

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.



You are welcome to contact the NCTR if you wish to add, comment on, or challenge any versions of the history presented herein.

**ASSUMPTION IRS**  
**School Narrative**  
03 09 2009

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

**NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS**

1949- 1954	Hay Lakes Indian Residential School [AMP-006664]
1951	Our Lady of Assumption Indian Residential School (unofficially) [AMP-006630]
1954- 1968	Assumption Indian Residential School [AMP-006622]
1968- 1974	Assumption Student Residence [AMP-009550]

**Years during which the school was operated solely or in part by the Federal Government as a residence for school age students**

1951- 1974	The government finances the construction of, and owns, the Assumption Indian Residential School. [AMP-009671] In 1969, employees of the Assumption IRS came under the Public Service Employment Act as of April 1, 1969. Staff at Assumption IRS and other Indian Student Residences became federal civil servants and the Department of Indian Affairs took over exclusive management and operation of student residences. [AMP-010399-0000]
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**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY**

1949	Order in Council approves the establishment of a Residential School at Hay Lakes, Alberta, to be known as the "Hay Lakes Indian Residential School". [AMP-006664]  Contract signed between the government and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Grouard ( <i>La Corporation Episcopale Catholique Romaine de Grouard</i> ) for the erection of an Indian Residential School at Hay Lakes (to be carried out by the latter). [AMP-006662]
1951	A staff of Sisters arrived at Hay Lakes Residential School on January 19, 1951, and were told to have everything ready by February 1, 1951. At this point, children begin to arrive and classes commence, although the school had not yet been officially opened. [AMP-006806] It was also at this point that children first entered the residence. [AMP-006798]
1953	Kindergarten classes are introduced at Assumption IRS. [AMP-006170]
1959	Part-time Home Economics and Industrial Arts teaching positions are established. [AMP-006252]

The government approves the establishment of a fifth classroom and teaching position at Assumption IRS. [AMP-006255]

1962

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] It appears as though these students attended the new day school from home and did not attend classes at the day school while living at the Assumption IRS [AMP-006781]

Agreement reached, in September, between the government and INDIANESCOM (Oblate Indian-Eskimo Commission, a company controlled by the Oblate Order) for the management and operation of Assumption IRS by INDIANESCOM "in accordance with such rules, regulations, directives and instructions that may be made or issued by the... [government] from time to time..." [AMP-006384]

Effective September 1, the school cut its teaching activities to only four classrooms. [AMP-006237]

Certain pupils begin attending Assumption IRS on a day basis. A principal's Monthly Report for October 1962 indicates that there were 3 pupils attending on a day-basis at the time. [AMP-006067]

1964

Assumption IRS adds Grade 9 classes to its school program. [AMP-007639]

1965

Habay Day School appears to have been closed prior to this date. At this point, Assumption IRS "now serves all of the Hay Lake Indian Reserve including the pupils who have formerly attended Habay Day School. Furthermore, all pupils on the reserve have been accepted into residence." [AMP-006213]

1965

A sixth teaching position was established at Assumption IRS, effective September 1<sup>st</sup>. [AMP-006214]

1966

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, funds were made available for the retention of an additional school Supervisor. [AMP-006301]

1968

In August the Assumption IRS became known as the Assumption Student Residence. The academic activities of the old Assumption Indian Residential School now take place at the Federal Assumption Day School. All residences are turned over to the Assumption Day School. These included: one three-bedroom residence, three one-bedroom motels, two house trailers and two portable classrooms. The residence, motels and trailers appear to have housed teachers employed at the Assumption Day School. [AMP-009550, AMP-006710]

Although, at this point, the Assumption Student Residence was officially closed as a school, day school classes were held there pending completion of the new day school's facilities. It should be noted, however, that by now "the running of the [day] school and the running of the residential school... [were] two entirely separate operations. [AMP-006740]

- 1969 Employees of the Assumption IRS came under the Public Service Employment Act as of April 1, 1969. Staff at Assumption IRS and other Indian Student Residences became federal civil servants and the Department of Indian Affairs took over management and operation of student residences. This, however, did not mean the end of Church involvement in Indian Residential Schools. [AMP-010399-0000]
- 1970 The Oblates of Mary Immaculate appear to have left the Assumption Student Residence in February 1970, although it appears as though they may have remained on the Assumption Reserve. [AMP-006736]
- 1972 Three classrooms at the Assumption Student Residence are still used for the day school's classes pending the completion of an addition to the day school. [AMP-008306]
- 1973 Four classrooms at the Assumption Student Residence were being used for day school instruction. It was expected, however, that the addition to the day school facility would be completed, and ready for occupancy by approximately November 1, at which point the Assumption Student Residence would likely be turned over to the Band for the purpose of establishing "cultural and adult education programs to meet the needs of the people on the reserve." [AMP-007659]
- 1974 By July 19, the Assumption Student Residence was closed as a government operation. At this point, the government no longer accepted responsibility for financing (for heat, power, maintenance etc.) the residence. [AMP-008295]
- 1975 Plans were finalized for the demolition of the main building of the Assumption Student Residence. The chapel and the chapel basement were to be turned over to the Band. [AMP-007315]

## **MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL**

### **Dates managed by Church:**

- 1951- 1969 The principals of the school, who belonged to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, were in charge of the day-to-day management and operation of the school. For example, at any given time, the principal was responsible for: preparing monthly reports [AMP-006174] and Quarterly Returns [AMP-006792], arranging and supervising the construction and renovation of buildings [AMP-008762], arranging for the purchase of teaching supplies [AMP-008743], purchasing annual supplies of food and clothing [AMP-006453], administering staff [AMP-006236], and adjusting the school schedule according to local conditions and to the needs of the local population. [AMP-006608]

The diocesan Vicar Apostolic/ Coadjutor was heavily involved in the daily activities and management of the school throughout this period. He was the primary church official involved in: the establishment of the school [AMP-

006686], the acquisition, and management of, lands surrounding the school [AMP-007125], the construction and maintenance of the school [AMP-009770], the long term plans for the school, the possible expansion of the school's capacity [AMP-008164], the nomination of the school's administration [AMP-006279], and naming/ changing the name of the school [AMP-006624].

In the early stages of this period (c. 1949- 1956), the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Grouard (*La Corporation Episcopale Catholique Romaine de Grouard*) played a significant role in the management of the school. This was the organization that contracted with the government to build the school [AMP-006662]. It was also the entity through which funds were routed to the school [AMP-006501].

1962 Agreement reached, in September, between the government and INDIANESCOM for the management and operation of Assumption IRS by INDIANESCOM "in accordance with such rules, regulations, directives and instructions that may be made or issued by the [government] from time to time... [AMP-006384].

Dates managed by Government:

1951 The government finances the construction of, and owns, the Assumption Indian Residential School. [AMP-009671]

1969- 1974 The government finances the construction of, and owns, the Assumption Indian Residential School. [AMP-009671] It also finances the operations of the school (for example-[AMP-007339]). In 1969, employees of the Assumption IRS came under the Public Service Employment Act as of April 1, 1969. Staff at Assumption IRS and other Indian Student Residences became federal civil servants and the Department of Indian Affairs took over exclusive management and operation of student residences. [AMP-010399-0000]

1974 As mentioned above, by July 19, the Assumption Student Residence was closed as a government operation. At this point, the government no longer accepted responsibility for financing (for heat, power, maintenance etc.) the residence. [AMP-008295]

Additonal Information Band or other aboriginal group involvement:

1966-1974 During this period, the Slave Band Council became involved in the management of the Assumption Indian Residential School. For example, the band was involved in determining eligibility for admission to the school from at least as early as 1966 [AMP-006306]. Moreover, as of 1968, it appears as though the Band Council was involved in the review of all potential admissions to the Assumption Student Residence [AMP-006740].

In addition to the management functions performed by the Slave Band Council, throughout this time there were many Indians employed at the Assumption IRS in various capacities, as non- religious staff. [FVD-000035]

Beginning in 1970, partially as a result of the withdrawal of the Oblates from school operations, the government considered the possibility of turning the operation of the school over to the Slave Band [AMP-009494]. It appears as though the Band also examined the feasibility of taking over the operation of the Residence [AMP-009482].

In 1972, federal management of the residence was described as “ a cooperative effort, involving the Chief and his Council in all matters pertaining to policy, appointment of staff, admissions of students, management and supervision of the operation.” [AMP-006715]

With the creation of the new school facilities, the Slave Band pushed to take control of the former Student Residence building, in order to turn it into an Adult Education Center. [AMP-008309]. The Band decided that it would be too costly to run the former Residence building because of the high costs of its operation and maintenance, and it does not appear as though the residence building was ever used for this purpose. [AMP-008293-0002]

## **SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

- 1949- 1974     Note: all buildings at the Assumption Indian Residential School appear to have been government-owned during this period.
- 1949            Contract signed between the government and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Grouard (*La Corporation Episcopale Catholique Romaine de Grouard*) for the erection of an Indian Residential School at Hay Lakes (to be carried out by the latter). [AMP-006662]
- 1950            The construction of the main school building at the Assumption IRS is complete by October. [AMP-007294-0000]
- 1951            Temporary root-house and pen built for the keeping of livestock and for agricultural purposes. [AMP-006803]
- 1952            The construction of a staff residence and a barn is completed by May. [AMP-007275-0002]
- 1954            Because of the “cramped quarters” in two of the classrooms, a fourth classroom was established by November. Prior to this there had been “...only one standard classroom at this school. The second was divided into two and a fourth classroom was set up in the dispensary room.” [AMP-010142]
- 1955            By July of this year, the following buildings had been constructed at the site of the Assumption IRS: a shop, three granaries, a chicken coop, and a garage and machine shop. [AMP-006889]
- 1956            Contract signed between the government and the administration of the Assumption IRS for the construction of a new teacher’s residence at the Assumption Indian Residential School. [AMP-006830]

- 1958 Agreement reached with regards to the construction of a 3 bedroom teacher's residence at Assumption, Alberta. [AMP-006842]
- 1959 The construction of a new teacher's residence at Assumption IRS appears to have been completed by June. [AMP-006849]
- Effective November 1, a fifth classroom was created by partitioning one of the four existing classrooms. [AMP-006255]
- 1961 Arrangements were made for the transportation of a trailer (formerly used as a staff residence at the Old Sun IRS) from Old Sun IRS to Assumption IRS (to again be used as a staff residence). [AMP-006868]
- 1962 A "second mobile home was moved to Assumption School during the latter part of March." [AMP-009665-0001]
- 1964 By November, it was noted that a "recently constructed large garage doubles most effectively as gymnasium and visual aids area, [in addition] a recreational handicrafts area has been provided for the boys, and some basic home economics instructional area for the girls." [AMP-006959]
- 1965 In a letter dated June 25, the Indian Agent at Assumption sought "comments concerning the suitability of a renovated chicken house for [use as] a classroom". [AMP-006219]
- In July a sixth academic classroom was established at Assumption IRS. It is unclear whether the room used was the renovated chicken house mentioned above. [AMP-006216]
- By September, there appears to have been eight classrooms in operation at Assumption. According to a report dated September 8, at the time, there were: "4 classrooms designed for the original school...", a fifth classroom in the infirmary, two classrooms in the previous year's chicken house, and another classroom in the previous year's "nursing trailer for typing purposes." It is also noted that, at the time, there were 2 dormitories, one for girls and one for boys. [AMP-009518-0001]
- 1966 In February, a trailer unit was transferred from the Habay Day School to the Assumption IRS. [AMP-009627]
- In March, it was decided that two portable classrooms would be sent to the Assumption IRS to be used until the planned construction of two permanent classrooms was complete. It was the intention of the government to remove these classrooms once construction was finished. [AMP-007040]
- According to a letter dated March 21, the previous summer, "three new residences were added with propane heating systems." In addition, according to the letter two

portable classrooms with propane heating systems were to be added in the near future. [AMP-006307]

According to a Memo dated April 4, at the time, the dormitory facilities at the Assumption IRS were inadequate. Although the enrollment at Assumption IRS at the time was 148, the square footage of the dormitory was “5,164 which divided by the minimum standard of fifty square feet per child gives an enrollment of 103.” [AMP-006310]

According to a letter dated April 18, written by the Principal, at this point the Assumption IRS consisted of a total of 31 buildings. [AMP-006292]

1968 In February, an official opening was held for the recreation and adult education center that was created through the conversion of the old school barn at the Assumption IRS. [AMP-007021]

1970 It was noted, in a letter dated July 22, that: “the big barn (recreation center) will become band property, as will the 5- bay garage, and 2 of the sheds. The rectory will be used both as... [a government] agency office and to provide accommodation for non- teaching employees and visitors to Assumption. There are no decisions to this time on the other buildings... [AMP-008345]

1972 By June, the construction of six cottages in Assumption, as a replacement for the Student Residence, was near completion. [AMP-006716]

1973 In February, the construction of the above mentioned cottages is complete. They appear to have been turned over to the government on February 19. [AMP-007892]

In April, an agreement was reached between the government and the RCMP for the rental of two of the cottages, which were not being used as residences for school children. [AMP-010366]

Beginning in April, it appears as though one of the cottages was used as the residence of the Band Manager. [AMP-009448]

1974 Two of the cottages were made available for teacher accommodation for the 1974/ 75 school year. [AMP-010346]

By July 19, the Assumption Student Residence was closed as a government operation. At this point, the government no longer accepted responsibility for financing (for heat, power, maintenance etc.) the residence. [AMP-008295]

1975 Plans were finalized for the demolition of the main building of the Assumption Student Residence. The chapel and the chapel basement were to be turned over to the Band. [AMP-007315]

## **LAND**



- The IRS was located on lands included in Treaty 8.
- The school was located on the south end of the Hay Lakes Indian Reserve No. 209. [AMP-007071]
- The school lands were situated approximately 10 miles south-east of the Hay Lakes Settlement [AMP-008836-0001], and approximately 9 miles from the settlement at Habay. [AMP-006600]
- Prior to 1955, no lands appear to have been officially set aside for the Assumption IRS. Plans were made to survey the lands surrounding the school in 1956, so that they could be set aside. [AMP-007118]
- In June, 1956, the Slave Band Council, by way of a Band Council Resolution, agreed to set aside approximately 320 acres of land “for the purpose of putting up hay for feed to be used solely for feeding stock necessary for the operation of the Assumption Indian Residential School.” This land was located approximately 4½ miles northwest of the site of the school. When no longer needed for school operations, the land was to revert back to the Slave Band. [AMP-007117]
- Beginning in 1957, the school reduced its farming operations on the agricultural land that had been set aside for this purpose. As a result, the lands appear to have been gradually reverted back to the Slave Band. [AMP-007718]
- On November 4, 1959, the Slave Band Council, by Band Council Resolution, released another 350 acres of land to the Assumption IRS “for such purposes as required to accommodate sites for buildings, pupils’ playground, landing strip and tame-hay fields...” [AMP-007720].  
However, the government did not approve this Band Council Resolution until September 1960 “due to the fact that the area referred to therein could not be identified with any degree of accuracy on existing plans of survey of Hay Lake Indian Reserve No. 209...” At this time, it was also recommended that a survey of the school lands be conducted. It was also noted that, when no longer needed for the school, the lands would revert back to the Slave Band. [AMP-007067]
- The Hay River appears to have flooded the Habay (Hay Lakes) Indian Reserve in May 1963 (approximately 9 miles south of the Assumption IRS). As the Assumption IRS was located on high ground, tents were set up on the school grounds for some of the 350 people that were forced to evacuate the reserve. [AMP-009410-0003] It appears as though temporary educational facilities were made available at the Assumption IRS for students from the Habay Day School that were forced to leave the reserve on account of the flood. [AMP-008027-0001]
- The Survey appears to have been completed in September 1963. Arrangements were made to purchase fence posts to build an enclosure around the school lands. [AMP-008250]

- On June 25, 1971, the Slave Band, by way of Band Council Resolution, agreed to set aside 3.5 acres of land for the school, so that it could add six student residences thereupon.[AMP-008186-0001]
- Following the closing of the Assumption Student Residence, in 1975, the land on which it was located was to revert back to the Slave Band, although several teacher residences were to remain on the land and would be required by the government. It is unclear what the government required these teacher residences for. [AMP-009432]

### **PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA**

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
AMP-007317	00/00/0000	Plan showing the portion of the Assumption Student Residence that was to be demolished. (Based on supporting documents, it is likely that this document would be dated c. Dec. 1975)
AMP-007719	00/00/0000	Map showing the Survey marker locations of the lands surrounding the Assumption IRS
AMP-007857	00/00/0000	This document is a floor plan and picture of a four bedroom, two- storey house. It is unclear whether or not this plan was used in the construction of a similar house at the Assumption IRS
AMP-008493-0003	00/00/0000	This document is a sketch of the floor plan of the Assumption IRS barn
AMP-008906	00/00/0000	This sketch appears to be a floor plan of one of the classrooms at the Assumption IRS
AMP-009031-0003	00/00/0000	This is a topographical map of the lands surrounding the Assumption IRS
AMP-009438	00/00/0000	Lot layout plan for Hay Lake Reserve No. 209 and Assumption town site
AMP-009543-0003	00/00/0000	Plan showing the Assumption town site, the site of the Assumption IRS, and proposed construction projects
AMP-009832-0001	00/00/0000	Plan of the Girls' Dormitory at the Assumption IRS
AMP-009875-0002	00/00/0000	Sketch plan showing the condition of lands surrounding the Assumption IRS
AMP-009896-0002	00/00/0000	Plan of the Girls' and Boys' dormitories at Assumption IRS
AMP-010445-0003	00/00/0000	Rough sketched floor plan of a proposed hall at Assumption IRS
AMP-008754	00/00/0000	This document contains a photograph of the Assumption IRS, and of its barn
AMP-009701-	00/00/0000	Photographs of the Assumption IRS

0002		
AMP-009999-0002	00/00/0000	This document is a drawing of the floor plan of the "Hay Lakes Indian Residential School"
AMP-009999-0003	00/00/0000	This document contains drawings of the exterior, and floor plans of the Assumption IRS
AMP-007859	00/00/0000	Drawings of the exterior, floor plan and cross-sectional view of the Assumption IRS
AMP-007949	00/00/0000	Sketches of the staff accommodations at the Assumption IRS
AMP-008413	00/00/0000	This document contains sketches of the grounds of the Assumption IRS, and of the Habay Indian Day School
AMP-008469	00/00/0000	These are drawings of the exterior, as well as of the floor plan of a garage at the Assumption IRS
AMP-009723-0003	05/06/1953	This sketch is a floor plan. The heading reads: "Fathers' House"
AMP-005097	00/00/1957	Photographs of the Assumption IRS and adjacent dam
AMP-009973-0004	08/22/1960	This drawing shows the floor plan of the Assumption IRS boiler room, and shows the water heater piping arrangement
AMP-009999-0001	02/00/1968	Shows drawings of the fire escape at the Assumption IRS, the exterior of the school, and an interior floor plan
AMP-009543-0004	04/00/1968	This document appears to be a series of floor plans and cross-sectional diagrams of the teacher's residence at the Assumption IRS
AMP-008184-0002	08/00/1969	This is a sketch of a school site and surrounding area on the Hay Lakes reserve. It is unclear whether the school site is that of the Assumption IRS, or a Hay Lakes day school
AMP-009999-0000	06/00/1971	Floor plans and cross section of the Assumption IRS
AMP-010550	07/21/1971	Appears to be a plan of the roof of the Assumption IRS
AMP-010551	07/21/1971	Floor plans of the Assumption IRS
AMP-007323	09/03/1971	This document contains plans of the Assumption IRS, including floor plans, and diagrams of the land surrounding the school. It also contains a drawing of a proposed addition to the school
AMP-007324	09/03/1971	This document contains drawings of the lands surrounding the Assumption IRS, of the exterior of the school, and of the floor plans
AMP-008169	09/14/1971	Drawings and floor plans of proposed teacher's residence at Assumption

## GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

Year	Number of Students
1951	Based on the available documents, the average enrolment for 1951 was 82 pupils. When the school opened the authorized enrolment was 100 students.
1952	On average, 91 students attended Assumption IRS during this year.
1953	The average enrolment for the year was 102 students.
1954	On average, 105 students attended Assumption during the year.
1955	The average enrolment for the year was 110 students. By 1955, the authorized enrolment seems to have increased to 105 students.
1956	According to the Principal's Monthly Reports for the year, the average enrolment was 107.
1957	The average enrolment for the year was 109 students.
1958	The average enrolment for the year was 105 students
1959	According to the available documents, the average enrolment for the year was 108 students.
1960	The average enrolment for the year was 112 students.
1961	Based on the available documents, the average enrolment for the year was 114 students.
1962	The average enrolment for residential pupil during the year was 105. In addition, beginning in October, there was an average of 3 students attending as day school pupils.
1963	An average of 87 residential students attended Assumption IRS during the year. Between January and June, an average of 3 day pupils also attended.
1964	An average of 106 Indian children attended Assumption this year. Between September and December, an average of two non-Indian children also attended
1965	On average, 134 Indian children attended Assumption during the year. There was also an average of 2 Non Indian children attending, between January and June.
1966	An average of 142 residential students attended Assumption this year. Between September and December, there was also, on average, 16 pupils attending as day-school students.
1967	According to the available documentation an average of 134 students attended on a residential basis, as well as an average of 22 students on a day- school basis.
1968	On average, there were 134 residential pupils and 28 day pupils at Assumption between January and June of this year.  According to the December Quarterly Return, after the Assumption IRS had become known as the Assumption Student Residence, there were only 56 pupils in residence during this quarter (i.e. between October and December).

1969	According to a Quarterly Return for March, there were 59 students in residence at the time.
1970	According to a Quarterly Return dated September 30, the enrolment at the Assumption Student Residence, at the time, was 80 students.
1971	According to the Quarterly Return for the quarter ending September 30, the enrolment at the Assumption Student Residence at the time was 26 girls and 19 boys, for a total enrollment of 45.
1972	Based on the Quarterly Return for March 31, 1972, the enrolment, at the time, was 19 pupils.
1973	There is insufficient documentation available for the Assumption IRS to provide enrolment statistics for this year.
1974	There is insufficient documentation available for the Assumption IRS to provide enrolment statistics for this year.

### **STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES**

Students attended Assumption IRS from several bands/ reserves including:

- Meander River, AB
- Habay, AB
- Boyer River Band
- A.T.N. Band

### **RELIGIOUS GROUPS**

- The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Grouard (*La Corporation Episcopale Catholique Romaine de Grouard*)  
The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Grouard was the organization that contracted with the government to build the Assumption IRS. [AMP-006662] It was also the archdiocese in which the school was located. Moreover, this was the entity through which funds were routed to the school in its early stages of operation. [AMP-006501]
- The Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
The Oblates were heavily involved in the operation of the Assumption IRS from its early stages until it closed as a Residential School, and the Oblate order eventually withdrew from the operation of the Student Residence in 1970. [AMP-006736] Up until this time, it appears as though all Principals of the school belonged to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.
- The Sisters of Providence  
There does not appear to have been any official relationship between the Sisters of Providence and the government, with regards to the role of the former in the operation of the Assumption IRS. Members of the Order were, however, employed at the school as teachers throughout the school's history. The Order appears to have worked at the Student Residence until it closed down for good, as they stayed at the school following the withdrawal of the Oblates. [AMP-009493-0001]

### **WRITTEN AGREEMENTS.**

- 1949 Contract signed between the government and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Grouard (*La Corporation Episcopale Catholique Romaine de Grouard*) for the erection of an Indian Residential School at Hay Lakes (to be carried out by the latter). [AMP-006662]
- 1956 Contract signed between the government and the administration of the Assumption IRS for the construction of a new teacher's residence at the Assumption Indian Residential School. [AMP-006830]
- 1962 Agreement reached, in September, between the government and INDIANESCOM for the management and operation of Assumption IRS by INDIANESCOM "in accordance with such rules, regulations, directives and instructions that may be made or issued by the [government] from time to time... [AMP-006384]
- 1969 At this time, employees were subject to the provisions of the Public Service Employee Act. [AMP-010399-0000]
- 1970 A written agreement, between the government and the Notre Dame of Assumption Parish of the Roman Catholic Church, was signed in November for the provision of chaplaincy services at the Assumption Student Residence. [AMP-006717]

### **DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS**

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Assumption IRS. However, there was an individual who worked at the Assumption IRS between September 1967 and March 1970 as a Supervisor, who was convicted for assaults related to his employment at Coudert Hall (where he worked between sometime in 1970 and October 1971.

The following suggestions of abuse, listed chronologically, comprise all known identifiable complaints and/or allegations received by government officials and all available information regarding the follow-up and outcome.

#### Incidents (Sexual)

In 1961, a fourteen year-old student was impregnated after being intimate with a staff member at Assumption IRS. The student assured authorities that "she was aware of her condition and was not in any way forced into it." Apparently, following this incident, the other children at the school "had been making life pretty miserable..." for the girl. [AMP-008006]

#### Incidents (Physical)

Although no particular incident is mentioned, in a report on the Assumption Student Residence, dated November 1970, the authors speculate that excessive physical punishments may have taken place. The authors note that a staff member at the school "may resort to methods of discipline which cannot be regarded as most beneficial to the children- such as slapping a child who mislaid a pair of mitts, or pulling up by the hair and publicly shaming a lad who had soiled himself inadvertently..." [AMP-008986]

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Truancy**

- 1964 Based on the available documents, an average of 1 student per month was truant from the Assumption IRS during 1964. [AMP-006050, AMP-006946]
- 1965 According to the Principal's Monthly Report for January, five children were identified as being truant for a total absence of 27 days. [AMP-006044]
- 1966 Based on the available documents, an average of approximately 4.5 students were truant per month during this year at the Assumption IRS. These students missed a combined average of 49 days per month. [AMP-006032, AMP-006030, AMP-006029, AMP-006028, AMP-006027, AMP-006026, AMP-006025, AMP-006024, AMP-006023]
- 1967 Based on the available documents, an average of approximately 6.6 students were truant per month during this year at the Assumption IRS. These students missed a combined average of 62.5 days per month [AMP-006201, AMP-006020, AMP-006018, AMP-006015, AMP-006013, AMP-006012, AMP-006011, AMP-006010]
- 1968 Based on the available documents, an average of approximately 15.3 students were truant per month during this year at the Assumption IRS. These students missed a combined average of 129 days per month. [AMP-006009, AMP-006008, AMP-006007, AMP-006006, AMP-006004, AMP-006001]

## **PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Reverend Francois Arbet, O.M.I.	Principal	March 7, 1951- September 1951
Reverend Joseph Habay, O.M.I.	Principal	September 26, 1951- March 1955
G. Tetrault, O.M.I.	Acting Principal	From at least April 30, 1955- June 21, 1955
Father G. Tetrault	Principal	From April, 1955 - August 21, 1957
A.M. Costa, O.M.I.	Acting Principal	From at least October, 1955- December, 1955
Reverend Gaston Montmigny, O.M.I.	Principal	From August 21, 1957- July, 1963
Reverend Eugene Fournier, O.M.I.	Relieving Principal	June 1960- December 1960
Father C. Mariman	Assistant Principal	From at least 1962- at least 1964

Father Albert Bouchard, O.M.I.	Principal	From July 25, 1963- February 1964
Reverend P.E. Plouffe, O.M.I.	Acting Principal	From January 1964- February 1964
Reverend Gaston Montmigny, O.M.I.	Principal	From February 1964- September 1964
Reverend P.E. Plouffe, O.M.I.	Acting Principal	September 1964- unknown
Gaston Montmigny, O.M.I.	Principal	March 1965- September 1968
Reverend Gaston Montmigny, O.M.I.	Residence Administrator	September 1968- June 1970
Raymond B. Jean	Residence Administrator	August 13, 1970- 1974

Narrative Completed: September 3, 2009



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  

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UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA