounted Police and also buggies. He also got paid for the land (Canadian Land). The first Indian who sold the land got paid with money, the Indian got paid with horses.

When he got back the people (Indians) disagreed with what he got for the land so he got scared of his people. He returned his horses and buggies to the government, where he got them. He did not get repaid.

Dominic Jacko - Alcohol.

I have been using alcohol up to date. I can't really stop. At one of the previous meetings with Indian Association of Alberta, I have seen and talked to Harold Cardinal. People don't agree and I don't agree to have meeting in the cities. We should have these meetings in our reserves.

I forgot one thing, when our ancestors sold the land to the British government, they sold only the land to the British government, they sold only the surface (approximately 24 inches).

Note: Dominic and Alex - what they know from their ancestor or old history of the old people, they did not sell the animals, minerals under ground or surface and also fish.

Alex - Wikuskokesano and wife didn't have any but Chackaiskais (chief) was the first chief to be given the Frog Lake Reserve. He had a large family. He was my great-grandfather. Some of his family are living at Frog Lake at present time and at Le Goff (Cold Lake Reserve).

Harry Janvier - interviewed
Beaver Crossing

Age: 72
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Phone 248-2246

Harry - Well dear friends, what I'm going to put on this tape, whoever hears this and wherever you are. How much I learned in my lifetime and you all know, since the beginning before the white people came to our country. The Indian people, our ancestors, have survived although they didn't have metal tools that they now have, and its plain to see that we are protected by the Great Spirit and he can still look after us. Let's not forget him.

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