

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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**Breynat Hall Student Residence**  
**School Narrative**  
October 2005

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

**NAME OF RESIDENCE AND VARIANTS**

- 1958 Fort Smith Federal Hostel [BTU-000116[000-000]]
- 1961 The hostel in Fort Smith is named **Breynat Hall** after Bishop G.J.E. Breynat who was assigned to the Arctic missions and became the first Apostolic Vicar of the Mackenzie in 1902. [NWT-000614[000-000]]

**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY**

- 1955 A draft letter from the government to the Roman Catholic Education Association in Fort Smith states that a Roman Catholic Day School and a Federal Day School (FDS) were both in operation. The FDS was non-denominational but 75 out of 100 students were Roman Catholic. The introduction of the large hostel program meant that “these two schools will be replaced by one school in which the principal will be Roman Catholic and all the teachers in grades 1-8 will be Roman Catholic.” In situations where Protestant children are present in a classroom religious symbols will be removed and non-denominational curriculum applied. [NWT-003163[001-001]]
- 1957 A government memorandum states:
- It was not our intention to build up the Fort Smith hostel as a hostel for high school students, since the high school facilities which will be available at Fort Smith are not in any way comparable to those which will be provided at Yellowknife. The high school at Fort Smith is primarily for local residents. [BTU-000055[000-000]]
- 1957 Students were transferred from Fort Resolution Residential School December 27 and 28, 1957 via air transportation to the new hostel in Fort Smith. The transfer of these students marked the opening of the hostel. [BTU-000106[000-000]]
- 1958 An article from the Western Oblate Studies, July 1991, titled “Residential Schooling at Fort Chipewyan and Fort Resolution 1874-1974” states:
- After St. Joseph’s [Roman Catholic residential school in Fort Resolution] closed, the children of the decreasing number of families who stayed on the land and children who were thought to be neglected were sent to an integrated federal school (J.B. Tyrell) and a government-owned, church-managed pupil residence (Breynat Hall) in Fort Smith. There they were taught by certified teachers who

followed the Alberta curriculum which included virtually no reference to traditional cultures or languages. The pupil residence in Fort Smith and the residential facilities at Chipewyan also became custodial centres for many children whom welfare or law enforcement authorities had determined were in need of remedial treatment of some kind. [FSU-01187]

- 1969 All educational responsibilities in the Mackenzie District, including the management of student residences and therefore Breynat Hall, were transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories. [NWTG-001324[000-000]]
- 1975 A document dated April 14, 1975, from the Continuing Education Division, states that the "Fort Smith student residence" was destroyed in a fire. The community of Fort Chipewyan Alberta offered to house some of the displaced students in foster homes. The Government was considering improving housing conditions in students' communities so that they could reside at home. [BTU-000318[000-000]]
- A document dated September 9, 1975 from the Continuing Education Division states that the "Fort Smith Hostel is in operation, but getting a supervisor is a problem." [BTU-000319[00-000]]
- 1976 A letter cancelling a service contract for the accommodation of girls from Fort Chipewyan at the hostel in Fort Smith is evidence that the pupil residence referred to as "Girls' Residence of Fort Smith" was in operation in June of 1976. It is not known if this residence is Breynat Hall or a separate residence. [FSU-02551]

## **MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENCE**

### Dates Managed by Church

- 1955-57 A document refers to the relationship between the government and "Church Authorities and Pupil Residences" as follows:

By 1955 many of the residential schools operated by the Roman Catholic and Anglican Missions had reached such a state of disrepair that they needed replacing. Discussions were held at which Church authorities and the Federal and Territorial Governments were represented. As a result of these discussions it was agreed by all parties that the Government should build pupil residences, to be operated by the two Churches concerned but with the schools to be operated by the Federal Government. Agreements between the Churches and the Department were negotiated and signed for the operation of each of the pupil residences as they were constructed.

The hostel in Fort Smith was the first to open in 1957. Since the majority of pupils attending this residence were Roman Catholic, it was agreed that it would be operated by the Roman Catholic authorities. NWT-000088[000-000]]

- 1957 The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Mackenzie entered into an agreement with the Government for the management of the Roman Catholic Hostel in Fort Smith (later named Breynat Hall). [BTU-000031[001-001]]

- 1960 A report to the Treasury Board describes the relationship between the managing Church organization and the Government:

In many respects these hostels are similar to Indian residential schools owned by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and managed by various churches on behalf of that Department. The principal difference is that Northern Affairs' hostels are concerned only with out-of-school activities (the children attend the day school) whereas in most instances the school is an integral part of Citizenship and Immigration institutions. As in Northern Affairs day schools, however, the teachers in the Indian institutions are hired directly by the Department and receive professional guidance from Departmental officers.

It is also stated that within the management agreement the Government "shall pay all Operating expenses 'which in the opinions of the Minister are reasonable, fair, and proper'." [NWTG-000666[001-001]]

- 1965 A Sessional Paper titled "Responsibility for Education in the Northwest Territories" states:

In the large pupil residences which are operated under contract with either the Anglican or the Roman Catholic Church, the Churches recruit their own staff following certain standards established by the Education Division. The Churches are required to operate the pupil residences in a manner which will support the school program. The selection of children to be placed in a pupil residence is made by the administration. [NWT-000547[000-000]]

- 1969 The Government terminated the Memorandum of Agreement for the management of pupil residences between the Government and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Mackenzie. [NWTG-001324[000-000]]

#### Dates Managed by Government

The government did not manage the hostel but it was financially responsible for its operation.

- 1955 A government press release regarding the large hostel construction plans in the NWT states:

The Minister said the schools and hostels will be financed by the federal government. All costs will be paid by it in respect of Indians and Eskimos, since they are a federal responsibility. The Territorial Government of the Northwest Territories will be expected to finance a share of the hostels and schools proportionate to the attendance of children other than Indians and Eskimos. [NWT-003168[000-000]]

## Dates Managed by the Territory

- 1968 A package of documents indicates that due to the limited ability of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to generate financial resources, the Federal Government would continue to provide educational funding and ensure, through supervision, that the level of educational programs, in particular for aboriginal peoples, would not diminish under the GNWT. [NWTG-001275 [002-002]]
- 1969 New operating agreements were drafted for the management of “Church-operated Pupil Residences” between the Northwest Territories Government and the church organizations, including the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Mackenzie, for the management of the seven large hostels in the NWT including Breynat Hall. [BTU-000315[000-001]]
- 1969 A government memorandum states: “On November 15 you were advised of the seven Northern Administration Residences would be transferred to the Territorial Government by April 1, 1969.” [NWT-000221[000-000]]

## **RESIDENCE BUILDINGS**

### **Associated Day Schools**

- 1957 A new Fort Smith Day School was built in conjunction with the hostel: “The Administration Building, Hostel Building, and School Building will be completed and ready for occupancy but not before September 30.” [BTU-000032[000-000]]
- 1957 The Fort Smith school was reorganized as a result of the construction of a new school building:
- The present (old) school, under the supervision of the assistant principal, will include 4 regular classrooms. Two of these will be used exclusively for senior high school, that is, Grade 10-12. The other two will be special classrooms for retarded children. One basement room may be used for kindergarten classes if space is required for this purpose.
- The new school, under the supervision of a second assistant principal, will contain grades 1-9 and will include 14 classrooms. In addition to this there will be 2 classrooms for industrial arts instruction and one classroom for home economics instruction. The teachers in charge of those 3 classrooms will also teach academic subjects as well as elementary industrial arts and home economics. The whole school, of course, will be in [the] charge of the supervising principal. [BTU-0000033[000-000]]
- 1957 Protestant teachers were provided at the day school for Protestant students. The number of Protestant teachers was determined by the number of Protestant students in attendance. [NWTG-000571[000-000]]

1957 A government memorandum states:

It was not our intention to build up the Fort Smith hostel as a hostel for high school students, since the high school facilities which will be available at Fort Smith are not in any way comparable to those which will be provided at Yellowknife. The high school at Fort Smith is primarily for local residents. [BTU-000055[000-000]]

1963 The federal day school in Fort Smith is named Joseph Burr Tyrell School after the geologist, miner, and historian of the same name who conducted expeditions in the Arctic from 1881-1898. [NWT-000614[000-000]]

1965 A report states:

“Joseph Burr Tyrell School is a modern attractive building with thirty-three classrooms, and grades 1 to 12. There is a large auditorium, an industrial arts shop, and a home economics room. A wide range of extra curricular and sports programs are carried on among the students and the school is a centre for many community activities.” [NWT-000609[000-000]]

### **Associated Residence**

1960 Notes on a meeting between Canon Cook of the Anglican Church and the Government state the following about an additional student residence run by the Roman Catholic Mission in Fort Smith:

The Roman Catholics are taking promising young men from the Fort Smith hostels for residence in Grandin Hall, also located in Fort Smith. Canon Cook simply wished to know whether the Department provided financial assistance to Grandin Home. Apparently it is a home operated by the Roman Catholic authorities in Fort Smith for exceptionally bright pupils. According to Canon Cook, the pupils are transferred from the hostel to the Grandin Home where they receive room and board but attend the day school.

Mr. Bishop informed Canon Cook that to his knowledge the Department does not support the Grandin Home in any way.

This is the first knowledge we have received of the operation of the Grandin Home. It immediately raises the question of whether the transfer of pupils from the hostel to this home was approved by the Chief Superintendent of School as required by our agreements. This could develop into a serious situation if the parents' consent was not first obtained. A confidential memorandum must be written to the administrator of the Mackenzie on this subject. [NWTG-000724[000-000]]

## **Associated Hospital School**

1959 A report on education in the NWT states:

For the purpose of teaching Eskimo children who are hospitalized and for the provision of adult education, teachers (employed by the Federal Government) have been added to hospital staffs, at Fort Smith [and other] Roman Catholic Hospitals. [NWT-003270[000-000]]

1965 A report states: "The 110 bed hospital is operated by the Sisters of the Roman Catholic Church." [NWT-000609[000-000]]

## **Residence**

### Dates Owned by Government

1957 The estimate to the Government Treasury Board states:

That an item of one million dollars has been included in the 1957-58 estimates of Northern Administration and Lands Branch for the completion of the construction of a School and Hostel at Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, and these buildings will be ready for occupancy by September 1, 1957. [BTU-000021[000-000]]

In addition to the hostel buildings there were also three duplexes, the Principal's residence, and a 6-unit "teacherage". [BTU-000032[000-000]]

1957 The hostel was built to accommodate 200 residents with a space allocation of 50 square feet per resident in the dormitory as recommended and approved by the Government. Bishop Trocellier, head of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Mackenzie, felt that the space was too small and would not adequately accommodate 200 pupils. Only 160 beds were ordered for the hostel even though it was expected to reach capacity upon opening. The beds were also too large for the space provided. A government Director requested that the situation be reviewed to determine if additional hostel accommodation would be needed in the near future. [BTU-000083[000-000]]

1958-59 The construction estimates for the 1958-59 school year state the following for Fort Smith:

Wing to hostel to accommodate 200 students including dormitories, washrooms, playrooms and staff accommodation.

8 classroom addition to school.

8 unit apartment building for single teachers. [NWT-003192[000-000]]

1959-60 The construction estimates for this school year included a shack for the skating rink and a warehouse and freezer for the hostel. [NWT-003257[000-000]]

1960 An inspection report gives a description of the “pupils’ living conditions”:  
Dormitories were located in a separate building from kitchen, administration with a connecting corridor.  
4 separate dorms, junior and senior boys and girls. Each have a bed and locker.  
4 separate recreation halls  
Recreation provided: hockey, handball, basketball, swings.  
Laundry located on the ground floor [NPC-605600]

1963/64 The capacity of the hostel was 100 boys and 100 girls. [NWTG-000874[002-002]]

1965 A memorandum to the Director of Medical Services states that at the hostel in Fort Smith “there appears to be gross overcrowding of dormitories” and that the “Sisters have been complaining of lack of proper facilities for some time but that the Father in charge does not wish to lodge a complaint to the Educational Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.” It is requested that a medical officer investigate the situation. [NPC-620586]

The inspection report from the Medical Officer found the following information:

The capacity of the hostel was designed for 200 students and at the time of the inspection there were 152 in residence.

The ventilation system was out of order causing playrooms and dormitories to be stuffy “with a poor percent of oxygen.”

Facilities for Junior students were found to be crowded and there was not very much privacy for senior students in their dorms.

The dining room was stated as “quite small for the accommodation of 200 students.”

“It is my opinion that the facilities in the Hostel are fairly good for accommodating 150 children, at the most.” [NPC-620585C]

#### Dates Owned by Government of the Northwest Territory

Post 1969 all education responsibilities were transferred to the Territorial Government. [NWTG-001324[000-000]]



## GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
1957	11
1958	170
1958-1959	185
1959-1960	200
1960-1961	185
1962-63	Boys 76, Girls 100
1963-1964	Boys 77, Girls 90
1964-1965	Boys 81, Girls 91
1965-1966	Boys 77, Girls 99
1966-1967	Boys 87, Girls 99
1967-1968	Boys 95, Girls 93
1968-1969	Boys 82, Girls 83
1970	Eskimo: 0, Indian:128, Other: 33, Total: 161

## LAND

- 1957 The residence location is stated in the Operating Agreement as “Lot numbered forty-seven in the settlement of Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories.” [BTU-000031[001-001]]
- 1965 A report by Joseph Katz titled “Educational Environments of School - Hostel Complexes in the Northwest Territories” includes an appendix detailing the communities in which federal schools are located. The town of Fort Smith is located in the Mackenzie District on the south bank of the Slave River about 500 miles north of Edmonton. There is a three page section of information on the community of Fort Smith, the school buildings, hospital, hostel, and community services. [NWT-000609[000-000]]

## PHOTOS PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
NPC-605600a	1960	Cafeteria, Kitchen, and Storage
NPC-605600b	1960	Dining Room
NPC-605600c	1960	Junior and Senior Girls’ Dormitories and washrooms
NPC-605600d	1960	Warehouse and freezers

## **STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES**

Students from, at least the following bands and/or locations resided at Breynat Hall student residence:

Fort Chipewyan  
Fort Norman, NWT  
Fort Providence, NWT  
Fort Rae, NWT  
Fort Resolution, NWT  
Fort Simpson, NWT  
Fort Smith, NWT  
Fort Wrigley, NWT  
Hay River, NWT  
Lac La Martre, NWT  
Ray Rock, Yellowknife, NWT  
Rocher River, NWT  
Snowdrift, NWT  
Yellowknife, NWT  
Marten Lake  
Marion Lake  
Long Island

There may be alternate ways of spelling these names.

## **RELIGIOUS GROUPS**

1957 The Government estimate to the Treasury Board states:

THAT the hostel at Fort Smith will be for children of the Roman Catholic Faith  
THE undersigned (the Government), therefore, has the honor to recommend that  
authority be granted to enter into an agreement respecting the operation of the  
hostel, substantially in the form hereto annexed, with the Roman Catholic  
Episcopal Corporation of Mackenzie, the cost of such service being chargeable to  
Parliamentary Appropriations of the Northern Administration and Lands Branch.  
[BTU-000021[000-000]]

1957 The staff at the school was Roman Catholic except for one Protestant teacher. [BTU-000033[000-000]]

## **WRITTEN AGREEMENTS**

April 1, 1957 The Operating Agreement for the management and operation of the "School Hostel" in Fort Smith was signed between Her Majesty the Queen, represented by a Minister of the Government, and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Mackenzie. [BTU-000031[001-001]]

July 16, 1960 The former Operating Agreement for the management and operation of the hostel in Fort Smith was terminated as of July 15, 1960. A revised Operating Agreement was signed between Her Majesty the Queen, represented by Minister of the Government, and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Mackenzie. The Crown agrees to pay for the operating and management costs of running the hostel. [BTU-000219[000-000]]

1969 A letter from the government to the Vicar Apostolic of the Mackenzie states:

As a result of the transfer of responsibility for the education program in the Mackenzie District to the Government of the N.W.T. on April 1, 1969, the three pupil residences which you have been operating under an agreement with the Crown will be transferred to the Government of the N.W.T. effective on the same date. The Commissioner of the N.W.T. has agreed to fulfill all of the conditions contained in the present agreements. The Commissioner will be writing to you to make arrangements for new agreements appropriate to the new situation. The only changes will be those to make the agreements relate to the new signing authorities, that is the Commissioner rather than the Deputy Minister of this Department. The intent and the substance will remain unaltered. [NWTG-001324[000-000]]

## **DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS**

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Breynat Hall Student Residence or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

No references to school incidents were found in available documents.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Admissions**

1957 Recruitment of pupils for the school and hostel was the joint responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools, the Church officials, and the local Indian Superintendent. [BTU-000033[000-000]]

1958 Children entering the Fort Smith Hostel were required to meet the following criteria:

The children must live in that part of the Mackenzie District Lying east of Hay River, Great Slave Lake, Great Bear Lake, and the chain of waterways joining Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lakes but not including the immediate environs of the Hay River settlement and the portion of the Mackenzie District north of the tree-line.

The children must be of good health as evidenced by a medical examination including x-ray.

Only children who will have reached the full age of six by December the 31st of the academic year of which they commence school shall be eligible for admission. First preference must be given to children who were in attendance at school in [the] previous academic year.

Only children of Roman Catholic faith will be eligible for admission to the hostel.

Only those children who do not have a day or other school facilities available to them shall be eligible for admission.

When the hostel enrolment has reached 200 pupils no further children will be admitted. [BTU-000114[000-001]]

1959 Admissions requirements are stated in a report on NWT hostel program:

Parental consent is required in all cases where students are removed from their home and are maintained in such residences. If a parent does not wish his child to attend, no pressure is exerted upon him to do so. The only exception to this general rule applies to welfare admissions. [NWTG-000696[001-001]]

1961 A report from the Assistant Principal of the Federal Day School in Fort Smith to the Assistant Superintendent of Schools states that he had difficulty in securing students for attendance in the school and hostel from the communities of Fort Rae, Lac La Martre, and Yellowknife. The parents were reluctant to send their children as they did not receive family allowance while the child was in school and still did not receive it when the children returned home for the summer. The parents also complained that during the school year they “did not hear from their children or receive any pictures.” The parents wanted the younger children to stay home and the older boys to stay home to work. The parents were “satisfied with the calibre of instruction their children were receiving” and also felt “that the children were well-fed and clothed while at the hostel.” [NWT-000811[000-000]]

1961 The Roman Catholic Mission in Fort Smith, responsible for the management of the school and hostel, boarded four high school students in the mission so that they could attend the Roman Catholic high school in Fort Smith instead of attending the non-denominational high school in Yellowknife. Bishop Piche, R.C. Mission in Fort Smith, felt that there should be a hostel in Fort Smith for older R.C. students. He also felt that it was not proper for older students to stay in the large hostel with the younger students. [NWT-003125[000-006]]

## **Health and Safety**

1960 The Director of Indian and Northern Health Services recommends in a letter to a Government Director that a registered Nurse is required at the Fort Smith Hostel. [NWTG-000698[000-000]]

1961 The District Administrator in Fort Smith wrote the following regarding dental services in hostels: “At present the Department of National Health and Welfare has provided a dentist

stationed at Fort Smith who has completed his dental examinations in the schools at Fort Smith, Hay River, and Fort Resolution.” [NWTG-000758[000-000]]

- 1961 An “Urgent Report” from the Indian and Northern Health Services reports on a single case of “Infectious Hepatitis.” The following actions were taken: “All routine public health measures. Gamma globulin given to the hostel and school children at Federal school and all contacts. Also hospital patients.” [NPC-601758]
- 1961-62 Children at Fort Smith were preventatively treated for tuberculosis with the Heaf Gun Method and suffered from a skin reaction as a result. There were no reported cases of tuberculosis at this time. [NPC-601823a]
- 1962 A dental inspection of the children at the Fort Smith Hostel found that 50% of them had cavities that required treatment. [NPC-601697]
- 1963 A monthly regional health report states that arrangements were made with a dentist to set up a portable dental office in a suitable room in the Fort Smith hostel building. [NPC-620883]

### **Inspection Reports**

- Undated The Dietician’s Report for Fort Smith Hostel states that the diet, menu, and kitchen operations are generally satisfactory. It is recommended the intake of vitamin C be increased and noted that the intake of carbohydrates is high. A daily menu of what was served in the hostel is attached to the report. The report also states that 30 children were transported to the hostel from Fort Fitzgerald every school day for lunch. [NPC-605601] [NPC-605601a]
- 1960 The Inspection of Food Services Report provides the information about the conditions at the hostel. The general conditions of the kitchen, menu, and food preparation are satisfactory. The Administrator requested direction in serving more fresh fruit in the menu. The dining room is too small for everyone at once so a cafeteria system was in place. Students performed the following duties in the kitchen: Students help with serving and preparing vegetables and boys sweep floors. Bed sheets were washed once every four weeks and pillow cases washed once a week. Laundry facilities were not large enough to wash sheets more frequently. [NPC-605600]

### **Rules and Regulations**

- 1960 The “Supplementary Instructions for the Management of Hostels Owned by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and Operated under Contract” submitted to hostel Administrators by the Government is an instruction manual detailing policies and procedures as well as rules, allowable expenses, and suggestions for extra-curricular activities. [NWT-000006[000-000]]

1969 The "Breynt Hall Rules" as confirmed by the Student's Union are stated in summary as:

Students rise at 7:10 am on school days and senior students retire between 10:30 and 11:00pm and junior students between 8:30 and 9:00pm.

Punctuality is required for attendance at meals.

Chores are completed every weekday and senior students organize general clean-up on weekends.

Students are asked to take part in recreational and social activities they plan.

Students are not permitted to leave the grounds without advising a supervisor of their whereabouts and departure and return times.

As a general rule, after school daily activities include organized sports activities (4:00-5:30) and (8:30-10:30) p.m. Organized study programs: (6:30-8:30) p.m.

Town leave is mainly reserved for the weekends.

Students are encouraged but not coerced [sic], to attend Sunday Worship. No penalties or loss of privileges are entailed by non attendance. [BTU-000314[001-003]]

### **Hostel Visitors, Residents, and Staff**

1958 Room and board in the hostel was provided for five of the teachers from the day school. [BTU-000149[000-000]]

1959 A Government memorandum from states that the hostel at Fort Smith had eight dormitories and eight supervisors - an average of one staff supervisor per twenty-five children. [NWT-003473[000-000]]

1960 Room and board in the hostel was provided for five of the teachers from the day school. [BTU-000221[000-000]]

1960 The Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for July to December states that the hostel provided meals for day school students. The document also states that, aside from boarding employees, there were also non-employee visitors that paid to stay at the hostel. [BTU-000248[000-000]]

1960 The Audit Report for the period from July to December states that day school teachers residing in the hostel were charged \$33.00 per month and hostel staff members residing in the hostel were charged \$25.00 per month. It is also stated that the hostel hosted conferences for the Grey Nuns and a group of new teachers. [BTU-000265[000-000]]

- 1963 A memorandum from the Administrator of Breynat Hall states that students from other hostels and residential school stayed in Breynat Hall:

Very frequently in fall and spring, and sometimes during the school year, we furnish accommodation (room and board) to students from other Hostels en route to or from these residences in other localities. Up to now no record of this has been kept, [illegible] we were pleased to offer these accommodations as required. This was also the case last May, when some fifteen [illegible] from Hay River were in residence here.

Students attending a basketball tournament in Fort Smith were also accommodated at the residence. [NWTG-000855[000-000]]

- 1967 The Administrator of the Breynat Hall wrote a document detailing his opinions about the role and requirements of a hostel administrator and supervisors. He views the role of the administrator as that of a parent in ensuring that the child is provided the necessities of food, clothing, a home, and activities. The desired characteristics of a supervisor are summarized in the following:

The must devote themselves entirely to the children.

The supervisor must also love very deeply the children he is taking care of. He must not only be a friend ... it takes more than friendship to gain the full confidence of the children.

The supervisor must shine as an ideal of a man to the children, his honesty must be unquestionable. He must be an example to the children in his private life as well as in his social life.

The supervisor must be an optimistic person. The children uprooted from their traditional way of life and transplanted into the hostel are generally confused and a certain length of time will elapse before they adjust themselves to their new environment. He must set aside all prejudices that he may have about the Indian.

He must teach the children to be proud of the value of their own culture and teach them to adapt those values to the present situation.

The supervisor must be a well educated man, not so much perhaps as far as schooling goes, but he must be broadminded and open to the problems of others.

The ideal would be to find supervisors so dedicated to their work that they would be willing to stay on the job for a certain length of time, 4, 5, 6, years, if such people cannot be found, if supervisors change each year, no lasting results are to be expected. [BTU-000305[001-002]]

## ADMINISTRATORS

Note: We have no information on Administrators after 1969.

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Father Philippe	Hostel Administrator, Hostel Manager, Bursar	1957-1958
Father Philippe	Assistant Superintendent	1960
Rev. A. Breault	Assistant Superintendent	1960
Father J. Pochat	Assistant Superintendent	1960
Rev. L. Mokwa	Hostel Superintendent	1960, 1961
Father C. Gilles	Residence Superintendent	1963-1966
Father Labat	Residence Superintendent	1966-1967

Narrative Created: October 27, 2005



## Student Life

- 1965 Authority was granted by the government to provide spending money to older students enrolled in the residence whose parents cannot provide spending money for them. The allowance was limited to .60 or \$40.00 per year for each qualifying pupil over the age of 15. [BTU-000294[000-000]]
- 1965 The Hostel Administrator wrote a letter to the District Superintendent of Schools detailing the problems that hostel residents have experienced by having a very limited recreation and activity budget. The weekly allowance was only available for senior students and therefore all other younger students were not able to participate in community activities with fellow students that did not reside in the hostel. The Administrator notes the problem residents faced in not being able to socialize with their peers outside of the hostel. [BTU-000302[001-001]]
- 1967 The Administrator of Breynat Hall details the problems with cooperation between the school, hostel, and the community. He states that there is a lack of cooperation between the teachers at the day school and the supervisors at the hostel. It is stated that students are allowed to visit the homes of non-resident friends in the community and they are permitted to do jobs such as baby-sitting and house cleaning. However, he also comments on his "feeling" that in the "town of Fort Smith, very few are interested in our students as human beings, as persons, mainly because they are Indian." He recommends that 2 resident students and a Supervisor become involved at the "community club level" to achieve "more cooperation between the hostel and the town community." [BTU-000305[001-002]]
- 1968 The enrollment at Breynat Hall was restricted to no more than 172 residents. The decision was made as a result of a higher number of older students than younger students in residence thus causing crowding in the dormitory for older students. Enrollment was limited to provide more privacy for the older students. [BTU-000309[000-000]]
- 1969 Breynat Hall had an elected student council. [BTU-00314[000-003]]
- 1969 A list of expenses for extra curricular activities includes weekly movies, art supplies, travel expenses, playground equipment, indoor sports equipment, games, music, and instruments. [NWT-000078[001-001]]

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



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