

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: ADAM BOUCHER
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: FORT MACKAY
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: FORT MACKAY
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE: CREE
DATE OF INTERVIEW: FEBRUARY 10, 1974
INTERVIEWER: J. DERANGER
INTERPRETER: J. DERANGER
TRANSCRIBER: J. GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS
& RESEARCH
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA
TAPE NUMBER: IH-257
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 29
PAGES: 3
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 80 year old man.
- Scene of Treaty #8 negotiations.
- Choice of treaty or scrip.

Inter: What is your name?

Adam: My name is Adam Boucher.

Inter: How old are you?

Adam: I am 80 years old.

Inter: In the past when the treaty was made, can you tell me about the negotiations prior to the actual agreements and the actual agreements that were agreed in terms, that were an established rights. All what you can remember.

Adam: When the people first heard that there was going to be a treaty between the government and the Indians of the area, all the people of the area gathered. Then the negotiations began. The commissioners and the R.C.M.P. gathered also. The people of the area were not certain what to do. They had a choice to make, of either taking the treaty money and remaining as a treaty Indian and as a scrip to be recognized as a Metis. Many people took the treaty money (apparently, this elderly man cannot recollect the actual agreements concerning the terms of

the treaty. I had then shut off the tape recorder, to give him enough time to recollect what I thought would be rather important, but he couldn't remember. So I proceeded to ask him about the rights to fish, trap and hunt.)

Inter: Can you remember if the rights to hunt trap and fish were one of the terms negotiated, and recognized to remain as a right to fish, hunt and trap, that no regulations would be made to curtail this right?

Adam: As long as the sun shines and river flows and the hills don't move, that no curtailment of any game regulations would be imposed. You will be free to hunt, trap and fish as you wish. It should be written in the treaty.

Inter: Who said that we will be free to hunt, trap and fish as a right forever. Did the commissioner or the headman, who was the one who said it would be a right?

Adam: The commissioner was the one that said that.

Inter: Is that the real reason why the treaty was signed, because the people were given the right to hunt, trap and fish forever?

Adam: Yes.

Inter: How big of an area did the people from here trap, hunt and fish in the directions of east, south, west and north?

Adam: They didn't trap, hunt and fish in the east, but they hunted, trapped and fished in the west. That's where we made our living, around Moose Lake (this lake had an abundance of fish).

Inter: Did the people of this area know about the tar sands that is here? Did they know about it before the white men came?

Adam: Yes, we knew, because it used to come out of the ground. It was a form of tar mixed with sand.

(End of Interview)

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