Louis: Would you state your name and how old you are and where you come from?

Margrette: Margrette Quinney is my name, from Frog Lake Reserve where I was born. We have always been with my grandfather, Simon Gadwa and my father's name is Pierre Gadwa. My grandfather, Simon Gadwa, was among the elders that went to Saskatchewan to go and tell the stories of the past. He was with Fred Horse's father. My grandfather used to tell us quite a bit of the time of the treaties. And I've listened to these stories closely enough to remember what he used to say. What Fred Horse had just said is very true. As I'm not trying to duplicate as to what Fred Horse had told you. But I used to listen to my grandfather with great interest, of what he used to tell us. As to how the Queen negotiated with the treaty in this continent. When she sent her government to come and negotiate in this continent to the Indian people. He had selected a place where he could overlook the audience to which he was going to listen to him as he spoke. He didn't waste much effort to negotiate on behalf of the Queen. He spoke with honesty when he brought the message to the people. I will mention first of what my grandfather used to tell and also the other old people's stories. How the Indian people lived and fought the white people. Today what you see, the image of the
Indian on T.V. and shows, wasn't so in the old days. It wasn't always what the whites presented to us. The Indian fought for his survival and in many occasions have diminished the white people considerably.

For this reason they thought of coming out to negotiate peace treaty with Indians. The white people wanted so much to take possession of this country. It is true he came to buy only three things, like they said. The government man told the people, "I came to make a deal on only three things: (1) a land foot in depth (6 inches) by indication of 4 to 6 inches by the old people. By making use of this land, I cultivated the land to plant the seed for my vegetation and other means of planting, (2) and grass, grass is for my domestic animals, (3) spruce is for making homes. (Old people had told about these things in a more meaningful capacity (in other words more detailed form) about those three things.) In the future years to come, if ever gold is discovered in this land, you as an Indian will be a king. A place will be made for you to sit and that will be cushioned. You will be recognized. It can be seen your vast land has many riches. When you know gold has been discovered, you will be treated special." This is where we have been cheated a long time ago. As we don't see this done onto us. This has been forgotten often times, as my grandfather used to tell us this way. I can't say my grandfather was a liar. I will say this much for him, he was an honest person. He was a very religious person. I don't think he ever missed a day without saying rosary. I am telling this in truth as I've listened very closely whenever he'd talk about these things. We have been mistreated very badly. "You will have three of these things on your reservations. These will always be remembered - you will be given a school on your reserves. You will always have an Indian Agency on your reserves and another, a medicine chest will be given to you. All these things will be given to you to have on your reservations for the three things I asked you in return."

And about the questions you have been asking; lakes and all the nature animals, (I have heard the old people say) these are ours. The Queen never said she would take away everything from the Indian to punish her people. And pretty well everything has been said already by those that just have been speaking. What they've been saying is true. As long as the sun shines, as long as the river runs. These promises shall live. And another thing. "Canada" means in Cree a purely state. The old people used this term of how perfect this was one time. Now the white man has greatly destroyed our once proud land. Pollution, he has polluted lakes, rivers. He doesn't realize this 'cause he's too busy looking for ways how he could rob the Indians. He has forgotten the promises, he has forgotten the payments he has to make. And another thing, pollution. I'll talk about pollution, like what these elders have talked about. The pollution that we've taken in our bodies have damaged our bodies and destroyed our minds with. That's pollution again. Long time ago an Indian lived clean. I will say like what it's like outside, it's so calm and nice. That's how Indians lived
long ago. Today the white man has influenced us to live the opposite. Today we don't live the life that is good. We just barely living now, not like one time. We're just like playing now with our lives.

I am not satisfied with the promises that once were made, as I have lived on the reserve all my life. I am not satisfied at all. He had promised he would give the kind of animals the white man has. He had promised these to the Indians. He had put all these on paper. That's why I'm not satisfied. Of why he never gave these animals to the people. He had promised everything like nets, why did he stopped that too? That's why I'm dissatisfied for all the people. Like what these people are saying, why is it? Because the white man had confused us a lot. Our treaty rights or our promises, why is it we left those behind? We would rather grab something that's new to us. Just to try and governing ourselves. We have many riches by following our promises that was made to us. Why not try pursuit that instead of taking something else? We should unite together towards to the good of the people. To fight the government for our rights. If we could establish ourselves by fighting for our rights - perhaps our reservations would be a lot better off today. I'm not intense of talking about these things. They have been bothering me for quite some time now. I have asked the I.A.A. if there was any research done for our treaty rights - why is it these treaty rights have not been looked into? Which I think is very important of all. Whenever we start to think about obtaining grants and loans to start us off - we are wrong to do that. We should go to Ottawa for what is owing to us, instead of borrowing that money. Is it not we will never be finished paid for our land? We should all take this stand. The elders have mentioned all these promises that were made to us, of all the Queen's promises. Now today the white man turned against us for asking our rights. All over in Canada - they even put us in jails whenever we try to do something for ourselves. What about that Wounded Knee, they put two people for 85 years behind bars. It's the white man's fault. If they had done justice to the Indians this wouldn't have happened. This is what I think. Often times an Indian gets frustrated of all the Queen's broken promises. Especially when the white people try to hide these things from us. Perhaps a lot of it, he doesn't realize he's doing these. We should try and bring these things to light, us Indians.

That is all I'll say.

Louis: I thank you.

(End of Interview)