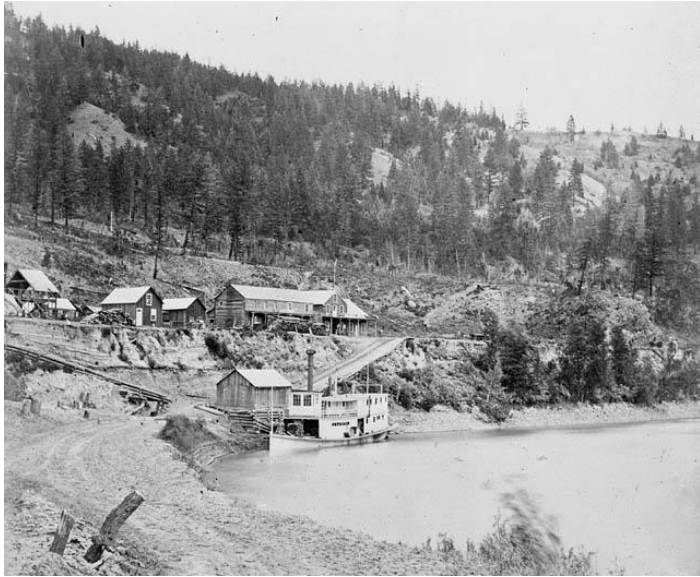


The William's Lake Reserves, on the T'exelcenc First Nation's Traditional Territory

O' Reilly allotted 14 reserves for the T'exelcenc First Nation, which he called the William's Lake reserves. He allotted three fisheries in Reserves no. 4, 5, and 6. He also reserved 8 separate graveyards.

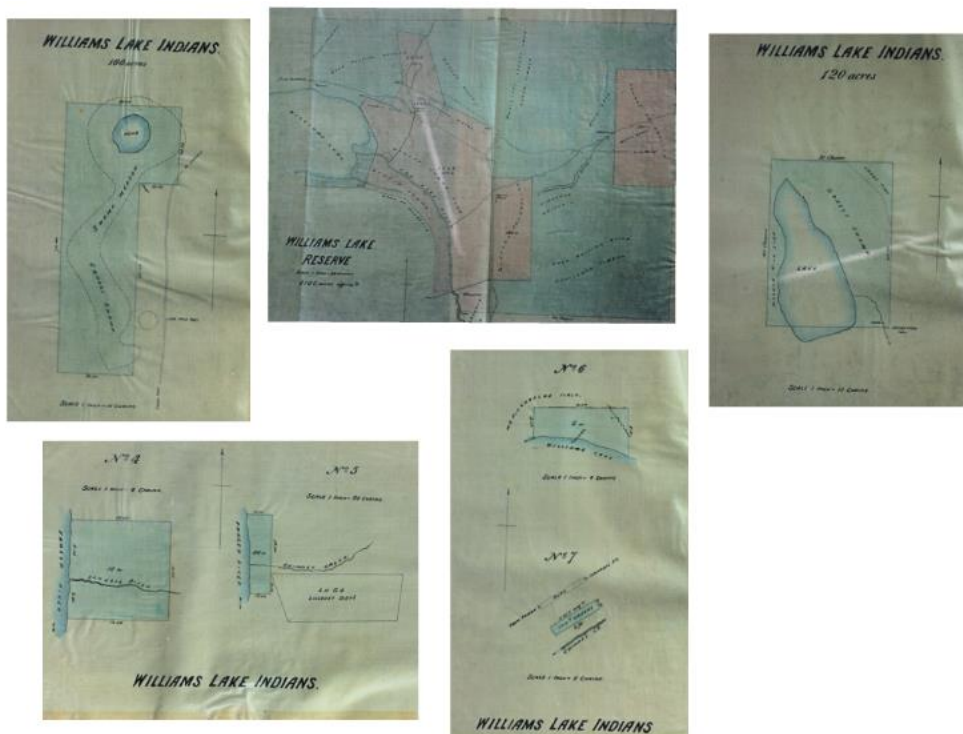


O'Reilly's perspective

O'Reilly and the government wanted the Williams Lake Indian Band to have enough land necessary for farming. Canada even bought an estate and several properties to be included in their reserves. Additional land on the mountains was laid out where the people of Williams Lake had harvested winter feed for their animals. One area was especially important because it had a lake from which they drew their supply of water. They stored their water on the mountainside with a series of dams.

Picture of Soda Creek near William's Lake, 1868. Public Domain.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Soda_Creek_on_Fraser.jpg

T'exelcenc perspective



O'Reilly did admit concern about the land reserved. Around 500 acres were worthless, as it was rough mountain top covered with trees only fit for firewood. He did not believe that the land reserved elsewhere would provide sufficient soil for farming. He also believed that the two streams on the reserves would not provide enough water for irrigation in the dry season. But, being on a tight schedule, he had to move on.

Before O'Reilly had arrived at Williams Lake, Chief William had reported that his people were facing starvation. The government tried to make more reserves, but huge delays allowed settlers to get there first. This meant that all of the good land and fishing spots were already being settled.

Sketches of the William's Lake reserves in 1881, sketched by O'Reilly's surveyor, Ashworth Green. Copied from Provincial Binder 6, Federal and Provincial Collections of Minutes of Decision, Correspondence, and Sketches, collected by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Research Department and Resource Centre. <http://jirc.ubcic.bc.ca/node/11>

