Edouard Trippe de Roche

I know for a fact that there was, just a few miles back like, back in the ‘50s, ‘60s, everybody in Fort Chip had, were burning wood. Maybe two or three percent people burned fuel like Indian Affairs, the park or RCMP etc. all them. The Bay, the Hudson’s Bay Company. So, people were saying the residential school also burnt wood for heat and cooking. They were allowed to get wood in the Wood Buffalo Park and they’d buy, I don't know how many cords of wood. There was, I don’t know how many cords, there’s thousands that they harvest in the year. But we weren't allowed to harvest any, any firewood from the park to bring into Fort Chip.

But yet again in the ‘60s, probably late ‘50s and ‘60s, early ‘60s, they had sawmills in the Park and they were permitted to log through the trees that are in the Park. And to my understanding, there's no – there was, their permit is still valid today and yet we Natives cannot put a sawmill in the park. I know four sites that there was sawmills: four, five sites in the park. You know, and I don't know.

Then as for harvesting actual fur, I think my dad had a permit but I'm not sure if I can still use it today if I had to. I’d take, I don't know if it's passed down from generation, one generation to the next, but he used to trap in the park. I don’t know if it was with other people or by himself but by his own area.

And I know that there were some people were allowed to harvest a buffalo here in there. And I know of two people that were charged for harvesting buffalo. I guess it's all right if you ate it in the Park. But they brought it to Fort Chip. So, they got charged for that. Back in the ‘60s my cousin Gilbert got a fine of a hundred dollars which would be something like $10,000 today probably. And one of the other guys got his meat taken away. So, they took all his meat. He had moose meat there, and a friend of mine and I helped him get some meat back. We followed the RCMP, back at the RCMP station, and we hauled all this buffalo meat out so when he went to court it was just moose meat [05:00]. So, they had to throw it out of court. But you know, there’s things like that.

And at the residential school, we ate buffalo meat. We didn’t – uh, we had no, there was no beef. We never ate beef. We had fish and beef, we didn’t.

[End]

Transcribed by: Jasmine Trimble, October 18, 2023