

The Nineteenth Century, 1830-42

140. A Petition from P. L. Constant Pinency, Chief of the Algonquins of Lake of Two Mountains to Sir James Kempt, Administrator of Lower Canada, dated February 19, 1830, noted that his family hunting grounds were located on the south side of the Ottawa at the mouth of the Rideau:

The very humble request of Pierre Louis Constant Pinency, the Chief of the Algonkins living at Lake of Two Mountains, son succeeding the Grand Chief, Manitolais [?]; respectfully submits to his Excellency -

That after several years the hunt has more and more [illegible word] the destruction and the distancing of the beaver and of game, the only means of subsistence of the suppliant whose hunting grounds, situated to the South of the Ottawa at the top of the Rideau, are almost all ruined by the incursions that were made and the numerous settlements that now run along them [emphasis added].

That the petitioner finds himself in a state of [illegible word] and outside a condition to make a living for his family and those of two of his sons who [illegible word] died, [Okymanisande?] and [Walpssinnien?], and who have left him young children, and who, in his old age, he has neither the forces/power nor the means to get out from so deplorable a situation;

That the suppliant, with these two sons and his two other sons, [illegible names], had constantly served during the last war with the United States of America, and who, by his active service and his right to the Indian [fund?], he believes to have contributed [illegible adverb] in the defence of his county.

This is why he hopes that, in his misery, the [illegible words] always showed in the [service?] of the King will be the titles to the [illegible words: generosity of ?] and that His Excellency would very much like to [illegible word] on the petitioner the royal [illegible word], by [illegible word] him some [illegible word] to help him to give subsistence to his numerous family who, along with him, will never cease to address the [angels?] of the Heavens to [illegible word] their common Father, the King of Great Britain, and [illegible word] a worthy representative of the same.

[Translation from French]

[Document No. 163]

141. Lt. Col. Mackay made the following Report of the Proceedings of a Grand Council held at the Village of Caughnawaga on July 5, 1830:

Present

Lieut.Col. Mackay, Supt. Indn. Departmt	Major Baird, H.M. 66th Regimt
Captn de Lorimer, Resident, _ do	Captn Kingsmill do do
Captn Ducharme, Intepreter, _ do	Captn Daniell do do
Revd. I. Marcoux, Missionary, _ do	Captn Johnston do do
Revd. I Valle, do do	Lieutenant Ditmas do do
Mr. McCullough, late, Clerk in _do	Lieut. _ Armstong do do
Major C. Johnston, H_P_	Ensign Johnston do do
Lieut. MacDonald, H_P_	as also the Principal Chiefs of
the Iroquois, Nippisingue, Algonquin & Abenquois, Tribe or Six Nation Indians	

The Council having met and the usual forms gone through, Lieut. Colonel Mackay explained to the different Tribes (through the medium of their interpreter) the purpose for which they were assembled, namely-
1st To investigate the claim of the Abenquois Indians of St. Francis to an equal right with the Algonquins of Three Rivers to hunt upon the North Bank of the River St. Lawrence, and next, the claim of certain Indians to be considered the Principal Chiefs of the British Iroquois Indians of St. Regis.

The following Chiefs then addressed the Council relative to the first claim.

Simon Obomsawine, Abenquois Chief of St. Francis
Father, I most positively deny that the Algonquins have any exclusive right to hunt on the North side of the St. Lawrence, and assert that the Abenquois have

an equal right to hunt on the unconceded Lands on the North Bank of the River St. Lawrence, as the Algonquins. I never heard 'till lately that the Algonquins pretended to exclude the Abenquois or any other Tribe from the right of hunting on the North side of the St. Lawrence and consider it free & open to all the different Tribes. I have often seen the Algonquins hunting on the South side of the river St. Lawrence, and if any of them meet me there again, I will be very happy to share such fare as I may happen to have with them. I never heard of any particular Tract or District being allotted to One Tribe of Indians, to the exclusion of any other always considering the right of Hunting common to all Indians as granted to them by the late Sir William Johnson's Proclamation in 1763.

We, the Abenquois, wish to be on the most friendly footing with the Algonquins.

Constant Penency,⁴⁶ an Algonquin Chief thus Replied
Father, I have always understood that We (the Algonquins) had the exclusive right to hunt on the North Bank of the River St. Lawrence, the South side being allotted to the Abenquois, to whom also Government was pleased to grant the Seigniority of St. Francis. They have Leased out the greater part of their Wild Lands, from which they derive a good living, and now, they wish to Hunt and destroy the Wild Animals on our Grounds, which, if persisted in, must bring us to starvation, as they are the only means of support we have for ourselves and our Families. We therefore Pray that His Excellency the Governor in Chief may be graciously pleased to maintain them in the sole & exclusive right of hunting on the unconceded Lands on the North Bank of the St. Lawrence which we consider was always our right and boundary or if not that we be placed on a footing with the Other Tribes, who have seigniories for their support.

The above named Chiefs having finished Lieut. Colonel Mackay called upon the Chiefs in Council to decide the right in question (After a good deal of conversation amongst the chiefs & Interpreters it was finally decided by a majority of the former that the right of hunting on the north side of the River St. Lawrence should be free, and open to the Abenquois and the other Indian Tribes, But at the same time, they most respectfully and earnestly request that their Great Father, the Governor in Chief, would be pleased to grant a certain portion of Lands to the Algonquins from which they would derive means of support for themselves and their children and thus placed them in a permanent situation, similar to their Brethren.)

...

At the request of the Principal Chiefs of the Lake of Two Mountains, Lt. Colonel Mackay then presented a medal to Francois Papineau, a Nipissingue Chief, when the Council broke up at 1/2 past 3 O'Clock.

[Document No. 172]

142. On July 31, 1830, Lt. Colonel Couper, the Military Secretary at Quebec in charge of Indian Affairs, wrote to Lt. Duchesnay, the Superintendent of the Indian Department at Montreal in relation to the Algonquin and Nipissing claim to the Ottawa River Islands:

With respect to the Claim of the Algonquins and Nipissingues of the Lake of the Two Mountains, to the Islands in the Ottawa, from Chatham to the Portage des Chats, which they allege to have been given to them by Lord Dorchester in the Year 1777, I have it in Command to request you will Acquaint these Indians, that no record of any such donation is to be found in the Office of the Indian Department, nor in any other Public Office in Ottawa. -

[Document No. 175]

⁴⁶ An important Algonquin Chief whose hunting grounds were on the south side of the Ottawa River near the Rideau.

143. In 1830 HBC trader John McLean reported that the Iroquois use of the Ottawa River area caused conflict between the two tribal groups:

In the course of the year, the Iroquois and Algonquin were nearly coming to blows on account of the hunting-grounds. This quarrel originated from a speech which Colonel McKay, then at the head of the Indian department, had addressed to the Iroquois, in which, making use of the metaphorical language of the people, he observed that Indians of all tribes ought to live together in the utmost concord and amity, seeing they inhabited the same villages, 'and ate out of the same dish.' This the Iroquois interpreted in a way more suitable to their own wishes than consistent with its real meaning. 'Our father,' said they, 'tells us we eat out of the same dish with the Algonquins; -- he means that we have an equal right to the hunting grounds.' They proceeded, accordingly, to avail themselves of the supposed privilege. The consequence was a very violent quarrel, in which Government was ultimately obliged to interfere.

[Document No. SS-69, p. 98]

144. In May of 1831 the Mississaugas of Rice Lake again complained of Indians from Lake of Two Mountains trespassing on their lands. Again, neither the location of the trespass nor a description of their lands was specified in the complaint. [See Document No. 181.] Colonel MacKay instructed Interpreter Ducharme to investigate the allegations at Lake of Two Mountains. [See Document No. 182.]
145. In a petition dated July 17, 1832, to Lord Aylmer, Governor of Lower Canada, the Algonquin and Nipissing Indians of the Lake of Two Mountains renewed their claim to the Islands in the Ottawa River from le bas des Ecore to Lake Nipissing. [See Document No. 183.]
146. In July of 1833 the Algonquin and Nipissing Indians at Lake of the Two Mountains addressed the following petition to Lord Aylmer, the Governor of Lower Canada. Note their reference to being prevented from using the islands in the Ottawa River and their repeated request for secure title to the lands along the Ottawa and its tributaries:

The chiefs and officers of the Algonquin and Nipissing nations greet you, my father, and venture to set forth humbly their misfortunes; they are worthy of pity. They already submitted several moons ago in a petition - that they are without land to provide for the subsistence of their families. You told them: "My children, wait, I will convey your words to our common father, beyond the great Lake, who will consider them, and will command me to grant you what you are asking from me". What have you done for us, my father, since then? Nothing, at least to our knowledge, to grant what we asked you for then, except to tell us to go and hunt or live on the islands in the Ottawa. We went there and we found these islands occupied by other people with better title according to what they told us, and who chased us away saying: "Leave, you have no right here, we forbid you to hunt and fish. If your father had granted you some rights, he would have granted them to you in writing" [emphasis added]. And so, my father, these same persons, who were not afraid to scorn your word, feared even less chasing us off the land given to us by Lord Dorchester, which was little enough compensation compared to what we were entitled to expect from our good king.

My father, you want your children to love you, to be loyal to you, to follow you and to help you when you need help. Have they not done this? Look back and read the history of the last war. Who went first to the border and faced the enemy? Was it we, your children, or those to whom you have shown most favour? It was we the Algonquins and Nipissings who defended this land that we are asking you for today, that over which you govern. Other nations have done practically nothing, some were traitors to our father and they have been generously rewarded with lands. But for us, what have you done? Promises only. Perhaps, my father, some evil birds have advised you to do otherwise, have told you to grant nothing to the Algonquins and Nipissings. Alas, my father, know your children better, remember that an evil cloud has never

darkened their ever-grateful hearts and observe that an Algonquin or Nipissing father gives up his portion to share it among his children, he carries them in his heart, their misfortunes becomes his own; in this way, he gains the affection of his children, they are loyal to him, they share with him their troubles, their sufferings and their joys; and you, my father, you see your children dying of hunger, without an inch of land back to which they can lead their hunger-weakened livestock. Rejected everywhere, you forget them, you ignore them in the midst of plenty, you forget the distress of your children, you forget that the bodies of some of their ancestors, or rather their ashes, still attest to these exploits which were ever the mark of Braves and Warriors.

Despite your neglect, your children still love you and cherish you; grant them, therefore, what they ask, land along the Ottawa or on the rivers that flow into it, that this land may belong to us, that we may be free there, we and our children forever, to hunt and fish there without anyone preventing us from doing so [emphasis added]. We earnestly ask you this, so that we will be assured of a place where the bodies of our descendants may rest in peace, and be assured that we will not find ourselves in the dire situation where one day we are told [by our descendants] ... Beloved shades, precious bones of our dear ones, they are sending you and us far away from here; rise up and come and live with us in a strange land. Alas, my father, remember that some of this land you are living on today and over which you govern today once belonged to us; do not refuse us at least a little bit of it on which we may rest in the shade of your paternal goodness and your kindnesses.

By granting us this favour, or at least a reply to our request, you will find us at all times loyal children who will cherish you and pray that the precious days of their father may be preserved.

The following petitioners put their marks by their names, and these marks were certified by Ducharme, the Department interpreter:

Chefs Algonquins
Pierre Louis Penency
Ignas Meiachkowatch
Jappatist Kigons
Benjamin Osawakik
Antoine Ca_inawatik
Joseph K_pat

Chefs Nepisaingue
Fill PaPino
J. Bt. Kigikomanitou
J. Bte. Makwa
Simon KioekGat
Ignace Chawinabais
Bi_Wapichip
Louis Achaki
Francois Otjik
Michel Besinoawatch
Matois Chabakatch

[Translated from French]

[Document No. 187]

147. Several months later, on December 5, 1833, a number of Indian matters were put forward for consideration by Lord Aylmer, the Governor of Lower Canada.

Included in the package was the following:

...
5. Petition from the Grand Chiefs of the Indian Tribes of the Lake of the Two Mountains, dated 28th November 1833:

Represents the distress amongst their respective Tribes, occasioned by the sudden reduction of their Annual Presents, for the Consideration of their Father:- The Petitioners, also, Submit their Claim to be reimbursed by an Annual Rent, or Annuity, for the Lands taken from them by Government, and that the possession of their present Hunting Grounds may be Secured to them Under the terms of His Late Majesty's Proclamation of October 1763 In order to explain the Nature and extent of the Land Claims of the Petitioners, Sir John Johnson's detailed Report, and Sundry Papers on the Subject, are respectfully Submitted to Your Excellency herewith.-

[Document No. 188]

A copy of the petition dated November 28, 1833 could not be located.

148. Shortly thereafter, on February 15, 1834, Superintendent James Hughes advised Napier that two Chiefs had identified the lands which they wanted:

Old Constant Pinaisieu was here a few days ago with another Nipissingue Chief they brought with them a map, made a few years past, by Kissinsique & old Amable Chevalier (now both dead) wherein you see at one view the tract of Country from Lake 2 Mountains to Lac Nipissingue - The hunting grounds & lands allotted to them of old, begins about the Long Sault upwards as far as Lac Nipissingue - These lands on the borders of the Ottawa are now almost all settled - They however have marked out a lot above the Grand Calumet Portage - some distance above the last Settlements [emphasis added]. They would wish to have a Township or Seigneurie, given to them there, before these lands are granted - Let me know if you please how these poor fellows (The Nipissingues & Algonquins) are to act to get possession of this tract - do you think It would be best to Petition their Father for it, & at same time send down this map to shew where they want this land - It is on the south side - there is an Island before it which they would also like to have, to make hay thereon & place their Cattle in summer - They say they have no encouragement to work on pieces of land that are in a manner only lent to them whereas were they like the rest of the Indians - Masters of a certain tract - that they could call their own, they would be happy & Industrious and moreover, above, they could have it in their power to make better hunts - find more deer & catch plenty of fish.-

[Document No. 190]

149. On February 16, 1834, Captain Ducharme, Interpreter at Lake of Two Mountains wrote to James Hughes, Superintendent of the Indian Department, stating that Makwa, a chief associated with Lake of Two Mountains, complained of encroachments on his hunting ground:

I have just received a letter from Makwa, one the Chiefs of the village, who complained strongly of Mr. Charles Thomas, who hunts despite [illegible word] on his hunting grounds, he made a bundle, which he sold to the [?: chaudière].

Such that you have the goodness of writing to him or of shifting the complaint against him. I think that it would suffice for you to write him a letter that if he continues to hunt, you will take it to the government.

... [signature etc.]

[Translation from French]

[Document No. 191]

150. A week later, on February 24, 1834, Hughes brought the complaint of encroachment to Napier's attention. Makwa's land was on the Bonnechere River, a tributary flowing into the Ottawa River from the southwest:

However averse I may be to trouble His Excellency the Commander of The Forces with continual complaints from the Indians of this District - Still when I see the miserable State they are reduced to, I am in duty bound to represent their grievances and the unjust treatment they are dayly receiving at the hands of Intruders - Herewith I have the honor to transmit a letter which I received a few days ago from Mr. Dominique Ducharme an Interpreter of the Indian Dept. stationed at the Lake of the two Mountains - It appears by this, /as I also have been informed from another quarter; that one Macwa a respectable and good Nipissingue Chief complains much of one Charles Thomas, (formerly a Clerk in the Employ of the Hon'ble Hudson's Bay Coy. but now turned a free hunter) who has a family of four or five Stout Sons; has taken possession of part of his hunting ground (as per Margin) and destroyed a quantity of furs such as Beaver, Muskrats & Otters, they having in their possession no less than about Sixty Steel traps: - This Poor Indian/Macwa has several times given notice to Charles Thomas to retire and quit his land or hunting grounds and not rob him of his property as he does, That the lands were his, and all that he had to depend upon for a livelyhood and to cloath his family, were the furs and Peltries he was in a manner nursing on those lands - But all this had no effect

on the said Charles Thomas who still persists in hunting and more over says he means to Squat down there and take to himself a Farm - Macwa as well as others of his Tribe - Beg and Pray of me to represent this act of Injustice to their Father at Quebec - and hope that he may take Pity on his poor red Children - and give such orders and commands that the said Chs. Thomas and family may be made to quit these lands - and that their Good Father will also Prohibit all White Hunters and other Interlopers, from trespassing on their hunting Grounds in any manner whatever - And that His red Children the Algonquins and Nipissingues will as in duty Bound ever pray for their Good Father.

The marginalia Hughes referred to reads as follows:

Macwa's hunting grounds are situated on the banks of a small river, called Rivierre au bonne chaire in the back parts of Petite Nation (Papineau's Seigneurie)⁴⁷ on the North side of the Ottawa river about 75 miles distant from the Lake of the two mountains. In the division of the Indian hunting grounds many years past, this tract fell to the share of said Macwa's family. [emphasis added]

[Document No. 192]

151. On March 31, 1834, Napier drew the matter to the attention of Lord Aylmer, the Governor of Lower Canada:

1. Letter from the Superintendent of Indians at Montreal, dated 24th of February 1834, States that the Chief Macwa of the Nipissingue Tribe at the Lake of the Two Mountains, complains, that an Unwarrantable trespass has been committed upon his Hunting Grounds on the Ottawa River, by an Individual of the Name of Charles Thomas, who has plundered and taken possession of a portion of those Grounds, and continues to occupy the same in defiance of the Notices and warnings of the Complainant: That the Chief has requested him to represent this Act of injustice to his Good Father at Quebec, and to pray that measures may be Adopted for his relief. -

In Submitting this complaint to Your Excellency, I deem it my duty to observe, that in the Month of May 1829, the Chiefs of the Algonquin and Nipissingue Tribes at the Lake of the Two Mountains preferred a Similar Application to His Excellency Sir James Kempt, - relative to various trespasses and depredations which had been committed by white Intruders upon their Hunting Grounds near the Ottawa River, upon which Occasion I was directed to intimate to those Tribes, that His Majesty's Solicitor General, or the Senior Crown Law Officer at Montreal, would be directed to prosecute on the part of the King, any Person who might illegally Settle, or Commit any Cognizable trespass or depredation on their Grounds; But as the Indians were unable, at that time, to Establish any particular Case with Competent proof, nothing further was done in the Matter.

[Document No. 193]

152. Subsequently, on April 7, 1834, it was noted by the Indian Department that the precise location of Macwa's land had been erroneously described in previous correspondence:

I beg leave to state for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, that having perused the letters addressed to you by the Superintendent of the Indian Department And requested of that Gentleman further instructions in order to enable me to yield immediate obedience to His Lordship's directions, he mentioned to me that since his letters to you, he has discovered that he had been Misinformed, as to the Situation of Macwa's hunting ground. It now seems that this ground is situated on the South Side instead of the North Side of the Ottawa River. And of course within the limits of Upper Canada. [emphasis added]

[Document No. 194]

⁴⁷ Papineau's seigneurie was located in what is now Papineau County, drained by The Petit Nation. This Seigneurie was originally granted to François de Laval in 1672. See, however, correction as to this location [quoted below, Document No. 194 dated 1834/04/07]. Makwa's land was in fact on the south side of the Ottawa River on the Bonnechere River.

Since the land was outside the boundaries of Lower Canada, Aylmer had no authority to deal with the situation. No record has been found that indicates that the matter was later drawn to the attention of the authorities in Upper Canada.

153. The following year, on June 6, 1835, the "Chiefs and Warriors of the Algonquin and Nipissingue Indians" addressed another petition to Sir John Colborne, the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Again they described their hunting grounds and cited protection under the Royal Proclamation. They drew particular attention to the alienation of their lands on the Upper Canada side of the river:

We most humbly beg to expose to your Excellency, our Father, that we and our Ancestors have immemorially or from the remotest antiquity, held, used, occupied, possessed and enjoyed as hunting Grounds, the tract of land lying on either side of the River Ottawa and little Rivers as far as Lake Neppissing that is to say, comprehending both Banks of the River Ottawa and of the River Matawangué, called by the Voyageurs the Little River, to the Height of Land separating the waters of Lake Nipissing from those of the Little River, together with the Countries watered by the several tributary Streams of the River Ottawa and Little Rivers running North and South from their sources; the above tract of land is bounded to the Southward by a ridge of land separating the waters which fall into the Lakes and into the River St. Lawrence from those falling to the Northward and into the River Ottawa [emphasis added]; the distance from the Township of Hawksbury (Pointe d'Orignal) to Lake Nippissingue by canoe navigation is computed at 117 Leagues, 100 of which comprise the River Ottawa to the junction of the Little River with the River Matawangué, the actual settlement at present by the Whites, extending from the said township of Hawkesbury to the last Settlement, inclusive.-

That Our Great Father, George III of glorious Memory, by His Royal Proclamation given at the Court of St. James the 17th day of October 1763, promulgated to us, your Red Children, and other Indian Tribes of North America by the Honourable Sir William Johnson Bart. Our great Father's Superintendent of Indian Affairs in a Proclamation dated at Johnson Hall on the 24th day of December 1763, did expressly declare and provide "That the Lands claimed by the Indians as their Hunting Grounds are reserved to them for that purpose, and that they shall not under any pretence whatever be molested or disturbed in the possession thereof unless they should be inclined to dispose of the same" - in which case it is further declared and provided "That the same shall be purchased for our Great Father in His Royal Name at some Public Meeting or Assembly to be held for that purpose by the Governor or Commander in Chief".-

Now, may it please Your Excellency, our Father extensive Grants have been made and converted or erected into Townships and Settlements for the Whites by Your Excellency's predecessors, of the Territory so immemorially held, used, occupied, possessed and enjoyed by us, your Red Children as Hunting Grounds, without regard to and notwithstanding the provisions of the above Royal Proclamation of Our Great Father, no purchase or compensation for the Lands so taken and dismembered from our Hunting Grounds ever having been made of or to us or any of our Tribes, Nations or Kindred, although in all similar instances where Lands claimed by contemporary Tribes in Upper Canada have been required by Our Great Father the same have uniformly been purchased at a stipulated price or for some certain compensation in obedience to the above Royal Proclamation of Our Great Father.-

That may it please Your Excellency Our Father, We the Algonquin and Nipissingue Indians do not possess any Lands yielding to us any Revenue and hence are solely dependent upon the Chase on our Hunting Grounds for support and maintenance, and although your Red Children have not failed to view the progressive settlement by the whites of Our Hunting Grounds from the Township of Hawkesbury to the last Settlement inclusive, as a forgetfulness of the above Royal Proclamation of Our Great Father, we have nevertheless abstained hitherto from preferring any representation on the subject to the Government whereof Your Excellency Our Father is now at the head, but observing that the present rapidly increasing settlement of the Upper Province and of that part thereof comprehending the Hunting Grounds of your Red Children lying on the South side of the River Ottawa, and that the indiscriminate

and wanton destruction by the Whites or new Settlers, of the Beaver and other animals from which the most valuable Furs are derived will ere long annihilate our Chase and deprive us of the sole means which have hitherto been the support of our Tribes from long and immemorial custom, we are irresistibly compelled to supplicate the aid and protection of Your Excellency Our Father, touching our humble claim to reasonable indemnification for the Lands on the South side of the River Ottawa thus dismembered from our Hunting Grounds without purchase or compensation of our Great Father, the King -

That may it please Your Excellency our Father we your Red Children of the Tribes of the Algonquins and Nipissingue Indians do not presume or venture to entertain the belief that the Lands already dismembered from our Hunting Grounds and converted or erected into Townships for Settlement by the Government over which Your Excellency Our Father now presides, will be restored to us, but we do believe that a fair and reasonable compensation for the Lands lying on the South side of the River Ottawa, so dismembered from Our Hunting Grounds, will be allowed and conceded unto us in obedience to the above Royal Proclamation of Our Great Father - and we do humbly and confidently appeal to Your Excellency our Father to ratify and confirm to us your Red Children, the use, occupation and possession of the Hunting Grounds on the [N]orth side of the River Ottawa which yet are reserved to us, and that in case we, your Red Children, or our descendants may at any time hereafter be inclined to dispose of the said Lands, that the same be purchased for Our Great Father in His Royal Name at some public meeting or Assembly of the Indians be held for that purpose - And moreover we humbly pray that Your Excellency Our Father will be pleased to command by Proclamation or otherwise that all Intruders or Squatters do forthwith depart from, and leave undisturbed and unmolested the Hunting Grounds yet reserved to and possessed by your Red Children, the whole in obedience to the above Royal Proclamation of Our Great Father -

We do by this our Memorial humbly submit to Your Excellency Our Father the foregoing representation of the Grievances and deprivations which we your Red Children have endured and are likely to endure from the gradual dismemberment of our Hunting Grounds, possessed by us immemorially and reserved and confirmed to us by the above Royal Proclamation of our Great Father of glorious memory, and while we humbly recall to Your Excellency Our Father's recollection that our Tribes have respectively been distinguished for Fidelity, Bravery and general good conduct and attachment to the Royal Cause of Our Great Father particularly during the American Rebellion, we do yet wholly repose on the wisdom of Your Excellency Our Father, to whom we humbly pray for the redress of our grievances and deprivations, and for the dispensation of Justice and Equity touching the same-

And as in duty bound, we your Red Children will ever pray -

Nippissingues

Francois Ka-on-timKetch
 J.Bte Keijic-o-mani-too
 Ignace Chu-wu-na-bais
 Ta-nus-kon
 F. Ojick
 Pe-ku-ku-si-kith
 Tchun-gi
 Wabee-sayr
 S. Takwa-nin
 etc.etc.etc.

Algonquins

Ign-Mui-Yu-Wus-Ku-Watch
 Kisonce
 Ant-pa-ki-nu-wu-tick
 F.Mic.Co.Bu buis
 Ku-pu-ni-cking
 Oja-wi-kick
 etc.etc.etc.

[Documents No. 195]

154. By the direction of Sir John Colborne, the above petition was transmitted by Col. J. Givens, Chief Superintendent, to Lt. Col. Napier to present to the Governor in Chief. In his covering letter dated August 11, 1835, Givens reiterated Colborne's previously stated views:

...
 His Excellency requests that you will have the goodness to cause it to be stated to these Tribes that He will endeavor to prevent the lumbermen and Squatters

from molesting them on their hunting grounds to the Northward of the River Mataqangue, and between that River and Lake Nipissing: and, that, as they have expressed a desire to settle on a tract of Land near les Calumettes, His Excellency will not fail to assist them in occupying it, should they decide on removing to that part of the Ottawa; but, that, in regard to their claims generally, their Memorial has been forwarded through the Indian Department for the Consideration of the Governor in Chief.

[Document No. 196]

155. There was a cholera epidemic at Lake of Two Mountains in 1835 which decimated the village. Many people either died or moved away. [See Document No. SS-26, p. 787.]

156. An 1836 petition from the Algonquin and Nipissing Indians of Lake of Two Mountains to Major General Sir John Colborne, Lt. Governor of Upper Canada, requested proper deeds and an interpreter to help them to take possession of Allumette Island, and lands on the south shore opposite that island which, they declared, they had been told belonged to them. The petition read as follows:

The humble petition of the Algonquins and Nipissings of Lake of Two Mountains

humbly representing to your Excellency [illegible words: July August in?] 1835 who, having found his excellency Sir John Colbourn [sic] had obtained some lands named the Alumith [sic] Island [inserted:] the lands near Bytown up to Alumette Island [l'isle des Alumette] approximately 126 [illegible word] with another lot of lands opposite the island and which His Excellency the Govr. [inserted:] Sir J. Colburn [sic] of Upper Canada had accorded them, in the year 1835, we had been in Toronto Algonquin and Nipissing Chief[s] and he told us my children I will give you what you have asked of me when in the year 1836 we had returned and have told them that the Mississaugas had sold this piece of land to the government which had been accorded to them to the Algonquins and Nipissings but that he had thought they had been [compensated? (dédominisé)] recognizing that this land had belonged to them, this is why your humble petitioners [illegible] in hopes that your paternal goodness would wish to compensate them for Alumette island they were told that it belonged to them and to take possession of it but that they hope by your Excellency that they be accorded title, with an interpreter, to take possession saying that they are the only ones who have no lands of their own even though their ancestors and themselves had spilled their blood in the defence of country and of their lands. This is why your humble petitioners in the hope that your paternal arms would give to them and who will never cease [illegible crossed out words] to pray for your consideration,

your petitioners very humbly beg you what has been sold by the Mississaugas above-mentioned to pray that His Excellency of Upper Canada interest himself in this for them, to give them the country that he accorded to the Mississaugas, and your petitioners have made several petitions for these same demands they never received any decisive answers.

your petition[ers] represent that the islands of the Ottawa [autawa] River had been given to them by Colonel Cambell [sic] [inserted:] under Lord Dorchester's government, in one thousand seven hundred and seventy five for the good services rendered by them to the government but that several whites had seized these said islands and wanted to give no recompense and that they pray to your Excellency to repeat well [in good will] the grant that was given to them.

July 1835 - Sir J. Colbourn [sic] accorded to them Allumettes Island with the [attached?] lands on the southern shore of the Ottawa River of a length of the said island and of a depth of 3 leagues.

1836 - they have found the Algonquin and Nipissing Chiefs that the said island and lands had been purchased by the Government from the Mississaugas and that the government had given a certain [pay?] for the possession of the said

lands to the Mississaugas which should have belonged to the Algonquins and Nipissings - and asked to be compensated for the said injustices -

As for Alumettes Island - they ask for deeds [illegible word]

The Islands of the Ottawa which belong to them are now in the possession of Whites - they ask [to be] recompensed - or be given possession of the deeds [illegible word]

[signatures and names of Algonquin and Nipissing Chiefs

[Translation from French]

[Document No. 197]

157. On January 19, **1836**, Superintendent James Hughes, advised Napier that the Algonquins and Nipissings had met with Colborne in Toronto and, on the basis of discussions there, they had decided to leave Lake of the Two Mountains and settle at Grand Calumet Portage:

... I have here to observe that while making the Issues of His Majesty's Annual Bounty at the Lake of the Two Mountains on the 10th Dec. 1835 - Two or three old Indians of the Algonquin and Nipissingue Tribe as well as Captn. Ducharme, Interpreter at that Station - Informed me that the whole of the Chiefs and principal Warriors of those Nations, Being Obligated to leave the village, in search of a livelyhood from the Chase, and it being more than probable that they could not meet me at the said Annual Issue Assembled in Council before their Departures, and left a Parole for me with the above mentioned Individuals Requesting of me to make known to their Father Sir John Colborne Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (through you) that it was the determination of the Algonquin and Nipissingue Tribes in General - To leave the village of the Lake of the Two Mountains and to go & settle on the tract of land above the Grand Calumet Portage, which His Excellency their Father Sir John Colborne, was pleased to say to them, in the course of last Summer, at a Council held at Toronto, that he would not fail to assist them in Occupying - And they also pray of their Father at Quebec The Governor in Chief - to take the distressed state of his red Children the Algonquins & Nipissingues into Consideration - and to do all in his power with the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada - to recommend them (the Algonquins & Nipissingues) for a like remuneration, as their red Brethren of Upper Canada have received - for such lands or hunting grounds as they have been deprived of by that Government -

[Document No. 198]

158. One week later, on January 28, **1836**, Napier wrote to Givens, Chief Superintendent Indian Department of Upper Canada, supporting the Indians' petition which he enclosed:

Referring to Your Letter of the 11th August 1835, and to My Communication of the 3 September following, I have the honor to transmit to You, for the favorable Consideration of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, the enclosed Copy of a Communication from the Superintendent of the Indian Department at Montreal, Stating, that the Indians of the Algonquin and Nipissingue Tribes, at the Lake of the Two Mountains, have decided on removing to the Tract of Land, near the Grand Calumet Portage, on the Ottawa River, alluded to in Your Letter above mentioned.

Adverting to the Petition from these Tribes, (which I beg leave to return to You enclosed) I consider it my duty to observe, that it is expressly provided by His Majesty's Proclamation, Dated St. James's 7th October 1763, that, the Indians shall not under any pretence whatever, be deprived of the Lands claimed by them - Unless they should be inclined to dispose of them, in which case, they are to be purchased for the Crown, only, and, at Some Public Meeting to be held for that purpose: - Notwithstanding which, extension Grants have been made of the Territory claimed by the Algonquin and Nipissingue Indians within the Province of Upper Canada, without any compensation whatever being made to them, although, in all cases, where Lands Claimed by other Tribes are required by Government, they have been purchased at a Stipulated price, or

some other Compensation made to the Indians, in obedience to His Majesty's Commands.-

The Algonquin and Nipissingue Tribes have always been distinguished for their Steady, Undeviating Loyalty and general good Conduct, and their brilliant Services, as Auxiliaries to the King's Troops, during the last war with the United States, in almost every Action and Out Post Affair, between the British and American Forces, upon the Frontiers of both Lower and Upper Canada, Stand recorded in the General Orders of the Army in this Command.

An Authentic Copy of the Royal Proclamation of 1763, Certified by the Late Sir John Johnson, is lodged in this Office, and should His Excellency be desirous of referring to that Document, I shall have much pleasure in transmitting it to you, in support of the Claims of Algonquin and Nipissingue Tribes.

[Document No. 199]

159. An extract from a letter dated April 28, 1836, by the Commissariat at Quebec, reads as follows:

...
On the Lake of the Two Mountains situated on the River Ottawa, about Thirty-five Miles above Montreal, there are three Tribes, a Branch of the Iroquois about 280, the Algonquins about 304, and the Nipissings about 260, numbering together about 840 Individuals, the Majority of whom are Women and Children.

These are the most necessitous Tribes. They have about 260 Acres under Cultivation in small Patches, but the Quality of the Land is bad, and held from the Priests of St. Sulpice. Their village is respectable, with a handsome Church.

A great Part of these Tribes are employed in hunting, and go as far as Lakes Nipissing and Superior, disposing of their Fur to an Agent of the Hudson's Bay Company resident in their Village, and who supplies them in advance with the Necessaries for their Excursions, which are for the Most Part undertaken during the Winter Season. During the Summer I understand that they pay a good deal of Attention to the Cultivation of their Lands. Some of these Indians, chiefly of the Iroquois Tribe, are employed as Pilots and Raftsmen to the Rafts which come down the Ottawa, through the Rideau Canal, and by the Falls of the Chaudiere.

...

[Document No. 202]

160. On the 2nd of August, 1836, Napier wrote to Givens informing him that representatives of the Algonquins and Nipissings were about to travel to Toronto to indicate to Givens the land they had chosen for settlement on the south side of the Ottawa River:

In reference to the Concluding paragraph in your Letter of the 26th February 1836, I beg leave to acquaint You, that the Indians named in the Margin have been appointed by the principal Chiefs of the Algonquin and Nipissingue Tribes, to proceed to Toronto, for the purpose of explaining to you, the exact situation of that portion of their Hunting Grounds on the South Side of the River Ottawa, which they have selected for the settlement of their Tribes, and with a view of obtaining, through your protection, some assistance from Government in Settling thereon.-

Those named in the margin were:

Nipissing Tribe: François Papino, Grand Chief and Kabawst, Warrior.
Algonquin Tribe: Jean Bap^{te} Kikonsi and Ignace Magowaskaw, Grand Chiefs.

[Document No. 203]

161. Further light is thrown on the Indians' decision to move in a November 1836 report describing the conditions in the village which the Algonquins and Nipissings proposed to leave. "Answers to Certain queries relative to the Indians of the Village of the Lake of Two Mountains", was prepared by Supt. James Hughes. Hughes' report described the hunting grounds and condition of the Algonquins and Nipissings in detail:

...
2nd Query Means of subsistence of the Indians, independent of the presents -

Answer -

... The Algonquins and Nipissingues' only means of Subsistence are derived from the Chace [sic], These two Tribes are a wandering sett, never remaining at their village more than two months in the year (with the exception of a few old men, women & Invalids). They generally leave their Village in the month of August & repair to their hunting grounds - They move about from place to place during the whole winter, in search of furs and game to support their families - In the month of June the ensuing year they return to their Village, for the purpose of performing their religious duties, to receive their proportion of His Majesty's Annual bounty to them, and to pay the Traders who are stationed there, with their furs & peltries for such articles of Cloathing & food (pork, beef & flour) which they may have taken on credit during the time they remained at the Village the Summer previous - Formerly these two Tribes were rich and Independent - Their hunting grounds were extensive, abounded in furs and Peltries & were overstocked with Deer - The hunting grounds granted to these two Tribes about the year 1763 (by a certain Proclamation) and which they had enjoyed long before the Conquest - embraced all the Countries from Pointe D'Orignal (a little above long Sault)⁴⁸ on both sides of the river Ottawa - to Lake Nipissingue, comprehending all rivers and Creeks to their sources - flowing into said river Ottawa - - By far the greater part of these hunting grounds have been taken by Government laid out into Townships & conceded to Individuals Without any remuneration whatever having been made to the poor Indians for the same - Altho' the Indians of upper Canada receive an annual remuneration (over and above their presents) for all such parts of their hunting grounds as they may have been deprived of by Government, by purchase or otherwise - The Nipissingues and Algonquins from once being in affluence are now reduced to a state of Indigence - The Settlers, and more especially the lumber men have entirely ruined their hunting grounds - Their furs & peltries from the constant fires in the woods are destroyed, The Deer are driven away - The Indians are naked & half starved - Their only dependence for to cover their nakedness is, from His Majestys annual presents to them -

6th Query -

Number of unsettled Indians as above, receiving presents -

What Tribes -

Whence coming.

Answer

The whole of the Tribes of this Village are as I have already said mostly unsettled, never remaining at their village one fourth part of the year and never while in the Forest more than a few days in the same Encampment, excepting when they have the luck of falling into a good Deer Country or on a good fish Lake - and that they Kill a sufficiency to enable them to lay up a stock of Provisions - No other Tribes of Indians (unsettled) visit this Village, except a few now and then from the Upper Province, who remain but a few days - But never receive presents.

[Document No. 205]

162. On February 8, 1837, "The Chiefs and Warriors of the Algonquin and Nipissingue Indians" addressed still another petition to Lord Gosford, the Governor of Lower Canada. The text of this petition was similar to the one they had presented in June

⁴⁸ Point d'Orignal is just upstream from present day Hawkesbury; Long Sault is just downstream.

1835 to Sir John Colborne, the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, and which had been decided on by Sir Francis Bond Head. This time, however, their description of that portion of their traditional hunting grounds on the north side of the Ottawa River and the reference to the encroachment of white settlers on that side was directed at the Governor of the province in whose jurisdiction these lands lay. In addition, in consequence of the growing settlement since 1835, they now asked for "reasonable indemnification" for these lands on the north shore:

...
We most humbly beg to expose to Your Excellency our Father, that we and our Ancestors have immemorially or from the remotest antiquity, held, used, occupied, possessed and enjoyed as Hunting Grounds the tract of land lying on either side of the River Ottawa and little rivers as far as Lake Nipissing, that is to say, comprehending both Banks of the River Ottawa, and of the River Matawangué called by the Voyageurs the little River to the height of land separating the waters of the Lake Nipissing from those of the little River together with the countries watered by the several tributary streams of the River Ottawa and little Rivers running North and South from their sources, the distance from the Township of Grenville to Lake Nipissingue by Canoe navigation is computed at One hundred and seventeen Leagues, one hundred of which comprise the River Ottawa to the junction of the little River, with the River Matawangué, the actual settlement at present by the whites extending from the said Township of Grenville to that of Onslow inclusive on the North Shore of the Ottawa River.

...

we are irresistably compelled to supplicate the aid and protection of Your Excellency our Father backing our humble claim to reasonable indemnification for the lands on the North side of the River Ottawa dismembered from our Hunting Grounds without purchase or compensation notwithstanding the above Royal Proclamation ...

The signatures appearing on the petition to the Governor of Lower Canada:

Nipissingues	Algonquins
Fill Papino	Ignace Meiwagchkawatch
Simo Kiweksa	J. Baptiste Kikonse
Chapatis Kilkikomanito	Simon Chawanasiketch
Mias Chaweanapa	Francois Migwanabai
Chapatis Weapichip	Antoine Pakinawatik
Newi Tchaki	Benjamin Osawakik
Pana Surve Otchik	Joseph Stokwa
Tominik Patse	

[Document No. 208]

163. In a report dated May 15, 1837, Captain Charles Anderson, Rice Lake, stated that the Chippewa [Mississauga] Indians settled at Alnwick, Rice Lake and Mud Lake hunted up to the Ottawa River:

Query 1st.-- The Number of Tribes and of Indians resident within this Province?

Answer.-- There are Three Tribes of Indians of the Chippewa Nation in the Newcastle District;⁴⁹ their Numbers about 500.

Query 2d.-- The Pursuits of each Tribe, with the Number of fixed Locations occupied by the Indians?

⁴⁹ The District of Newcastle includes the present counties of Northumberland, Durham, Peterborough, Victoria, Haliburton, the western half of Algonquin Park and eastern halves of Muskoka and Parry Sound. The eastern boundary of Newcastle district intersected the Ottawa River at Mattawa; the western boundary ended on the southshore of Lake Nipissing. The northeast quarter (approx.) of Newcastle District was within the Ottawa River watershed. The Chippewa (Mississauga) settlements of Rice Lake, Mud Lake and Alnwick are located along the Trent System in the southern portion of the district.

Answer.-- The Pursuits of the Indians in the Newcastle District since they embraced Christianity are principally agricultural. There are Three fixed Locations; viz. Alnwick, Rice Lake, and Mud Lake Indian Settlements.

Query 3d.-- The Situation of the Locations of the settled Parties or of Hunting Grounds occupied by the other Indians?

Answer.-- The Alnwick Indian Settlement is situate on the South Side of the Rice Lake, about One and a half Mile back from the Lake. The Rice Lake Indian Settlement is on the North Side of the Lake. The Mud Lake Indian Settlement is situated on a Point of Land on that Lake.

The Hunting Grounds is the Tract of Country through to the Ottawa River.

Query 4th.-- The extent of the Lands set apart at the different Locations for the Use of the Indians, or of the Hunting Ranges:

Answer.-- The Extent of the Alnwick Indian Settlement is about 3,000 Acres, that of the Rice Lake about 1,200 Acres, and that of the Mud Lake about 1,600 Acres; the Hunting Ranges consist principally of Deer, with which the Country abounds.

...

[Document No. 210]

164. The Executive Council considered the matter and prepared the following recommendation for Lord Gosford on June 13, 1837:

The Iroquois, Algonquins, and Nipissings, collected, under the spiritual Care of the Priests of the Seminary of Montreal, at the Lake of the Two Mountains, and forming altogether a Population 864 Souls, have no Land in their actual Possession, except about 260 Acres of sterile Soil, which they occupy by Permission of the Seminary, the Possessors of the Seigniori.

The Circumstances of these Tribes appear to the Committee to demand the peculiar Attention of Government. Having done good Service in the Field in aid of His Majesty's Arms, both during the Former and the late War with the United States, they are now among the most helpless and destitute of the Indians of Lower Canada. They have laid before Your Excellency a Claim to be maintained in the Enjoyment of the Residue of their Hunting Grounds on the Ottawa River not as yet comprised in Settlements or Townships, and to be compensated for that Part which has been taken from them for those Purposes by the Crown.

The Claim of these Indians comprises a Tract of Country on each Side of the Ottawa River reaching from the last seigniorial Grant for some Hundreds of Miles upwards; and they ask that, besides receiving Compensation for that Portion of this Territory which the Crown has granted away or the White Population has occupied, they may be protected in the Enjoyment of the Remainder against further Encroachments or Grants.

There appears no Reason to doubt that under the French Government the Hunting Grounds of these Nations may have covered the whole Extent which they now describe, and that their Right so to use it, was as little disputed and as well defined as any of the territorial Rights of the other Indian Tribes.

These Petitioners now appeal to the Terms of the Royal Proclamation of 1763; and it appears to the Committee that, as that Act of State has been considered sufficient to guarantee the Iroquois of St. Regis the Possession of their present Reservation, to which it is stated they had not other Right than as a Part of their ancient Hunting Grounds, the Algonquin and Nipissing Tribes may have some Ground to complain if they are deprived of the Benefit of the same protection for their Claims. They have brought forward their Pretensions on various Occasions; and it is to be inferred from some of the Documents which they produce in support of their Application, that their Right to Compensation was at least in one instance distinctly admitted by Lord Dorchester.

The Committee however conceive that the Claims of these and indeed of all the Indian Tribes in respect of their former Territorial Possessions are at the present day to be resolved into an equitable Right to be compensated for the loss of

Lands from which in former Times they derived their Subsistence, and which may have been taken by Government for the Purposes of Settlement, and that the Measure of such Compensation should be to place and maintain them in a Condition of at least equal Advantage with that which they would have enjoyed in their former State.

Viewing in this Manner the Claim now made by the Tribes in question, the Committee recommend that a sufficient Tract of Land should be set apart for them in the Rear of the present Range of Townships on the Ottawa River; and that such of them as may from Time to Time be disposed to settle on Land should be located there, and that both they and the rest of these Tribes should continue to receive such Support, Encouragement, and Assistance as may supply the Place of their former Means of Subsistence, and at the same Time prepare and lead them to a state of Independence of further Aid.

[Document No. 212]

These recommendations of the Executive Council constitute the first record after Dorchester's declarations [See Document No. 66] that has been located of official recognition that the Algonquins and Nipissings had "an equitable right to be compensated for the loss of [their traditional] lands ...". They were duly transmitted to London by Gosford on July 13, 1837, in his dispatch No. 71.

165. A year after the Executive Council had presented their recommendations to Lord Gosford, the Indians had still not received a reply to their petitions. Therefore, on July 18, 1838, the Algonquins and Nipissings submitted to Superintendent Hughes another request that the government deal with their complaints:

We, your Brothers, the Chiefs and Warriors of the Nipissing and Algonquin Tribe, on behalf of both ourselves and our women and children, give you our heartfelt thanks for the great kindness you have always shown us; we are certain we have caused you great trouble and torment. We know your heart, Brother, and it is good and true. Your brothers, the Nipissings and Algonquins, again need your help and are certain you will not refuse them. It is in you alone, brother, that we place our trust. You are one of us. And so, we implore you to make our poverty known to our Brother His Excellency the Governor General who recently arrived, and who governs us. You are not unaware, Brother, that these past years, we have submitted a number of requests to the Fathers who governed us. But, unfortunately for us (perhaps because of their short stay among their Red Children or some other reason), we have never been able to have a definitive reply to our fair demands.

It would appear that our Father today, the Governor General, has more power than his Predecessors. They say he is good and generous, that he does Justice to his Red Children and White Children alike. That is all we are asking and all we are entitled to expect.

You know, Brother, our deplorable situation. You must remember the content of the Petitions we sent to several of our Fathers. These Petitions, or at least their copies, must be in Quebec City. Tell Our Father that we beseech him to read them, examine them and consider them seriously; and he will see at a glance that his Children, the Nipissings and Algonquins, are reasonable and are only asking for their rights: and tell him also that we are convinced he will do us Justice and that soon he will make his feelings known to us.

Brother, tell Our Father how we have been treated and scorned by the Whitemen who live on the banks of the Ottawa River. They take possession of our islands. They build here and there on our hunting grounds, without our permission or that of the Government. They ruin our Firewood without giving us anything; destroy our fur trade, drive off our deer; in short, they do us much harm. Before, the Whitemen who lived on our islands asked our permission to do so. They dealt honestly with us. They paid us an annual payment; we were satisfied with it and they remained there undisturbed. Now, only a few of the people pay us, although there are many who live on our islands. They laugh at us when we ask for payment. They tell us: "Where are your Titles? Show them to us, and then we will pay you". And so, Brother, be so good as to

beseech our Father, on our behalf, to be good enough to give us a writing in his own hand giving us the power and authority to lease (but not sell), through the hands of one of our officers, for a specific period of time to be determined by our Father as he sees fit, these same islands which are reserved for us for our own benefit and use, located in the Ottawa River. One day, when our Father needs them, he will take them. We know he will give us some small annual payment.

Tell our Father who we are. Tell him his children, the Nipissings and Algonquins, have always been loyal subjects; that his predecessors, our Fathers, always found us ready to follow their commands. We have spilled our blood for our King and our country. And we are prepared to do so again, at any time, when our Father deems it necessary. We have nothing further to say; we leave everything in your hands. Explain the demands we are making of our Father, in our petitions, and tell him we hope he will answer us before we leave for our Hunting grounds. And, if possible, we would like to see him before our departure.

Done in good faith and trust us always.
Your grateful and obedient brothers

[Translated from French]

[Document No. 216]

166. Two weeks later, on August 1, 1838, Superintendent Hughes wrote to Napier regarding the Algonquins' various petitions. Besides reiterating their previous claims, Hughes reported that the Algonquins and Nipissings had been informed that lands south of the Ottawa had been ceded by Mississaugas. Hughes added the Chiefs' contended that the Mississaugas had not used this land unless sanctioned by themselves in a "clandestine" manner:

I have the honour to transmit herewith for the information and consideration of His Excellency the Governor General the document referred to in my letter marked No. 1 of the 31st ultimo and delivered to me as therein started by Francois ka-on-li-no-ketch, Grand Chief of the Nipissingue Tribe on the 19th Ultimo.

The petitions referred to in said document, & which they request of me to explain are as follows:

No. 1 Is a Petition from the Algonquin and Nipissingue Tribes of the Lake of the Two Mountains to His Excellency Sir John Colborne the then Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada dated 6th June 1835 relative to their hunting grounds on the South side of the Ottawa River.

No. 2 Is another Petition from the same Tribes to His Excellency The Right Hon'ble Earl of Gosford then Governor In Chief dated 8th Feb. 1837 relative to their hunting grounds on the north side of the Ottawa River - to which they beg reference -

No. 3 Is a Joint Petition from the Principal Chiefs of the several Tribes of Indians in this District dated 3rd Feb. 1837. Praying for a continuance of the Royal Annual Bounty to them, and their Children as heretofore - Petitions No. 2 3 accompanied my letter of the 8th Feb. 1837.

In reference to Petition No. 1. (a copy of which I beg leave to enclose) I have to observe that in the course of July 1835 a deputation of the Tribes Nip & Algonquins went to Toronto, were admitted to an Interview of His Excellency, To Whom they presented the Petition in question. His Excellency was pleased to listen Kindly & favorably to their presentations. Vide letters from Chief Supt In. Department at Toronto to Lt. Col. Napier, Secty In. Affairs Lower Canada dated 11th August 1835 -

In the course of the month of August 1836 four Chiefs Nipissingues and Algonquins were again deputed by their different Tribes to Toronto - But The Lieut. Governor Sir Francis Bond Head being absent, The Chief Superintendent would give them no definitive answer to their application - relative to the land mentioned in their Petition, & on which they had a desire to

settle - & wished it to be surveyed - However by what the Indians, themselves represent - It appears from the Information they received from the Chief Superintendent Col. Givens that the hunting grounds in question had been purchased by Government some years back from the Missisagua Tribe & for which that Tribe received goods annually to a certain amount. - The Nipissingues and Algonquins pray of Their Father to be pleased to order that an inquiry be made in this affair and if such be the case. They pray for Their Father to be pleased to direct the said annual remuneration paid to the Missisaguas for said lands to be retained and paid over to the Nipissingues & Algonquins - The said lands being known & acknowledged by all Tribes before and since the conquest of Canada by Their Great Father King George the Third of Blessed Memory to have been put apart and enjoyed by the Nipissingues & Algonquins as their hunting grounds and that the Missisaguas never without permission from the Nip. & Algonquins, dared hunt on said lands - without they did it in a clandestine manner [emphasis added] -

As regards Petition No. 2 - The Nipissingues & Algonquins are persuaded that their Father His Excellency The Governor General, will shew no partiality, but will act towards them as the Government of Upper Canada has Invariably done to their red Bretheren in that Province - They ask for a certain annual remuneration; for the vast territory, forming great part of their hunting grounds, on the North side of the Ottawa river - assumed by Government and erected into Townships - and also to be secured in the full enjoyment of such portions of their said hunting grounds, as have not as yet been taken by Government -

With respect to the Joint Petition No. 3 they leave to the consideration of their New Father whom they are persuaded will do all in his power for His red children who have always been loyal & Obedient -

Concerning the Islands on the Ottawa River, They beseech their Father, to order that justice be rendered them, by ordering the removal of such of the Whites as have squatted on them and by giving His red Children a certain Document signed by His own hand, to empower them, or the Officer that he may be pleased to appoint to watch over their Interests, and to leave the said Islands for four or five years at a time for the sole benefit of His red children the Nipissingues -

They beg further to represent to their Father, That many of their Tribes have settled on an Island [Isle aux Allumettes] above the Grand Calumet Portage on the Ottawa, And that many others are on the point of joining them, they being nearer the hunting grounds that are not yet quite ruined and enabled to procure a livelyhood from fishing But they are sorry to say that many squatters have settled themselves on said Island to their annoyance, They therefore pray of Their Father to give such orders as he may deem most fit to enforce their removal from said Island - (L'Isle aux Allumettes)

[Document No. 218]

167. Petition No. 1 to which Hughes referred was the Algonquin/Nipissing petition of June 6, 1835 [See Document No. 195] which was rejected by Sir Francis Bond Head. In a separate letter dated September 4, 1838, Hughes added the following comments on that situation, including remarks on the sale of land by the Mississaugas:

Yours of the 17th Ult. I have the honor to acknowledge, and would long ere now have answered it, but being in expectation that the principal Chiefs of the Algonquin and Nipissingue Tribes, would according to their Intentions have paid me a visit, occasioned the delay. -I now beg leave to mention, that the decision of the late Lieut Governor of Up. Canada (Sir F.B. Head) which I had the honour to receive with your letter of the 10th March 1836) and Nipissingues to His Excellency Sir John Colborne dated 6th June 1835, was fully explained to the Petitioners at the time or soon after.-

1. The object of the Petitioners' present request, 1st Aug. - Praying that the said Petition should be submitted to His Excellency, the Governor General, is. that His Excellency may be made acquainted, with the extensive tract of Country, situated on the South side of the River Ottawa, which they the Algonquins & Nip. Tribes, claim as their hunting Grounds from time immemorial, & which were held, used, occupied, possessed and enjoyed, as such, by their ancestors,

long before the conquest of Canada by the arms of Their Good and Great Father of Glorious memory, King George III and since by themselves and Kindred.

2. That His Excellency, by reference to said Petition will find, that the greater, & most valuable parts of these hunting grounds, have been assumed by Government, without ever consulting their Tribes, or allowing them the least remuneration for the same, altho in all similar instances, when lands claimed by contemporary Tribes, have been required by their Great Father, the same have been uniformly purchased, at a stipulated price, or for some certain compensation, in Obedience to the Royal Proclamation, as mentioned in said Petition.

3. That Their Father, His Excellency The Governor General in looking over the Petition, and having reference to the sale of lands, or rather the deed of sale (a memo of which is in possession of the Secty In Affs at Quebec) made by the Missisaguais to the Government of Up. Canada) will find that the greater part thereof, as the Petitioners to their great astonishment and surprise, were informed by the Chief Supt In Dept at Toronto, are the very hunting grounds which have always been, & still are claimed by the Algonquins & Nipissingues - and to which the Missisaguais had no right whatever. The country claimed as hunting grounds, by the Missisaguais and respected as such by the Nipissingues & Algonquins, is a certain tract to the Southward, of a ridge of land (called Hauteurs des Terres) that separates the waters which fall into the Lakes and into the River St Lawrence from those falling to the Northward & into the River Ottawa. [emphasis added]

4. That they the Nip. and Algonquins, are persuaded, that when Their Father His Excellency the Governor General, finds that they have never sold any part of Their hunting Grounds to Government- and that the very tract of country made over by the Missisaguais to the Government of Upper Canada, forms part of the hunting grounds, claimed & enjoyed by them (Nip. & Alg.) from time immemorial & acknowledged as such by all the Tribes of Lower Canada His Excellency will see the Justness of their demands - and order that the remuneration in Indian presents, whatever it may be, annually paid to the Missisaguais, for the said lands, to which they had no right whatever, may be retained, and in Justice, ordered to be paid to the Nipissingue and Algonquin Tribes:

[Document No. 223]

168. Having learned thus in 1836 that the hunting grounds they claimed had been purchased from the Mississaugas, the Algonquins and Nipissings changed the tenor of their representations to the Crown. The following petition was presented on September 6, 1838, to Sir George Arthur, the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. They reiterated their claims to the watershed before addressing the issue of the Mississauga surrender:

That we the Indian Chiefs and Warriors who now most respectfully approach Your Excellency, do for ourselves and our respective nation, tribes and kindred, humbly and obediently implore Your Excellency as our Father and Protector, to vouchsafe and Your gracious attention to, and consideration of this the humble Memorial of the Grievances and deprivations which we, Your Red Children, have long endured patiently and submissively without complaints; under the conviction however, that those Grievances, now becoming more and more burdensome, when made known to Your Excellency, our Father, would obtain retribution; Justice and Equity having ever been co-ordinate with the Government over which your so meritoriously preside.

We most humbly beg to expose to Your Excellency, Our Father, that We and our ancestors have immemorially or from the remotest antiquity, held, used, occupied possessed and enjoyed as Hunting Grounds, the tract of Land lying on either side of the River Ottawa and little Rivers as far as Lake Nipissingue, that is to say, comprehending both Banks of the River Ottawa and of the River Matawangu called by the Voyageurs the Little River, to the height of land separating the waters of the Lake Nipissing from those of the little river together with the countries watered by the several tributary streams of the River Ottawa and Little Rivers running North and South from their Sources: the above tract of land is bounded to the Southward by a ridge of Land separating the waters

which falls into the Lakes and into the River St. Lawrence from those falling to the Northward and into the River Ottawa; The distance from the Township of Hawksbury (Pointe d'Orignal) to Lake Nipissing by Canoe navigation is computed at 117 Leagues, 100 of which comprise the River Ottawa to the junction of the Little River with the River Matawangui, the actual settlement at present by the Whites, extending from the said township of Hawksbury to the last settlement, inclusive.-

That our Great Father, George III; of glorious memory, by his Royal Proclamation given at the court of St. James the 17th day of October 1763, promulgated to us, Your Red Children, and the other Indian Tribes of North America by the Honourable Sir William Johnson Bart. Our Great Father's Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, in a Proclamation dated at Johnson Hall on the 24th day of December 1763 did expressly declare and provide "That the Land claimed by the Indians as their Hunting grounds are reserved to them for that purpose, and that they shall not under any pretence whatever be molested or disturbed in the possession thereof unless they should be inclined to dispose of the same" in which case it is further declared and provided "that the same shall be purchased for our Great Father, in His Royal name at some public meeting or assembly to be held for that purpose by the Governor or Commander in Chief".-

That Your Excellency's Petitioners humbly represent, that Extensive Grants have been made and converted or erected into Townships and Settlements for the Whites by Your Excellency's predecessors on the territory so immemorially held, used, occupied, possessed and enjoyed by us, Your Red Children as Hunting Grounds, without regard to our Rights therein and notwithstanding the provision of the above Royal Proclamation of our Great Father and that no indemnity or compensation for the Lands so taken and dismembered from our hunting ground has ever been made to us or any of our Tribes, Nations, or Kindred, although in all similar instances where lands claimed by contemporary Tribes, in Upper Canada have been required by our Great Father the same have uniformly been purchased at a stipulated price or for some certain compensation in obedience to the above Royal proclamation of our Great Father.

That Your Petitioners have recently heard with surprise, that the Mississagua Tribe have sold to the Government of Upper Canada, a certain portion of our said Hunting Grounds and that they receive an annuity for the same amounting to 642:10:0 C.M. per annum, without our knowledge consent or participation in any shape or manner whatever [underlining in original text]; wherefore Your Petitioners claim from Your Excellency justice; that the said sale by the Mississagua be cancelled and annulled and the said annuity paid to your Petitioners.-

That may it please Your Excellency Our Father, we the Algonquin and Nipissingue Indian do not possess any lands yielding to us any Revenue and hence are solely dependant upon the chase on our hunting Grounds for support and maintenance and although your Red Children have not failed to view the progressive settlement by the Whites of our hunting grounds in various other tracts than those mentioned as having been sold without our consent or authority as above mentioned, as a violation of the Terms of the above Royal Proclamation of Our Great Father, we have nevertheless abstained hitherto, from preferring any representation on the subject to the Government whereof your Excellency Our Father is now at the head; but seeing ourselves plundered of our property by the sale in question, and observing that the present rapidly increasing settlement of the Upper Province and of that part thereof comprehending the Hunting Grounds of Your Red Children lying on the south side of the River Ottawa, and that the indiscriminate and wanton destruction by the White or new Settlers, of the Beaver and other animals from which, the most valuable furs are derived will ere long annihilate our Chase and deprive us of the sole means which have hitherto been the support of our tribes from long and immemorial custom; we are irresistably compelled to supplicate the aid and protection of Your Excellency Our Father touching our just claim to the Annuity in question and also to reasonable indemnification for the other Lands on the south side of the River Ottawa thus dismembered from our Hunting Grounds without purchase or compensation of our Great Father, the King.

That may it please Your Excellency Our Father we Your Red Children of the Tribes of the Algonquin and Nipissingue Indians do not presume or venture to entertain the belief that the Lands already dismembered from our Hunting Grounds by the iniquitous sale in question and subsequently converted or erected in Townships for Settlement by the Government over which Your

Excellency our Father now presides, will be restored to us, but we do believe, that Your Excellency will take steps to transfer to us the Annuity which has been unjustly acquired by the Mississaguas, as above stated, and also that a fair and reasonable compensation for the other portion of our lands lying on the South side of the River Ottawa and dismembered from our Hunting Grounds without our knowledge & consent in the manner before described, will be allowed and conceded unto us in Obedience to the tenor of the above Royal Proclamation of Our Great Father - and we do also humbly and confidently appeal to Your Excellency our Father to ratify and confirm to us Your Red Children by a Proclamation, the use, occupation and possession of the residue or unoccupied portion of our hunting grounds on the South side of the River Ottawa which yet are reserved to us, and that in case we Your Red Children, or our descendants may at any time hereafter be inclined to dispose of the said lands, that the same be purchased for our Great Father in his Royal name, at some public meeting or assembly of our Tribes, to be held for that purpose. And moreover we humbly pray that Your Excellency Our Father will be pleased to command by Proclamation, or otherwise, that all Intruders or Squatters do forthwith depart from and leave undisturbed and unmolested the unoccupied portions of our said Hunting Grounds, now possessed by Your Red Children, the whole in obedience to the above Royal Proclamation of Our Great Father.

We do by this Our Memorial humbly submit to your Excellency Our Father, the foregoing representations of the grievances impositions & frauds and deprivations which we your Red Children have endured and are likely to endure from the unjust and fraudulent dismemberment of the Hunting Grounds heretofore possessed by us immemorially, and reserved, and confirmed to us, by the Above Royal Proclamation of Our Great Father of glorious memory, and while we humbly recall to Your Excellency Our Father's recollection, that our Tribes have respectively been distinguished for Fidelity, Bravery, and General good conduct and attachment to the Royal cause of our great Father, particularly during the American Rebellion, we do, yet wholly repose on the wisdom of Your Excellency Our Father to whom we humbly pray for the redress of our grievances and deprivations, and for the dispensation of justice and equity touching the same:-

And as in duty bound we Your Red Children will ever pray etc.

Nipissigues		Algonquins	
Frans, Ka-on-tino-ketch		Ign. Mui-gu-waskuwetch	SA Marque
J. Bte. Keejic-o-Muni-too	X	Ki, conce	X X
Ignace Chu-wu-na-bais	X	Ant. Paki-nu-watick	X X
Tanas-thon	X	F. Mi-co-na-buis	X X
F. Ojick	X	Ku-po-ni-ching	X X
P-Kukusi-Keth	X	Oja-wa-thick	X X
Tehungi	X		
Beeaccpit [T. Tak-wa-nin]	X	etc. etc. etc.	

etc., etc., etc.

Je Missionnaire soussigné certifie que les réclamations contenues sans la sus dite petition sont réelement l'Expression des demands faites par les Chefs Nipissings at Algonquins tant en leur nom qu'en celui de leurs nations respectives demeurant au Lac des deux montagnes.

Ce 7e jour de September 1838 Durocher P. Misne.
(Pere Missionnaire)

[Document No. 224]

169. The Chiefs of Algonquins and Nipissings of Lake of Two Mountains addressed Lt. Colonel Napier, Secretary of Indian Affairs, requesting his support in presenting the above petition to the Lt. Governor:

We the Algonquins and the Nipissings of the Lake, on our own behalf, as well as that of our wives, children and our tribes in general, greet you with all our heart, we thank you a thousand times for the kindness that we have always received from you. You know our grievance, we have done all we could with our Fathers the various Governors to obtain redress, but, we are mortified to tell you, without any success. This is why Brother, we have undertaken once again, to address our new Father of Upper Canada, in the enclosed petition. You will see what they have been told, Your Brothers the Algonquins and

Nipissings beg of you to obtain the support of your Father the Governor General for his children of the Lake, and his permission, that you present the petition directed to him, Try Brother to see our new Father of Upper Canada, in person make him [see?] the state of our distress, the [illegible word] way, have mistakenly patented and [illegible word - the taking?] of our hunting grounds by the Mississaugas - beg him on our behalf to take our Petition into consideration, tell Him that it contains the pure truth. And that we are persuaded that he would render Justice - in according us our demands - Courage Brother do all that you can do for the happiness of and in the interest of your grateful Brothers.

Nipissings [signatures]

Algonquins [signatures]

Certified [signed] D. Ducharme

[Translation from French]

[Document No. 225]

170. On the next day, September 7, 1838, the Iroquois Indians at Lake of the Two Mountains signed the following declaration in support of the Algonquin and Nipissing claims:

We the undersigned Chiefs and Warriors of the Iroquois Tribe stationed at the Lake of the Two Mountains, do certify and declare that Our Indian Bretheren The Nipissingue and Algonquin Tribes, have from the remotest antiquity, held, used, occupied, possessed and enjoyed as hunting grounds The tract of land on either side of the River Ottawa and Little Rivers as far as Lake Nipissingue that is to say, comprehending both banks of the River Ottawa and of The River Matawangue called by the voyageurs the Little River, to the height of land separating the waters of The Lake Nipissingue from those of the Little River, together with the countries watered by the several Tributary Streams of the River Ottawa and Little Rivers, running North and South from their Sources, The above tract of land is bound to the southward by a ridge of land, separating the waters which fall into the Lakes and into the River St. Lawrence from those falling to the northward and into the River Ottawa, The distance from the Township of Hawksbury (Point D'Orignal) to Lake Nipissingue by canoe navigation is computed at 117 leagues more or less, one hundred of which comprise the River Ottawa, to the Junction of the Little River, with the River Matawangue.

[Document No. 226]

171. On September 23, 1838, Superintendent Hughes instructed Captain D. Ducharme, the interpreter at Lake of Two Mountains, to investigate and, if possible, redress the situation of squatters on the islands in the Ottawa River. He further authorized him to draw up leases "in the names of the Chiefs and Warriors ...[at] a shilling for each arpent per year," and to receive payments:

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 16th instant, in which you inform me that you have received all the necessary information in respect of the persons and Strangers who have taken possession of and occupy certain Islands in the Ottawa River. I am very gratified of this, and hope that your trip will be propitious, and that you will be able to arrange all these affairs amicably, to the satisfaction of the Intruders, as well as to that of the Indians.

Firstly: As all the Islands in the Ottawa River form part of the Hunting Grounds allocated to the Algonquin and Nipissing Tribes, as well as all the lands situated on both banks of the River, which are not conceded, possessed, or erected into Townships by the Government [emphasis added]; you will be pleased to warn and order all persons who might have taken possession of any of the said or other lands situated on the said Ottawa River without any authority to show you, to leave them as soon as possible; unless they judge, on the subject, with your consent, and that of the Chiefs and Warriors who may accompany you, in the name of the two Tribes, to make a kind of arrangement, for two or three years at the most, to hold occupation of the Island or land that they occupy. In that case, you have the power to make them a Lease for the above mentioned

period,⁵⁰ in the names of the Chiefs and Warrior of the said Tribes [emphasis added], for a small remuneration (or rather rent) of a certain price fixed according to the size and the value of the land that they occupy, say a shilling for each arpent per year.

But it should be well understood that they have neither permission nor authority to cut timber in any quantity to sell. They have only permission to take it to build and heat themselves. And furthermore you will forbid those persons who may make the above-mentioned arrangement with you to pay anyone but yourself and some Chiefs who may go to find them in the course of the Autumn following, equipped with an authority signed by myself or some other Officer of the Department, to that end that all moneys received for the said land rents in question --- hunting grounds of the Algonquins and Nipissings, be equally distributed between the two Tribes for their exclusive benefit.

As it might happen that some individuals among the great number of persons who now occupy the Islands or the lands (hunting grounds of these Tribes) ungranted by, and not in the possession of the Government, and for which lands they may have a lease or paper from the Chiefs of the above mentioned Tribes, for a certain remuneration per year, you will examine the said leases and you will prepare them others, in the name of the Chiefs of the two Tribes, for the same sum that the Chiefs have rented them the land, but not more than for the period of two or three years, the rent to be paid as above.

And furthermore, if in any case the Chiefs or other Indians have taken upon themselves to sell any Island or other land, not sanctioned by the Government, you will take knowledge of this, and you will tell the Indians, as well as the occupants of the Island or land so sold, that the said sale is null and void, and you will make a report of it.

You have in your possession an Extract of the Orders of Sir James Kempt of the year 1825 in respect of all persons who may have occupied the said hunting grounds of the Algonquins and Nipissing: this Extract you will be able to show to all the Delinquents ...

[Translated from French]

[Document No. 230]

172. On September 26, 1838, Napier forwarded Hughes' letter of September 4 and a petition addressed to Sir George Arthur of September 6, 1838 to Chief Superintendent Jarvis in Upper Canada. He included the following comments:

By permission of The Governor General I have the honor to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the enclosed communication from the Superintendent of the Indian Department in the District of Montreal, dated 4th September 1838, in relation to the claims preferred by the Algonquin and Nipissing Tribes of the Lake of the Two Mountains to certain Lands heretofore occupied as their Hunting Grounds, on the South Bank of the River Ottawa.

I also transmit a Petition on the subject, addressed to His Excellency Major General Sir George Arthur, by the Principal Chiefs and Members of Council of the aforementioned Tribes, which you will be pleased to lay before His Excellency at the same time. I beg leave to observe that the latter document is principally a recapitulation of the claim submitted by the Petitioners to His Excellency Sir John Colborne, in their Petition of the 6th June 1835, and referred to in Colonel Givins' Letter of the 11th August following of which the enclosure C, is a copy.

I am informed by the Indian Superintendent at Montreal, that in the month of August 1836, it was intimated to the Petitioners in a verbal communication from the late Chief Superintendent, that a portion of the territory claimed by them had been purchased by Government from the Mississauga Indians of the Bay of Quinte and Kingston, but that they might settle on the "Isle Aux Allumettes" in the Ottawa River which belonged to them. The Petitioners have in consequence requested me to solicit His Excellency, to grant to them the necessary Authority

⁵⁰ See Document No. 215, 1838/00/00 for sample of lease or agreement prepared for Ducharme.

to occupy the Island in question and to order an investigation of their claims to the Hunting Grounds described in their Petition.

[Document No. 231]

173. The Oblates had missions amongst the Indians in the vicinity of Lake Abitibi, Lake Timiskaming, Grand Lac, Lac à la Truite, Lac Barrière and Ft. William since 1838. [See Document No. 285.]⁵¹

174. A section of a report dated January 1839 and entitled "Notice sur les missions du diocèse de Québec", has been excerpted below. It concerns the Lake Abitibi Mission of the period:

...
For several years Monseigneur the bishop of Telmesse, in charge of the spiritual governance of the Montreal district felt an urgency in the desire to bring faith to the Indians who lived in the areas surrounding Lake Temiscaming. He had even made some attempts that got nowhere at first; but finally the moments marked by the divine mercy for the conversion of these poor infidels had arrived, the obstacles that had been insurmountable until the year 1835, had been raised. The venerable bishop of Juliopolis, charged, in his capacity of auxiliary Suffragan of the Bishop of Québec, with the spiritual governance of all the Northwest territory, having descended this same year [1835] from the upper country, en route to Europe, had taken particular notice of the spiritual needs as much of the infidel tribes as of the Catholics in fairly large number spread throughout the country watered by the Ottawa up to Lake Temiscaming which is the source of this lovely river.

A mission was then determined for the year 1836, and Messrs. de Bellefeuille, priest of the Montreal Seminary, and Dupuy, priest of the St. Jacques convent of the same place, were put in charge of this important expedition. Mr. de Bellefeuille, having served the Algonquin Indians of Lake of Two Mountains during several years, found himself to be conversant in the language of the Indians who he visited,⁵² and therefore well prepared in this mission which would produce the most comforting fruits. The missionaries would find the Indians of these regions in the best dispositions to become Christians, and submissive, above and beyond all expectation, to the instructions that were given to them. They would baptize 123 children and 19 adults, celebrate 4 weddings and gave the first communion to 28 people; but these latter were almost all Canadians or Irish; the Indians having not been able to sufficiently teach themselves in this first mission to be admitted to the holy table [altar].

Mr. de Bellefeuille had met with too much consolation to bring the good news of the gospel to a people who had welcomed it so, to not continue in his work. Also, on June 7 of the next year, he started off en route, the only priest, in order to save a part of the costs that he had had to bear during the preceding year. This time it was not only a question of the Temiscaming mission, but again that of Lake Abbitibbi, 50 leagues from Temiscaming, and, on the Moose road, Hudson's Bay post or fort, where the ships of the Company came to bring the European merchandise and take on furs.

...

[Translation from French]

[Document No. 233]

175. The following year, on April 10, 1839, Superintendent Hughes provided Napier with the following report on Captain Ducharme's investigation of the Algonquin complaints of depredations and encroachments on their hunting grounds:

I have the honour to represent for the information and consideration of His Excellency the Governor General and Commander of His Majesty's Forces that

⁵¹ See for example: Rapport sur les missions du diocèse de Québec 1840, pp. 42-3; 1841, pp. 81-2; 1842, p. 74. Letter 25 August 1844, J. N. Laverlochère to R. P. Guiges, Visiteur général des Missions du Canada. Archives Deschâtelets LCB 3005 M66 L1.

⁵² This suggests the Indians at Abitibi spoke Algonquin or a very close Algonquian language.

for these several years past the Chiefs and Warriors of the Nipissingue and Algonquin Tribes, (who are a wandering sort, and depend entirely upon the chase for a livelyhood) have frequently lodged complaints against individuals, trespassing and making depredations on their hunting grounds-which they represent to be the Islands situated in the River Ottawa, as well as that vast tract of land, lying on either side of that River & little Rivers from Pointe d'Orignal to Lake Nipissingue that is to say comprehending both banks of the River Ottawa and of the River Matawangué (called by the voyageurs the Little River) to the height of land separating the waters of the Lake Nipissingue, from those of the several tributary streams of the River Ottawa & the Little Rivers running north & south from their sources and flowing into said River Ottawa.

Such parts of said Hunting Grounds, as have already been taken, assumed & erected into townships by Government the Indians do not here advert to-But only such portion as has not as yet been assumed by Government and where from the enclosed documents or Extracts they look upon as secured and reserved for their- sole use & benefit. -

They the said Chiefs of Nipissingue and Algonquin Tribes, in the course of Sept. last, 1838, while I was on public duty at the Lake of the Two Mountains, represented that for many years back, sundry squatters had taken possession of Islands or part of Islands; situate in the said River Ottawa; as well as numerous lots of ground on both banks of the said rivers-which formed part of their hunting grounds not assumed by Government, and for the enjoyment of which the said squatters were accustomed to pay to the said Indians a certain annual remuneration. -

That of late years, the squatters have become numerous & have possessed themselves of islands in the Ottawa & vast lots of land on both its banks comprehending the said hunting grounds of the said Nipi. & Alg. That these squatters now bid [offence (?)] to the Indians, and that the majority of them refuse to give them any remuneration whatever. For which reason they humbly requested of me, to allow Captain Ducharme of the Ind. Dept. to accompany one of their Chiefs & two or three principal warriors, up the Ottawa River, to take cognisance of a number of Individual strangers, that have squatted on & taken possession of part of their hunting grounds, and to order their removal from thence & to empower him (Capt. Ducharme) on the part of the Two Tribes to grant lease for a limited time to such as would remain, by paying a certain annual remuneration or rent, as explained in the Inclosed documents mark art B. & C. - I also beg leave to transmit herewith a nominal list of Individuals that have squatted & taken possession of certain Islands or parts of Islands as well as of lots of land on either bank of said River Ottawa forming part of the hunting grounds claimed by said Indians & not as yet assumed by Government - There are many other squatters on these grounds not mentioned, the late season prevented Capt. Ducharme searching them out. -

I have here to represent that these two Tribes have requested me to pray of Their Father His Excellency the Governor General to sanction what they have done, and in default of such of the squatters as have leased lots of ground not paying the sum agreed to-That His Excellency may adopt such means as He may deem most fit, to oblige his or their removal from the spot they have squatted on and enjoyed-and I am further authorized to say that these two Tribes would be far better pleased if Government would take the whole of Their hunting grounds not yet assumed (the Islands aux Allumettes excepted on which they mean to settle) for a reasonable annual remuneration, such as is given to their Bretheren in Upper Canada in similar cases-than to be at constant variance with the squatters and by whom they are at times very ill treated.

[Document No. 234]

176. On June 17, 1839, an Order-in-Council passed under Sir J. Colborne stated that the Algonquins and Nipissings had no right to lease their islands in the Ottawa River. The report to the executive council was prepared because of petitions from settlers holding leases to Kettle Island in the Ottawa. Relevant portions are quoted below:

...
In support of the claim of the petitioners they state that Lord Dalhousie, then Governor-in-Chief, in declaring the that "the Indian leases are good for

nothing" had added that Mr. Gillson [lessee from 1818] will not be disturbed in his hold of them; ...

The committee, however, are likewise of opinion that the leases lately given of this island by an officer of the Indian Department to certain occupants is equally irregular and invalid, and that the island should be considered and treated as a part of the waste lands of the Crown, and all intruders ousted who have not a title from the Crown.

... [the committee then considered and quoted from the report of 13 June 1837 which recommended that a portion of the hunting grounds of the Algonquins and Nipissings be secured to them and they should receive some support. These measures should be carried out by Her Majesty's government, i.e. the colonial government as they are not yet the responsibility of the provincial, i.e. domestic, government] ...

As the recommendations of this report tended not only to exclude the Indians from any participation in the management of their affairs, but negated their right of property at the present day in the lands which they once held as hunting grounds, the committee respectfully suggest that the officers of the Indian Department be instructed to act in accordance with the tenor of the aforesaid report, it appearing to have been overlooked in recent orders given by Colonel Hughes, for leasing the islands in the Ottawa River, and of which the secretary, Colonel Napier, had no knowledge.

[Document No. 238]

177. The following spring, as no action had yet been taken on their claim, the Algonquin and Nipissing Indians addressed still another petition to the "Governor General", actually Lord Sydenham, Governor of Lower Canada, who had assumed office on October 19, 1839. On March 9, 1840, once again they set out their complaints in detail, describing their traditional lands, the impact of settlement, lack of compensation, rents from islands and the contentious Mississauga surrender:

Father

We your red Children the Nipissingues and Algonquin Tribes beg leave to make known to you our most destitute and deplorable situations, starvation and poverty is staring us in the face, we see no other means of bettering our prospects than addressing ourselves to our new Father the Governor General of the Provinces.

We have frequently represented our grievances to Our Father your Predecessor - but we are sorry to say to very little effect. The only answer we received to our complaint, was that they were sent across the big salt Lake to Our Great Father The King who would pay attention to them and send us an answer. We much fear that our Great Father and present Good Mother have never heard of or seen these writings in question; for from what we have heard of them, they would certainly have sanctioned our demands that are but moderate & Just and have ordered that Justice be rendered to Their destitute Children, in conformity to the Wishes and Instructions of Our Great Father of Blessed Memory King George The Third An Extract of whose Proclamation dated St. James' 7th October 1763 in relation to the lands claimed by His red Children we now beg leave to Enclose a copy of which we have in our possession given to our Tribes by our late good Father Sir William Johnson dated 24th Dec. 1763 when our ancestors were told by Him, that we should always have the enjoyment of our hunting grounds, without being molested by any strangers, until we thought proper to sell them to our Good Father the King for the use of our white Brethren -

Father - We your children The Nipissingue & Algonquin Tribes who are now addressing you, expect and hope you will take our complaints into serious consideration - they are true and correct - and we are persuaded you will own that we have not met with that Treatment at the hands of Government that we were entitled to expect - We have always been good loyal subjects, we have fought & bled for Our Great Father, during the two last American Wars, and are ready to do so again, whenever called upon.

Father - we were formerly rich & independent - our hunting grounds embraced a vast territory, they extended from Pointe D'Orignal on the Ottawa river to Lake Nipissingue, embracing all its banks and both its tributary streams from the heights of land North & South, they abounded in rich furs of every description, our Forests were alive with Deer. We lived well, and had wherewith to cloath our wives & Children comfortably and we were happy.

About forty years ago Father, when the Whites first came amongst us, to settle on our hunting grounds, they were good & grateful, we took pity on them, received them with open arms - We knew them to be the Children of our Great Father the King, as well as ourselves, therefore had no Objection to them cultivating our land for the support of their families - Always bearing in mind, the Words of Our Great Father as expressed in the Proclamation above mentioned - that when our hunting grounds were ruined viz. destitute of furs, It was at our option to sell them to The Representatives of Our Father for His disposal - It has been the case with our Bretheren of the Upper Province who have sold vast tracts of their hunting grounds, for which they now receive an annual remuneration in merchandise which enables them to support & cloath their Wives & children.

Father - That day is now arrived - which we never expected to see - your red Children The Nipissingues & Algonquin, have never been in the habit of tilling the Ground, from time immemorial our Chief & only dependance for a livelyhood sprang from the Chace From which We procured abundance. Not so now - Father; Our hunting grounds are entirely ruined - Our Beaver & other furr have been destroyed by the constant fires made by the lumber men in our Majestic Forests; Our Deer have disappeared - Our Timber to the amount of hundreds of thousands of pounds, is annually taken from those very hunting grounds, which by Our Great Father's orders were to be removed for us & us only - But from which we are sorry to say, we derived not the least benefit - We are starving - Father - Our wives & children are naked - Our Traders will give us no more Credit - Why? Because we can procure no furs and of course are unable to pay.

Father - We must make you acquainted with another great grievance that we have lately experienced - We beg leave to represent, that for these many years past, we Your Children, have been in the habit of receiving certain annual rents, from squatters & other Individuals who have clandestinely taken possession of certain Islands, and divers lots of land on both banks of the River Ottawa (which form part of our hunting grounds from time immemorial, which has never been disputed by Government until recently & not as yet assumed by it) sent word to us in the course of last autumn, to go & receive the annual rents that they agreed to pay us, for the enjoyment of said Islands & Lots, and for which the squatters have been in the habit of paying us for these many years past - But strange to say - Father - When on the Eve of our departure for that purpose - Our Superintendent came & explained to us - An Extract of a Report of a Committee of the Executive Council of the 17th June 1839 - approved by His Excellency Our Father Sir John Colborne, - which in a manner prohibits us from so doing -

We as Obedient Children, listened to the Order and desisted - But nevertheless we cannot help representing to you Father, that we thought it rather unjust, cruel & hard, to be deprived, all at once of that which we always thought, & were persuaded we were justly entitled to, & have been in the habit of enjoying for many years, without any of our Fathers, your Predecessors forbidding us - far from it, When Our Father The Earl of Dalhousie, when on a voyage up the Ottawa River - in the year 1821 - was applied to (by a person of the name of Joseph La Flamme) for the grant of our Island on the River Ottawa (for which La Flamme was in the habit of paying an annual rent to the Indians). His Excellency Our Father was pleased to say to him, that that could not be done, they were reserved for the Indians, that they the Indians could not sell them, but might lease them until they were assumed by Government.

Father - We have only you, The representative of Our Good Mother across the Salt Lake - to look up to for Protection - All that we demand of you, is, to render us Justice - We are persuaded Father When you are more acquainted with our deplorable situation - You will immediately listen to the Prayers of your Children who beg & pray of you to be allowed to go and gather these small rents in question, and that you may be pleased to order one of our Officers to accompany us with authority for so doing - Is it not more Just - Father for us to receive these rents, which we have been accustomed to do than to leave them to the enjoyment of these squatters, and strangers, who have clandestinely taken possession, and

settled themselves on part of our hunting grounds in defiance of the Proclamation above mentioned and without the sanction of Government - We have made innumerable complaints against these Intruders, as well as against lumber men - We received many promises from Government that they should be prosecuted & made to remove - but all turned out in smoke. We therefore thought it the best plan, Father; to make up matters with them & leave them in the enjoyment of their several lots & Islands for two or three years at a time for a certain annual remuneration, which most of them annually paid us.

Father - As we have represented above we can no longer depend on the chase for support - we must set ourselves to the hoe - or else starve - we demand your assistance - We beseech you Father to have reference to an approved report of a Committee of the Executive Council, dated 13th June 1837 - Which report (we are informed) with our Petition of that year, was sent to our Great Father The King (But to which we have received no answer) In which it is recommended that your children The Nipissingues & Algonquins, should be placed on the same footing as the Indians of Saint Regis and other Indian Tribes of Upper Canada. -

Father - we must inform you, that the Iroquois of Saint Regis, have returned all their Islands in the River St. Lawrence, which they lease and which leases have been approved by the Govt of Upper Canada; & for which they receive annually rent - And besides these Islands, Father The Iroquois of St. Regis enjoy vast tracts of land on both sides of the River St. Lawrence, which formed part of their hunting grounds (In the same manner as the Islands in the Ottawa, both its banks & tributary streams from the heights of land North & South form the hunting grounds of your children the Nipissingue & Algonquins) and part of which they conceded to the whites, in farms of a certain Extent and for which they receive a handsome Annual Revenue.

Father - Our Bretheren of Upper Canada receive a very handsome Annual remuneration, in merchandize to a certain amount, for such part of their hunting grounds as has been sold by them to Government - and besides they have retained most tracts of their best lands, for their own Cultivation - While we Father - The Nipissingues & Algonquins who possessed by far the most extensive & richest hunting grounds, have been deprived of the most valuable parts of the same by the Upper Canada Government - Who have made extensive grants of the Territory, on the South side of the River Ottawa, claimed by your Children the Nipissingues & Algonquins without any compensation being made to them Although in all cases, where lands claimed by other Tribes have been acquired by His Majesty's Government, they have been purchased at a stipulated price.

Father - We humbly pray of you, to take our present situation into serious consideration - We must do something to support our families - We request of you Further to be pleased to assume the whole of our hunting grounds, Islands &c. in the Name of our Good Mother the Queen - (with the exception of Isle aux Allumettes which is situated above the Grand Calumet in the Ottawa River, and which Island we have for these many years back reserved, & pitched upon for a settlement for ourselves, It being a good place for fishing and adjacent to our allies the Tetes de Boules Many squatters are settled thereon, without Titles - We have no Objection that they should remain by paying a certain annual rent for the land they may occupy at the rate of one shilling per acre, but that no other Strangers will be allowed to come and annoy us - At present there are between One & two hundred squatters on it - These would give your children a small revenue such as the Indians of St. Regis & Caughnawaga received from their Ancient hunting grounds) - for which we expect to be treated as Our Bretheren of Upper Canada - viz. that a certain remuneration be granted us for such parts of our hunting grounds as have already been assumed by Government - and for such parts may hereafter be assumed - and such remuneration to be annually paid in merchandize, of all description - and farming utensils as our Father may deem most advisable.

Lastly Father - We further pray of you to Interest yourself for your children the Nipissingues & Algonquins, with the Government of Upper Canada, and order that Justice be rendered us - viz. By the restitution to us of a certain Annuity paid to the Mississagues for lands on the Ottawa river facing L'Isle aux Allumettes, & which lands form part of our hunting grounds from time immemorial - Which they The Mississagues have clandestinely sold to that Govt. & for which they receive the above mentioned annuity. The Mississagues, claimed no hunting grounds whatever on the waters emptying themselves in the Ottawa - Their hunting grounds lying on the south side of the height of land separating the Waters that flow into the St. Lawrence from those

that flow into the Ottawa - and as in duty bound we your red children The Nipissingues & Algonquins will ever pray.

[Document No. 241]

178. On September 4, 1841, the Indians held a council at the Lake of Two Mountains to discuss the matters they had raised in the petition of March 9, 1840:

The **Grand Chief Ka-on-di-no-ketch**, on behalf of the Principal Chiefs of the Nipissugue and Algonquin Tribes spoke as follows:

Brother' we are impatient to hear what you have to say to us, and to be informed of the Answers, if any, that our Father The Governor General has been pleased to Send us upon the representations contained in our Petition of 9 March 1840.

Answer of Mr. Hughes:

Bretheren; Before we proceed to business I must inform you with much regret, that I have not yet received any answer to your Petition abovementioned, nor have I, at present, anything to say on it's subject.

Bretheren; Having been advised of the points on which you mean to consult me, I will therefore advert to them in your presence. But I request you will not disturb me and that you will be attentive to what I say and give me straight forward answers to the questions I may put, so that I may ascertain your sentiments.

In the first place Bretheren, you have often represented to me that the Hunting Grounds which you have occupied from time immemorial are now entirely ruined and destitute of Furs and Deer; that you can no longer procure a livelihood from the chase nor furs sufficient to clothe your families: that the only alternative you now have, is to abandon the wandering life you have been accustomed to lead, to make choice of situation on your Hunting Grounds where you may become Farmers and by following example of your White Bretheren to raise wherewith to support Yourselves and Families. Pray are you still of this opinion: if so give me a correct answer on the subject.

Answer of Chief Ka-on-di-no-kitch.

Brother; We the Nipissings and Algonquins have frequently Consulted on this very Subject, and my Indian Brothers have put these Words into my Mouth to deliver to you: We have much to say Brother, do not disturb us, nor be impatient when we repeat what we have already told you, that Our Hunting Grounds, which are vast and extensive and once abounded in the richest Furs and swarmed with Deer of every description, are now entirely ruined. We tell you the truth, We now starve half the year through and Our Children, who were formerly Accustomed to be Comfortably Clothed, are now Naked!

We own Brother, that we are partly the cause of these present misfortunes: We were too good and generous: We permitted Strangers to come and Settle on our Grounds and to Cultivate the Land; wood merchants to destroy our valuable Timber, who have done us much injury, as by burning our rich Forests, they have annihilated our Beaver and our Peltries, and driven away our Deer. Had our Hunting Grounds belonged to the Whites they would never have allowed this; But we had good hearts and took pity on our White Bretheren we know that they must live as well as ourselves. They are also the Children of Our Great Father: We never thought of futurity Brother, and we were silent at these encroachments; But now Brother we are pitiful ourselves and are obliged to crave assistance from our Father the Governor General. We have always borne in mind, the Promises and Commands of our Great and Good Father King George the Third who in His Royal Proclamation dated at St. James' the 7th day of October 1763, of which our Father Sir William Johnson gave our ancestors a Writing on parchment which we still hold. This Document tells us that we shall never be disturbed on the Hunting Grounds reserved for us. (The Vast extent of which has often been represented) that we could not make away with them to strangers, but that whenever we should wish to part with them, Our Great Father for the time being, or His Representative in America would assume the same as pay us for them, as we understand He had done to our Brothers, His Red Children of Upper Canada. We have Brother offered these Hunting grounds to our Father The Governor General, in our Said Petition of the 9th March 1840, to which we have as yet received no answer; But Brother,

in his Letter to Us (which we hold) after the delivery of the Petition, He promised to do us justice and relieve our distress: His meaning as we understand it must be, that he perceived by our Petition, that we have been unjustly dealt with and imposed upon and that He will treat us as our Bretheren in Upper Canada have been treated. They have for many years past been allowed to receive, and still enjoy, an Annual remuneration for such parts of their Hunting Grounds as have been assumed by the Government. This Brother is all we ask for in our Petition. It is what has been promised to us; what our Red Bretheren in Upper Canada have already inveribly received, and what in Justice we have a right to expect.

During the last two wars with the United States, our ancestors as well as ourselves, were called upon by our Fathers the then Governors and told that we had lands to defend, as well as our white Brethren. We obeyed, we knew it was our duty to defend our Hunting Grounds. We gave the war whoop, we fought, and bled, in defending the rights of our Great Father, and our Soil, and we would assure our Father the Governor General, that we are ready to do so again whenever called upon.

Adverting to circumstances which we have represented in our said petition relative to the purchase of the portion of our hunting grounds by the Upper Canada Government, and which was clandestinely sold to them by the Mississauga Tribe of Indians without our knowledge. We await the results of the enquiry which our Father has promised, (in his answer of the 23rd April 1840) to institute upon our complaints upon the point.

We beg leave most humbly to represent to our Father, that the hunting grounds of the Mississauga extended on all the waters taking their source on the south side of certain heights of land and flowing into the St. Lawrence, and the Waters from the same Height of land which flowed into the Ottawa passed through the hunting grounds of the Algonquins and Nipissingue Indians.

The Mississauga never attempted to hunt near our grounds, neither have we encroached on their lands, this course was observed in the consequence of a treaty between the Chief, of the Mississaugas and us, of which the Iroquois Tribe are perfectly cognizant: When our Father the Governor General is made acquainted with this fact, he will certainly render justice to his red children, and order that the remuneration which is now paid to the Mississaugas for the said land may from henceforth be withheld from them and paid to us the Nipissings and Algonquins, who are the only tribes entitled to receive the annuity above mentioned.

These are our real sentiments and the truth, which we wish to make known to our Father, and at the same time we would entreat His Excellency once more to glance over our petition, and according to his promise to render us justice, and to relieve our distress.

Brother, we must tell you in conclusion that we have no choice to make. We must one and all become Tillers of the ground, otherwise we must starve.

Brother, Isle Aux Allumettes is the place we have selected for the settlement of our families, we have already mentioned this in our Petition to our Father of the 9th March 1840, and we earnestly hope he will approve of our several demands therein made, and that he will also approve of our receiving the same amount of assistance, while engaged in the performance of the necessary settling duties, as we understand our brethren of the Ottawa tribe of Indians are at present receiving at the settlement at the Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron. Say to our Great Father that we have a small place of worship erected at Isle aux Allumettes where one of our missionaries generally resides during a month or two in the summer season. This, brother is all we have to say at present. You see our miserable situation and so no doubt will make it fully known.

Under the circumstances stated we humbly pray that our Great Father the Governor General will be pleased to grant us our early answer to our petition above mentioned.

Here the Chief Ka-on-di-no-ketch concluded his speech with the usual thanks to the officers present.

[Document No. 249]