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# INDIAN AND NON-NATIVE USE OF THE SQUAMISH AND CHEAKAMUS RIVERS

## AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

by Brendan O'Donnell

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## INTRODUCTION

The following is one of a series of reports on the historical uses of waterways in New Brunswick and British Columbia. These reports are narrative outlines of how Indian and non-native populations have used these rivers, with emphasis on navigability, tidal influence, riparian interests, settlement patterns, commercial use and fishing rights.

These historical reports were requested by the Interdepartmental Reserve Boundary Review Committee, a body comprising representatives from Indian Affairs and Northern Development [DIAND], Justice, Energy, Mines and Resources [EMR], and chaired by Fisheries and Oceans. The committee is tasked with establishing a government position on reserve boundaries that can assist in determining the area of application of Indian Band fishing by-laws.

Although each report in this series is as different as the waterway it describes, there is a common structural approach to each paper. Each report describes the establishment of Indian reserves along the river; what Licences of Occupation were issued; what instructions were given to surveyors laying out these reserves; how each surveyor laid out each reserve based on his field notes and survey plan; what, if any, fishing rights were considered for the Indian Bands; and how the Indian and non-native populations have used the waterway over the past centuries for both commercial and recreational use.

Primary sources for this information are found in the National Archives of Canada, the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, the Harriet Irving Library of the University of New Brunswick, the British Columbia Provincial Archives, the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, the Indian Land Registry at DIAND, and in the Legal Surveys Division of EMR. Secondary sources are found in the National Library of Canada, DFO's departmental library, DIAND's departmental library, or are brought in from other libraries throughout Canada on inter-library loan.

Each report in the series is being distributed to the Reserve Boundary Review Committee members. It is hoped each will make this research available to other members of their department by depositing the reports in their departmental library.

## SQUAMISH AND CHEAKAMUS RIVERS: REPORT ON THEIR HISTORICAL USE

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by Brendan O'Donnell

The Squamish River, from its source in the high glaciers of the Coast Mountain Range, flows south for approximately 75 kilometers<sup>1</sup> before it empties into the sea at the head of Howe Sound. Along this route it is joined by numerous tributaries, including the Elaho River, the Ashlu River, the Cheakamus River and the Mamquam River. The Cheakamus River, from Cheakamus Lake to the point it enters the Squamish some ten kilometers from the head of Howe Sound, is approximately 40.6 kilometers in length<sup>2</sup>. Its major tributaries are Calaghan Creek, Brandywine Creek, Rubble Creek, Culliton Creek and the Cheekye River. The word "squamish" is a Coast Salish Indian term meaning "Mother of the Wind". It refers to a cold north wind which blows through the Squamish-Cheakamus Valley once or twice most winters and inhibits most outdoor activities.

According to Indian legend, the Squamish Valley was struck by a series of cataclysmic disasters of biblical proportions prior to white contact. In the summer of 1896, anthropologist C. Hill-Tout interviewed an aged Squamish Indian named "Mul'ks"<sup>3</sup> whom Hill-Tout estimated to be approximately 100 years old. He was presented to the anthropologist as the historian of the Squamish tribe. Mul'ks related, through an interpreter, how the Great Spirit had become angry at the wickedness of the people and caused a great flood, covering the mountain tops and killing all

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1 Distance measured on a topographical map with a scale of 1:250,000 by Claire Gosson, Geographer, Geographical Services Division, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, Ottawa.

2 Ibid.

3 C. Hill-Tout, "Notes on the Cosmogony and History of the Squamish Indians of British Columbia", Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada (Section II, 1895): 85-90.

except one man and woman. These two repeopled the land with their offspring and everyone was happy and prosperous in the Squamish Valley. But again the Great Spirit became angry when the people reverted to their former wicked ways. The Spirit caused a snow storm to inundate the valley that lasted well into the summer. Food and fuel supplies were soon used up and when a few salmon returned in the spring to the Squamish River these fish were only skin and bones. All died of starvation except two, a man and his daughter, who survived the storm. The man took his daughter as his wife and over time the valley was again repeopled.

Once again another misfortune befell the people of the Squamish Valley. One salmon season the fish were found to be covered with running sores and blotches. As the people were dependent on the food for their winter food supply, they were obliged to catch and cure them as best they could. When finally forced to eat these fish after all other supplies had run out,

[a] dreadful skin disease, loathsome to look upon, broke out upon all alike. None were spared. Men, women and children sickened, took the disease and died in agony by hundreds, so that when the spring arrived and fresh food was procurable, there was scarcely a person left of all their numbers to get it. Camp after camp, village after village, was left desolate. The remains of which... are found today in the old camp sites or midden-heaps over which the forest has been growing for so many generations. Little by little the remnant left by the disease grew into a nation once more, and when the first white men sailed up the Squamish in their big boats, the tribe was strong and numerous again.

Little is known of the early history of white incursion into the Squamish Valley.<sup>4</sup> Prior to 1873, the area was considered remote from the settled districts bordering Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River. In 1858 a survey party concluded that a route from

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<sup>4</sup> According to Jane Horvath of the Squamish Public Library, a committee is now in the process of compiling a local history of Squamish and district.

Lilloet Lake to Howe Sound would cut the travelling distance from the interior to the coast. However, it was not until 1873 that construction began on a trail from Lilloet to the coast via Squamish. This trail was meant to be shorter and better for driving cattle than the Cariboo Road. Few cattle were actually driven over the entire length of this route. In 1877 Robert Carson of Pavillion conducted the first and reportedly only cattle drive from Lilloet to Lynn Creek. Apparently the country was so rugged and the trip so hard on the animals that the idea of bringing cattle beyond Howe Sound was abandoned.<sup>5</sup> An Investigation Committee held hearings to investigate complaints by Carson about the trail. The Committee determined that Squamish should be the terminus of the trail.<sup>6</sup>

According to a 1950 report by the federal Department of Public Works, a wharf once existed above Squamish for handling stock feed.<sup>7</sup>

The middle and west branches, through which the whole of the discharge of the Squamish now takes place, fork about one and one half miles from their mouths. There was a wharf of sorts on the middle branch of the River in the early days used principally for handling stock feed. A great deal of silting in has taken place in the middle branch and this wharf was abandoned many years ago.

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<sup>5</sup> Jack K. Stathers, "A Geographical Investigation of Development Potential in the Squamish Valley Region, British Columbia". Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of British Columbia, 1958. Pp. 48-49.

<sup>6</sup> "Roads". Unpublished manuscript, Squamish Public Library. This cattle trail eventually evolved into present-day Highway 99.

<sup>7</sup> J.F. Feeney, "Report on Squamish River (Brackendale) Survey Respecting Flood Control and Bank Protection". Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 11, Volume 4304, File 41.

The earliest survey found of the Squamish River Valley during this current search of documents was one made by Captain William Jemmett, dated 3 August 1875.<sup>8</sup> Titled "Survey of Mr. Van Bramer's purchase claim, situated at the mouth of the Squamish River, head of Howe Sound. Numbered S $\frac{1}{2}$ .S4 + S $\frac{1}{2}$ .S5," the survey map shows the main channel of the Squamish River and its West and East arms. The West arm is approximately one-half mile from the main channel on Jemmett's survey map, and the East arm is approximately one mile from the main channel. Several sloughs entering Howe Sound are indicated. An Indian burial ground on the East bank of the East arm is also shown on the map.

According to notes in the Squamish Public Library, Van Bramer worked for the Moodyville Sawmill of Burrard Inlet.<sup>9</sup> He was probably the first white person to pre-empt land in the Squamish Valley. He wanted the land, in all likelihood, as pasturage for cattle used to feed the loggers who were being brought in to cut the fir and spruce on the banks of the Squamish River.

Van Bramer was refused permission by the Provincial Government to purchase the land until the question of Indian land title was settled. In 1876 a three-man commission made up of a federal and a provincial representative and a joint commissioner was established to resolve this continuing Indian land problem in British Columbia. Alexander C. Anderson was the Dominion Commissioner, Archibald McKinlay was the Provincial Commissioner, and Gilbert M. Sproat was appointed Joint Commissioner.<sup>10</sup> On 3

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<sup>8</sup> National Archives Canada, RG 88, Volume 494, File 1875 - Wm. S. Jemmett, Surveyor. This file contains Jemmett's field notes of surveys of private holdings, timber leases, etc. in Howe Sound and the Strait of Georgia area. Unfortunately, several pages of Jemmett's field notes dealing with the Van Bramer purchase claim are missing.

<sup>9</sup> See "Roads" and "Logging". Unpublished manuscript, Squamish Public Library.

<sup>10</sup> The terms of agreement set out by the two governments

November 1876 the three commissioners, along with E. Mohun, surveyor, and George Blenkinsop, census-taker and general assistant, left Victoria on their first excursion to visit Indian settlements and establish the boundaries of reserves.

Two weeks after leaving Victoria, spending most of this time among the Indian settlements of Burrard Inlet, the party arrived in Howe Sound. In their "Report of the Proceedings of the Joint Commission for the settlement of the Indian Reserves in the Province of British Columbia, respectfully submitted for the information of the Honorable the Minister of the Interior,"<sup>11</sup> the three commissioners wrote:

Leaving Burrard Inlet, early on the morning of the 18th of November, we reached Stââ-mis, at the head of Howe Sound at 2 P.M. and encamped.

The following day, Sunday, it rained heavily. On Monday, though still raining at intervals, we managed to visit, in canoe, the Native settlements in the neighbourhood. Meanwhile, Mr. Blenkinsop after taking the census at the adjacent village, made arrangements for canoes [etc.]; and the following morning we started, accompanied by Mr. Surveyor Mohun, to ascend the Squamish River, leaving the camp standing, and travelling light. We ascended this river about 28 miles in canoes, the navigation being good; and also, on foot for some miles, a very rapid tributary called Che-âkamus, in order to examine an Indian village there.

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establishing this Joint Commission are found in federal Order-in-Council P.C. 1088 of November 10, 1875 and provincial Order-in-Council of January 6, 1876. A copy of the former is on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 2/1, November 10, 1875. A copy of the latter is printed in: British Columbia, Papers connected with the Indian Land Question 1850-1875. Victoria: Richard Wolfenden, 1875, pp. 169-170.

- 11 March 21, 1877. "Report of the proceedings of the Joint Commission for the settlement of the Indian Reserves in the province of British Columbia, respectfully submitted for the information of the Honorable the Minister of the Interior". Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 3645, File 7936. Microfilm C-10113.

Finally, after an absence of four days, and after having decided on all the necessary assignments of reserves, village sites [etc.] as we descended, reached Camp late in the afternoon of the 25th of November...

Our decisions in this division have been regulated, as stipulated in the terms of agreement between the two governments, by no inflexible system of acreage, which, as has been before remarked, would in many cases have been simply fallacious.

On the other hand we have striven throughout to meet the just and reasonable expectations of the Indians, while at the same time endeavouring to fulfill, where possible, the wishes of the governments, by assigning compact reserves of considerable area.

Thus in addition to the various fishing stations [etc.], we selected, at the mouth of the Che-âk-amus a tract of excellent land lying along the river containing about 2000 acres, a considerable portion of which is meadow; and at Stââmis, the delta of the river containing about 1400 acres. These selections were made in the trust that, at some future day, the Natives may be induced to congregate at these spots, as centres of population, and thus the education of the children, and the social improvement of the adults, be facilitated in accordance with the benevolent plans of the government.

The soil along the river is generally very good; and the climate, though comparatively cold in winter, favorable for culture.

The Indians, part of whom resort periodically to Burrard Inlet, are peaceable and well behaved; and the presumption is that, duly encouraged, a cheerful and industrious future is in store for them.

We are glad to add that the highest satisfaction at the result of our proceedings was expressed by the chiefs who responded to our address at the parting interview.

A more detailed account of the Joint Commissioners' trip to Burrard Inlet and the Squamish Valley was made in a separate report by Gilbert M. Sproat to the Minister of the Interior on 27 November 1876.<sup>12</sup> In his 48 page report, written while still

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<sup>12</sup> Gilbert M. Sproat to the Minister of Interior, November 27, 1876. Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 3611, File 3756-7. Microfilm C-10106.



encamped on the Squamish River at Howe Sound, Sproat maintained that some Squamish Indians had moved to Burrard Inlet from the Squamish Valley after 1860 following the construction of the first sawmill in that district.

They, therefore, so far as I can make out, while retaining their claims to their old lands on the Skwawmish River in Howe Sound, began to frequent and settle upon lands in Burrard's Inlet in considerable numbers. They worked at, and for the Mills, and supplied them with fish and game. When they wished for a change of life and scene, they went back, as they continue to do to the Skwawmish River at Howe Sound.

Sproat estimated that 317 members of a total Squamish Indian population of 639 persons were resident at Burrard Inlet. The total Indian population [including those from the Squamish Valley] employed at the mills of Burrard Inlet shared an annual revenue of between \$66,000 and \$100,000.

Many of the younger [Squamish] men at Burrard's Inlet seemed to care nothing about land. They make too much money as labourers, or by selling the products of their hunting and fishing to permit an expectation that they will clear and cultivate the heavily timbered land which must necessarily form the greater portion of the reserves. The chiefs and older men, however, showed anxiety to be secured in the possession of the land they had been occupying and to obtain some additional portions. Their expectations with respect to land at Burrard's Inlet were moderate. They knew they could not point to any progress in cultivating the lands they already have, and were well aware that nearly all the lands on the frontage of the Inlet were owned by private owners. They intimated to us, however, that they would expect large reserves on the Skwawmish River, Howe Sound.

But it was obvious to the Commissioners, Sproat implied in his report, that a generational difference existed among the Squamish Indians. The younger men did not wish their movements to be restricted to Indian reserves and the old ways, and the older men did not wish to give up their tribal customs and living habits.

It soon appeared that the [younger] Indians were anxious that they should not be taken away from their homes, and placed on large reserves. They wanted to be permitted to continue to enjoy, in common with the white people, the right of moving about freely and seeking employment or occupation where they pleased. They particularly asked whether they would be allowed to hunt and fish as usual. The Commissioners were very careful to explain to them the advantages of living on larger reserves where they could have churches, and also schools for the children, where the old people could be better taken care of, and where the sick could probably more easily procure medical attendance than if they were living on little detached pieces of ground, troublesome for the Queen's agents to visit. It was also pointed out that farming operations could be better carried on by the Indians on larger reserves. But, at the same time, the Commissioners were glad to be permitted by their instructions to inform the Indians that though the Queen, for the good of the Indians in the respects stated, wished them to be concentrated on larger reserves and to give up their roving habits and their practice of partially occupying patches of ground, yet having a good heart towards them, and considering specially the feelings of the old people, the Queen had told the Commissioners not to do any needless violence to existing tribal arrangements and especially not to disturb the Indians in the possession of any villages, fishing stations, fur trading posts, settlements or clearings which they really occupied and to which they were attached and which it was to their interest to retain.

Sproat continued in his report that the three Commissioners arrived at Howe Sound, at the mouth of the Squamish River, on 18 November 1876.

The question presented to the Commissioners at Howe Sound was very different from that presented to them at Burrard's Inlet. There are no white settlers in the Skwawmish River valley. The Provincial Government have before them one application for the purchase of a portion of ground at the mouth of the river [probably Van Bramer's pre-emption], but have refused to permit the purchase until after the visit of the Commissioners to the place. The Indians occupy the valley for about 17 miles in a straight line from the mouth of the river or 25 miles by the course of the river. Their occupation consists merely in the existence of about a dozen small fishing hamlets here and there at points of the river. They claimed the whole valley from the salt water to the farthest village and from mountain to mountain - an area of about 12 square miles or say 8000 acres. There are

probably not more than 10 acres cleared and cultivated in the whole valley. The cultivation is very rude, and chiefly confined to potatoes. The houses are the ordinary dirty, smoky hovels of the Coast Indians, and are placed as above said, at intervals on the banks of the River - the largest hamlet consisting of nine Indian houses under one roof, as usual. The need of cleanliness is the first lesson these people should be taught. Their houses and villages at Burrard's Inlet are much cleaner than those at Howe Sound.

The Skwawmish River flows through a very mountainous district. Several of the neighbouring peaks are from 6000 to 8000 feet high. The ranges on each side of the river are from 3000 to 4000 feet in height, and they are too steep and rocky to be fit for much pasturage. There is scarcely any cultivable land on the right bank of the River. It closely follows on that side the base of the mountains. The river is from 300 to 400 yards in width, with a fall in the channel of about 7 feet in a mile. We had to use both paddles and poles in our canoes. The ascent must be much more difficult in summer when the river is full. The bottom of the channel is composed of coarse sand and large pebbles. Immense deposits or "jams" of roots and trees show how great the volume of water at times must be. Almost the only area of cultivable land in the valley above the mouth of the river is on the left bank, between the river and the base of the mountains, a width of from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile, somewhat cut up by sloughs and heavily wooded. The soil generally is sandy and gravelly, with a vegetable top soil. In some places I noticed a clay subsoil. Part of the land on the left bank of the river is overflowed at certain seasons, but a very considerable area is free from this inconvenience. There are several low, partially overflowed islands at the mouth of the river which yield a coarse wild hay. It took us 2 days and a half to get up to the farthest village. The weather was wet, and we could not take our tents in the canoes. The tops of the bordering ranges were sprinkled with snow. The Indians said that generally snow begins to fall heavily on the low ground about the middle of December. In many places it lies 4 feet deep. The river freezes. I could not quite ascertain when the snow disappears. The ducks and geese had not arrived when we went up the river. We heard stories about bears, and saw a few eagles and mountain goats. Countless salmon, dead, dying or fatigued were seen in the river. We could have killed scores of them with the paddles. The smell of the dead salmon on the banks was offensive. The Indians appear to use portions of them as they were collected in heaps at the villages.

The climate of the Skwawmish valley would probably not deter settlers from occupying it, but the bulk of the soil, so far as I could judge, is of medium quality. The available area is limited, and of course must be reduced by the Indian reserves. Vessels drawing 6 to 7 feet can with difficulty enter the mouth of the river, and the channel soon becomes shallow.

Though the valley of the Skwawmish River is not generally attractive to white settlers, it has some importance owing to the road from Lillooet being laid out to pass down the lower portion of the valley. It is hoped that this road will lead to a convenient outlet at the head of Howe Sound for the farming produce of the Lillooet district. The claim of the Indians to the whole of the valley had to be considered in reference to the interests of the white population connected with the proposed road. The claim was rejected by the Commissioners and after taking a careful census of the people, they proceeded to visit each Indian village and to examine the whole valley carefully.

The final decision of the Commissioners with respect to the lands of these Indians agrees with the recommendation of mixed "District" and "Tribal" reserves made in my general memorandum on the Indian Land Question, referred to at the beginning of this report.

To give a "District" reserve at Burrard's Inlet was found, as above said, to be impossible. But at the Skwawmish River, Howe Sound, a large reserve has been given to the Skwawmish Indians generally whether resident there or at Burrard's Inlet. It was not, however, possible, even at the Skwawmish River - though no whites are in the valley - to find a sufficiently large portion of suitable land lying together in any part of the valley. The main reserve, consequently, is in two sections, distant from one another about 7 miles by the river and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by land in a straight line. The Indians particularly wished to have all the hay land near the mouth of the River, but the Commissioners did not accede to this desire of the Indians, as they have not given any evidence of industry in farming or in storing for sale the natural products of the valley, and as the wild hay is a valuable article for use by sawmillowners [sic], and, moreover, would be required for the sustenance of cattle arriving at Howe Sound from the Lillooet District. The Commissioners, however, gave the Indians a considerable portion of the wild hay land at the mouth of the river. They also conformed them in the possession of their old village sites, burial grounds, cultivated patches and favourite places of resort.

The two sections of the main reserve abovementioned will appear on the sketches furnished by the Commissioners. One is at the mouth of the river and contains probably 1200 acres. The other which contains probably 2000 acres is above the junction of the Che-ah-ka-mish and Skwawmish Rivers, and above the place where the proposed Lillooet Road will enter the Skwawmish Valley.

The Muskweam and Skwawmish Reserves do not include any mountains nor what may be called fictitious acreage. The Indians are too intelligent to wish for mountainous or stony lands unsuitable for pasture. Nothing would be more misleading than to form opinions about acreage without reference to the quality of the land. These reserves contain as good soil as there is in the district, and have ample water frontages for the purposes of the Indians, but like all the land in the valley of the Skwawmish River except hay land at its mouth, they are for the most part heavily timbered.

After having spent a rough time on the river and in the woods, and visited all parts of the valley, and listened patiently to everything the Indians had to say, we returned to this camp, and have spent the whole of the day, in further conversations with all the principal Indians who are now here. [?] having stated to them our decision with respect to their land reserves, we asked that they would tell us their hearts, through some one or more appointed by them for the purpose.

Joseph, whose Indian name is Mah-nah-til-tun, was again the spokesman. The others were present. Joseph said "he was very happy today after hearing what the Commissioners had said, and though sorry to think the Commissioners were going away, he would not forget their kindness to him and his friends. He knew that the Commissioners were kind men, but he looked to the Queen and was glad the Queen had sent them to settle the land question. God made everything and looked on the Indian the same as the white man. He had been sorry; his heart had been low down, but he was now glad, and all his friends were glad that their land question was settled, and he would do his best to try to work the land, and would be glad always to have white men near the Indians, and he would follow the good advice which the Commissioners had given to him. That was his mind."

The Minute of Decisions passed by the Commissioners on 27 November 1876 and affecting the Indians of the Squamish River read as follows:<sup>13</sup>

Indian Reserve Commission

British Columbia

Minute of Decisions

In virtue of Commissions and instructions issued by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, empowering us to fix and determine the number, extent and locality of the Reserve or Reserves to be allowed to the Indians of British Columbia. We, the Undersigned, having in each case made full enquiry on the spot into all matters affecting the question hereby declare the following to be the reserves for the undermentioned Indian tribes respectively, within the Victoria Superintendency. (The Skwawmish Tribes have also Reserves within the Fraser Superintendency.) The date of our decision in each case, is stated in the following pages.

The following reserves are at the Skwawmish River Howe Sound and in Howe Sound.

Skowishin

(Skwawmish Tribe)

25 miles up the Skwawmish River on its left bank. The reserve has a width of about twenty chains and extends eastward to the base of the mountains; it is estimated to contain about forty acres.

Chuck-chuck

(Skwawmish Tribe)

Village abandoned. Indians did not wish to retain it; reserved the graveyard. It is about three miles above Skowishin on right bank of river.

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<sup>13</sup> The original Minute of Decisions are on file at the Indian Land Registry, DIAND, Ottawa. Copies are on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 3612, File 3756-23. Microfilm C-10106. See also RG 10, Volume 1273. Microfilm C-13900.

Voyam

(Skwawmish Tribe)

About several miles above Skowishin on left bank of the Skwawmish River. Village abandoned. Indians did not wish to retain it; reserved the graveyard.

Skowishin Graveyard - on left bank about two miles below Skowishin.

Che-ah-ka-mist

(Skwawmish Tribe)

An extensive reserve between Chemi and the Che-ah-ka-mist River, including all the land lying between the Skwawmish River and the base of the mountains, and also including a small block in the bend of the Che-ah-ka-mist River extending half a mile westward along the base of the mountains from a marked alder near the graveyard at Che-ah-ka-mist Village, and northwards to the right bank of the Che-ah-ka-mist River, so as to include the point of land on which the village of Che-ah-ka-mist is situated.

Yookwits

(Skwawmish Tribe)

On the right bank of the Skwawmish River nearly opposite to the mouth of the Che-ah-ka-mist River, forming a strip about three chains wide and sixteen long to include village and graveyard.

Wai-wa-kum

(Skwawmish Tribe)

Ten acres on each side of the Skwawmish River, a little below the mouth of the Che-ah-ka-mist River.

Pohkwiosin and Ska-main

(Skwawmish Tribe)

On left bank of the Skwawmish River, near the mouth of the Che-ah-ka-mist River to form one reserve containing about one hundred acres.

The above three reserves subject to any existing rights of timber lessees.

Se-aich-em

(Skwawmish Tribe)

On an island, near left bank of the Skwawmish River, about three and a half miles below the mouth of the Che-ah-ka-mist River.

The present village on the island being in danger of inundation, a reserve of twenty acres has been granted, in addition, for a new site.

This is to contain the old graveyard, and may be twenty chains on the river and ten chains deep.

Kow-tain

(Skwawmish Tribe)

On an island on the left bank of the Skwawmish River. The present village being in danger of inundation, a reserve of thirty acres has been granted for a new site. This is to be on the mainland close to the island and is to commence at the north west corner of the graveyard, thence east - four chains, thence south and west, so as to give the above acreage.

Ye-kwaup-sum

(Skwawmish Tribe)

This reserve is also on the left bank of the Skwawmish River. It is to contain a hundred acres and is to be laid out so as to include the point of land to an old Indian post a little below the head of the Big Island and to include a strip in the bend of the slough.

Ye-kwaup-sum

(Burial Ground)

On the right bank of the Skwawmish River, nearly opposite the village.

Small Island

(Skwawmish Tribe)

Situated on the eastern branch of the Skwawmish River, formed by the larger island of Staw-a-mus.



Staw-a-mus Island

(Skwawmish Tribe)

All that portion of the island lying north of the land applied for by Mr. Bremer [sic], who wishes to purchase it from the Provincial government.

Sckwul-wailem Island

(Skwawmish Tribe)

The whole of this island which is formed by the main and western channels of the Skwawmish River. Also the land opposite to, and of about the same length as the island, extending from the right bank of the Skwawmish River to the base of the mountains.

Staw-a-mus

(Skwawmish Tribe)

Situated at and outside the mouth of the Skwawmish River on the eastern shore, upon the right bank of a small river flowing from the eastward.

Ka-ka-la-hun

(Skwawmish Tribe)

Situated on the western shore of Howe Sound, opposite to Woodridge Island. To contain about twenty acres including the burial ground.

Chekwelp

(Skwawmish Tribe)

Situated on the western shore of Howe Sound, opposite the northern end of Keat's Island. To contain about twenty acres.

Chekwelp

(Burial Ground)

Situated on the western side of Keat's Island.

Several census records of the Indian settlements on the Squamish River, taken in 1876, have been located. All presumably were made by George Blenkinsop or based on his work. Although the handwriting is sometimes different, the written remarks are the

same in each. One is dated 20 Novemer 1876.<sup>14</sup> A second indicates it was taken in the winter of 1876-77.<sup>15</sup> A third is apparently a clean copy of the second.<sup>16</sup> A fourth is a general summary of each Indian settlement and is dated 1876.<sup>17</sup> The following are the remarks written about each Indian settlement.

- Kow-tain: "Six huts, one cottage, a small clearing for potatoes." Sixteen people lived at this settlement.
- Skow-ish-in: "Four huts. This is the largest cultivated patch on the river.  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre fenced, and 1 acre more, cleared." Twenty-one people lived at this settlement.
- Pan-kwi-o-sun: "No buildings or improvements on this place." Thirty-four people lived at this settlement.
- Ska-main: "No buildings or improvements on this place." Twenty-one people lived at this settlement.
- Yook-wits: "Nine huts at this place which is rather picturesque with a large burial ground, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre cultivated." Twenty-two people lived at this settlement.
- Che-ak-ka-mish: "Four huts and one cottage. From Yook-wits to this place their [sic] is a good trail along Che-ak-ka-mish River, two miles in length. The village is on the right bank above the forks of the Eu-che-ke. 1 acre

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<sup>14</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 3645, File 7936. Microfilm C-10113.

<sup>15</sup> "No. 1. Census of Indian Tribes. Winter 1876 and 1877." Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 88, Volume 494, Census - B.C. Indians, 1876-77, Book II of II.

<sup>16</sup> "No. 1. Census of Indian Tribes. 1876 and 1877." Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 88, Volume 494, Census - B.C. Indians, 1876-77, Book I of II.

<sup>17</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 3642, File 7624. Microfilm C-10113.

cultivated. The Patriarch of the tribe lives here, about eighty-five years of age." Twenty-four people lived at this settlement.

- Staw-a-mus: "Five houses at this place which are only occupied during the season for planting potatoes, and in winter, a patch of land cleared and ploughed in vegetables, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre in extent." Forty people lived at this settlement.
- Se-aieh-em: "Four huts, small clearing for potatoes." Twenty-nine people lived at this settlement.
- Kwan-kum-chin: "There are three huts, a small clearing for potatoes." Thirty-one people lived at this settlement.
- Wai-wa-kum: "1 hut, small clearing for potatoes." Twenty-six people lived at this settlement.
- Cha-kwe-lp: "One large Indian house, one cottage, small [patch] of potatoes. Burial ground." Four people lived at this settlement, described as being on Howe Sound.
- Ka-a-kul-tum: "1 large house, 1 cottage, small potatoe patch. Burial ground." Nine people lived at this settlement, described as being on the lower part of Howe Sound.
- Ye-tla-ukw: "Two small huts. A small potatoe patch only." Sixteen people lived at this settlement.
- Che-mi: "Two small patches of land under cultivation,  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre each." Twenty people lived at this settlement.
- Ye-kwap-sum: "Four huts. Several small clearings for potatoes, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre." Nine people lived at this settlement.

Five years later, in 1881, E. Mohun surveyed and laid out the Indian reserves on the Squamish River. No specific set of instructions to Mohun could be found at this time. However, there were general instructions to surveyors laying out Indian reserves in British Columbia that Mohun was probably aware of. One, titled "Draft of General Instructions to Surveyors Employed

in Running the Interior Boundaries of Indian Reserves, British Columbia,"<sup>18</sup> written in circa March 1878, included the following paragraphs:

In case the line should be obstructed by a lake, pond, precipitous bluff, by other obstacle the surveyor will pass it by right angled [?], or if it is more convenient by a trigonometrical operation for the distance, using in the latter case where the same can be obtained a base not less in length than half the estimated distance to be calculated.

Where a line crosses a river, or lake, posts not less than three inches in diameter, flatter on one side and marked "Indian Reserve" shall be securely planted on the shores, and surrounded by mounds or cairns of stones; care being taken that they are placed above high water mark.

Surveyors were also instructed that their field notes were to include the following information:

The distances at which the line strikes and leaves, roads, trails, lakes, ponds, rivers, timber, prairie and swamps, also the beginning of ascent, the top and foot of descent and of all hills and ridges with their estimated height in feet above the general level of bottom lands.

The distances at which rivers and creeks are crossed, average widths, depths, and velocities; these should particularly in the Interior Division be carefully noted, as an estimate may be required of the amount of water available for irrigation and the Survey should also ascertain what quantity of water, if any, has been recorded by settlers from streams either flowing through or in the neighbourhood of the Reserve.

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<sup>18</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 1273, pages 456-464. Microfilm C-13900.

Mohun was also probably aware of another set of instructions, titled "General Instructions for Surveyors Employed Surveying Indian Reserves West of the Cascades,"<sup>19</sup> written in circa January 1880, which stated that: "Each allotment to have a frontage either on the sea, a navigable stream, or road."

Mohun laid out twenty-two reserves on the Squamish and Cheakamus Rivers and on Howe Sound.<sup>20</sup> These Reserves consisted of:

- Skowishin Indian Reserve No. 7. A reserve consisting of 100 acres on the left bank of the Squamish River, approximately twenty-five miles from its mouth.
- Chuckchuck Indian Reserve No. 8. A reserve consisting of 0.15 acres on the left bank of the Squamish River, approximately three miles above Skowishin Indian Reserve No. 7.
- Poyam Indian Reserve No. 9. A reserve consisting of 0.67 acres on the left bank of the Squamish River, approximately seven miles above Skowishin Indian Reserve No. 7.
- Skowishin (Burial Ground) Reserve No. 10. A reserve consisting of 0.10 acres on the left bank of the Squamish River, approximately two miles below Skowishin Indian Reserve No. 7.
- Cheakamus Indian Reserve No. 11. A reserve consisting of 4,046.50 acres on the left bank of the Squamish River, between Chemai Creek and the Cheakamus River.

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<sup>19</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 11028, File SRR-2. Microfilm T-3967.

<sup>20</sup> His field books for these reserves, filed as F.B. BC 294, BC 295, F.B. BC 296, and F.B. BC 297, are on file at Survey and Mapping Branch, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa. See also his maps of these reserves, titled, "Plan of the Skwamish Indian Reserves, Coast District, British Columbia" and filed as B.C. 249, T.B.C. 249, and B.C. 257, also on file at Survey and Mapping Branch, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

- Yookwitz Indian Reserve No. 12. A reserve consisting of 23 acres on the right bank of the Squamish River opposite the mouth of the Cheakamus River.
- Poquiosin and Skamain Indian Reserve No. 13. A reserve consisting of 111.80 acres on the left bank of the Squamish River near the mouth of the Cheakamus River.
- Waiwakum Indian Reserve No. 14. A reserve consisting of 37 acres on the left bank of the Squamish River.
- Aikwucks Indian Reserve No. 15. A reserve consisting of 27.45 acres on the south tip of Waiwakum Island.
- Seaichem Indian Reserve No. 16. A reserve consisting of 68 acres on the left bank of Kowtain Slough, Squamish River.
- Kowtain Indian Reserve No. 17. A reserve consisting of 57.50 acres on the left bank of Kowtain Slough, Squamish River.
- Yekwaupsum Indian Reserve No. 18. A reserve consisting of 154 acres on the left bank of the Squamish River, approximately one and one-half miles from its mouth.
- Yekwaupsum (Burial Ground) Reserve No. 19. A reserve consisting of 2.25 acres, one and one-half miles north of Yekwaupsum Indian Reserve No. 18.
- Mamaquum Island Indian Reserve No. 20. A reserve consisting of 13 acres on an island in the eastern branch of the Squamish River.
- Squamish Island Indian Reserve No. 21. A reserve consisting of 188.23 acres on an island at the mouth of the Squamish River at the head of Howe Sound.
- Skwulwailum Indian Reserve No. 22. A reserve consisting of 188.23 acres on an island at the mouth of the Squamish River at the head of Howe Sound.
- Ahtsam Indian Reserve No. 23. A reserve consisting of 229.20 acres on the western branch of the Squamish River at its mouth.
- Stawamus Indian Reserve No. 24. A reserve consisting of 141.50 acres on the eastern shore of Howe Sound, at its head.

- Kaikalahun Indian Reserve No. 25. A reserve consisting of 33 acres on the western shore of Howe Sound, opposite Woolridge Island.
- Chekwelp Indian Reserve No. 26. A reserve consisting of 34.50 acres on the western shore of Howe Sound, opposite Keat's Island.
- Chekwelp (Burial Ground) Reserve No. 27. A reserve consisting of 0.50 acres opposite Keat's Island, the most northern of the Shelter Islands, Howe Sound.
- Defence Island Indian Reserve No. 28. A reserve consisting of 33 acres in Howe Sound.

A few years after Mohun's survey of the Indian Reserves, white settlers began to migrate into the Squamish Valley. In 1885 a group of Norwegian immigrants arrived but the severe flood that inundated their homesteads that same year eventually forced them to move to Bella Coola.<sup>21</sup> Other white settlers took their place.

The logging industry was also developing in the Squamish Valley. By 1889 a Mr. C. Lewis was logging around the village of Squamish and a few years later a Mr. Folk opened a logging camp in the upper reaches of the Valley near the mouth of Ashlu River.<sup>22</sup> According to notes in the Squamish Public Library, Folk:

would fall a tree, buck it into a 24' log, then roll the log by hand into the river. When there were enough logs he would make a boom and drive the logs down the river using a pike pole and a peevee. He drove the logs to the Squamish River then to the tidewater. This drive took one week. Tugs picked up the logs at tidewater and delivered them to the Moodyville Sawmill.

Another logging operation was run by a Mr. Yapp who incorporated his Squamish Timber Company in March 1907. In 1910 Yapp was clearing the Cheekeye Creek area, which flowed into the Cheakamus River. He used a steam donkey which would haul the logs 400 feet

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<sup>21</sup> Jack K. Stathers, P. 50.

<sup>22</sup> "Logging". Unpublished manuscript, Squamish Public Library.

and then an eight-horse team hauled them one-half mile on a skid road. Another type of steam donkey, called a roader, took the logs to the water's edge. Here the logs followed a log through to the mouth of the Cheakamus River.

He first put his logs into water at the mouth of the Cheakamus but it seems that "they headed for market on their own" which was hard on Mr. Yapp's pocketbook. Moreover it was difficult to keep the slip clear of logs; some got stuck in the mud and were hard to get loose.

When the Pacific Great Eastern Railway continued its line through Cheakamus Canyon after 1912, the Yapp Company used the train to transport logs to the booming grounds at Squamish.<sup>23</sup>

Meanwhile, in 1910, the Indians on the Squamish River began negotiations to have the timber on their reserves cut. In a letter dated 16 April 1910 to A.E. Haswell, a timber dealer, Chiefs Tom, Harry, Joseph and Thomas Randal wrote:<sup>24</sup>

We the undersigned Chiefs of the Squamish Tribe of Indians want to sell our timber on the Squamish River Reserve about 4,000 acres. Skwawmish, Skwulwaillem, Ahtsann, Stawamus, Yekwapsum, Waiwakum, Aikwucks, Poquiosin, Skamain, Cheakamus.

We have got no money to buy donkey engines and outfit to log it or to build a railroad. We know you and will give you the first chance to cruise it and buy it. We are very much afraid of fires burning it down if it does we will have nothing.

We have lost so much of it already through fires and high water. Every time the Squamish River floods we lose many trees. We tried to hand log some of it but we lost money on it and had to leave it. The only way to

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<sup>23</sup> See A Centennial Commentary Upon the Early Days of Squamish, British Columbia, and "Logging".

<sup>24</sup> Copy of file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 4049, File 361,780. Microfilm C-10179.



get that timber out is to build a railroad and that takes a lot of money which we have not got. We want to sell this timber as soon as possible we want money in the bank so we can get a little money every year to improve our property and buy tools.

The following week, on 25 April 1910, Indian Agent R.C. McDonald wrote John McLean, Secretary of the Department of Indian Affairs, that:<sup>25</sup>

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th instant ... requesting a report as to what the Squamish Band of Indians have been doing with reference to cutting timber on their reserve, or what they have been asking for as regards cutting.

In reply I beg to state that these Indians would not undertake to cut the timber, as they were afraid that the supplies they would require for themselves and their families while cutting it, would perhaps amount to the value of the timber.

What they asked was that they be allowed to sell the timber standing, but as the Department could not grant them that permission, the Rev. Father Welch suggested that perhaps the Department might allow the Indians to employ white men to cut and take out sufficient timber to pay the debt on their church.

On 12 May 1910 Haswell wrote Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior and Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, requesting permission to purchase the timber on the Squamish Reserves and, two months later, T.R.E. McInnes, Haswell's Ottawa agent, wrote McLean with the same request. On 12 July 1910 McLean informed McInnes:<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 4049, File 361,780. Microfilm C-10179.

<sup>26</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 4049, File 361,780. Microfilm C-10179.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 8th instant, in regard to application of Mr. E.A. Haswell to purchase the timber on the Squamish Indian Reserve, B.C., and in reply to say that owing to the dispute as to title to the Indian Reserves in British Columbia between the Province and the Dominion, the Department is unable to take any action towards alienation of a Reserve or the timber thereon.

I might say, in any case, that a surrender from the Indians of the timber would be necessary and then, under the Timber Regulations, it would require to be explored and valued and disposed of by public competition.

Two years later, in 1912, requests were made to the Federal Department of Public Works to lease part of the foreshore of the Squamish River, the Mamquam River, and Howe Sound in front of and adjoining Squamish Indian Reserve No. 21, Skwulwailum Indian Reserve No. 22, and Ahtsam Indian Reserve No. 23. Public Works wrote the Department of Indian Affairs, which in turn instructed Indian Agent Peter Byrne at New Westminster to report on the matter. Byrne's report on the Skwulwailum and Ahtsam Reserves, dated 27 November 1912, reads as follows:<sup>27</sup>

I visited the locality of the Indian Reserves referred to, on the 12th instant, and beg to report as follows, that the flats, or foreshore, with Riparian Rights to these reserves whilst submerged at high tide, with the exception of the channel of the river is mostly free from water at low, or even half tide, for a distance of about a half a mile out, and is what is commonly called mud flats.

During the last few months, active construction has been commenced on a railway, which is supposed to extend from North Vancouver situated immediately across the Inlet from the City of Vancouver, to Fort George on the Grand Trunk Pacific by way of Howe Sound; but as the work of constructing this road from N. Vancouver to the head of Howe Sound is very expensive, I understand that the

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<sup>27</sup> Copy of file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 4068, File 422,374. Microfilm C-10183. See also RG 10, Volume 4068, File 422,730. Microfilm C-10183.

company who are building the road, have purchased District Lot 486 which adjoins the Indian Reserves referred to, with a view to establishing a town there. This has had the effect of greatly increasing land values in that vicinity.

The town is called New Port, and as an index to the values I [may] say, that some corner lots 25 by 132 feet are at the present time valued at \$6,000.00, while inside lots of the same size, in this subdivision, are held at from \$1,200.00 to \$1,500.00 each. Besides this, I might say, that lots away on the other side of the Indian Reserve, a mile or so distance from New Port, are held at from three to five hundred dollars each.

As I am not aware of the powers contained in a dredging lease, I am unable to definitely state, what effect it will have on the Indian Reserves referred to, but if the lease gives to the leasee, the right to erect wharfs, or other structures on the land applied for, it would certainly have a very injurious effect on the Indian Reserves, and depreciate their values very materially. Particularly in view of the fact, that the only available outlet from these reserves, is over the flats applied for, there being a very steep rocky mountain jutting out on either side of the head of Howe Sound.

Previous to my visit to New Port, I had a long interview with the Chief of the Squamish Indians, with regard to this matter, he in turn called a meeting of his people, and explained to them, that application had been made to lease a portion of the foreshore of their reserves. The Chief informed me that he, with all the members of the band, most vigorously protest against any person acquiring, the property between their reserves and deep water, over which they claim Reparian Rights.

The Chief also cites, what he considers a great injustice, done to the members of the Squamish Band, by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, in giving a deed to private individuals, for a portion of the flats, or foreshore in front of their home reserve, known as Squamish Mission Indian Reserve No. 1, which is situated in N. Vancouver [at Burrard Inlet].

The Indians further stated, that they could not understand, why parties should want to lease these flats, for dredging purposes, as there is nothing but mud, except in the channel of the Squamish River, where there is a little gravel, and they never heard of this mud carrying free gold or any other precious metal worth dredging for.

In conclusion, I beg to state, that in my opinion, it would be a mistake on the part of the Government, to grant any rights whatever, to individuals to occupy in any way, the foreshore of these reserves.

The Department of Indian Affairs informed Public Works that the Indians would not consent "to execute the necessary surrender of their rights in connection with these foreshores" and requested Public Works not to grant any dredging leases.

The railroad referred to in Indian Agent Peter Byrne's report was the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. Referred to locally as the PGE Railway, this was not the first railroad in the Squamish Valley. In 1909 Jim Gill began construction on his Howe Sound and Pemberton Valley Northern Railway and by the following year it was in operation to Cheekeye.<sup>28</sup> A few years later, however, the government of Premier McBride expropriated the Howe Sound and Pemberton Valley Northern and turned it over to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. Before the expropriation, the Howe Sound and Pemberton Valley Northern changed the name of the town of Squamish to Newport, but during the First World War, by local popular demand, the town was renamed Squamish.

The PGE Railway, with its powerful friends in the provincial cabinet, hoped to exploit the mineral resources of northern British Columbia. Incorporated in 1912, the railway was projected to connect Vancouver with Prince George, where it would join the main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway between Jasper and Prince Rupert. Initially it was privately owned but rising costs during the First World War, allegations of fraud, the rough terrain and disappointment in the resources of the area

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<sup>28</sup> A Centennial Commentary Upon the Early Days of Squamish, British Columbia.

traversed forced the provincial government to take over the line in 1918. To that point only 170 miles of track from Squamish to the head of the inland river transport at Quesnel had been laid.<sup>29</sup>

Part of the PGE Railway passed through several of the reserves on the Squamish River at Howe Sound. Before the track could be laid, however, these Indian Reserves had to be surrendered.

Negotiations began in July 1912 between the railway company and the Department of the Interior but the following year, when the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia was appointed, these negotiations were transferred to the Commission.

Surrender requests originally were made for five reserves: Yekwaupsum Indian Reserve No. 18, Squamish Island Indian Reserve No. 21, Skwulwailum Indian Reserve No. 22, Ahtsam Indian Reserve No. 23, and Stawamus Indian Reserve No. 24. Mamaquum Island Indian Reserve No. 20 was later included. The railway company maintained that of the Indian land acquired, 600 acres would have to be filled in before it could be utilized, at a cost of \$600,000. Another 1,200 acres would have to be cleared and grubbed, at a cost of \$360,000. In addition, wrote PGE Railway's Vice President D'Arcy Tate to Royal Commission Chairman E.L. Wetmore, this land would require:<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> See "Pacific Great Eastern Railway", in Encyclopedia Canadiana, (Volume 8). Toronto: Grolier of Canada, 1977; and "British Columbia Railway", in The Canadian Encyclopedia (Volume 1). Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1985. Since 1956 the railway has been extended beyond Quesnel and to North Vancouver. On 1 April 1972 the government changed the name of the company to British Columbia Railway.

<sup>30</sup> Correspondence between the PGE Railway and the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for British Columbia is on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10 Volume 11032, File 553. Microfilm T-3959.

... the necessary protection of channels bordering on the reclaimed area for the prevention of scouring of tidal currents and during the period of flood waters on the Squamish River, which will amount to a considerable sum.

On 21 September 1913 the railway company convinced the Squamish Indians to surrender the reserves. The following day Tate wrote Wetmore:

During your absence in the North, I have been almost continuously engaged with the Squamish Indians in endeavoring to obtain from them a surrender of the Reserves at Newport and am pleased to advise you that I succeeded yesterday in having the Band sign a surrender. I will be pleased to submit for the approval of the Board the details of the Agreement at any convenient time you may desire.

The proposed Agreement provides for payment to the Indians of \$157,000.00 for approximately 900 acres of land (excluding about two hundred acres of rock and forty acres retained as an Indian Reserves by the Band). In addition to this price we deed to six members of the Band as many lots and erect on the six lots and the forty acres of Reserve not surrendered thirty-nine houses, one house for each member of the Band.

I may say I had considerable trouble in arriving at an agreement with the Indians as they are pretty difficult to deal with. I think the arrangement is an equitable one for the Band and I hope the same will meet with your approval.

If it would suit the convenience of the Commission it is proposed that the Indians should assemble on the Mission Reserve on Sunday next for the purpose of taking their formal surrender. That day was suggested on account of this being the fishing season and it is hard to get all the members of the Band together except on Saturday or Sunday. If this day would not suit the Commission I would be glad if you can name some other day this week, possibly Friday in order that the surrender might be taken by the Commission before they leave again, as I understand it is their intention to do on Sunday next. I would submit the advisability of taking the surrender with the least [sic] delay possible now that the Indians have signed the Agreement. There are always outside influences at work on the Indians and I think it would be unfortunate if this matter should now miscarry as it is undoubtedly in the interests of all concerned and of

the development, not only of the Province, but of what I think will prove one of the most important harbours on the Pacific Coast that the development of these Reserves should be undertaken by the Pacific Great Eastern Company.

On 23 September 1913, however, Wetmore informed W.J. Roche, Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, by telegram that:

... the Commission have unanimously come to the conclusion that the matter of the Agreement does not come within the Commission's jurisdiction and that the Commission has not authority under the Order in Council of twenty seventh may last P.C. twelve forty seven to take the surrender.

The surrender of the six Squamish Reserves on the Squamish River at Howe Sound was taken by the Department of Indian Affairs. The Yekwaupsum Indian Reserve No. 18 was taken separately while the remaining five Reserves - Squamish Island Indian Reserve No. 21, Skwulwailum Indian Reserve No. 22, Ahtsum Indian Reserve No. 23, Stawamus Indian Reserve No. 24, and Mamaquum Island Indian Reserve No. 22 - were included together on the same surrender documents.<sup>31</sup>

Among the terms of the Agreement between the railway and members of the Yekwaupsum Indian Reserve No. 18 are the following:

1. The Band hereby surrenders to the [Pacific Great Eastern Development] Company all its right title and interest absolutely and forever in and to that certain parcel or tract of land shown on the attached blue print and shown as the Yekwaupsum Indian Reserve in the District of New Westminster and Province of British Columbia comprising

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<sup>31</sup> Copies of the surrender documents are on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 11002, File 974/34-23. Microfilm T-3952. The originals, including blueprints, are on file at the National Archives Canada, RG2/1, 16 February 1914.

one hundred and fifty-four acres be the same more or less; less an area of four acres to be retained as a Reserve and selected by the Chief Engineer of the Company...

4. The Company will forthwith subdivide the area shown in red on the said Reserve into six (6) lots of the dimensions of fifty (50) feet by one hundred and twenty (120) feet each and will convey to each of the members of the Band mentioned in the Schedule "B" hereto an indefeasible title to one of such lots.
5. The Company will within six months from the date hereof erect upon each of the said lots referred to in the preceeding clause, and on the four acres Reserve retained ten (10) dwelling houses at a cost of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) each to be paid for by the Company...

The official surrender was taken by W.E. Ditchburn, Inspector of Indian Agencies for British Columbia, on 27 September 1913.

The Squamish Indians also surrendered 988.43 acres, comprising the remaining five reserves, less an area of 40 acres in the Stawamus Indian Reserve No. 24. Among the conditions made with the Pacific Great Eastern Development Company by the Squamish Indians for the surrender was:

And whereas the Company in addition to the said purchase money in the preceeding clause referred to has further agreed as part consideration for the surrender to it of the said Reserves to erect upon the area shown in red on the Stawamus Reserve forty (40) dwelling houses at a cost of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) each; and to fence in and beatify in a park-like manner the area of the Stawamus (shown in yellow on the blue print attached hereto) used by the Band as a cemetery.

These surrenders were also taken by W.E. Ditchburn, Inspector of Indian Agencies for British Columbia, on 27 September 1913.

The surrender of the reserves was approved by the Federal Government under Order in Council P.C. 375 of 16 February 1914. The Government of British Columbia approved the conveyance of the



lands to the Pacific Great Eastern Development Company in a Minute of the Executive Council dated 18 June 1914.<sup>32</sup> Included with the Federal Order in Council are the original surrender papers and two blueprints, one titled "Pacific Great Eastern. Plan showing land applied. Indian Reserve Skwawmish. August 1, 1913," and the other titled "Plan of Yekwaupsum, I.R. Skwamish Group. B.C. Vancouver, September 15, 1913." The first blueprint shows that the four-acre reserve retained by the Yekwaupsum Band as the Yekwaupsum Indian Reserve No. 18 is a landlocked reserve. No part of the reserve bordered on the Squamish River. The same blueprint also shows that only the extreme North-West tip of the graveyard of the 40 acres retained by the Stawamus Band as Stawamus Indian Reserve No. 24 touches the Squamish River. The South-East tip of this reserve touches on the Stawamus River. The second blueprint shows an additional 0.83 acres, divided into fifty by one hundred and twenty-foot lots, on the Yekwaupsum Reserve.

A "Description for Patent" of the six surrendered reserves was made on 14 January 1915 by W.R. White of the Department of Indian Affairs.<sup>33</sup> His description of Lot 4267, which was to continue as the Stawamus Indian Reserve No. 24, was described in his description of the former reserve acquired by the PGE Railway:

SIXTHLY: Part of the Stawamus Indian Reserve Number 24 now surveyed as Lot 4266, containing by admeasurement one hundred and eighteen acres and four tenths of an acre more or less, described as follows: Commencing at a point on the East bank of the East branch of the Squamish River at the intersection with the Southerly

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<sup>32</sup> The Federal Order in Council is on file at the National Archives Canada, RG2/1, 16 February 1914. A copy of the Provincial Minute is on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 4074, File 441,744. Microfilm C-10184.

<sup>33</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 4074, File 441,744. Microfilm C-10184.

boundary of Lot 486, New Westminster District; thence South eighty-nine degrees thirty-nine minutes East along the said Southerly boundary a distance of twenty chains and ten links and four tenths of a link; thence North no degrees fourteen minutes East along part of the Easterly boundary of said Lot 486 twenty chains and five and seven tenths links; thence South eighty-nine degrees and one minute East along the Southerly boundary of Lot 486, a distance of twenty chains and five links and one tenth of a link; thence South no degrees and one minute West a distance of forty-eight chains and seventy-five links; thence West a distance of forty-five chains and fifty-three links to the East bank of the East branch of the Squamish River; thence in a Northerly direction following the East bank of the said East branch to the point of commencement; excepting thereout and therefrom that portion of the Stawamus Indian Reserve now surveyed as Lot 4267 which is to continue to be an Indian Reserve and which may be described as commencing at a point on the Northerly boundary of said Lot 4266 distant one chain and seven links and four tenths of a link South eighty-nine degrees thirty-nine minutes East from the North West corner of said Lot 4266; thence South eighty-nine degrees thirty-nine minutes East following along the said Northerly boundary of Lot 4266 and the Easterly production thereof, a distance of thirty-one chains eighty-four links and four tenths of a link; thence South no degrees twenty-one minutes West eleven chains and nine links to the Northerly bank of the Stawamus River; thence following in a Westerly direction along the said Northerly bank of the Squamish River to its junction with a small channel; thence along the Northerly bank of the said small channel to a point of commencement; thence North fifteen minutes East a distance of ten chains twenty-four links and seven tenths of a link more or less to the place of commencement; excepting from the portion so reserved the right of way of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway containing four acres and one tenth of an acre more or less, now known as District Lot 2949, contained within the boundaries of the parcel above described as Lot 4267 and described as a strip of land one hundred and fifty feet wide, that is seventy-five feet on either side of the located centre line of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, the said centre line described as commencing at a point on the Northerly boundary of said Lot 4267, distant five hundred and ninety feet and six-tenths of a foot, measured Westerly from the North East corner of said Lot; thence in a Southerly direction along a four degree curve to the right a distance of two hundred and thirty-nine feet and six tenths of a foot; thence along a spiral curve to the right decreasing one degree in

curvature on sub-chords of thirty feet, a distance of one hundred and twenty feet thence South thirty-six degrees twenty-two minutes West, a distance of five hundred and twenty-five feet and seven tenths of a foot and from thence a strip of land one hundred feet in width, that is fifty feet on either side of the centre line, which continues South thirty-six degrees twenty-two minutes West, a distance of four hundred and forty-nine feet and two tenths of a foot to the Northerly bank of the channel forming the Southerly boundary of said Lot 4267. The said Lot 4267, after excepting the right of way of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, contains forty acres and two tenths of an acre more or less.

As stated above, in 1913 a Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia was appointed. This Commission was charged with resolving the long-standing Federal-Provincial dispute concerning Indian lands in that province. The Royal Commission was given the power to investigate Indian land matters, to adjust reserve acreage by reducing the size where the Commissioners deemed that the Indians had more land than needed, to determine the area to be added in cases where bands had insufficient land, and to set aside reserves for bands that had not yet received any. The Commissioners were also authorized by a separate Federal Order in Council of June 1913 to gather information on issues which, although extraneous to the terms of the McKenna-McBride Agreement setting up the Commission, were nevertheless considered to effect the rights and interests of the Indian population. From 1913 to 1916 the Commission travelled the province compiling their evidence.

On 19 December 1913 the Commission wrote Indian Agent Peter Byrne at New Westminster requesting he compile a list of reserves in his agency, giving a brief description of each. On 14 May 1914 Byrne sent the following information on the Squamish River reserves to the Commissioners:<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 10, Volume 11020, File 520A. Microfilm T-3957.

- 7 Skowishin. On the left bank of the Squamish River, about 25 miles from its mouth. It contains 100 acres, part of which is low river bottom, and part high land. A portion of the low land is subject to overflow. There is some very good timber on this reserve, but it is mostly scrubby and of little commercial value. The land here is rich and suitable for agriculture, but owing to its inaccessibility on the heavy fall of snow in the winter, it is difficult for the Indians to successfully cultivate it. 2 or 3 families of Indians reside here during the summer. It may be reached by the Pacific Great Eastern Ry. train to Cheakamus, a distance of 14 miles, and thence by wagon or other vehicle 11 miles to the reserve.
- 8 Chuckchuck. On the right bank of the Squamish River about 3 miles above No. 7. Contains .15 acres, and is used by the Indians as a burial ground. Of little value.
- 9 Poyan. On the left bank of the Squamish River, 7 miles above No. 7. It contains .67 acres. This is also used by the Indians as a burial ground. Of little value.
- 10 Skowishin. Grave yard. Contains .10 acres. Situated on the left bank of the Squamish River 2 miles below No. 7.
- 11 Cheakamus. This large reserve is situated on the left bank of the Squamish River, between Chemai Creek and Cheakamus River. It contains 4046.50 acres, part of which is low, flat land, with some prairie or grass, and some heavily timbered, while a considerable portion extends up on to the mountain side. There is a large quantity of good merchantable timber on this reserve, which may be reached by Pacific Great Eastern Ry. or by good wagon road from Newport, a distance of 14 miles. About 5 Indian families reside permanently here, while a

number of Indians who live on other reserves claim an interest in it. A very small portion of this land is under cultivation, although a considerable area has been burned over and seeded down to grass, which is used for pasture, and for supplying winter feed for the stock.

12 Yookwitz.

This reserve is situated on the right bank of the Squamish River opposite the mouth of the Cheakamus River. It contains 23 acres of rough land covered with a heavy growth of timber of little merchantable value. It may be reached from Cheakamus by wagon and canoe across the river, a distance of about 3 miles. No Indians reside here permanently, although a small patch has been cleared. It is used by them as a fishing camp at times.

13 Poquiosin  
and Skamain.

This reserve is situated on the left bank of the Squamish River near the mouth of the Cheakamus River. It contains 111.80 acres, about half of which is low land and good soil, while the other half is high and gravelly. There is a considerable amount of good fir timber on this reserve, and the balance is covered with a thick growth of alder, crab apple, and brush. There is no cultivated land, nor do any Indians reside here permanently, although it is frequently used by them as a fishing station, or for camping purposes while hunting. It is situated about 2 miles down stream from reserve No. 12, and the water front can be reached only by canoe or boat on the river, while the portion farthest away from the stream may be reached by wagon road or Pacific Great Eastern Ry.

14 Waiwakum.

Is situated on the left bank of the Squamish River, about 8 miles from Newport from which place it may be reached by train or wagon road. It contains 37 acres about half of which is good and the other half poor soil. There is a small amount of

merchantable timber on this reserve, the balance being covered with alder, crab apple, and brush, of no commercial value at the present time. No Indians reside here, although a small portion has been cleared by them in years gone by.

15 Aikwucks.

This reserve formerly contained 27.45 acres a large proportion of which has been washed away by the action of the river. The soil is rich alluvial deposit, which is covered with a thick growth of alder, crab apple, and brush, with a few spruce trees scattered over it. Formerly there was a considerable area of this reserve cleared by the Indians, but this portion has now been all washed away by the action of the river. In fact, I consider this reserve of very little value, at least till something is done to confine the waters to the channel, and remove obstructions or jam piles which occasionally form in the stream. It is about 2 miles down stream from No. 14, from which place it may be reached by canoe or boat only. No Indians reside permanently here.

16 Seaichen.

This reserve is situated on the left bank of what is known as Kowtain Slough, Squamish River. It contains 68 acres, part of which is good soil, heavily timbered, of little commercial value. A large portion, perhaps half, is cut off by a small slough, and this portion is therefore more affected by the high water of the river, and subject to overflow at times. Several Indian families reside here and have a considerable portion under cultivation, while the island part is used by them as a camping ground. It is situated about 6 miles from Newport, from which place it may be reached by a good wagon road or train on the Pacific Great Eastern Ry., and about 2 miles down stream from No. 15.

- 17 Kowtain. Situated on the left bank of Kowtain Slough, Squamish River, and contains 57.50 acres, a portion of which forms an island in the stream. The soil is good. Most of it has been cleared by the Indians, and is now under cultivation. The balance is covered with timber of little value, but very heavy clearing. Several Indian families reside here permanently. It is about 4 miles from Newport, from which place it may be reached by wagon or auto, over a good road.
- 18 Yekwaupsum. This reserve has been sold by the Indians to the Pacific Great Eastern Ry. Co., with the exception of a small portion reserved by the Indians on which to build their houses. It contains 154 acres and is situated close to Newport. The soil is rich and heavily timbered. A few Indians reside here permanently. It adjoins the other reserves at Newport.
- 19 Grave Yard. It contains  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acres and is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Yekwaupsum. It is used by the Indians as a burial ground. Mostly covered with timber and brush of little commercial value. It may be reached by boat or canoe on a small slough extending from the Squamish River to it. No Indians reside here.
- 20 Mamaquum. This reserve is situated on an island in the east branch of the Squamish River. It contains 13 acres and adjoins the other reserves at Newport sold to the Pacific Great Eastern Ry. It is heavily timbered. No Indians reside here. The Company have also purchased this reserve.
- 21 Squamish This reserve is the northern portion of Squamish Island at the mouth of the Squamish River. It contains 416.50 acres. The soil is good but low and subject to overflow in places. It is heavily timbered with maple, alder, and spruce. This reserve has been sold to the Pacific Great Eastern Ry. Co. It adjoins Newport.

- 22 Skwulwailum. Is situated in the mouth of the Squamish River, adjoining No. 21, from which it is separated by a branch of the stream. It has been sold to the Pacific Great Eastern Ry. Co. It contains 188.23 acres. The land is low, mostly grass, and at times subject to overflow. It fronts on the salt water. No Indians have resided here permanently for some considerable time.
- 23 Ahtsam. Is situated on the western branch of the Squamish River at its mouth by which branch it is separated from No. 22. A portion of this reserve is low grass land, while a considerable area extends up on to the mountain side, into the broken rock bluffs. Some of the benches are heavily timbered. This reserve has also been sold to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Co. No Indians have resided here for some time.
- 24 Stawamus. Is situated on the eastern shore of Howe Sound at its head. It contains 141.50 acres, most of which is high land on which there are nice level benches covered with a heavy growth of timber. A considerable portion of this reserve extends up into the rocky bluffs of the mountain side. A large number of Indians reside here permanently. The reserve has been sold to the Pacific Great Eastern, with the exception of some 40 acres, which was reserved for the use of the Indians residing thereon. There is a small lake on this reserve, and a large creek of fresh water flows through it.

Indian Agent Byrne concluded his remarks on the Squamish River reserves by stating:

It is very difficult to state definitely the number of Indians residing on each reserve on the Squamish River, or on those on Howe Sound, owing to the fact that most of these people move around from place to place almost continuously, and several of them have houses on two or



three reserves, but I may state that the total number of Indians who consider that their homes are in the vicinity of Howe Sound and the Squamish River is 72. This number includes most of these who have moved away from False Creek at the time that the Provincial Government took over this reserve.

The following year, in March 1915, the Squamish River Bands wrote the Royal Commissioners outlining their problems and requests. The major complaint, based on these letters<sup>35</sup>, was that the Bands were being refused permission by the Indian Agent to cut the timber on the reserves. The Indians maintained they wished to clear the land to devote their time and energy to farming. A secondary complaint mentioned by some of the Squamish River Bands was their desire to catch and sell salmon that passed through their reserves. A typical letter, this one written by Chief Tom of the Cheakamus Reserve, reads as follows:

I, Chief Tom and my members at the meeting here today have discussed the troubles we lay before you Royal Commissioners, which is as follows: -

Our first and greatest desire is the timber which is keeping all business here closed, especially farming, the trade we have all determined to undertake.

If we can sell our timber, each family will be able to erect a house where the timber is standing, as it is the only place suitable for house building.

We will be able also to purchase horses, ploughs, wagons, and all farming implements to cultivate the soil.

When the Government first surveyed this place for our forefathers, they did not know the real value of the land. They had plenty of game and fish to make a living, but we new descendents have become more civilized and know in tilling the soil we could make a more decent living.

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<sup>35</sup> Copies of these letters are on file at the National Archives Canada, RG10, Volume 11021, File 520 C. Microfilm T-3958.

If the Government grants all we ask it will be a benefit to everybody, both to us and the white people living above. It is the timber alone that is keeping everything closed.

The members of the Squamish tribe are anxiously awaiting the settling of the Kitsilano Reservation and know that you Honourable Sirs will use your influence on the Government to hasten the above mentioned settlement.

Another favor we wish to obtain is to fish and sell without disturbance in the rivers running through reserves. The nets we use are only fifteen fathoms, and small as is the amount we gain, most of it goes towards tilling the soil.

The Commissioners spent one day, 17 August 1915, interviewing the Squamish River Bands. The meetings were held on the Cheakamus Reserve. The major complaint was again that they could not obtain permission to cut the timber to expand their farming operations. Many also asked for additional lands, either because their original reserves were considered too small or because the river had eroded their property.<sup>36</sup> No request was made to catch and sell the salmon that passed through or beside the reserves. On 28 January 1916 the Commissioners interviewed Indian Agent Peter Byrne in Victoria concerning the Squamish Valley Indian Reserves.<sup>37</sup> His testimony consisted generally of describing the reserves and verifying the evidence given by the Indians six months earlier.

In his "Progress Report No. 5," dated 20 December 1915, Commission Chairman N.W. White wrote Superintendent General of Indian Affairs W.J. Roche that "[t]hese [Squamish] reserves were examined by the Commission and the Indians willingly gave all the

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<sup>36</sup> A copy of the evidence is on file at Lands, Revenues and Trusts Operations Branch, DIAND, Ottawa.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

information possible as to their requirements, expressing themselves as anxious to adopt agriculture as a means of livelihood."<sup>38</sup> The following 13 May 1916 the Royal Commission passed the following Minutes of Decision:<sup>39</sup>

ORDERED: That the Indian Reserves of the New Westminster Agency, Squamish Tribe, described in the Official Schedule of Indian Reserves, 1913, at Page 101 thereof, and numbered from Seven (7) to Nineteen (19), both inclusive, BE CONFIRMED as now fixed and determined and shewn on the Official Plans of Survey, viz.:

- "No. 7 - Skowishin, 100.00 acres;
- No. 8 - Chuckchuck, 0.15 acre;
- No. 9 - Poyam, 0.67 acre;
- No. 10 - Skowishin Graveyard, 0.10 acre;
- No. 11 - Cheakamus, 4,046.50 acres;
- No. 12 - Yookwitz, 23.00 acres;
- No. 13 - Poquiosin and Skamain, 111.80 acres;
- No. 14 - Waiwakum, 37.00 acres;
- No. 15 - Ainwucks, 27.45 acres;
- No. 16 - Seaichem, 68.00 acres;
- No. 17 - Kowtain, 57.50 acres;
- No. 18 - Yekwaupsum, 4.00 acres; and
- No. 19 - Yekwaupsum, Burial Ground, 2.25 acres."

ORDERED: That Stawamus Indian Reserve No. Twenty-Four (24), of the Squamish Tribe, New Westminster Agency, described in the Official Schedule of Indian Reserves, 1913, at Page 102 thereof, BE CONFIRMED as now fixed and determined and shewn on the Official Plan of Survey, viz.:

- "No. 24 - Stawamus, 40.20 acres."

The month previous, on 13 April 1916, the Commissioners had passed the following Minute of Decision:

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<sup>38</sup> See Report of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia. Victoria: Acme Press, 1916.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

ORDERED: That the Indian Reserves of the Squamish Tribe or Band, New Westminster Agency, described in the Official Schedule of Indian Reserves, 1913 at Page 102 thereof, and numbered from Twenty-five (25) to Twenty-seven (27), both inclusive, BE CONFIRMED as now fixed and determined and shewn on the Official Plans of Survey, viz.:

- "No. 25 - Kaikalahun, 33.00 acres;
- No. 26 - Chekwelp, 34.50 acres;
- No. 27 - Chekwelp, Burial Ground, 0.50 acre."

And on 14 April 1916 they passed the following Minutes of Decision:

ORDERED: That whereas there is shewn upon the Official Plan of Survey of Edward Mohun, C.E., 1881, approved by the late Dr. I.W. Powell, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, 30th May, 1882, as an Indian Reserve of the Squamish Tribe, New Westminster Agency, a certain tract or parcel of land containing an area of one-half (0.50) acre, situate on the western shore of Howe Sound at a distance of twenty-seven (27) chains Northwest of Chekwelp Indian Reserve No. twenty-six (26) of the Squamish Tribe, New Westminster Agency; and whereas reference to the Minute of Decision of the joint Reserve Commission dated the 28th November 1876, and to the Official Schedule of Indian Reserves, 1913, discloses no mention of the establishment and constitution of the said tract or parcel of land as an Indian Reserve, BE IT RESOLVED - That there be established and constituted a Reserve, for use as a Burial Ground, of the Squamish Tribe, New Westminster Agency, that certain tract or parcel of land containing an area of one-half (0.50) acre, situate on the Western shore of Howe Sound, New Westminster District, approximately twenty-seven (27) chains Northwest of Chekwelp Indian Reserve No. Twenty-six (26), as shewn on the Official Plan of Survey of Edward Mohun, C.E., 1881, approved by the late Dr. I.W. Powell, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, 30th May, 1882, and that the same be named and numbered

"Chekwelp, Burial Ground, No. 26 A."

ORDERED: That whereas there is referred to in the Official Schedule of Indian Reserves, 1913, at Page 102 thereof, a certain Indian Reserve of the Squamish Tribe, New Westminster Agency, named "Defence Island," numbered "Twenty-eight (28)," and described as in New Westminster District, Howe Sound, containing an area of Thirty-three (33) acres; and whereas the said Defence Island is shewn on the Official Plan of Survey of Edward Mohun, C.E.,

1881, approved by the late Dr. I.W. Powell, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, 1882, and whereas reference to the Minute of Decision of the joint Reserves Commission dated 28th November, 1876, discloses no mention of the establishment and constitution of the said Defence Island Indian Reserve No. 28, BE IT RESOLVED - That there be established and constituted as a Reserve for the use and benefit of the Squamish Tribe, New Westminster Agency, that certain tract or parcel of land known and described as Defence Island, New Westminster District, Howe Sound, containing an area of Thirty-three (33) acres, as shewn on the Official Plan of Survey of Edward Mohun, C.E., 1881.

In 1917 the Cheakamus Indian Reserve No. 11 was re-surveyed by H.H. Browne, B.C.L.S. The survey fieldbooks and maps are on file at the Survey and Mapping Branch, Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa, but no documents could be found in the National Archives Canada at this time indicating why this re-survey was ordered.

Erosion of reserve lands mentioned by the Indians to the Royal Commissioners was caused by the flooding of the Squamish River. Although, as previously stated, Indian legend maintains that the Valley had flooded prior to white contact, a report submitted to the Department of Public Works in 1950 claimed:<sup>40</sup>

The primary causes of erosion of the Squamish river banks are the usual ones that generally follow the advent of civilization in connection with rivers of high velocity and subject to flooding. The timber is cut, the land cleared, and usually the land along the river banks is the first to be exploited ... Over the area surveyed the evidence still exists, in stumps several feet in diameter, and standing spruce, fir and hemlock trees that the river banks of the central and easterly channels remained stable for upwards of two hundred years, prior to 1908. West of range W-60+00, between ranges S-80+100 and S-120+00 it appears to have been upwards of one hundred years since the river flowed through an old channel there. During flood periods, prior to the cutting of the forest growth, the water no doubt spread over the valley floor, the velocity being cut to a minimum by the heavy growth of salal, fern and vine maple ...

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<sup>40</sup> J.F. Feeney, pages 11 B and 12.

That there was flooding prior to 1908 is evident from early accounts of people who travelled the Squamish River. One, by Joint Indian Reserve Commissioner Gilbert M. Sproat, written in 1876 [see above page 9], states: "Immense deposits or 'jams' of roots and trees show how great the volume of water at times must be ... Part of the land on the left bank of the river is overflowed at certain seasons..." And in 1885 the river was in high enough flood to cause the Valley's first group of white settlers to abandon their homesteads for Bella Coola [see above page 21].

In the spring of 1892, settlers and land owners in the Squamish Valley sent a petition to their member of Parliament, Gordon E. Carbould, "praying for the improvement of the Squamish and Maniquan Rivers." Carbould forwarded the petition to the Department of Public Works with the request that "a report on the matter be obtained from the Engineer in British Columbia."<sup>41</sup> However, no such report could be found at this date. Nine years later, in March 1901, twenty-two residents of the Squamish Valley sent a petition to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, requesting:<sup>42</sup>

That the snag boat be sent up to the Squamish River, to clear out a few snags in the channel, which are a menace to navigation in the river.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries turned the petition over to the Department of Public Works who obtained a report from the Acting Chief Engineer in British Columbia, George A. Keeper, on

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<sup>41</sup> A reference to the petition is made in the Department of Public Works records, on file at the National Archives Canada, RG11, B2(B) Subject 15, Harbours and Rivers British Columbia. Volume 1981, 30 January 1889 - 9 May 1893. Microfilm T-4282.

<sup>42</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG11, Volume 1382, File 224337.

the problem. Keeper's report could not be found at this date. However, a brief summary of the report states that Keeper recommended:

That what is desired is construction of a wharf reaching into deep water & states that two sites were examined and that Mr. Keeper recommended that site B be adopted where a suitable wharf could be built for the price \$30,000.00.<sup>43</sup>

Land clearance by farmers and logging operations had their effects on the river. According to J.F. Feeney in his 1950 "Report on Squamish River (Brackendale) Survey Respecting Food Control & Bank Protection," submitted to Public Works:<sup>44</sup>

In the early days log booms were brought down the Squamish River from as far afield as Upper Squamish,... which lies about twenty miles from the mouth of the river. A boom of logs, in the year 1908, belonging to the E.K. Wood Logging Co., now defunct, became jammed in the westerly side of what was then the main river channel at about location Range (W-64+00 \* S-77+00)... It is believed the channel must have been very narrow as it silted up around the boom and diverted the river to the easterly side of the channel. Subsequently, the old main river channel extending up Judd Slough to Range (W-70+00 \* S-43+00), and from thence to Range (W-86+00 \* S-43+00) became blocked with logs and driftwood for a distance of several hundred feet which forced the main river over against the mountain at Range (W-98+00 \* S-34+00). The main stream then encountered the fan of large boulders, some of which are three feet and more in diameter, at the mouth of Stoney Creek, which deflected the current into the entrance to Schonover Slough at Range (W-63+00 \* S-70+00). The banks of Schonover

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<sup>43</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, listed under RG11, Volume 1382, Department of Public Works, Subject Registers of letters received and sent, 10 September 1898 to 25 July 1904. Microfilm T-4283. The Government of British Columbia eventually built a wharf at Squamish. The 1915 Report of the Minister of Public Works ... For The Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1914, states: "On August 8, an Order in Council was passed accepting the offer of the Provincial Government to transfer the existing wharf at Squamish to the Federal Government."

<sup>44</sup> J.F. Feeney, pages 12-12A.

Slough eroded and it became what is now the main river channel varying in width from about 1,000 feet at the mouth of Judd Slough to 250 to 400 feet in the lower reaches...

This incident, however, may have taken place in the fall of 1909. According to a letter in the Department of Indian Affairs files, dated 1 June 1910, Indian Agent R.C. McDonald informed DIA Secretary John McLean:<sup>45</sup>

I have the honor to report that during a heavy freshet which occurred last fall, the Squamish River, in the vicinity of the Seaichem and Kowtain Indian reserves, became partly obstructed with drift wood, and caused a greater volume of water than usual to flow through the Kowtain slough. The strong current thus created in the slough, cut away part of the water front of these two reserves, and it was thought that unless the river is confined to its original course, the slough would likely become the main channel, which would result in great damage to the land and improvements of the Indians residing on these reserves, as well as to the adjoining lands owned by white settlers.

Mr. Gamble, Provincial Public Works Engineer, wrote to me asking what assistance the Department would be prepared to give for the protection of the reserves, and, after inspecting the damage to the reserves in question, which I did in the month of April, I wrote to him inquiring what the approximate cost of the proposed protection work would be. I enclose herewith his reply, in which he states that \$5000 has been set aside for the purpose and that it may cost more and perhaps less. I am of the opinion that it should not cost more than half that amount.

The Provincial Government has already commenced this work at the request of white settlers whose properties were in danger.

It appears to me that the Department, in the interest of the Indians whose homes are now in danger, should contribute towards the cost of this protection work, I would say to the extent of one-fifth or one-tenth of the total cost.

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<sup>45</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG10, Volume 4051, File 365, 640-1. Microfilm C-10179.



McLean replied to McDonald nine days later:

... I have to say that if the cost of the said work, which is being performed by the Provincial Government, is to be re-paid to the said Government by the [white] owners of land along the river, benefited, this Department will consider the question of asking parliament to grant a sum sufficient to cover the just proportion of the cost of the work that may be allotted to the Indian Reserve.

The Federal Government never contributed to this work.

In 1910 the Provincial Government constructed a log and boulder crib on the easterly side of the mouth of Judd [Kowtain] Slough, about 300 feet below the mouth of the Slough, in an attempt to divert the river stream from the entrance to Schonover Slough and into its former channel. According to Feeney, the effort was not a success.<sup>46</sup> In a letter from Indian Agent Peter Byrne to John McLean, dated 10 August 1916, the reason for the crib's failure was pointed out:<sup>47</sup>

Some seven or eight years ago the Provincial Government erected a dam at the point referred to. [Byrne referred to the point as the place where the Kowtain Slough and the main river join.] This dam prevented the water in the main river from entering the slough, but, as stated before the current of the stream has changed to such an extent that it has washed away the land on each side of the dam referred to leaving it standing like an island in the middle of the stream; and at the present time it is estimated that one half the volume of water in the river now passes through this slough, and is washing away the land at a very rapid rate.

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<sup>46</sup> J.F. Feeney, page 13. For an approximate location of the crib see: "Plan showing location of proposed earth dam, Kowtain Slough, Squamish River, B.C." Circa 1920. Copy on file in the National Map Collection, National Library Canada, NMC 12699.

<sup>47</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG10, Volume 4051, File 365, 640-1. Microfilm C-10179.

Byrne reported that the bands on Seaichem Indian Reserve No. 16 and Kowtain Indian Reserve No. 17 were very much afraid that the total volume of the Squamish River would eventually flow through the Kowtain Slough and wash away all their cleared land. Byrne included a hand-drawn sketch showing the Kowtain Slough and the approximate location of the provincial dam. Four days later, on 14 August 1916, Byrne sent two photographs to McLean showing the provincial dam with the water rushing past on either side.

Meanwhile, farther down river between Howe Sound and the town of Squamish, there were also problems with flooding. In the annual report of the Minister of Public Works for 1916, it was stated:<sup>48</sup>

The Squamish River flows through the town of Newport into the head of Howe Sound. A considerable logging business is engaged in along its banks and the logs are floated down to the mouth. Some of those logs and the draft brought down in freshets collect in jams and obstruct the free passage of the water, thus endangering the low-lying lands around the mouth, which are liable to flood...

Correspondence continued from 1916 to 1920 between the Indian Agent in New Westminster, the Chief Inspector of Indian Agencies for British Columbia, and the Secretary of the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, concerning the erosion to Indian property along the Squamish River. Then, on 15 April 1920, Indian Agent Byrne informed Secretary John McLean:<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> Canada. Report of the Minister of Public Works on the Works Under His Control for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1916. Ottawa: J. De L. Taché, 1917.

<sup>49</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG10, Volume 4051, File 365, 640-1. Microfilm C-10179.

I beg to report that the Squamish River has changed its course by reason of some obstruction and is now washing away very rapidly the cleared land on Seaichem Indian Reserve No. 16 of the Squamish Tribe of Indians, several acres have been destroyed and some of the Indians' houses have been carried away.

I discussed the matter with Mr. E.D. Todd, Assistant District Engineer, Department of Public Work of the Province, and he suggested that the Indian Department request Mr. Worsfold of the Dominion, Department of Public Works here to send an Engineer with him to investigate the situation and report.

I may add that I have consulted with Mr. Worsfold and he is willing to send an Engineer if the Department desires him to do so.

I would respectfully recommend that something be done, at once, as a great deal of valuable land is being destroyed.

McLean wrote the Deputy Minister of Public Works, and engineers N.B. Gauvreau and Todd were dispatched to report on the situation. They recommended that an earth dam be built in the Kowtain Slough and that a log jam in the main Squamish River channel, opposite Kowtain Slough, which was diverting the water into the Slough, be removed. Their report, dated 18 May 1920, reads as follows:<sup>50</sup>

We, the undersigned, have made a survey of the damage done to the bank of the Squamish River by erosion, at Seaichen Indian Reserve No. 16, and have estimated the amount of land washed away at 8-½ acres, since the Reserve was surveyed in 1883 [sic].

Near the entrance of Kowtain Slough, two large gravel and sand bars have formed and on the lower bar a big jam-pile of driftwood, which acting as a wing, divert a large body of water from the main channel of the river

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<sup>50</sup> Ibid. See also their "Plan showing location of proposed earth dam, Kowtain Slough, Squamish River B.C."; copy on file in the National Map Collection, National Library Canada, NMC 12699.

into the Slough, and if nothing is done to check this diversion of the river from its former channel, it will not take many years before Kowtain Slough will become the main channel of the Squamish River.

We recommend that an earth dam, as designed on the plan accompanying this report, be built near the entrance of Kowtain Slough, of gravel and sand of which material there is plenty nearby, also the jam-pile of driftwood be removed by burning or sawing the logs in short lengths, so they will be carried away by the summer freshets. The proposed earth dam will protect the bank of Kowtain Slough for over 2-½ miles, and valuable farm land, public highways and railway right-of-ways will be saved from erosion. The approximate quantity of the earth dam and embankment will be seven thousand and seven hundred cubic yards (7700), estimated at eighty cents (80¢) per cubic yard. Total amount, Six thousand and One Hundred and Sixty Dollars (\$6160.00), and about Five Hundred Dollars a year to remove jam-piles of driftwood on the bars near the entrance of Kowtain Slough.

However, on 6 August 1920 Indian Agent Byrne wrote McLean that he did "not think it would pay our Department to go to all the expense of putting in this protection work as suggested." A.F. MacKenzie, writing for McLean, replied on 18 August 1920: "It is presumed that the land to be protected is not of sufficient value to warrant the expenditure proposed. The matter will therefore be dropped for the present."<sup>51</sup>

Fourteen years later, on 24 July 1934, the Vancouver Daily Province ran the following article on the destructive nature of the Squamish River:<sup>52</sup>

Squamish, July 24 - Old Man River has gone on a rampage at Squamish. Residents are alarmed, and are pleading with the Dominion Government to come to their aid.

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<sup>51</sup> Copy on file at the National Archives Canada, RG10, Volume 4051, File 365, 640-1. Microfilm C-10179.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

The Squamish, always a turbulent stream, has decided to change its course in the Brackendale neighborhood. In so doing, it has destroyed the following property: Four acres owned by Charles Schonover; three acres owned by Rod McKenzie; fourteen acres owned by the Indian Reserve, and three owned by Robert Carson. It threatens to cut up a four-acre tract owned by J.P. Meehan, a perfectly good highway owned by the Government of British Columbia, and a portion of the right-of-way of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. When the Squamish changes its course, it does so with a vengeance. It took particular delight in gradually sweeping away the premises of Mr. Schoonover, once a comfortable small holding on the banks of the stream. The swift running water ate into the embankment and undermined the back fence of Mr. Schoonover's property. Having succeeded in removing the fence, Old Man River then ate away the potato patch and garden. His appetite unappeased, he proceeded to take one by one the trees in Mr. Schoonover's orchard. He then consumed the barn and other outhouses, forced the occupants out of the house, swept it down stream, and gobbled up the frontlawn. The front fence and a perfectly good gate are all that remain of the property.

Residents believe that it should be the duty of the Dominion Government which has jurisdiction over such streams, to take steps to curb the depredations of the Squamish. They point out that for the expenditure of a small sum this unruly river could be forced back into its original channels. The Pacific Great Eastern Railroad would share with the Dominion Government cost of such work as is necessary.

The report was dismissed by Indian Agent F.J.C. Ball as being sensational and inaccurate. He maintained that at most two or three acres of Seaichen Indian Reserve land had washed away since 1920. He did point out, however, that over that period a new channel, which was approximately 150 feet wide at Seaichem Indian Reserve No. 16, had been gradually cut.

Sometime just prior to 1939, according to J.F. Feeney, the Provincial Government began to place rip rap [sustaining walls of stones] along the banks of the Squamish River in the location of the Seaichem Indian Reserve. In his report, which concluded in

1950, Feeney documents the short-term nature of this work and how it invariably washed away. He also documented, on a map titled "Sketch Showing Squamish River Bank Erosion at Seaichem Indian Reserve, Brackendale" and dated 23 February 1946, the location of the river bank near the Seaichem Indian Reserve No.16 from 1908 to 1946, the location of the various rip rap projects, the effects of erosion on the banks, and the survey traverse figures done in 1944 and January 1946. According to his calculations, the total erosion between 1908 and 1946 in this area alone was 68.6 acres, of which 36.4 acres was Indian land.<sup>53</sup>

Documenting the history of major floods in the Valley, Feeney wrote that in October 1921 the Valley floor from rim to rim and from Squamish to Brackendale was covered with several feet of water. The railway grade was submerged for several miles and the tops of farm fences at Brackendale were about a foot or more under water. Thirty-six people at Britannia Beach, six miles south of the town Squamish, lost their lives when Britannia Creek overswept their community. That year the Mamquam River, which formerly emptied into the East Branch of the Squamish River, changed its course and cut a new channel to the westward and has since emptied into the main Squamish River about a mile and a quarter North of where it forks into several branches before emptying into Howe Sound. According to Feeney, other major floods took place in October 1940 and November 1949.

As for the navigability of the Squamish River, Feeney wrote that:<sup>54</sup>

In the early days of white settlement the three branches of the Squamish River were navigable for fair sized

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<sup>53</sup> Copy of map on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 11, Volume 83-84/304 Box 278, File 1302-163 Volume 1.

<sup>54</sup> J.F. Feeney, Pages 6-8.

boats for a distance of about one and one half miles from their various mouths ... In the early days logs were brought out from as far upriver as Upper Squamish in booms ... A specially constructed tunnel boat was operated on the river, intermittently, from 1935 to 1941, in taking out small booms of sawlogs. During the past three years a semi-tunnel boat has operated on the lower reaches of the river, with occasional trips to the upper Squamish, in taking out small booms of alder and maple used principally in furniture manufacturing. Great difficulties are experienced due to snags...

Prior to 1921, the Mamquam River, which then emptied into the East Branch, no doubt contributed to the flood danger but also had the effect of keeping a channel of sorts clear for navigation, though its location changed from time to time due to the deposit of gravel brought down by the river. In 1915 the Department [of Public Works] made an attempt to dredge a channel for a distance of approximately a mile and a half northwards from the existing Department wharf. In that year a Department suction dredge worked for a period of about three months and then returned to New Westminster for the winter. On return the following spring it was found that the previous year's excavation had partially filled in therefore the whole project was abandoned. Now that neither the Squamish River, nor the Mamquam except when in flood, discharge into the East Branch an entirely different condition exists and there would probably be little difficulty in maintaining a channel there if one were dredged.

Practically all of the log booming operations of the Squamish area take place on the East Branch. Great difficulty is experienced by tugboat operators in handling the booms due to the silting in of the channel which has taken place since 1921, when, to reiterate, the Mamquam changed its course. Silt, emanating from the middle and west branches of the Squamish, comes in with the flood tide and is deposited. Due probably to the action of small waves, silt bars have been built up to considerable heights. There are eighteen logging operators carrying on booming operations in the east branch, besides the P.G.E. Railway, who do custom hauling of logs ... 12 to 20 million feet of logs at a time is not an unusual condition in the east branch.

As for the Indian reserves along the Squamish River, Feeney estimated erosion had the following effects on this land:<sup>55</sup>

The extent of erosion [on the Cheakamus Indian Reserve], in acreage, is not known but it has been of serious proportions. In 1940 the Squamish River eroded its banks, on the outer curve of a large bend, and reached the Provincial Government road bridge over Pilchuk Creek which was washed out. The bridge was rebuilt, and road relocated, several hundred feet upstream and the river is gradually eating its way to the new bridge site...

The Yookwitz Indian Reserve, extending along the west bank of the Squamish River in a northerly direction from its junction with the Cheakamus River, apparently has not suffered at all from erosion to date.

The Powqiqsin [sic] Indian Reserve, which lies along the east bank of the Squamish and the south bank of the Cheakamus Rivers, originally contained an area of approximately 115½ acres. Erosion has accounted for a loss of 30 acres of land, or about 27% of the original reserve.

The Waiwakum, Aikwuks, Seaicem [sic] and Kowtain Indian Reserves, all within the area encompassed by the survey proper, have suffered serious erosion as follows:-

<u>Name of Reserve</u>	<u>Original Area Acres</u>	<u>Erosion to Date Acres</u>	<u>Erosion % of Original Area</u>
Waiwakum	91	12	13%
Aikwuks	40½	15	37%
Seaicem	66½	39	58%
Kowtain	46½	19½	42%
Total	244½	85½	35%

The Waiwakum Indian Reserve, in addition to the loss by erosion has had an area of six to seven acres rendered useless by reason of deposit of sand.

The Yerwaupsum [sic] Indian Reserve, south of the Manquam River and on the east bank of the Squamish, located on relatively high ground which is part of a fan of deposit originating up the Manquam River, has lost about six acres, out of 125 acres, due to erosion.

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<sup>55</sup> Ibid, Pages 12A - 12B. See also above, Page .



Another aspect of Feeney's wide-ranging report was the potential water power of the Squamish River and its tributaries. He estimated that, providing suitable reservoir areas and damsites were constructed, the Squamish River and its tributaries could provide between 800,000 and 1,000,000 horsepower of electrical energy. Such dreams of harnessing the electrical generating potential of this area dated back to at least 1910. In 1919 the Federal Commission of Conservation wrote the following on the power capabilities of the Squamish and Cheakamus River:<sup>56</sup>

Squamish River - The lower valley of the Squamish is flat, and, near tide-water, is open country. It has considerable areas of good land, although parts are subject to periodical overflow. The more serious flooding appears to be due to the breaking of log jams during freshets. At its mouth, the valley is about two miles wide; 30 miles upstream it narrows, and the river passes through some cañons. There are several tributaries which, on entering the Squamish valley, have falls of varying height, but their power possibilities, however, appear to be small.

Cheakamus River valley, formerly one of the routes to the interior, has recently come into prominence, owing to the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern railway. The valley proper seldom exceeds one mile in width; and has very little agricultural land. The Cheakamus is a rapid, turbulent stream and, 10 miles above its confluence with the Squamish, it flows through a series of cañons. At other points the river bed widens out, and has numerous channels separated by gravel bars. The power possibilities of the cañons of the Cheakamus and some of the tributaries have not been fully determined, though some investigations have recently been made.

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<sup>56</sup> Arthur V. White. Water Powers of British Columbia. Ottawa: Commission of Conservation Canada, 1919. Page 270.

Then, in 1931, A.E. Cleveland, Chairman of the Vancouver and District Sewerage and Drainage Board and Chief Commissioner of the Greter Vancouver Water Board, reported that the Cheakamus River had an electrical potential of 220,000 horsepower.<sup>57</sup> But it wasn't until the 1950s that any actual construction began on dam sites.

In 1953 the B.C. Electric Company, now B.C. Hydro, submitted a plan to divert the Cheakamus River through a seven-mile tunnel to a powerhouse on the Squamish River, eighteen miles above tidewater. After negotiations with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to safeguard fishery requirements,<sup>58</sup> construction began in 1956 and was completed the following year. Four dams were constructed on the Cheakamus River: Daisy Lake Dam, consisting of an earthfill and a concrete gravity section, and a gated spillway; Saddle Dam No. 1, concrete gravity, and Saddle Dam No. 2, earthfill, both on Daisy Lake; and Shadow Lake Dam, earthfill. The power tunnel runs from Shadow Lake to the Cheakamus Generating Station on the Squamish River.

Meanwhile, on 29 July 1938, the British Columbia Government passed Order in Council 1036. This Order in Council was the formal instrument of transfer which conveyed the Indian reserves outside the Railway Belt and the Peace River Block from British Columbia to the Federal Government. The Squamish River reserves were included in this transfer.

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<sup>57</sup> J.F. Feeney, Page 11A.

<sup>58</sup> Correspondence dealing with these negotiations are on file at the National Archives Canada, RG 23, Volume 845, File 719-9-120[2]. See also "A Report on the Fisheries Problems Related to the Power Development of the Cheakamus River System." Vancouver: Department of Fisheries, 1957. A copy is on file in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Library, Ottawa.

In recent years the Squamish River has seen increasing use by recreational canoeists and kayakers. In an article put out by Tourism British Columbia titled "B.C.'s Recreatonal Rivers: The Squamish," canoeists are told:<sup>59</sup>

As you drive up the Squamish valley, don't miss the waterfalls across the river on Madden and Sigurd Creeks.

Another falls, this one man-made, runs the Cheakamus Powerhouse, about 22.5 km from the Cheakamus bridge.

Water from the Cheakamus River has been diverted through 11 km of tunnel and down 275 m through penstocks to this generating station, built in the mid-1950s.

The powerhouse is the start of a popular 32 km canoe run down to Brackendale.

The put-in is on the bridge's far side, on the road's left side.

It is a swift ride, with Grade 1-2 rapids -- up to perhaps Grade 4 at high water -- and some deadheads, sweepers and small log jams that are usually easily seen and avoided.

Put in at Pillchuch Creek for a shorter run.

Above the Powerhouse is more turbulent water, suitable only for kayakers in closed boats.

#### CONCLUSION:

Based on historical documents found to date, it would appear that the Squamish River was navigated at least as far as the Ashlu River. When the three-man Indian Reserve Commission and their entourage ascended the river in 1876, they easily acquired canoes

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<sup>59</sup> Vivien Bowers, "B.C.'s Recreational Rivers: The Squamish," Tourism British Columbia, no date.

from local Indians for the purpose. This implies that local natives were using canoes on the river prior to this period. The Commissioners paddled and poled their way up to the mouth of the Cheakamus River and concluded in their joint report that the navigation was good. A separate report by one of the Commissioners concluded that the ascent was difficult.

When whitemen began to log the Valley around the turn of the century, they used the river to transport log booms down to Howe Sound. Documents found to date indicate that such booms were sent from at least as high up as the Ashlu River. As boating and logging technology advanced towards the middle of this century, loggers used specially-constructed semi-tunnel boats [boats whose propeller revolves in a tunnel to protect it from debris and from the effects of grounding] to take out small booms of sawlogs from the upper reaches of the river.

In more recent times canoeists and kayakers have been using the Squamish River for recreational activities. Canoeists start a popular thirty-two kilometer run at the B.C. Hydro power station and descend to the village of Brackendale, just North of the town of Squamish. Above the powerhouse is recommended for kayakers only. Tourism British Columbia classifies the Squamish as one of the province's recreational rivers.

The Cheakamus River, at least in its lower portion, appears not to have been navigated historically. When the Indian Reserve Commission reached the confluence of the Squamish and Cheakamus Rivers in 1876, they described the Cheakamus as being very rapid. They went by foot to visit the Indian settlement on the river.

Early in the twentieth century, when rivers in British Columbia were being surveyed for their hydro electric potential, the Cheakamus was described as a rapid, turbulent stream. It was pointed out that ten miles above its confluence with the Squamish River, it flows through a series of canyons. Above that, the river widens and has numerous channels separated by gravel bars. In the 1950s, four dams were constructed to tap the hydro potential of the river.

There is no indication found to date that recreational canoeists or kayakers descend the Cheakamus River.

December 1987

ADDENDUM TO "SQUAMISH AND CHEAKAMUS RIVERS:  
REPORT ON THEIR HISTORICAL USE."

Additional information on Defence Island Indian Reserve No. 28 and Kwum Kwum Indian Reserve No. 28A (formerly Defence Island Indian Reserve No. 28A) according to documents and maps on file at the Indian Land Registry, DIAND, Ottawa.

In November 1876, the Joint Reserves Commission passed Minutes of Decision creating Indian reserves on the Squamish River and Howe Sound. No mention was made by this Commission of a reserve on Defence Island.

Five years later, in 1881, Surveyor Edward Mohun, who had accompanied the Joint Reserves Commission to the Squamish River in 1876, returned to lay out the reserves described in the Minutes of Decision. For reasons unclear at this time, he apparently surveyed a reserve called Defence Island Indian Reserve No. 28. This island-reserve was described by Mohun as a "reserve consisting of 33 acres in Howe Sound." According to the Reserve General Register in the Indian Land Registry, I.W. Powell, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for British Columbia, approved the creation of this reserve on 30 May 1882.

According to map TBC 258, Defence Island was resurveyed in 1908 as 15.4 acres. On 1 May 1911, Thomas O. Townley paid the British Columbia government \$100 for a Crown Grant of 15.4 acres for Defence Island. The Crown Grant describes the island as Lot 2364, Group 1, New Westminster District.

On 14 April 1916, the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia passed the following Minute of Decision concerning Defence Island Indian Reserve No. 28:

ORDERED: That whereas there is referred to in the Official Schedule of Indian Reserves, 1913, at page 102 thereof, a certain Indian Reserve of the Squamish Tribe, New Westminster Agency, named "Defence Island," numbered "Twenty-eight (28)," and described as in New Westminster District, Howe Sound, containing an area of Thirty-three (33) acres; and whereas the said Defence Island is shewn on the Official Plan of Survey of Edward Mohun, C.E., 1881, approved by the late Dr. I.W. Powell, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, 1882, and whereas reference to the Minute of Decision of the joint Reserves Commission dated 28th November, 1876, disclosed no mention of the establishment and constitution of the said Defence Island Indian Reserve No. 28, BE IT RESOLVED - That there be established and constituted as a Reserve for the use and benefit of the Squamish Tribe, New Westminster Agency, that certain tract or parcel of land known and described as Defence Island, New Westminster District, Howe Sound, containing an area of Thirty-three (33) acres, as shewn on the Official Plan of Survey of Edward Mohun, C.E., 1881.

Apparently made aware that Defence Island had been sold by the province before the Royal Commission passed its Minute of Decision, the federal government purchased a neighboring island as an Indian reserve. According to map TBC 258, the neighboring island, measuring 4.2 acres, was designated as Defence Island Indian Reserve No. 28. A notation on the map reads: "Substituted in place of larger island. Patented by Province. File 27167-16, letter Nov. 6, 1931."

Meanwhile, Thomas Townley, or his heirs, apparently sold the original Defence Island to Herbert Bingham of Vancouver. According to the Reserve General Register, Bingham then sold Lot 2364, Group 1, New Westminster District, "together with all buildings, commons, ways, profits, privileges, rights, easements, appurtenances and stipulations as contained therein" to the federal government for \$500. This transaction was finalized on 29 June 1933. This island was re-named Defence Island Indian Reserve No. 28A.

On 29 July 1938, the British Columbia government passed Order in Council 1036. This Order in Council was the formal instrument of transfer which conveyed the Indian reserves outside the Railway Belt and the Peace River Block from British Columbia to the federal government. Only one Defence Island Reserve is listed, with an incorrect acreage. The Order in Council lists "Defence Island 28. New Westminster District, Howe Sound. 33.00 (acres)." The Reserve General Register states that in February 1942, the acreage was amended to 4.2 acres.

In 1982, Defence Island Indian Reserve No. 28A changed its name to Kwum Kwum Indian Reserve No. 28A. Authority for this change was granted under Order In Council PC 1982-1179 of 22 April 1982.

May 1988



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D Squamish and  
c.1 Cheakamus rivers :  
an historical  
perspective

DATE	ISSUED TO
OCT 25 1990	W. Lasher 980-0192
MAR 27 1992	WBC, ILL Box 2139
	UGB 3T1 Vancouver

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