

**Enrolment Officer's Reply Report made in response to Responding  
Submission by an Interested Party:**

**Report Regarding Ancestors  
Frederick Ferris and Walter Ferris  
(RIN #5208 and RIN #2196)  
dated April 13, 2023**



**Joan Holmes, Enrolment Officer for AOO  
Prepared for the Algonquin Tribunal  
April 2023**

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## 1. Introduction

The Tribunal received a submission from one individual in support of retaining the ancestors Frederick Ferris (RIN #5208) and his son Walter Ferris (RIN #2196) on the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors. The submission is posted on the Tribunal's website at:

<https://www.tanakiwin.com/tribunal/frederick-ferris-and-walter-ferris-3/>

The submission appears on the website as:

- Document 8 – Reply Submission by Chief C. Bastien on behalf of his community.

The submission was filed in response to:

- Document 1 – Enrolment Officer's Report Regarding Ancestors Frederick and Walter Ferris & Appendices.
- Document 5 – Submission by Chief W. Jocko on behalf of her community, dated March 7, 2023.
- Document 7 – Reply Submission by Chief G. Sarazin on behalf of his community, dated March 27, 2023.

This responding report addresses the content of the submission that is relevant to the Tribunal's inquiry, which is to determine whether Frederick Ferris and Walter Ferris are identified in a historic record or document dated on or before December 31, 1921, in such a way that it would be reasonable to conclude that either or both of them were considered to be an Algonquin or Nipissing, or a sibling of such a person. A "sibling of such a person" means a person with a common Algonquin parent.

The submission refers to documents that are contained in the Enrolment Officer's Report. As noted in the Enrolment Officer's Report, archival documents recording a family's life events have been assigned ALG document numbers; RIN numbers have been assigned to individuals discussed in the report to aid in identification. Both RIN numbers and ALG numbers will be referenced in this report for ease of discussion.

## 2. Document #8 – Reply Submission by Chief C. Bastien on behalf of his community.

The Respondent Chief C. Bastien submitted documents in support of Frederick and Walter Ferris to the Tribunal. The submission included copies of the 1901 and 1921 censuses naming Walter Ferris and his family. Additional copies of the 1921 census were provided to demonstrate several instances of the word "Algonquin" being crossed out and replaced with the word "Indian." Chief Bastien also argue that no other nation was recorded for either Frederick Ferris or his son Walter, and that Walter was recorded as being Algonquin on documents.

### 2.1 1901 Census

The 1901 Census for Mattawa Town listing Walter Ferris and his family is discussed in Section E.3 of the Enrolment Officer's Report on page 14 (posted as Document 1). Walter is listed as

being born in Ontario and being "Algonquin French Breed." His colour is shown as "R" for Red (Indigenous) in column 5.<sup>1</sup>

The Respondent provided a copy of the 1901 Census for Cameron Township which enumerated a man named Joseph Ferris who was listed as Algonquin. Walter and Annie's son Walter Joseph, who was born in 1880, died at Mattawa in 1897, as shown on pages 22 and 23 of the Enrolment Officers Report.<sup>2</sup>

The identity of the Algonquin man listed as Joseph Ferris in Cameron Township in 1901 is unclear as the son of Walter and Annie died three to four years prior to the 1901 census.

## **2.2 1921 Census**

The 1921 Census return for Mattawa Town lists Walter and his spouse living with his son's family. This census is discussed in Section E.3 of the Enrolment Officer's Report on page 16.<sup>3</sup> Walter was listed as born in Quebec as were his parents. He was shown as "~~Algonquin~~ Indian."

The replacement of the word "Algonquin" with "Indian" was made for this entire family group. The same replacement was made for several other documented Algonquin households such as the Leclaire, Lamure, Pierre, Musky and Dufond families. It is not known who made the revision or the reason for altering the term. Many of these individuals, including the Ferris parents, were unable to read and write so it is unclear the degree to which they were aware of the information being recorded for their households.<sup>4</sup>

The Enrolment Officer has no further comments to make on this matter.

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<sup>1</sup> ALG-22454

<sup>2</sup> ALG-22441 and ALG-06896.

<sup>3</sup> ALG-22493

<sup>4</sup> ALG-22493