

Mr. Wilson Duff, Associate Prof.
Department Of Anthropology and
Sociology,
University Of B.C.
Vancouver 8, B.C.

Kitwancool, Via Box 134

Kitwanga, B.C. March 17, 1969

Dear Mr. Duff:

Please find herewith copy of the Kitwancool document, addressed to the Provincial Government Of B.C. Dated February 19, 1968, A.D. through the Department of Indian Affairs Branch Hazelton, B.C.

Please note that I gave a copy of the above document to the Honourable Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs when I met with him at Victoria in November last; Please also find herewith a copy of my letter to the said minister dated January 7, 1969, A.D. and his reply is as follows-

His reply dated March 6, 1969, A.D. Ottawa 4. Reads³ (for your information)

Mr. Peter Williams,
President of Kitwancool,
Kitwancool,
Via Box 134,
Kitwanga, B.C.

Dear Mr. Williams:

Reference is made to your letter of January 7, 1969, and enclosure.

I have had an opportunity to review the Kitwancool claim to lands which was outlined in the brief sent to the British Columbia Government. I have also examined the more detailed statement of the Kitwancool land claim contained in the Anthropology in B.C. Memoir No. 4 of 1959 edited by Professor Wilson Duff. In this book, I note that Professor Duff in no way attempts to substantiate this claim, pointing out that the authors of the book are the Kitwancool themselves.

Much of the territory claimed by your band appears to overlap the area of land claimed by the Nishga Tribal Council. As the Nishga claim is now before the British Columbia Courts, it would not be appropriate for me to comment at this time on the merits of the Kitwancool claim.

Owing to the conflicting nature of the two claims and the fact that the Nishga claim is before the Courts, I am unable to assist you in any way. When the Court decision has been announced, the matter can be reviewed again.

Yours sincerely, "
J.A. MacDonald,
Deputy Minister.

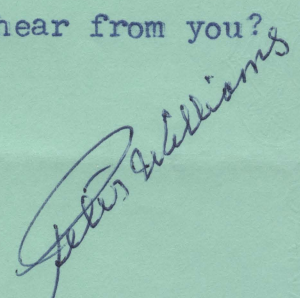
Mr. Duff, may I respectfully request you to let us hear from you?

Encl:

Yours most respectfully,
The Kitwancool,

Per,

Peter Williams, President of Kitwancool.



Kitwancool, Via Box 134,

The Honourable John MacDonald, Kitwanga, B.C. January 7, 1969.

Deputy Minister, Dept. of Indian
Affairs, Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:

During the Native Brotherhood of B.C. Convention (November 23-26, 1969) in Victoria, I was very pleased to meet you; at that time I explain to you the seriousness of the Kitwancool and the B.C. Government situation; at that time, I also gave you a copy of the document from Kitwancool to the B.C. Government to which ~~the~~ Kitwancool have not received any reply; after you read the within mentioned document, you told me that unless the B.C. Government tepond, you are going to let the Kitwancool take the matter to the Courts; you also told me that you will advise by letter.

Because of the seriousness of this matter, Sir, the Kitwancool respectfully desire to hear from your Department because the matter has been dragging along while the Provincial Government is enjoying the lucrative natural resources from within the Kitwancool Terrirory.

This matter has been dragging along for more than 60 years and therefore the Kitwancool feel that it could not tolerate much longer; the Kitwancool is getting tired and suffering hardships.

Encl:

Yours most respectfully,
The Kitwancool,
Per Peter Williams, President of Kitwancool

Peter Williams

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ,
VICTORIA, B.C.

VIA INDIAN AFFIARS BRANCH, HAZELTON, B.C.

GENTLEMEN :

Whereas, the Kitwancool absolute title and the Aboriginal title residing in the lands that are within the Kitwancool territories has never been extinguished or surrendered to the British Columbia Government and,

Whereas, the Kitwancool never accept the indian reservation; while other Bands did accept their own reservation, but was surveyed by force and duress after the Kitwancool President, with his colleagues were thrown into Okalla Prison farm and,

Whereas, the Kitwancool never accept the so called "B.C. Special in lieu of treaty" which was granted to the Allied Tribes Of Indians Of B.C. of which the Kitwancool was, and is, not a member.

Whereas, in this modern times, the Kitwancool cannot survive or enjoy the life of this very expensive modern times because the Kitwancool are not allowed to obtain even a quota of timber sales but are still forced to live in this very small Okalla Prison Reserve while the British Columbia Government is enjoying the lucrative fruition of the Kitwancool absolute title and the aboriginal Title that resides in the lands that are within the Kitwancool territories as shown in Kitwancool book known as "Histories, Territories and Laws of the Kitwancool" Anthropology in B.C. memoir 4 1959; the extend of the Kitwancool territories is- Boundary line crosses at 8½ mile (present milage) on the Kitwancool road and it crosses at about 14 miles above New Aiyansh; thence Northwest covering the sources of White Rivers on the West side of Nass River and crosses the outlet of Bowser Lake and crosses the Nass River there; and crosses the Kispiox River at "Loow-ha-gul-gagat" which is about 30 or 40 miles up Kispiox River; thence to point of commencement on the Kitwancool road as aforesaid. (road leading from Kitwanga to Kitwancool) and,

Whereas, the Kitwancool is bound by its own Laws of old and cannot surrender the Kitwancool absolute title and the Aboriginal titles nor abandon it without negotiation by way of an Honourable negotiation and Honourable settlement; therefore, Gentlemen, the Kitwancool hereby humbly pray for an Honourable negotiation with the Provincial Government for and Honourable settlement for the benefit of the Kitwancool and the Province of British Columbia forever; this is where the principle of justice and good faith applies and,

Whereas, it is the wish of Kitwancool not to enter any litigation anywhere unless it is absolutely necessary and,

Whereas, there are many settlers who desire to stake off lands that are within the Kitwancool territory for agricultural purposes or lease but, the Kitwancool is unable to allow this; that is why the Kitwancool humbly pray for and Honourable negotiation and Honourable settlement as speedily as possible to allow settlers occupy lands this spring 1968, A.D. and,

Whereas, the Kitwancool only allow the removal of timbers that are within the Kitwancool territory in view of the fact that fires are always destroying valuable Timbers in B.C. during summer times and it is better to harvest these Timbers and,

Whereas, the Kitwancool has interests in the Timbers removed from the Kitwancool territories.

Gentlemen, it is the humble desire of the Kitwancool not to wait for the so called "Indian Claims Commission" because this matter has been dragging for about 60 years, more or less.

Gentlemen, on April 20, 1964 when the Honourable minister of lands, Forest and Water resources open the public hearing in Prince Rupert regarding the application for a tree farm licence by the Celgar, Limited, the Kitwancool properly made it clear that if the Celgar obtains the said licence it would encroach upon the Kitwancool territory herein mentioned; on the other hand, the Kitwancool respectfully advise the Celgar Limited to meet with the Kitwancool with a view to establish a satisfactory agreement; at that very same meeting the Celgar Limited, or the Columbia Celullose President promised that the Company and the Kitwancool will work and stand together but, to date these Companies as well as the Twin River Timber Limited and its subsidiaries never fulfill this promise but never relax their policies and turn down the Kitwancool requests to fulfill the promise "stand together and work together"; Gentlemen, here the Kitwancool is looked upon with disdain and never recognized officially by the Companies concerned that are within the Kitwancool territory.

Under the circumstances, Gentlemen, we the Kitwancool are very anxious to enter an Honourable negotiations with a view to an Honourable settlement; this to avoid any upheaval and unpleasant situation.

Gentlemen, we, the Kitwancool again humbly request a speedy Honourable negotiation for an Honourable settlement.

Gentlemen, the Kitwancool understand the nature of the Provincial Government of B.C.'s High Honour and Dignity therefore, according to the Kitwancool Laws of Honour emanating from the Kitwancool's High Dignitaries of ancient times, which was handed down to the present Kitwancool to which the Kitwancool may resort to in times like this; the Kitwancool again humbly pray for a speedy Honourable negotiation for an Honourable settlement for the benefits of the Province and the Kitwancool.

Yours most respectfully the Litwancool

February 19, 1968, Per Peter Williams,
A.D.

President of Kitwancool,
Box 134, Kitwanga, B.C.

c . c .

Twin River Timber Limited.

c . c . Bejak Logging Limited.

c . c .

The Honourable Minister of Lands, and
forests & Water resources,
Mr. Williston, Victoria, B.C.

Peter Williams