

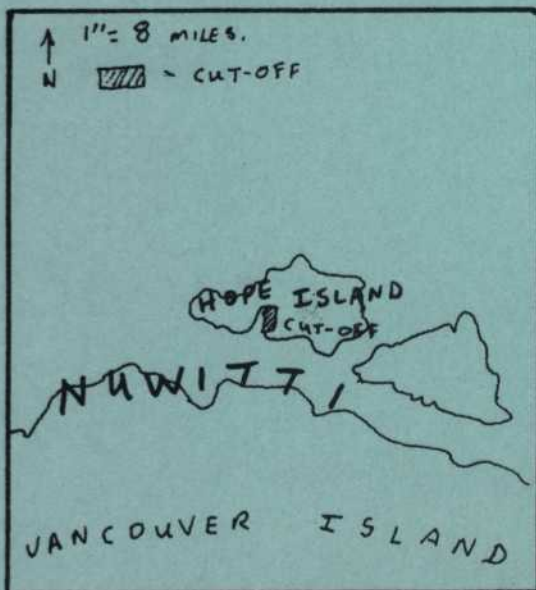
# NUWITTI LANDS CUT - OFF

In 1914 the McKenna-McBride Commission cut-off 38 acres from Nuwitti's Reserve No. 1 on Hope Island. The land was at Bull Harbour and was among the best land of Nuwitti Band.

The McKenna-McBride Commission was set up by both the Federal and Provincial government in 1912. Its job was to review the size and location of Indian Reserves in British Columbia. The McKenna-McBride Commission had power to make cut-offs only if the Indians agreed or consented.

In May 1914 the McKenna-McBride Commission met with Nuwitti Band. Chief Kaleet protested encroachment on the reserves by whites. He made claims for more land and gave no consent to any cut-offs. The Chief described the reserve lands of Bull Harbour as good soil and told of the Band's village and gardens there.

Despite this the McKenna-McBride Commission ordered the cut-off made at Bull's Harbour. This was contrary to the powers of the Commission and against the wishes of the Band.



This injustice was "legalized" after the fact by laws passed by the Federal and Provincial governments. But the lands were taken and the injustice remains.

TODAY'S SITUATION....

The 23 Bands with McKenna-McBride cut-offs have formed an Action Committee to push for a just settlement of this issue. The Committee seeks negotiations with both the Federal and Provincial governments. The Federal government has recently said it is ready and willing to come to a settlement.

The Action Committee calls upon the Provincial government to enter into negotiations. The McKenna-McBride Commission was a joint Federal-Provincial Commission. The Province was involved at every step of the Commission's work and approval, including the cut-offs. Today the Province has control over the cut-off lands. The Province has a legal, moral, and political responsibility to come to a just solution of this grievance.

The Committee calls for a land freeze on cut-offs and for the Province to recognize its responsibility to deal justly with Indians.

The Committee's position for settlement is: return of cut-off lands where possible or alternate lands of equal worth.

The Bands are willing to talk and the Federal Government is willing to talk. How about the Province?

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