

Letter of Petition of a Nova Scotia Mi'Kmaq Chief to the Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor 1849

Source: Excerpts from Micmac History 1500-1900(Nimbus Publishing, 1991.)

“Before the white people came, we had plenty of wild roots, plenty of fish and plenty of corn. The skins of the moose were warm to our bodies, we had plenty of good land, we worshipped Kesoult the Great Spirit, we were free, we were happy. Good and Honourable Governor, be not offended at what we say, for we wish to please you. But your people had not land enough, they came and killed many of our tribe and took from us our country. You have taken from us our lands and tress and destroyed our game animals. The moose yards of our fathers, where are they today? Whiteman kill the moose, keep the antlers and leave the meat in the woods. You have put ships and steamboats upon the waters, and they scare away the fish. You have made dams across the rivers so that the salmon cannot go up, and your laws will not permit us to spear the fish.

In our old times our wigwams stood in pleasant places along the sides of rivers. These good places are now taken away from us, and we are told to go away. Upon our camping grounds you have built towns, and the graves of our fathers are broken up by plow and harrow. Even ash and maple trees are growing scarce. We are told to cut no trees upon the farmer's ground, and the land you tell us to live on is taken away every year...”