TRANSCRIPT OF ALGONQUIN PETITION TO VISCOUNT MONK, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN MARCH 1862:

We the Chiefs and band of Indians known as the Tribe of the Algonquins of the Lake of Two Mountains beg leave most respectfully to represent:

That the Ancestors of your Petitioners, in conjunction with the Nipissings, possessed the valley of the Ottawa, and occupied it as their hunting grounds from time immemorial. At the time of which we speak, our ancestors were very numerous, and our white brethren in the Ottawa Valley were very few. The tables are now changed. Our white brethren have become a great people, whilst our numbers are greatly diminished.

The Lumbermen and the settlers are constantly encroaching on our borders, whilst white Trappers in considerable numbers infest our Hunting grounds in the interior, killing off the Deer, Beaver and the Muskrat, which are the principal source of our subsistence, and we look forward with fear and apprehension to the few years only which must elapse until the animals of which we speak and which furnish our principal food will be exterminated.

We have no desire to interfere with the Lumberman, whose legitimate object is the manufacture of Timber, nor with the settler whose object is the cultivation of the soil, but what we consider a real grievance is the custom pursued by white Trappers who infest our hunting grounds for the sole purpose of trapping. The Indian, whose hunting ground is secured to him according to ancient usages amongst his own people under the regulation of his chief, pays every attention to the increase of (particularly the Muskrat and the Beaver) which are purely local, whilst the white Trappers invariably exterminate them.

By the Provincial Statute 23rd Victoria Chapter 55 Your Petitioners are liable to heavy fines and penalties for killing certain animals at certain seasons of the year (no matter what our necessities may be).

Your Petitioners therefore pray that our case may be taken into consideration and that an Act may be passed during the present Session of the Legislature so amending the Game Act of Upper Canada refer'd to above, as to permit Indians to kill at any season of the year such wild animals as they may require for their own immediate use, without being liable to punishment for so doing, and to prohibit others than Indians from trapping Beaver or Muskrats at any season of the year, and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Bouchies March 1862.

Michen Pesindawatch [Michel Pesindawatch]
Nias Makwa [Mackwa]
Amab Akwaiach
[names of 21 others]
To His Excellency the Right Honorable Charles, Viscount

Monck, Esq. Governor General &c. &c. &c.

In Council,

We the Chiefs and Band of Indians

known as the Tribe of the Algonquins of the Lake of Two Mountains, by

have most respectfully to represent,

That the ancestors of your Petitioners, in conjunction with the Algonquins, frequented the valley of the Otaua, and considered it as their hunting ground from time immemorial——out of which we speak, our ancestors were very numerous, and our white brethren in the Ottawa valley were very few. The tables are now changed. Our white brethren have become a great people, while our numbers are greatly diminished.

The Indians and the white men are constantly encroaching on our borders, which white trappers in considerable numbers enter our hunting grounds in the interior, killing off the bear, beaver, otter, and the muskrat, which are the principal source of our subsistence, and we look forward with fear and apprehension to the few years, which must elapse until the animals of which we speak, on which furnish our principal food will be exterminated.

We have no desire to intervene with the white men, whose objects are the manning of timber, nor with the settler whose object is the cultivation of the soil, but what we consider a real grievance is the custom practiced by white trappers who enter our hunting grounds for the sole purpose of trapping. The Indian, whose hunting ground is secure to hunt according to ancient usage amongst his own people under the regulation of his chief, pays every attention to the increase of particularly the muskrat and the beaver, which are purely local, while the white trappers invariably exterminate them.

By the Provincial Act, 23 & 24 Victoria, Chapter 55, your Petitioners are liable to heavy fines and penalties for killing certain animals at certain seasons of the year, no matter what our necessities may be.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that our case may be taken into consideration, and that an Act may be passed during the present session of the Legislature so amending the Game Act...
of ripeucson, used to assure, as a proper reward to one or any reason of the said wild animals to the may report to
their several immediate use, without being liable to punishment for
so doing, and to prohibit others than Indians from trapping Fox
or Muskrats at any season of the year, and your Petitioners a
in due course will ever pray. Bowsher March 1862.

Chief.

[Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]

Lester Pasinoddalh (Chief)

[Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]
1932.10

Meekin Perindwac.

Chief and twenty three other Indians praying

for an act to protect

them against white

trausers on these

different hunting grounds

also to repeal a clause

of the game act to permit

them to kill deer or

other game at all

seasons of the year

for their ammuniute use

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