



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Council Meeting Presentation Request

Completed requests to make a public presentation must be received by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday immediately prior to the scheduled meeting. **Presentations are a maximum of 5 minutes in duration.**

Presentation Information	
Preferred Date of Presentation	March 12, 2019
Name of Presenter(s)	John Malcolm
Organization Represented	The Original Fort McMurray First Nation & The Clearwater River Band #175
Topic	"Moccasin Flats" forced displacement of our citizens
Please List Specific Points/Concerns	See attached
Action Being Requested of Council	The Clearwater River Band #175 (Direct Decendants) would like to request the RMWB Mayor & Council demand a Public Inquiry from the Canadian Government (Federal) into what we feel is the forced displacement of our citizens who resided in Fort McMurray "Moccasin Flats" & Waterways, AB.
Are you providing any supporting documentation (ie: Powerpoint)? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
If yes, the documentation <u>must</u> accompany this request, as handouts will not be distributed at the meeting. To ensure that your documents meet minimum standards, please see presentation guidelines on the next page.	
Supporting documents may be e-mailed to Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca .	

As per Procedure Bylaw No. 14/025, a request to make a presentation may be referred or denied.



CLEARWATER RIVER BAND #175

119 Hilyard Crescent

Anzac, AB T0P 1J0

Phone: (780) 334-2545

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE SENT: March 06/19

ATTENTION: CHIEF Legislative Officer

RMWB 9909 Franklin Ave

of copies:

(Including this page)

FT McMurray AB. 29H-2K4

Fax # 780-743-7028

REMARKS

The Clearwater River Band #175
(Direct Descendants) would like
To Request the Regional Municipality
of Wood Buffalo Mayor & Council
Demand a "Public Enquiry"
from the Canadian Government
(Federal) into what we feel
is The Forced Displacement of our
citizens who resided in Fort McMurray

"moccasin Flats"

Regards

* Waterways. AB.

* Note

We would like to present ORALLY
and written letter at
Council Meeting March 12/19.

John Smith
Band Manager

For C.W.R. Band #175

#2.

The Original Fort McMurray
FIRST NATION CHIEF & Council
would like to Request The
Honourable Mayor and Council
Demand a "Public Inquiry"
From the Federal Canadian Government
into what we feel is the
Forced Displacement of our Citizens
who resided in "Moccasin Flats"
and Waterways AB. (Including May 14, 1981)

We would like to present "orally"
and with a written letter at
city council meeting on
March 12/19.

We would also like to know
if the Honourable Mayor and Council
are going to support The NACTS
local 1935 in Their Request For
"land" and waive Their right to
participate in a "Public Inquiry"

Yours Truly,

J. L. Mahesh

Interim Chief O.E.N.F.N.



Collection

50 people in front of Paul Fontaine's Teepee at West End of Franklin Avenue ca 19
bing the Land Monopoly in Fort McMurray, January 12, 1923

IN NEWTON

McMURRAY — There's no room in Moccasin Flats.

Metis families on the Flats, all of them, are digging in their heels against an attempt to move the property they have occupied for decades.

Families, mostly pensioners and manual workers, live along the Bow River on a narrow strip of land the town wants for an industrial complex; road allowances.

Officials told the 25 natives they would have to move because they were squatting on property designated a road allowance. The residents disagree with them and simply refuse to move.

There's no way I'm going to be moved, as I was born here, and I'm not going to let them drive us breeds out. 53-year-old Walter Malcolm lives alone in a 10-foot-wide shack.

However, he claims the land is a road allowance, but is within the Clearwater high water mark, so qualifies as Crown land, which the Metis can live by squatters' rights.

Chuck Knight says he is negotiating with provincial officials and the Alberta Housing Corp. to provide a relocation site by the river under a native housing program.

The mayor said there is little in his mind that the natives are clinging on a road allowance they will have to come to the town.

He added that "the town will negotiate and negotiate with those who have been long-term residents of the area." This could be followed to thwart come-latelies.

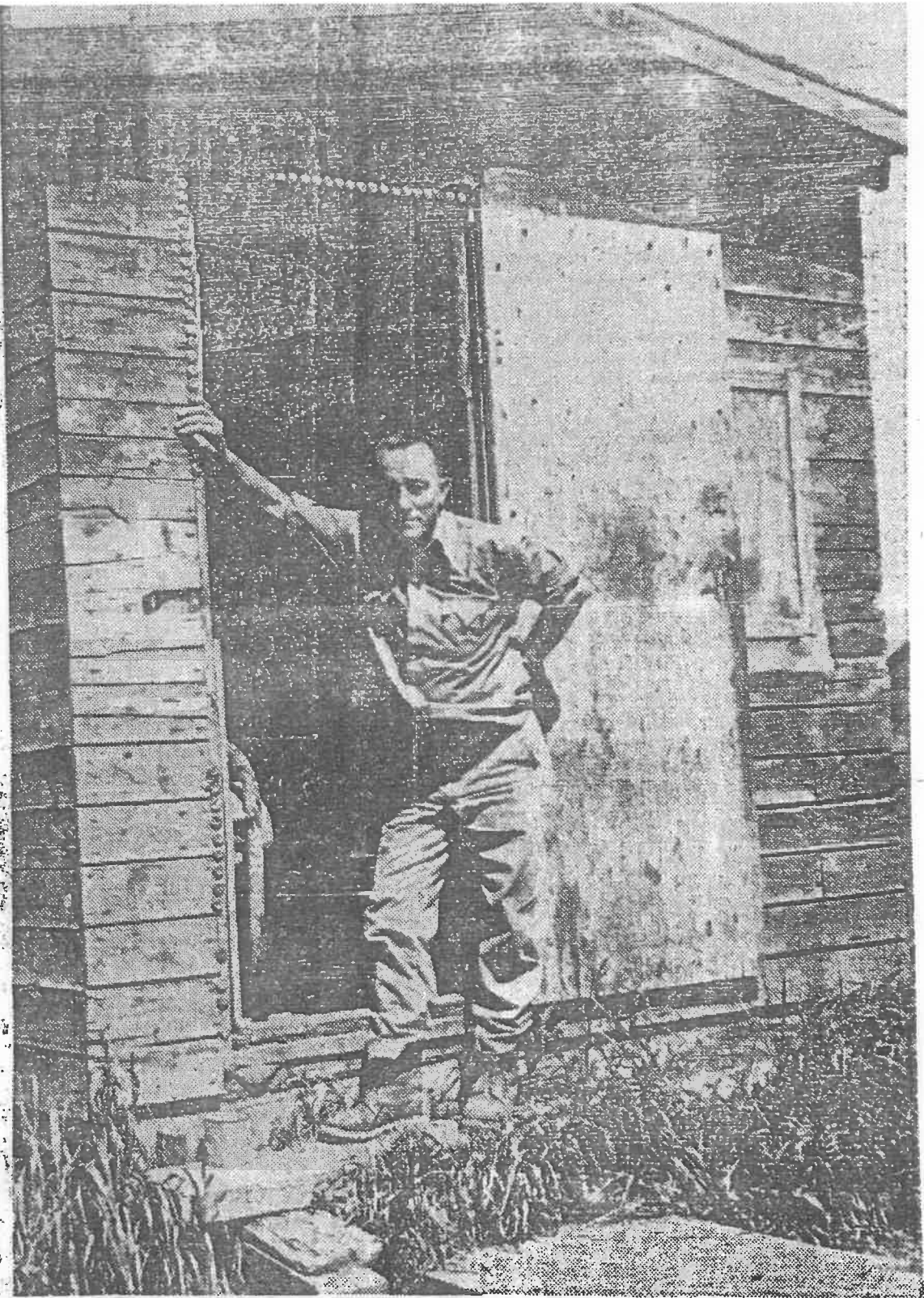
Only after they heard the town might supply relocation land and rezoned housing, he said.

Even if they are offered a place to move out of the old shacks which lack water and sewers, most of the people of the Flats still won't move.

Currie, a resident of the Flats for 40 years, says he doesn't want deals that may be offered as soon as they get you out of the property, it's easy to say the word.

The tiny huddle of shacks, and tiny homes had gone unnoticed for decades as a furray sprang up around them. After year, the Metis residential lives on the Flats any complaints being suggestions made that they should be moved off the land, flooded almost every

problem started when Syncrude Northward Development began construction earlier on an apartment com-



Walter Malcolm is adamant about keeping his home in the flats

contractors built a high plywood fence that comes within 15 feet of some dwellings.

With a plywood fence blocking their view and the daily construction noise interrupting their peace, Mayor Knight says he thinks the natives will want to move away before long.

"It's not just a case of the apartment people wanting them moved, but a case of the natives soon wanting to get away from the apartment," he said.

away from the apartment building, but says he'll only go if the relocation area is close to downtown.

Mr. Gladue is also worried his house may be further damaged by debris falling from the 13-storey apartment building.

Four weeks ago, a large chunk of cement landed on his roof during the afternoon.

Suspicious that it might have been thrown deliberately, the pensioner went to police. They told him to complain to the construc-

looking" workers inside the construction compound.

While Mayor Knight is confident an amicable agreement can be reached with the Moccasin Flats residents, Mr. Malcolm isn't so certain.

"We'll likely have to move if they get a court order, but I'm going to be mad. I've known most of those town officials since they were knee high, and now they do this."

"Can't they see that this is our

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Bob Cooke said the
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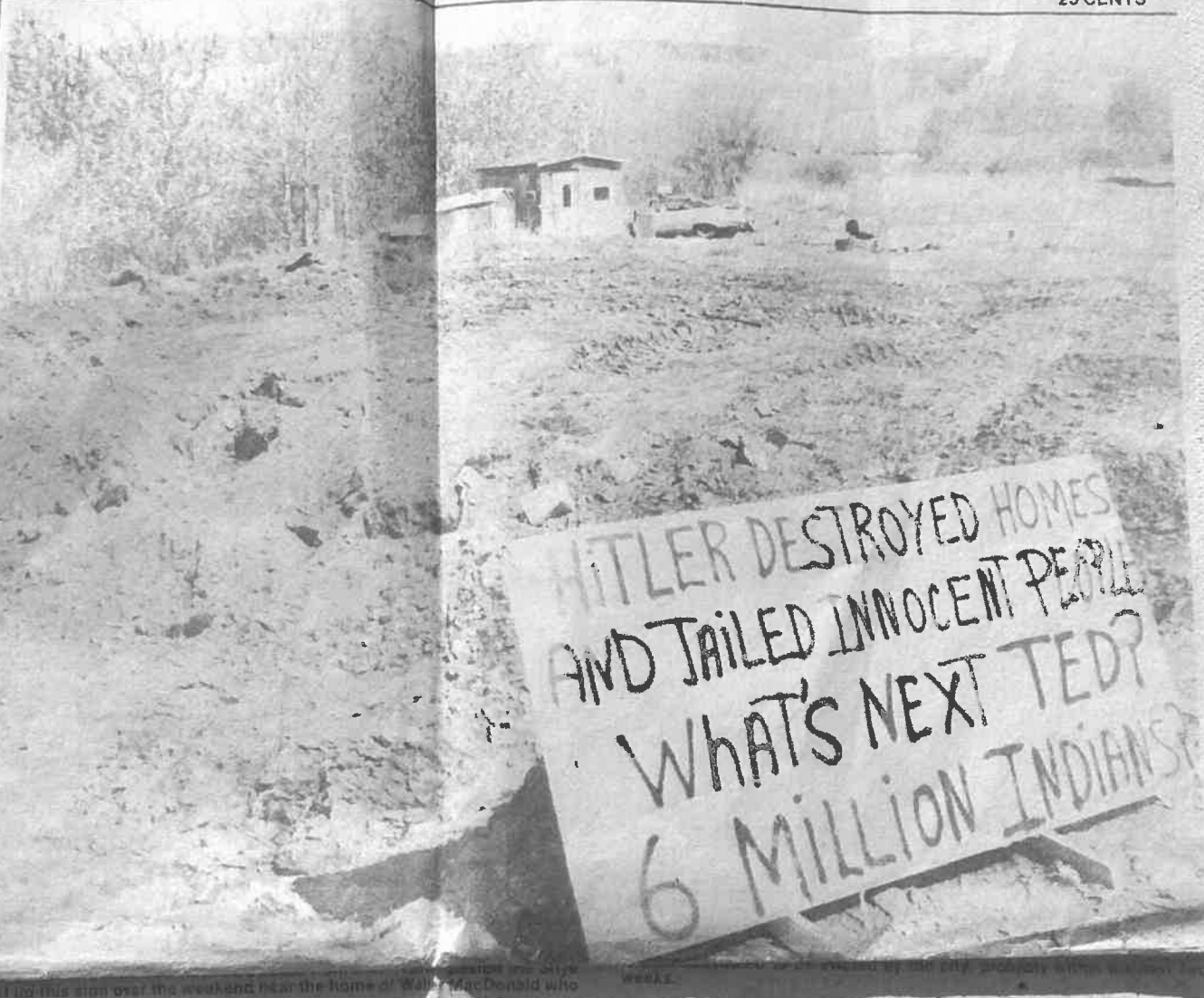
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Forced eviction a local first

The eviction of three families from their shacks on the Snye inlet last week marked the first time in Fort McMurray history that force has been used to settle land rights.

But Patrick Shott and the members of three families living in their riverside huts were not the last squatters in the city.

City clerk Jerry Bussieres refused to rule out the possibility that the situation could occur again.

"This is the first time we've every had to go to such an extreme to move somebody," he said. "But you never can tell what the future will bring. It's unfortunate when it has to happen that way."

Mr. Shott was arrested by RCMP officers last Thursday when he tried to resist eviction. Hours later, his 20-year-old home and four nearby structures were bulldozed by city maintenance crews.

Mr. Bussieres said the Shott home was built on land reserved for Clearwater Drive. Another home near the Snye is now occupied by longtime resident Walter MacDonald — was left intact despite the fact it also resided on the road right-of-way.

Mr. MacDonald, a resident of the Fort McMurray area for more than 60 years, has frequently moved his shack along the inlet, hampering city efforts to relocate him.

Mr. Bussieres said the city's legal consultants are in the process of preparing eviction notices and soon may turn the case over to the sheriff's office.

However, the destruction of the Shott home may have "scared off" Mr. MacDonald, the clerk said.

"I had heard that he changed his mind and was thinking about leaving after seeing what happened to the Shott place," Mr. Bussieres said.

In Waterways, another cabin rests illegally on privately owned land and is the subject of city attention.

The owner, Simone Goodwin, died late last year. Since then, friends and relatives reportedly have been using the shelter.

The home was built long before a subdivision plan was developed for Waterways, and city officials have decided to leave Mrs. Goodwin alone. But they now have undertaken a search for her benefactors in an effort to have the shack moved or destroyed.

Other illegal shelters are built periodically around the city, Mr. Bussieres said, though legal complexities make it impossible for officials to remove them quickly.

"In the spring, the odd squatter will come in off the trap lines and throw a house up somewhere," he said. "They move around so much that there's not much we can do about it in the short run."

Capital budget plan approved

By MARK DENT

City council yesterday approved a \$6.1-million capital projects budget for 1981, a document which could cost taxpayers an additional \$360,000 annually in payments

projects on the road without any delay," said Mayor Ted Mason. "Nothing has really been finalized yet."

Each of the seven individual projects included in the budget were given only first reading by council. Those proposals now must be for-

delete them.

The proposed capital projects and their price tags are:

- Purchase of a pumper truck and paramedic unit for the fire department, \$180,000.

Construction on the covered phase of

other utilities in the Centennial Drive Fitzgerald Avenue area of the Lower Townsite, \$875,000.

- Street, sidewalk and utility improvements in the Lower Townsite southeast of King Street, \$2 million.

- Development of various su-

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Index

Bl 2-5
vincial 6
ssword 8
lorial 9-10
rts 11
nion 12

Righting a wrong



An Indigenous community of Métis and First Nation residents sits by the River Park Glen apartments sometime in the late 1970s or early 1980. File photo from the Northwest Territories Archives. Wood Buffalo's municipal council is reviewing the city government's role of the day regarding the forced eviction of the Indigenous community and considering next steps. P.2

RENE FUMOLEAU-FO

