

A. W. Trueman, Esq.,
Director,
The Canada Council,
Post Office Box 97,
Station D, Ottawa.

September 22, 1958.

Dear Dr. Trueman:

I wish to apply for the second payment on my Canada Council Senior Fellowship. The first payment was made on June 2. I enclose a brief interim report on my project, as required, and as you may see, everything is going well.

My present residential address is 1368 Larose Avenue, Ottawa 3. My bank account is in the Sparks Street branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Savings, No. 7595. I may be reached any day during working hours at the National Museum, Human History Branch, if further information is required.

Yours sincerely,

Wilson Duff

Statement of Progress, September 30, 1958.

I left Victoria on July 1 and travelled to Ottawa by car, visiting a large number of museums in Canada and the United States on the way. Since my arrival on July 16, I have worked steadily on my project at the National Museum of Canada.

The project, a study of Tsimshian social organization and traditional history, is progressing almost precisely as visualized in the statement which accompanied my original application. Dr. Marius Barbeau introduced me to his extensive files on Tsimshian social structure, suggested the lines along which I am working, and is maintaining an active and helpful interest in the work as it proceeds. The materials on file are very rich. They consist in part of systematic data on all of the families (lineages) in all of the 25 tribes of the Tsimshian nation: their territories, their traditions of origin, their myths, their crests, and their stocks of personal names. This is quite possibly the most comprehensive information on the social structure of any American Indian group.

To the present, in addition to gaining a broad view of all the material in the files, I have worked intensively with the data on nine of the tribes, the "Tsimshian Proper" of Port Simpson. The information has been extracted from Dr. Barbeau's original field-notes (dated 1915), and compiled in an organized form. For example, more than 200 families have been studied and over 2,000 names have been listed and analyzed. In addition, I am cooperating with Dr. Barbeau on his own present project, a study of a vast number of Tsimshian narratives. These narratives will provide valuable supplementary information for my own study of the social organization.

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