

This narrative history of a Residential School was researched and produced by the Government of Canada as part of its response to litigation and the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation has not verified the content of this document. It is provided here for reference purposes only. Documented incidents of sexual and physical abuse are based on the documentary record and do not take into account survivor testimony.



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All Saints Aklavik RS
School Narrative
[June 6, 2005]

This School Narrative summarizes documents that provide an over-view of the history and administration of the school.

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

All Saints Residential School [NWT000274, NWT004001]
All Saints Hostel [ASU000039]
All Saints Mission School [ASU000004[001-001]]
All Saints Anglican Mission [NWT004000[001-001]]
All Saints Anglican Residential School [NWT000276]
All Saints Anglican Mission Residential School [ASU000029]
Aklavik Church of England Residential School [ASU001093]
Aklavik Anglican Residential School [NWT004038[000-002]]
Anglican Mission School, Aklavik [NWT004000[000-001], NWT004002]

These names do not appear to be used during specific time frames and appear interchangeably throughout the documents relating to All Saints Residential School.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1936 The All Saints Residential School at Aklavik opened in 1936 [NWT003344, NWT003348, ASU016454, ANGDC021559-21567¹].

Correspondence notes that the Anglican Residential School at Aklavik had a minimum pupilage of 80 in its first year of operation. Officials respond that they will receive payment for the 43 children currently in residence and that the pupilage for the school will be raised to 50 in the 1937-38 year [ASU000002[001-001]]. Further correspondence indicates that this figure was raised to 100 pupils [ASU000003].

1939 A grant for the All Saints Mission School was received [ASU000004[001-001]].

1941 A letter from the Medical Health Officer notes that Mr. Shepherd, Principal of the Anglican Residential School has received a letter requesting that a child from the Roman Catholic School be transferred to the Anglican school. It is suggested that this transfer is unsatisfactory and a departmental ruling in the matter is requested [ASU000009]. A followup telegram states that the transfer of children from one mission school to another during the school year will not be approved unless there are extenuating circumstances. When this is the case, details of the circumstances need to be submitted for review [ASU000011].

¹Documents with the prefix ANGDC are from the Anglican Church Other Party Documents collection. These are not Crown-sourced documents.

A report indicates that the school has capacity for 150 children but that pupilage is limited to 100 children [ANGDC021559-21567].

- 1942 An extract from a report notes that the garden at the Anglican Residential School was outstanding@ producing a quality harvest [ASU000013].
- 1950 A wireless message is received indicating that an outbreak of TB has occurred in the Aklavik Mission hospitals and that the [day] school will be used as an emergency hospital for patients with measles and other non-TB infected patients. It is suggested that the pending hiring of a teacher at Aklavik be postponed or cancelled until the school is no longer required as a hospital [ASU000022]. The opening of the Aklavik school is postponed until July or August of 1950 [ASU000023, ASU000024].
- 1951 A report on Northern Education states that the Territorial Day School at Aklavik is a two-room school [NWT003000, p. 35] and that the Anglican Residential School had three teachers at this time [NWT003000, p. 36].
- 1952 A memorandum to the Deputy Minister indicates that the Federal Day School at Aklavik must be expanded to meet anticipated needs for children accommodated at the Anglican Hostel [ASU000043, ASU000034, ASU000035]. It is proposed that the All Saints "hostel" be ready with the necessary staff to accommodate 170 pupils by September 1954 when a new school and teacher's residence is expected to be completed [ASU000039].

A series of correspondence discussing Anglican children attending the Roman Catholic School at Aklavik requests that the authorities of the Roman Catholic faith include only children of this denomination within their schools. The Roman Catholic Church is said to be accepting Eskimo Anglican children over Roman Catholic Indian children [ASU000027, ASU000028, ASU000036].

An inspection report provides a variety of information regarding All Saints Anglican Residential School at Aklavik. Teacher Reports indicate that grades 1 to 9 are taught at the school and time tables / curriculums are attached to each of these reports. The report also indicates that supplies at the school are quite limited and notes a need for maintenance of the existing educational facilities. A series of recommendations includes the following: hiring of qualified teachers; upgrades to facilities including lighting and water; the provision of additional playground equipment; and the provision of more books for primary grades. A typical menu is attached to the report [ASU000029].

A series of correspondence indicates that additional books may be provided to the school [ASU000030[000-002], ASU000031[000-001], ASU000031[001-001]].

- 1953 A document titled Assistance to Mission Schools / Mackenzie District@ indicates that an annual grant for the maintenance of school buildings and equipment was allowed [NWT004038[000-002]].

A memorandum indicates that in the 1954-55 school year the new Federal School at Aklavik will be accommodating children presently attending All Saints Anglican School. It is estimated that two-thirds of the students attending the day school will be residents of the Anglican Hostel [ASU000040]. The Church of England will no longer be hiring

teachers and it is necessary for the federal government to supply teachers for the All Saints Hospital School [ASU000041, ASU000042].

- 1956 An inspection report regarding Aklavik school facilities notes that the Anglican Residential School operates three classrooms, that the school seemed to have a good kitchen and that at least one classroom was overcrowded [ASU000047].

A list of costs for education indicates grants for the Federal Day School at Aklavik began in the 1949-50 fiscal year and continued until 1955-54 [sic] [NWT000700 [002-007]]. Enrollment figures for the Aklavik Federal School begin in the 1950-51 school year and continue through to 1953-54 [NWT000700 [003-007]].

Correspondence indicates that the federal government and the Anglican Church entered into discussions regarding turning All Saints Residential School into a hostel where children were boarded at the hostel and attended the federal day school. Correspondence does not clearly indicate whether or not this plan was carried out [NWT004000[001-001]].

A series of correspondence negotiates the attendance of Anglican children at the Roman Catholic Mission Residential School. This is allowed as long as these children are permitted to attend the All Saints Cathedral for church services on Sundays [ASU000045, ASU000046].

- CA1957 An undated document notes a meeting was held with Principal Kerr of the Federal Day School and Rev. Holman of All Saints Residential School discussing the amalgamation of grades 5 and greater with the Federal Day School (with the exception of seven grade 5 girls who would remain at the Residential School) [ASU000044].

- 1957 An inspection report indicates that Rev. Holman reported a shortage of hostel staff and that he requires teachers to assist and sometimes supervise students [NWT000998].

A memorandum from the Chief of the Education Division notes that Grade 9 is taught only in the Anglican Residential School where they have 4 teachers and 111 students. Concerns regarding class sizes are raised and it is recommended that if the situation still exists one of the teachers be given some relief regarding her teaching duties [ASU000048].

- 1958 A list of appropriation ordinances for 1957-58 refers to the proportion of costs of northern education shared by the federal and territorial governments. The document notes that Aklavik will have two hostels of 250 students each [NWT000528].

A letter from the Director to the Department of Finance indicates that the two residential schools at Aklavik will be replaced by the two new 250-pupil federal school hostels at Inuvik scheduled to open on September 1, 1959 [NWT003221].

- 1959 Policy documents indicate that the former administrative and supervisory staff from All Saints were 'transplanted' into similar positions in the new Inuvik residence (Stringer Hall) [NWT000023].

It appears there was some question as to whether all of the students accommodated in the mission residential schools at Aklavik would meet the criteria for attendance at the new hostels opening in Inuvik in September 1959 [NWT000487]. Additional correspondence indicates that where children had access to local facilities for the grades and subjects they wished to take they would not be eligible for admission to the new hostels. In the event that their needs could not be met by local schools they would be eligible for admission to a hostel at government expense [NWT003274].

An undated document titled "Mission Residential Schools at Aklavik" notes that the Aklavik Anglican Residential School closed on June 30, 1959 [NWT003348].

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

The school was managed by the Missionary Society of Church of England in Canada from its inception in 1936 until its closure in 1959 [NWT003344, ANGDC021559-21567].

- 1950-51 Documents indicate the federal government was not prepared to enter into an agreement with the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada regarding the purchase of the residence at Aklavik [ASU016444, ASU016456, ASU016454].
- 1953 A document titled "Assistance to Mission Schools / Mackenzie District" indicates that the federal government was not responsible for the employment of teachers [NWT004038 [001-002]].
- 1956 Documentation indicates that Rev. Holman, Principal, was a federal employee which is atypical of most principals for church-operated residential schools. It is also noted that Rev. Holman does not teach any classes and that "his duties would appear on the surface to differ than those done by Principal Kerr at the Federal School" [NWT004000[001-001]].

Dates managed by Federal Government

- Undated The Federal government provided necessary school supplies and equipment for the Mission Residential Schools at Aklavik [NWT003344].
- 1956 The Federal government began employing teachers in mission-owned residential schools including those at Aklavik [NWT003344, NWT003348].

Dates taken over by the NWT

Until 1969, when the Territorial Government assumed responsibility for education in the NWT, the Territorial Government's role in federal education programs in the NWT was almost exclusively financial. In the broadest terms, the Territorial Government was responsible for funding aspects of the federal education programs in proportion to the number of 'other' (non-aboriginal and Métis) students enrolled in school or residence. This ethnic distinction was based

on the Federal Government's constitutional responsibility for aboriginal peoples (and so the Federal Government funded all expenses related to the education of Indian and Inuit students).

Pre-1955 The Territorial Government financially contributes proportionately for 'other' education in all of the different schools in operation at this time in the NWT (i.e., all mission residential schools, mission day schools, federal day schools, etc.) [NWT000701].

1955 As of 1955, with the implementation of the construction program for the new residence and day school education program, the initial expenditure for the construction ('capital costs') and operation of the federal schools and hostels in the NWT is made by the Federal Government, with the Territorial Government paying its share based on the proportion of 'territorial' (or 'other' [non-aboriginal and Métis]) pupils [NWT000539].

1958 A list of appropriation ordinances for 1957-58 refers to the proportion of costs on northern education shared by the federal and territorial governments [NWT000528].

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1936 The Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada (M.S.C.C.) reports regarding the All Saints School that when it was built in 1936 the residence included the following: two furnace rooms, one kitchen, one pupils' refectory, one staff dining room, one staff living room, a principal's office, eight dormitories, nine staff rooms, one sick bay and two staff bathrooms [ANGDC021559-21567].

1938 The Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada (M.S.C.C.) reports regarding the All Saints School that in 1938 the school was provided with a Diesel Electric Light plant [ANGDC021559-21567].

1948 A report of the Superintendent of the Indian School Administration to the M.S.C.C. Board of Management notes that the roof at the All Saints Residence requires extensive repair [ANGDC001415-001423].

1952 An inspection report provides the following information about the buildings at All Saints Anglican Mission Residential School. The building is a two storey structure completed in 1936. The first floor includes three classrooms, one girls' playroom, one boys' playroom, one furnace room, one laundry, one kitchen and dining room, one staff dining room, one staff living room, and a principal's office. The second floor includes four girls' dormitory rooms, one girls' washroom, one girls' matron room, five staff bedrooms, two boys' dormitory supervisory rooms, one mens' washroom, one infirmary, four boys' dormitory rooms and one boys' washroom. The school's playground is not fenced and the playground equipment consists of four swings [ASU000029].

1956 A memorandum to the Director from the Superintendent of Schools indicates that the classroom accommodations at the Anglican Mission School are inadequate. It is proposed that the residential school be turned into a hostel with residential students attending the federal day school [NWT004000[000-001], NWT000527].

An inspection report regarding school facilities at Aklavik notes that the Anglican Residential School operated three classrooms [ASU000047].

- 1958 A list of proposed projects for education facilities in the NWT notes the following projects at Aklavik, NWT: one 25 room classroom, two 250 pupil hostels (one Roman Catholic and one Anglican), one three bedroom residence, three duplexes and two 8-unit apartment buildings [NWT003192].
- 1959 A document comparing the Inuvik residences with the residences at All Saints Anglican Residential School indicates that the All Saints Residential School included the following facilities: four dormitories, two washrooms, four supervisors' quarters, two play rooms, two staff washrooms, one laundry room, one general office, one pupils' dining hall, one staff dining hall, one pharmacy and one infirmary. The document also notes that storage space and staff quarters are limited and that the mechanical and heating systems are less efficient and with limited space [NWT000455].

All Saints Day and Hospital Schools

- 1933 A letter refers to an Anglican Day School in Aklavik [ASU000001[000-003]].
- 1940 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000007].
- 1941 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000010].
- 1942 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000008].
- 1943 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000014].
- 1944 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000015].
- 1945 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000016].
- 1946 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000017].
- 1947 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000018].
- 1948 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000019].
- 1949 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000020].
- 1950 A grant for the All Saints Anglican Mission Day School was received [ASU000025].
- 1954 A report regarding Education in the Northwest Territories indicates that the Anglican Church operates a hospital school known as All Saints Anglican Hospital at Aklavik [NWT000701]. All Saints Hospital was operated by the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada and included a teacher on staff for students at All Saints RS who were hospitalized NWT [NWT000274].

- 1956 All Saints Hospital School appears on a Directory of Schools and Teachers in the Mackenzie District of the NWT [NWT000274]. A report notes that the All Saints Hospital housed approximately 18 students in 1956 [NWT004001].
- 1959 The Aklavik Anglican Hospital School continued to operate for hospitalized Eskimo children in 1959 [NWT003270].
- 1960 A series of correspondence indicates that the All Saints Hospital School at Aklavik continued to operate once the All Saints Residence at Aklavik was closed [ASU000049[000-002]].

Federal Day School

- 1954 A report regarding Education in the Northwest Territories indicates that a Federal Day School operates at Aklavik [NWT000701].
- 1956 An inspection report regarding Aklavik school facilities notes that there are five rooms in operation at the federal day school [ASU000047].
- 1959 Upon the opening of the new hostels at Inuvik, the day school would continue to operate at Aklavik for grades 1 to 6 and senior students would be sent to Inuvik [NWT000445[005-005]].

LAND

Aklavik is located on the Mackenzie River Delta approximately fifty miles from the Arctic Ocean and 1965 miles from Edmonton, Alberta [ANGDC021559-21567].

No documents indicating ownership of the land on which the All Saints Anglican Residential School was built were located.

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Item #	Date	Description
NPC-622988a ²	Undated	Photos of Aklavik Anglican Residential School (p. 6), Aklavik Anglican Hospital and Ice Store House at Aklavik Mission (p. 7), water supply pump and pump line, Aklavik Mission, and privies for staff and boys at Aklavik Anglican Residential School [p. 8].
ANGDC021559-21567	00/00/1941	Photos of All Saints Indian and Eskimo Residential School, Aklavik including a classroom, dining room, laundry and staff sitting room

² Documents with the prefix NPC are from the National Health Collection.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

All Saints Residential School

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
1929	44 children in residence
1937	26 children in residence
1938	34 children in residence
1939	30 children in residence
1940	29 children in residence
1941	44 children in residence
1942	50 children in residence
1943	42 children in residence
1944	51 children in residence
1945	70 children in residence
1946	39 children in residence
1947	44 children in residence
1948	64 children in residence
1949	55 children in residence
1950	63 children in residence
1951	68 children in residence
1952	104 children in residence
1953	106 children in residence
1954	108 children in residence
1955	106 children in residence
1956	114 children in residence
1957	109 children in residence
1958	112 children in residence
1959	106 children in residence

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Attendance in the post-55 hostel / day school program was not reserve-based, as enrolment was not ethnically segregated (both aboriginal and non-aboriginal children lived in residence and attended the associated schools). Attendance was based on geographic proximity to the residence and the associated schools were attended both by students in residence, and by children living in the local community.

Documents indicate that students might have been transported and/or recruited for attendance at the residence and associated schools from the following locations, communities and regions: Spence Bay; Fort Norman; Cambridge Bay; Holman Island; Coppermine, Fort McPherson, Reindeer Camp, Banks Island, Tuktoyaktuk, Herschel Island, Perry River, Aklavik and Delta.

There may be alternate ways of spelling these band names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

All Saints Residential School was operated by the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada (M.S.C.C.) [ASU016444, ANGDC021559-21567].

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

We do not currently possess any written agreements relating to All Saints Residential School.

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at All Saints Residential School or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Health and Sanitary Conditions

- 1934 A letter from the Medical Health Officer notes that he believes that tuberculosis is prevented in students attending residential schools because of the proper regime of regular hours, good food and the close supervision from teaching staff and nurse [NPC-602546].
- 1937 A telegram reports that a number of natives employed in the construction of the Anglican Mission School were ill with typhoid in summer and fall 1936 due to drinking water from the river without boiling it [NPC-622705].
- 1938 A report notes that ice for drinking purposes at the school and hospital is cut from the river and stored in semi-subterranean covered chambers and boiled before use. The contents of sewage pail type privies and garbage which is not burned is deposited into the river at the end of the mission wharf [NPC-622988].
- 1944 A memorandum notes that the doctor at Aklavik has been vaccinating and "toxoiding" children in the two residential schools [NPC-622704].
- 1950 Several reports discuss a measles epidemic at Aklavik [NPC-606176; NPC-601412]. By Fall 1950 the town of Aklavik is under quarantine due to measles epidemic [NPC-601407].

A letter notes concerns about the disposal of garbage near the Anglican school that requires clean-up [NPC-603141c].

A letter notes concerns about the disposal of wash water near the rear of the school buildings and recommends that the water be disposed of in drainage ditches or in the river [NPC-603141a].

- 1954 A letter notes that all school children at Aklavik receive an annual medical examination and the necessary vaccinations and inoculations [NPC-621703a].

Dental Services

1939 A series of correspondence discusses the provision of dental services at the Anglican hospital at Aklavik. It is noted that student have received dental treatment at the hospital and a request is put forth that the government fund dental treatment for Anglican school children [ASU000005, ASU000006].

Curriculum

1934 A letter from the Medical Health Officer discusses educational policy noting that because trapping is their future vocation the residential schools cannot be industrial for the boys. He recommends that the boys in the residential schools at Aklavik do not stay in school "too long" as they are prevented from learning the art of trapping from their fathers while they are at school; he sees benefit to the girls staying in school as they learn sewing and how to keep house [NPC-602546].

1946 A letter notes that children at the Anglican school at Aklavik are forbidden to speak Eskimo [NPC-600901].

Extracurricular Activities

1956 All senior and some intermediate students participated in business arising out of the registered trapping area. Income from the sale of furs was used to purchase instruments for a school band (instruments included 12 guitars, 1 mandolin and 4 violins) [NWT004001].

Over-Crowding

1951 Minutes from the N.W.T. Council Meeting note that Aklavik has three schools (two residential schools and one day school) which are all over-crowded. It is proposed that a new school will be constructed in 1953 [ASU000026[001-001]].

1957 A memorandum from the Chief of the Education Division notes that the Anglican Residential School has 4 teachers and 111 students. Concerns regarding class sizes are raised and it is recommended that if the situation still exists one of the teachers be given some relief regarding her teaching duties [ASU000048].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Rev. H.S. Shepherd	Principal	1936-1944
Rev. R.T. Gibson	Principal	1944-1955
Rev. L. H. Holman	Principal	1955-1959

Narrative Completed: March 29, 2005
Narrative Updated: June 6, 2005

The original school narrative document produced by Canada also contains a number of records that have been separated pending review.



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA