

Petition from Metis and Old Settlers of Prince Albert

A petition from George McKay and others, not dated but received on February 21st, 1878 at Prince Albert; but collected earlier of Metis and Old Settlers concerning Metis land claims; it goes unanswered by the government;

To His Excellency the Governor General of the Dominion of Canada in council assembled:

The petition of the undersigned settlers and residents at Prince Albert settlement in the North-West Territories of the Dominion of Canada, humbly represents:

1. That the population of this settlement now numbers between 1,000 and 1,200 souls; that new settlers are constantly coming in, even during the winter season, and that a greatly increased immigration is certain to take place upon the opening up of navigation and other routes of travel in the spring.
2. That the proceeds of the last harvest amount to over 30,000 bushels of grain; and that this yield will; with a usual season, be more than doubled next summer.
3. That many disputes and disagreements are now arising among the settlers concerning the alleged encroachments upon each others boundaries, which disputes are undoubtedly certain to increase in number and bitterness with the increase of settlement.
4. That these difficulties are owing entirely to the absence of legally constituted boundaries and surveys, the want of which not only leaves the settler open to trespass, but also retards farmers from settling in desirable localities.
5. That with a view to the forgoing facts, it is most desirable, and indeed urgently necessary, that surveys of this settlement and the neighboring localities be made at an early day. Wherefore we humbly pray that Your Excellency will cause a sufficient sum of money to be set aside for that purpose, and that instructions may issue to competent persons to complete said surveys and establish our boundaries during the ensuing summer.
6. Your petitioners, in conclusion, humbly represent that considerable portions of the lands at present occupied on the Saskatchewan River in this settlement were settled upon before the transfer of the North-West Territories to the Dominion of Canada, and in the manner customary at that period, viz., in a narrow frontage and a depth of two miles; that the houses and other improvements of many of the settlers are situate upon these claims so taken;

Whereof your petitioners humbly pray that Your Excellency will, when instructions are issued to the Dominion surveyors, reserve the same rights and privileges to the aforesaid old settlers and pioneers of this settlement as were reserved to the old settlers in the Province of Manitoba.

Lastly, your petitioners would humbly represent that whereas a census of the Half-Breeds and old settlers was taken in the Province of Manitoba shortly after the organization of that Province, with a view to the distribution of scrip, &c, said scrip

having since issued to the parties interested and whereas, at the time this census was taken, many Half-Breeds, both minors and heads of families, resided in the territories and were not included in the said census.

And with a view to the adjustment of the same, your petitioners would humbly request that a census of said Half-Breeds and old settlers be taken at as early a date as may conveniently be determined upon, with a view of apportioning to those of them who have not already been included in the census of Manitoba their just allotments of lands and scrip.

Anderson, David	Gosee, Hiram	McDonald, William
Anderson, J. M.	Halwel, Joseph	McIver, Rock
Anderson, James F.	Harper, Robert	McKay, George
Anderson, Thomas D.	Henderson, John	McKay, James Sr.
Anderson, W. C.	Hodgson, William	McKay, John
Ballentine, David	Honeysill, J.	McKay, Thos.
Barker, James A.	Hourie, Alexander	McKenny, H. W.
Bartlett, H. H.	Hourie, Edward Albert	McRae, Murdock
Beads, Jacob	Hourie, Edwin J.	Mills, G. E.
Beads, James	Hourie, Henry	Negurson, C.
Beads, James J.	Hourie, John	Oldham, H. M.
Beads, John	Hourie, Peter	Powell, Thomas
Beads, John	Hourie, Samuel	(Church of England
Beads, T.	Hourie, Thomas	Missionary)
Beemer, John	Hourie, Thomas T.	Pritchard, R. J.
Bird, Charles George	Howes, Handery	Provencher, Eugene
Bird, Nicholas	Hurd, J. W.	Prudens, Alex
Bourd, William	Inkster, James	Reid, Harry A.
Brewsler, Bernard	Inkster, Robt.	Reid, J. Lestock
Cameron, David	Inkster, William	Robertson, Alex
Campbell, Alex	Isbister, James	Robertson, William
Clarke, W.W.	Juner, John	Robinson, Geo.
Cook, Samuel J.	Lee, G.P.	Robinson, William
Coombs, J. M.	Legarrach, Joseph	Sandson, George
(Incumbant St. Mary's	MacIntyre, John C.	Sandson, James
Church)	Mair, C.	Sandson, William
Corrigal, Thomas	Marceill, David	Sandson, William
Deacon, R.	Marceill, John	Spencer, Alex Rupert
Denny, Harry C.	Mare, Richard	Spencer, Arthur H.
Dreaver, James	McArel, James	Spencer, Edward
Erasmus, Henry	McBeath, Alex	Spencer, Edward
Finlayson, Joseph	McBeath, George	Spencer, John A.
Flett, Andrew	McBeath, William	Spencer, William
Fornoret, George B.A.	McCleod, Joseph	Spencer, William Jr.
Goodfellow, George	McDermott, P. J.	Spencer, William Sr.
Goodlad, James	McDonald, John	Stevenson, James

Sutherland, A. J.
Sutherland, George
Taylor, Thos Jr.
Thompson, Joseph
Thompson, Philip
Turner, John
Turner, John
Turner, Peter
Turner, Philip
Umpheyville, Jeremiah
Umpheyville, John
Umpheyville, John
Umpheyville, Malcolm
Umpheyville, Robert
Umpheyville, Zaccheus

Watogalie
Whitford, Alexander
Whitford, Archibald
Whitford, C. A.
Whitford, Charles
Whitford, Charles
Thomas
Whitford, Colin
Whitford, Cory
Whitford, Edwin
Whitford, Fred.
Whitford, George
Whitford, George
Whitford, H. C.
Whitford, J. E.

Whitford, James
Whitford, James
Whitford, James Sr.
Whitford, Jeremiah
Whitford, John
Whitford, John
Whitford, John Charles
Whitford, Magnus
Whitford, Simon
Whitford, Simon P.
Whitford, Thomas
Wood, Ernest Edward
Wood, J. B.
Work, Peter

OTTAWA, 23rd February, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a petition numerously signed, addressed to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that the lands at and in the vicinity of Prince Albert settlement may be surveyed at an early day; also that provision may be made for an issue of scrip to the half breeds and old settlers in the Territories, similar to that made to these classes in Manitoba.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. S. DENNIS, *Surveyor-General*.

Capt. MOORE, Prince Albert, N.W.T.

To His Excellency the Governor General of the Dominion of Canada in Council Assembled:

The petition of the undersigned settlers and residents at Prince Albert settlement, in the North-West Territories of the Dominion of Canada, humbly represents:

1. That the population of this settlement now numbers between one thousand and twelve hundred souls; that new settlers are constantly coming in, even during the winter season, and that a greatly increased immigration is certain to take place upon the opening up of navigation and other routes of travel in the spring.

2. That the proceeds of the last harvest amount to over 30,000 bushels of grain; and that this yield will, with a usual season, be more than doubled next summer.

3. That many disputes and disagreements are now arising among the settlers, concerning alleged encroachments upon each other's boundaries, which disputes are undoubtedly certain to increase in number and bitterness with the increase of settlement.

4. That these difficulties are owing entirely to the absence of legally constituted boundaries and surveys, the want of which not only leaves the settler open to trespass, but also retards farmers from settling in desirable localities.

5. That with a view to the foregoing facts, it is most desirable and indeed urgently necessary that surveys of this settlement and the neighboring localities be made at an early day.

Wherefore we humbly pray that Your Excellency will cause a sufficient sum of money to be set aside for that purpose, and that instructions may issue to competent persons to complete said surveys and establish our boundaries during the ensuing summer.

6. Your petitioners, in conclusion, humbly represent that considerable portions of the lands at present occupied on the Saakatchewan River in this settlement were settled upon before the transfer of the North-West Territories to the Dominion of Canada, and in the manner customary at that period, viz: in a narrow frontage and a depth of two miles.

That the houses and other improvements of many of the settlers are situated upon these claims so taken.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that Your Excellency will, when instructions are issued to the Dominion Surveyors, reserve the same rights and privileges to the aforesaid old settlers and pioneers of this settlement as were reserved to the old settlers in the Province of Manitoba.

Lastly, your petitioners would humbly represent that whereas a census of the half-breeds and old settlers was taken in the Province of Manitoba shortly after the organization of that Province, with a view to the distribution of scrip, &c, said scrip having since issued to the parties interested, and whereas, at the time this census was taken many half-breeds, both minors and heads of families, resided in the Territories and were not included in the said census.

Your petitioners would humbly represent that their rights to a participation in the issue of half-breed or old settlers' scrip are as valid and binding as those of the half-breeds and old settlers of Manitoba, and are expected by them to be regarded by the Canadian Government as scrupulously as in that Province. And with a view

to the adjustment of the same, your petitioners would humbly request that a census of said half-breeds and old settlers be taken, at as early a date as may conveniently be determined upon, with a view to apportioning to those of them who have not already been included in the census of Manitoba their just allotments of land and scrip.

George McKay,
 Harry C. Denny,
 Joseph Segarrach,
 Joseph McLeod,
 Andrew Flitt,
 James McKay, sen.,
 John McDonald,
 John Beemer,
 J. Lestock Reid,
 John C. McIntyre,
 Edward Spencer,
 Robert Harper,
 James A. Barker,
 Philip Turner,
 Alexander McBrath,
 G. P. Lee,
 Thos. Taylor, jun.,
 Joseph Finlayson,
 Thos. McKay,
 Eugène Provencher,
 James Stevenson,
 John Turner,
 Muroch McRae,
 James McArel,
 Harry A. Reid,
 Peter Work,
 P. J. McDermott,
 Charles Whitford,
 C. A. Whitford,
 J. E. Whitford,
 H. C. Whitford,
 Jeremiah Whitford,
 Thomas Whitford,
 Simon P. Whitford,
 James Whitford,
 Alexander Whitford,
 Archibald Whitford,
 Edwin Whitford,
 W. C. Anderson,
 J. M. Anderson,
 David Anderson,
 Thos. D. Anderson,
 William Sandson,
 William Sandson,
 George Sandson,
 George Jüner,
 Handery Howes,
 John Whitford,
 James Sandson,
 William Board,
 Peter Hourie,

William Spencer, jun.,
 Arthur H. Spencer,
 Alex. Rupert Spencer,
 Edward Spencer,
 David Cameron,
 Joseph Halwel,
 Jacob Beads,
 John Marceill,
 James Inkster,
 J. Honeysill,
 Thomas Hourie,
 William Inkster,
 Charles George Bird,
 W. W. Clarke,
 T. Beads,
 Thomas Corrigan,
 John Whitford,
 Nicholas Reid,
 Samuel J. Cook,
 Alex. Campbell,
 Wagnos Whitford,
 William Robertson,
 James Beads,
 John Beads,
 David Marceill,
 Geo. Robinson,
 William Hodgson,
 William Robinson,
 George Whiteford,
 C. Negurson,
 Alex. Prudens,
 Edward Albert Hourie,
 Samuel Hourie,
 Charles Thomas Whitford,
 Simon Whitford,
 James Whitford,
 Cory Whitford,
 Fred. Whitford,
 John Beads,
 Colin Whitford,
 John Hourie,
 John Henderson,
 Alex. Robertson,
 Watogalie,
 Henry Hourie,
 John James Beads,
 George Whitford,
 John Charles Whitford,
 James Whitford,
 James F. Anderson,
 Bernard Brensler,

Thomas T. Hourie,
 Alexander Hourie,
 Edwin J. Hourie,
 C. Mein,
 James Drearer,
 Robt. Inkster,
 R. Deacon,
 H. W. McKenny,
 George Sutherland,
 James Isbister,
 H. H. Bartlett,
 Rock McIvor,
 John McKay,
 G. E. Mills,
 George McBeath,
 David Ballentin,
 J. M. Coombs,
 H. N. Oldham,
 A. G. Sutherland,
 Wm. McDonald,
 Thomas Powell,
 William Spencer, ser.,
 John A. Spencer,

Robert Umpherville,
 John Umpherville,
 Jeremiah Umpherville,
 Malcom Umpherville,
 Zaccheus Umpherville,
 John Umpherville,
 John Turner,
 Peter Turner,
 George Goodfellow,
 James Goodfellow,
 Joseph Thomson,
 Philip E. Thomson,
 William McBeath,
 William Spencer,
 Henry Erasmus,
 Ernest Edward Wood,
 Incumbent St. Mary's Church,
 Hiram Gosee,
 R. J. Pritchard,
 George Forneret, B.A.,
 Church of England Missionary,
 J. B. Woods,
 Richard Mare,
 J. W. Hurd.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OTTAWA, 20th November, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge to receipt of your despatch, No. 68 on 122, of the 30th September last, covering a petition numerously signed by half-breeds, usually resident in the vicinity of Cypress Hills, praying that a reserve of land and other advantages may be granted to them, accompanied by a resolution on the same subject, passed by the Council of the North-West Territories at the session which closed on the 2nd August last.

Your despatch, with its enclosures, will be brought under the consideration of the Right Hon. the Minister of the Interior, on his return to the seat of Government.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. S. DENNIS, *Deputy Minister of the Interior.*

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories,
 Battleford, N.W.T.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, BATTLEFORD, N.W.T., 30th September, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you a petition numerously signed by half-breeds, usually resident in the neighborhood of Cypress Hills, praying that a reserve of land and other advantages may be granted to them, together with a resolution relative to said petition, passed by the Council of the North-West Territories at its legislative session which closed on the 2nd of August last.

I feel it my duty to ask you to urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of taking early action with respect to the claims set forth by the half-breeds of the Territories, either in the direction indicated by the resolution of the North-West Council or in such other manner as the Government may deem meet.

The half-breeds of Manitoba (the heads of families as well as the children) having received either scrip or land, I may remark that from what information is within my reach I have no doubt the half-breeds of the Territories, who think they have as good a claim to consideration as their compatriots in Manitoba, will be very much dissatisfied unless they are treated in a somewhat similar manner.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

DAVID LAIRD, *Lieutenant Governor North-West Territories.*

Hon. the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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