

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: FRANK NADEAU
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: SMALL BOY'S CAMP
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: SMALL BOY'S CAMP
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE: CREE
DATE OF INTERVIEW: APRIL 6, 1974
INTERVIEWER: LOUIS RAIN
INTERPRETER: LOUIS RAIN
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS
& RESEARCH
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA
TAPE NUMBER: IH-196
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 38
PAGES: 7
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Treaty #6, understanding.
- Traditional relationship of Indian with nature.
- Problems of modern Indian life including alcohol.

The person I'm going to talk to is Frank Nadeau who has been staying at Small Boy's Camp.

Louis: We're asking the question of Treaty #6. The first signing of the treaty. What was the terms and why? When the old people were negotiated with, what was ceded, if anything was ceded at all? What was retained? If there was anything that was retained for his own? And why did he (Indian) retain those things? Like for instance, where these people are now near the mountains, why was it the old people never allowed the white man to take those (mountains) when they came to negotiate with him? First of all state your name and your age and also where were you born?

Frank: First I'll say this: for being asked by this (interviewer) something that is good. Even though I can't very well talk about those things. But I've listened about things as such for a long while now. And also I was raised on the reserve. And the question of my age? August 15, 1916 was the date I was born; I'll be fifty nine years old in this coming summer. I've listened to everything of what has been said. I've heard a lot of elders in the past even up to this day. In my childhood days there were elders (old men). An old man

raised me, I've stayed with him. He was well known. His name was in Cree Mistik-wuskihk (Drum). He was well-liked by all the elders that he associated with, I have seen this personally. They had met quite frequently at nights. About this our religion. They'd take the pipe and put some tobacco and hand it to one elder. They would often give the pipe to one another to pray. They've talked about our father (Great Spirit). And from there on they would elaborate about a lot of other things in regards to our culture. I'd listened to them.

Even about this question of treaties. I've heard them talking about it also. Of how the people have been administrated and how the old people had taken this. And also how the people got transferred to another reserve. I've heard them talking about these. They'd discuss everything amongst themselves in general. I even heard them exclaim, things about the future. Talking about the future. I'd imagine at the stage where we're at right now. They've exclaimed our children are going to be poor. Our grandchildren are going to be poor, they used to say. I'd often thought of what they meant by that. I used to wonder of what they meant when they said people are to be poor. I used to think people can't be any poorer than they were at the time. As it was pretty hard in living by then. But I'd guess now they actually didn't mean the living conditions. It was meant life in physically. They had foreseen this type of prophecy.

As today we've seen this thus far. It is true, to take time and think, to sit down and think deeply. We are truly poor. Of all the old people I've mentioned they had died of sickness of some sort. Those latest deaths that have occurred by those younger age, not so old people. This I've seen that was hard to bear, they've hardly died of sickness but it was something else. That wasn't so good. This is what they meant. Some of those people's children I have seen they've died of something else rather than sickness, even their grandchildren. This thing that's now everywhere. I think it's been every day now it destroyed some human being throughout the Indian nation. This thing that's not good I am talking about this alcohol. I for one should say something about this alcohol to any person and a person should think it is true. Whoever listens to me. Whenever I talk about alcohol. I am pretty sure a person thinks I'm crazy, when I'm mentioned about alcohol. But I'm not going to brag about it even though I have quit the stuff. Up to now I have never bothered with it. But I'm beginning to see every day that I am better off without it. That I have made myself stop on alcohol. For the sake of my life and my mind and also for my children and my grandchildren's sake. I have lots to thank for that I have left it alone. It is hard now when one of our kids or our relatives goes out; often we don't see him back home alive. My friends that's how difficult it is now. What we often get back is the body of our kin. That's the time I think a lot. I am not telling lies about of what I am saying here. As I am poor and alone where I'm staying. I sometimes sit and think in mornings, early mornings I asked our father (Great Spirit) some things I think in tears wondering of how many poor people such as I think of the Great Spirit now.

Because I have seen this myself, that I didn't have God as my own. I'd think about that bottle first thing in the mornings, where I'd get my next bottle. But I was truly wrong, that was wrong. Think of God first thing in the morning this I have found most helpful. You have a clearer mind to use in that day of how you moved about. As you think of God in your thought. That's beautiful and much more meaningful. There a person done something that is good a person does things better that way. Be sincere when a person asks God something.

And these young people that are trying to do something about this. This is how they should do things. When a person does something you don't jeopardize your life being. You don't try to do things hastily. But to do things in a calm, easy like manner. It's like when a person takes a step at a time and stops to think and to take another step and stops again and thinks if its going to work out this way or not. This is how to approach about these things. I'm not only referring to these people here and I'm not preaching anybody. But I have known this type of thinking works better. When a person thinks on his own, that doesn't rush into anything. When you do things hurriedly or hastily

you would create more problems. When a person grabs something that's heavy, this how it looks as to what these people's job is, of what they are doing now. About these Indian issues. Trying to find something it seems it's something that's very heavy. But evidently, when approached this type of work in a gentle manner, the results will begin to surface gradually until the goal is accomplished or achieved. But if a person tries to be hasty about things and drags those as it were, it definitely would hurt a lot. When a person tries to get things done in a hurry, this is how it's going to affect. It'll be like something is dropped onto himself. What I'm referring when I say dropped onto himself. People are watching from around you. The eyes of those people are on you from all sides especially that criticism piece (Mouth). A criticism could get you under. From this if a person thinks properly with caution and to be friendly with all people of how you approach them and asked them. Surely they'll understand and be willing to help. They'll think, he is sincere and concerned to try and do something. An elder more often than not will think I'll help him as much as I can.

But when a person is rushed and he would also be confused. That person wouldn't tell you things correctly. He might think that you don't know much. That I'll just tell him such and such. He could have this kind of attitude towards you if you rushed him or perhaps he may just say anything just to get you out of sight. So often a person thinks he could move things more quicker than think things over slowly. But to take time to think things over and to talk about them. This is much better for a person. I often think this way myself as I think of things. And I've heard old people saying this. They would tell each other a lot of other things as how to go about matters that concerns them. They didn't hesitate to tell things to one another. Where they didn't interpret things clearly and

misguide and from these they would correct each others opinion.

And when an elder is told something of this nature, he never talks back. He would keep quiet. He would listen to what was being said by elders. He would thank the elders afterwards for telling him otherwise. Because he believes of what those leaders had just said. "I'll benefit from this," he'd say and was grateful for the advice that was given to him from these elders. They've listened to one another this is why they've got along with each other pretty good. This is why everything was in order. But today it is hard simply because we tried to run things in our own ways without heed. If we all listened to one another and think things over with each other I think will help along way for us all. Not over-doing things. It's like everything is pulled together all at once. This is how to do things of what these people are doing as it seems very heavy of what they are working on. They would eventually see the things

they'd accomplish they would bring things out to light, to help with all the poor people. I have nothing further that I can say except of what I have just said for I am poor. I've seen I've been poor even where I can help my fellow man although I am lack of knowledge but always glad to help. If a person believes of what he's been told, he'll benefit from that a lot, that's all and I say hello to all.

Louis: I'll ask this if you had ever heard of the old people mentioning about what did they gave up? Why did they sign the Treaty #6, how did they understand (meaning Indians) at that time? Was the land bought from them? Or did they sign for peace treaty?

Frank: What I have understood it. It seemed it was a peace treaty. This is what the old people used to say, a peace treaty. I don't think they've sold anything. The only thing that was (white man) allowed to take was where he could farm. What farming them days meant I don't think they (Indians) hardly understood what that was. Because they never seen anything that was being grown domestically, they've lived right from the wilderness vegetation. But I'd presume they gradually understood of what the whiteman was doing to make a living and how. And from this experience that the Indians were willing to negotiate for treaty. And they allowed them to take but only certain lengths of depth by the measurement of the arm meaning the ground or soil. Other than that as of what the old people used to say they didn't allow the whiteman to take anything else, like mountains.

Louis: About those mountains, did the old people know or was there some certain use of them for them? Why I'm asking about these, why did the Indians never cede those mountains? Us Indian people know but like what I've said to you. When the question arises as to why the Indian retained the mountains, we would have to come up with a reason for this (as to why). How did you understand this concept?

Frank: Our forefathers why they never gave those, they wanted to keep those mountains, why they loved so much they've known how to make use of some things in their future. They were shown in spiritually as to how to make use of lot of things. But now us poor people are poor. Once this earth was pure and clean it's still the same out here in the mountains. They were blessed about many things. They were told many things from these. As to how to live, a person as he lived on or for his future. If it were to be told all the truth yet hardly anyone wouldn't be able to understand. And they would ridicule and laugh at the teachings of an Indian. Therefore what I wanted to say I'm reluctant to say it, to tell the facts and everything.

Why the Indian kept those mountains even now those mountains are still sacred to an Indian. In some areas especially an Indian still loves those mountains. That's how important the mountain range to an Indian is. The mountain is still considered as some supreme significance. The old people used to claim the mountains bear some sort of sovereignty to all men. And still is considered as such. They knew and had seen that they obtained some guidance as to how to live from the abundance of those mountains. This is why they kept the mountains. The mountains contain some significant life. As the old people used to express about the question that is asked by my nephew here. When he stated that the white man has to be told something as to why the Indian had kept the mountain. And that there was something an Indian could use from these mountains. If a white man were to be told everything, in plain facts still he wouldn't believe anything unless he saw these things with his own eyes. This is a fact. If you think, there are a lot of things that were created for us to use. A lot of things were given to us from above if you honestly think today. The white man has made money from these things. As we should use these differently then as they are.

We were to use some for medicine, such as those natural hot springs, way before the white man came by these things were given to an Indian for his uses. He could heal some sick people from these springs. To use it as medicinal purposes. Our forefathers were designated selectively to use these hot springs as medicine whereby to heal someone. And those people that were blessed with this kind of powers and those people could get results wherever they'd use these. When the white man found out there was hot springs in those parts he had taken these things away from us. When a person seeks cure for these hot springs, when he believes he could obtain cure with all his faith, he did get relief out of these. Even today now a person believes of what the Creator had bestowed for the Indian people, how to use this for his medicine. Us Indians were to use these. But the white man is for his medicine. Us Indians were to use these. But the white man is so greedy about money. He even makes you pay when you go into these pools. Now today he makes money out of these springs. Like in the summer, during the summer I'd think one half or even more people went into these pools in one day, even for his health, but most people just think to go into the water when he hears that kind of water heals sickness. Of all the people that went into these

pools, I might be wrong but I'd estimate about ten people, perhaps less, thinks of God when he goes into these waters. God's creation God handed those down in the beginning to be used as cure medicine. I don't know if a person thinks about that when he goes into that water. To ask God for cure before

he touches the water. These other people are often glad to go into that water when they think they would get cured out of these pools. When they do in this fashion when a person thinks about God before he does anything regarding for his health. That is much more meaningful. But he goes and he sort of inspects to see if it really works. Wondering if he'd get better from that. To abuse it usually it never works.

But God's creation, when God first created things of those things he had made everything to have life in spiritually. A person to keep these in mind of how these things came about and created. God created everything here on earth. To have life. To think about that as we go about. Everything even the breath of life. Even these the white man had tried and been trying to stop from us. Our breath and life is getting worse and poor pollution from there on to think along these things of how things were meant for us to use. We would have a different attitude altogether towards everything if we were to do that. I don't think this way often. About that thing these people wanted to know, water, roots and herbs. Water - water does wonders along these mountains, soil and especially rock, stone. That's the one that really pray for us. When we put forth something we used the stone pipe in prayer. This is what was given to us (Indians) To use it to interpret for us. That's where we get all these sweet scent, sweetgrass, and the others. And those roots that are herbal. There amongst those mountains are things that are intellectual or spiritual, supernatural and pure, everything, even wild animals are clean. This is as far I can get telling you of these things.

(End of Interview)

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