

Pierre Carriere Gabriel Dumont Institute, interview conducted 8/18/76, conducted at Cumberland House, Saskatchewan.

Murray: Right. So, could you also sell the fish to the co-op then?

Pierre: Well, uh...

Murray: Or to the government?

Pierre: It was a compulsory program first. But that's where it hurts the government. See, they didn't have no transportation services. They didn't have proper management services. The fishermen were the ones to lose money. Not the government.

Murray: Because of the compulsory part of it?

Pierre: Because of the compulsory part of it.

Murray: And they changed that?

Pierre: Then we fought that and we won out and that's the reason why the Cooperative Fisheries was organized in Cumberland House, on it's own, so that it can bargain if there's any place you can get a better price.

Pierre: Yeah, supposed to help fishermen but they didn't have no management and they didn't have no transportation service and everything was against them and therefore, the poor fishermen was the one that was losing his shirt. So it was really, politically unrest then.

Murray: Right, so people were pretty upset.

Pierre: The people of the north were very upset. You can recall in the 1948 election, it was a by-election. We know that the NDP was in power already but still we were against them in 1948. And they lost the two by-elections. You can check the records.

Murray: Right. I remember someone saying that at that time, after the CCF lost that election, that they withdrew some of the government services.

Pierre: Right. Murray: Can you describe that for me?

Pierre: Well, that's one of them. That's one of the fisheries. And some of the companies that they build they closed them down, you know. They didn't carry on because they were losing their shirt. I mean, the taxpayers of Saskatchewan were losing out and I imagine that they had to change then. They realized that they had to change but they are coming back strong at it again, you know.

Murray: The way I heard it they closed down the marketing services because they were angry. Was that why they closed it do you think? Or did they change because they realized the people wanted it changed?

Pierre: Yeah, the people wanted it changed. The people were against the provincial set-up. They were very much against it because you can drive the people so long and once they start hitting back at you, there is no way you are going to correct them. Even if you try to correct the sad situation that is happening, the people will not accept it. Once they...

Murray: So even after they changed the rules, there were people who felt suspicious of the CCF did they?

Pierre: Well, you don't trust people at all, you know. Their word don't mean a thing to you.

Murray: And no matter what the CCF did after that, people didn't trust them?

Pierre: You can't trust people. Once you are losing your shirt, you can't trust the government. Doesn't matter what kind of government you have.

Murray: Did people understand these programs, like the block system? Did the government make an effort to explain these things or did they just sort of drop them on the people and say this is how it's going to be?

Pierre: Yes, we were hurt very much again in the block system in Cumberland because we had a huge trapline where there was a lot of communities around us at that time and we had to have a big area. And I believe we lost tons of trapping ground and we couldn't get it back. And Cumberland was hurt very much on that.

Murray: Which trapping area was this?

Pierre: The northern part and the southern east part was taken over.

Pierre: Yeah, it was wrong. The way they set it up, it was wrong. The set up was right but the way they set it up. You know how some people are. They don't consult you.

Murray: They tell you.

Pierre: They just tell you. That's the kind of people that they had at the time. Hell, these people are better educated and maybe they thought they were better trappers too, but that wasn't the point.