

Evicted from Alberta Shack Town

Indians, Metis Must Move Out

EDMONTON (CP) — Perhaps the last of the 300 residents of Fort Vermilion and the Metis and other people who have been evicted from a shack town near Fort Vermilion, Alta., government spokesman said yesterday.

The 300 residents are Indians and Metis who have been living on the land for years. They were given 30 days notice of eviction, either in their letters, among 300

The remaining 31 families are not every Indian or Metis and some other provincial jurisdiction. A spokesman in the provincial department said they are not a part of the government's report on the families from their northern office.

"When we get the facts we'll sit down and talk to these people and see what we can do," he said.

"We will do something. We have to get them out of the shack town and possibly give them a new place to live." The provincial spokesman said 11 of the 31 families are on welfare.

Sam Danah, president of the Metis Association of Alberta, said the Fort Vermilion situation involves the "whole question of Metis land rights."

"We are presently negotiating with the provincial government about the Metis land rights," Danah said.

"There is nothing on record that they (Metis) actually exist on this land and they exist as a fact in some way or form."

"They are just squatters and have no legal rights. We want a commission to deal with the land situation."

Danah said the men, who served the eviction notices "they are taking the government to do something immediately."

"I don't think they want to hurt the (Metis) people... Conditions there are impossible... I think they want to use it as a test case," Danah said.

CALGARY (CP) — Indian leaders and jumping around lawyer William Williams said stamped the image of the Canadian Indians.

The Indian village at the Stampede gives the impression that Indians are the "dirty, poor and ugly" people and they are not "worthy" of being a part of the Stampede.

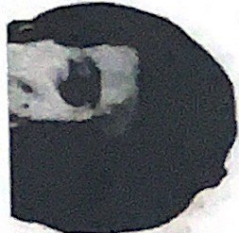
"To see Indians getting paid for dressing up in feathers and jumping around and giving literary education to the kids — it's just a disgrace," Williams said.

Williams told a forum at the University of Calgary he would prefer to see no Indian exhibit on the lines of the African 3,111,414 — "with a hope of respect," "with a respect and dignity."

Even a group could give a "Korobak and dancing" presentation of Indian dancing throughout the country and in through bands.

Stampede's Indians

'Give Poor Image'



Evicted from Alberta Shack Town

Indians, Metis

EDMONTON (CP) — Definite plans have been made to relocate five of the 43 families to be evicted from a shack town near Fort Vermillion, Alta., government spokesmen said Wednesday.

The 300 residents are Indians and Metis who have been living on the land for years. They were given 30 days notice of eviction, effective March 8.

In their notice, owners W.

Pritchard and J. Rosenberger of Fort Vermillion said the eviction was necessary because of their increased financial commitments and because the shack town is a health hazard.

A spokesman for the federal department of Indian affairs said five of the families are treaty Indians and will be relocated on a nearby Indian reserve, about 325 miles north of Edmonton.

The remaining 37 families are non-treaty Indian Metis and come under provincial jurisdiction.

A spokesman in the provincial department of development said they asked for a report on families from their office.

"When we get the report we'll sit down and talk to these people and see what we can do," he said.

TOWN

Metis Must

The remaining 37 families are non-treaty Indians or Metis and come under provincial jurisdiction.

A spokesman in the provincial department of social development said they have asked for a report on the families from their northern office.

"When we get the facts we'll sit down and talk to these people and see what we can do," he said.

"We will do something. We have to. But we'll have to wait for the report. We're on top of it and hopefully going to do something about it."

The provincial spokesman said 11 of the 37 families are on welfare.

Stan Daniels, president of the Metis Association of Alberta, said the Fort Vermilion situation involves the "whole question of Metis land rights."



Move Out

"We are presently negotiating with the government and expect to have a meeting about March 24 dealing with the question of Metis land rights," Daniels said.

"There is nothing on record that they (Metis) actually exist on this land and they could be asked to move at any time.

"They are just squatters and have no legal rights. We

want a commission to deal with the land situation."

Daniels said the men, who served the eviction notice "may be testing the government to do something immediately.

"I don't think they want to hurt the (Metis) people . . . Conditions there are impossible . . . I think they want to use it as a test case," Daniels said.

Stampede's Indians 'Give Poor Image'

CALGARY (CP) — Indian lawyer William Wuttunee says the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede presents visitors with a poor image of Canadian Indians.

The Indian village at the Stampede gives the impression most Indians live in teepees, he said, but the display involved "only a very few Indians and they are well paid."

"To see Indians getting paid for dressing up in

feathers and jumping around — and giving honorary chieftainships to boot — is pure hogwash."

Wuttunee told a forum at the University of Calgary he would prefer to see an Indian ballet on the lines of the African ballet — "well-choreographed, well-performed and well-paid."

Such a group could give a "favorable and pleasing" impression of Indian dancing throughout the country and in foreign lands.