

Barragead, Cape Breton,
March 16, 1943.

Rt. Hon. W. L. MacKenzie King
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Ontario.
Canada.

Rt. Hon. Sir:-

As, Secretary of Barragead Indian Reserve Council,
I am instructed to bring your attention, the sentiments of our
fellow micmacs Indians of this Barragead, Richmond County Reserve,
regarding the centralization of Cape Breton reserves at Eskasoni,
Cape Breton.

This reserve, one of the oldest in Cape Breton
is occupied by some fifty families, the majority of whom are oppo-
sed to the consolidation of their reserve at Eskasoni.

The members of the reserve however, are almost
unanimous in their approval of the scheme of centralization of
Cape Breton Indians if it would enable the Indian administration,
to more effectively and economically serve the needs of micmac
population of Cape Breton along educational and training lines
to improve our physical condition, to improve our moral and so-
cial welfare, and the institution of a definite policy for the
betterment of micmac Indians of Cape Breton in general.

In our opinion however, Eskasoni is not the
proper site for for such important program. And, judging by the
exhibition of present supervisors in charge of operations on the
scene, it is apparent that the authorities under your charge, do
not intend to carry out the plans as already reported. It is also
apparent that the present supervisors are far too incompetent in
handling such an important task, to the satisfaction of all con-
cerned here. And, unless we are favoured with a proper explanation
of general principle in regard with the centralization plans, to-
gether with the same sound proposition on systematic basis, to our
best interest, we intend to continue our opposition to the
selection of Eskasoni site. If the Department however, must carry
out plans of centralization at Eskasoni, the site and the pro-
position must be made as attractive as possible, and properly ex-
plained to us, towards winning the confidence of our population
here as a whole, your courtesy of reply would be appreciated.
I remain,

Yours respectfully,

Noel Marshall

Secretary Barragead Indian Council.