

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.

St. Joseph's (Cariboo) IRS
School Narrative
10/08/2004

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

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

- **Williams Lake Industrial School [JP-0042]** 1891-1920
St. Joseph's Industrial School [13009]
- **Cariboo Industrial School [JP-0042]** 1920-1927
Cariboo Indian Industrial School [13099A]
- **Cariboo Residential School [13071]** 1923-1981
Cariboo Indian Residential School [28210]
- **St. Joseph's Mission School [19122]** 1929-1981
St. Joseph's Indian Residential School [25150] 1932, 1935
St. Joseph's Residential School [19149A] 1963, 1969
- **Cariboo Student Residence [28438A]** 1967-1981
Cariboo Indian Student Residence [14532]

* Being located at 150 Mile House, the school was also frequently referred to as the **Indian School at 150 Mile House [27359]**

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- July 19, 1891 Williams Lake Industrial School was opened [06600] [JP-0013] under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church [60001]
- 1954 Construction of new school building completed [25540]
- August 1961 Approval granted for transfer of grade 9 students from Cariboo Indian Residential School to the Public High School at Williams Lake [28210]
- September 1962 For the 1962-1963 school year, grade 10 students are enrolled at the Prince George Catholic High School and grade 9 students at Williams Lake Public High School [06207]

December 1964 Stone Indian Day School closes until September 1965. As a result, 23 children transferred to Cariboo IRS in January 1965 [13681]

February 1968 Joint School Submission covering the complete integration of all Indian pupils in School District No. 27 [60201] [60202]

June 30, 1981 Cariboo Student Residence closed [28438A]

1989 Sale of school property completed [14223]

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by the Church

From its inception in July 1891, until March 31, 1969, the school was administered by the Roman Catholic Church [JP-0013] [121642] [121653].

1962 Agreement for the Operation of Cariboo Indian Residential School, between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada represented by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and Indianescom (Oblate Indian and Eskimo Commission) [00371]

Dates managed by the Government

From April 1, 1969, until its closure in June 1981, it appears that the school was administered by the government.

Dates managed by Band

In 1976, it appears that the local band planned to take over the operation of the residence along with the District Office. [00368] The band appears to have participated in the review of candidates for the position of administrator following L.B. Wenezenki's departure in July 1976. [26284] We are unable to confirm what role the band played after 1976 in the administration of the student residence.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1891 Original buildings erected by the church [25363]

- 1891 Sisters of Charity appear to have owned and formerly occupied one of the buildings on the school property [JP-0004]
- 1891 Bishop Durieu proposes to hand over the buildings of St. Joseph's Mission, Williams Lake, for school purposes. He offers to sell the Department the buildings formerly occupied by the Sisters of Charity and approximately 12 acres of land [JP-0005]
- 1897 Fire caused approximately \$2000.00 damage and destroyed the trade shops [13012]
- 1898 Additions made to the girls department in order to increase accommodations for pupils [13023A]
- 1912 Pipeline constructed from the school to Yellow Lake [25363]
- 1923 Construction of new chimneys and a new foundation under the girls' quarters [13075]
- 1924 Fire burned pig pen with fifty pigs, half the grain crop, hides, and wool. Estimated loss approximately \$4000.00 [13089]
- 1924 Repairs and improvements to the domestic water supply dam [13115]
- 1925 Construction of a cow barn [13163]
- 1930 Construction of a new manual training shop [13445]
- 1937 Replacement of water pipe line [25370]
- 1945 Construction of an annex to be used as an infirmary and for isolation purposes [JP-0060]
- 1948 Suggestion to replace the school unit by unit over a period of years starting with the construction of a heating unit [27286]
- 1949 Bad fire hazard noted [JP-0133]
- 1949 Poor conditions of buildings noted [27357A] [27395]
- 1950 New furnaces installed as an interim measure to deal with heating deficiencies [06121]

1952 Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus threaten to leave the school due to the intolerable living conditions [JP-0201] [JP-0202]

1954 Construction of new school and heating and power plant completed [25540]

1954 Reconversion of dormitory into eight classrooms completed [25550]

1954 Destruction by fire of the old boys' dormitory [25489]

1955 Official opening of new school [JP-0762]

1956 Construction of 2 staff residences completed [25599]

1956 A swimming pool was constructed at the school [63235]

1958 Construction of staff house completed [18020]

1960 Mobile home allocated to the school [18011]

1960 Construction of new garage completed [14617]

1963 Possible addition to Engineer's residence [01735]

1964 Details of school buildings noted as follows: 8 classrooms separate from school totaling 12,760 square feet; residential school building totaling 49,826 square feet; heating plant totaling 2,115 square feet; trailer totaling 272 square feet; garage totaling 2,412 square feet; 3 staff residences totaling 3,472 square feet [01043]

1967 Problems with the domestic water system noted [17398]

1967 Fire in the Engineer's shack [19087]

1968 Renovations to the fire sprinkler system completed [64677]

1968 Erection of new RCAF gymnasium completed [25923]

1969 Four-unit staff residence completed [17303]

1975 Renovations to bathroom completed [14543A]

1975 Trailer fire [19082A]

1976 Fire in staff dwelling [19080A]

- 1982 Band Council Resolution requesting the transfer of the school land and buildings to the Williams Lake Indian Band [14194B]
- 1982 Following the closure of the school the buildings were used by the Cariboo Tribal Council as a Native Education and Training Centre [15523]
- 1987 Demolition of the four-plex teacherage and the three story student residence proposed [65114A]
- 1987 Tenders received for asbestos and PCB removal [65115]
- 1988 Proposal by the Williams Lake Indian Band to have school lands and buildings set aside as part of the reserve [22086]
- 1988 Cariboo Regional District supports the Williams Lake Indian Band's proposal to acquire the school land and buildings as a reserve [19102E]
- 1988 Proposal to designate school land and buildings as reserve not recommended [19098A] [63216]
- 1989 Sale of school completed [14223]
- There was a skating rink at the school at least as early at 1965. In 1976, there was some discussion regarding the viability of undertaking construction so that the skating rink could also be used as roller rink in the summer. We are unable to confirm whether this project took place. [14576C]

LAND

- 1891 Sisters of Charity appear to have owned 12 acres of land of the school site [JP-0004]
- 1891 Bishop Durieu proposes to hand over the buildings of St. Joseph's Mission, Williams Lake, for school purposes. He offers to sell the Department the buildings formerly occupied by the Sisters of Charity and approximately 12 acres of land [JP-0005]
- 1952 Oblates agree to convey the land on which the new residential school building is being constructed to the Department [06602]
- 1953 Authority granted to the Department to acquire 12.59 acres of land for \$629.50

from the Oblates [15153]

- 1954 Department purchases Lot 1, District 22, Cariboo District Plan 5968 from the Oblates [14691] [14691A]
- 1956 Department owns 11 acres of land controlled by the school and the Oblates own 5000 acres of surrounding land. Department owns Lot 1, District 22, Cariboo District Plan 5968 and the Oblates own the following Lots: 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 637, 20, 7048, 127, 126, 119, 118, 165, 175, 450, 574, 31, 43, 963 [25623]
- 1958 Department granted Final Water Licence No. 8194, authorizing the diversion of 25,000 gallons of water per day from the San Jose River for domestic purposes [25787]
- 1966 Discharge of sewage into the Williams Lake water supply by the school leads the department to secure a lease of Oblate land on which to provide a proper sewage disposal system [13591] [63037] [13794]
- 1979 Department secures title of land on which additional buildings and a swimming pool were constructed surrounding the school. In order to accomplish this, the Department exchanges land with the Oblates [15153] [19132]
- 1980 Oblates relinquish their right of first option on the school property [28439]
- 1981 Licence granted to the Union of BC Indian Chiefs for the use of the school land and buildings [28477]
- 1982 Band Council Resolution requesting that the school land and buildings be transferred to the Williams Lake Indian Band [14194B]
- 1982-1985 School used by the Cariboo Tribal Council for the Cariboo Indian and Education Training Centre [15523] [65065] [14808]
- 1988 Band Council Resolution requesting that the parcel of land on which the school is situated be set aside for the use and benefit of the Williams Lake Indian Band as part of Williams Lake Indian Band Reserve No. 1 [14203F]
- 1988 Road block initiated by the Williams Lake Indian Band in an effort to have school land added to Reserve No. 1 [14218] [14218A]
- 1988 Departmental advisor does not recommend that the Department declare an interest in the Cariboo Student Residence Lands with respect to the proposal of the

Williams Lake Indian Band to have the land added to Reserve No. 1 [19098A]

1989 School appears to have been sold [14223]

PHOTOS, PLANS, AND OTHER MEDIA

| | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| JP-0116A | 00/00/1894 | Plan of School Building - First Floor (circa dated) |
| JP-0116B | 00/00/1894 | Plan of School Building - Second Floor (circa dated) |
| JP-0117A | 02/11/1895 | Plan of School Building - Second Floor |
| JP-0117B | 02/11/1895 | Plan of School Building - First Floor |
| JP-0117C | 02/11/1895 | Drawing of School Building Exterior |
| JP-0117D | 00/00/1895 | Plan of School Building - First Floor (circa dated) |
| JP-0117E | 00/00/1895 | Plan of School Building - Second Floor (circa dated) |
| 15061B | 08/15/1932 | Map of Lillooet Water District |
| 06147 | 02/01/1949 | Map of Water Supply System |
| 14736 | 04/00/1950 | Architectural Plans for New School Building |
| 14737 | 07/00/1950 | Electrical Plans for School |
| JP-0203A | 00/00/1952 | Proposed Site of Dormitory Building (circa dated) |
| 14735 | 12/18/1953 | Architectural Plans for Conversion of Classroom Complex |
| 28518 | 03/00/1957 | Plan of Part of Basement |
| 14662 | 00/00/1958 | Plan of School Site |
| 14618C | 03/00/1959 | Site Plan - School Garage |
| 14618D | 03/00/1959 | Architectural Plan - School Garage |
| 14618E | 03/00/1959 | Architectural Plan - School Garage |
| 18018B | 00/00/1959 | Site Plan - School Buildings (circa dated) |
| 06757B | 05/00/1959 | Plan of Laundry Room (circa dated) |

| | | |
|--------------|------------|--|
| 63232E | 03/00/1960 | Plan of Proposed Renovations to Girls' Washroom |
| 28386A | 08/00/1963 | Plan for Addition to Engineer's Residence |
| 13612 | 00/00/1964 | Plans for Proposed Dishwasher Installation |
| 14609 | 00/00/1965 | Map of School Lands and Buildings |
| 62008A | 00/00/1965 | Photo of Indian Girls' Pipe Band (circa dated) |
| 60097A | 00/00/1965 | Set of 12 Photos of the School (circa dated) |
| 14611/14611A | 07/19/1965 | Plans for Proposed Sewage System |
| 18504 | 09/00/1965 | Plans for Proposed Sewage System |
| 14608/14608A | 10/00/1965 | Map View of School Property and Buildings |
| 15581 | 10/00/1965 | Site Plan of School |
| 18038 | 10/00/1965 | Site Plan of School |
| 64136A | 00/00/1966 | Plan of Gymnasium (circa dated) |
| 17317 | 07/00/1967 | Plan of Addition to Staff Residence |
| 06812A | 00/00/1968 | Plan View of Kitchen |
| 14721 | 03/00/1969 | Plan View of Staff Residences |
| 14723 | 03/00/1969 | Plan View of Staff Residences |
| 14725 | 03/00/1969 | Plan View of Staff Residences |
| 14726 | 03/00/1969 | Plan View of Staff Residences |
| 14727 | 03/00/1969 | Plan View of Staff Residences |
| 14724 | 05/00/1969 | Plan View of Staff Residences |
| 18502 | 11/00/1970 | Plan for Addition to Washrooms |
| 14738 | 02/00/1971 | Site Plan of School |
| 14738A | 02/00/1971 | Plan View of Gymnasium |
| 14738B | 02/00/1971 | Plan View of Classroom Complex and Heating Plant |

| | | |
|--------|------------|--|
| 14738C | 02/00/1971 | Plan View of Basement of School |
| 14738D | 02/00/1971 | Plan View of First Floor of School |
| 14738E | 02/00/1971 | Plan View of Second and Third Floors of School |
| 14738F | 02/00/1971 | School Schematics |
| 14553 | 00/00/1976 | Photograph of School Buildings |
| 14553E | 00/00/1976 | Plan View of School Buildings (circa dated) |
| 14571C | 00/00/1976 | Site Plan of School Buildings (circa dated) |
| 14571D | 00/00/1976 | Location Map |
| 15154E | 00/00/1976 | Site Plan Regarding Proposed Boundary Changes (circa dated) |
| 18030 | 10/00/1976 | Site Plan for Domestic Water System Improvements |
| 18030A | 10/00/1976 | Site Plan for Domestic Water System Improvements |
| 19079A | 00/00/1977 | Drawing of Interior of School (circa dated) |
| 18031 | 02/00/1977 | Site Plan for Domestic Water System Improvements |
| 15033 | 11/07/1977 | Explanatory Plan of Lot 1, D.L. 22, Cariboo District Plan 5968 |
| 15033A | 11/07/1977 | Plan of Subdivision of Lots |
| 15033B | 11/07/1977 | Plan of Easement through District Lots 22 and 23 |
| 15042C | 11/07/1977 | Plan of Subdivision of Lot 1 |
| 18506 | 04/00/1978 | Plan View of School Property |
| 15001A | 05/00/1978 | Plans for Domestic Water System Improvements |
| 15001B | 08/00/1978 | Plans for Domestic Water System Improvements |
| 26133C | 00/00/1979 | Location of School in Relation to Lagoon (circa dated) |
| 15033C | 10/17/1979 | Explanatory Plan of District Lot 22 |
| 14817C | 00/00/1981 | Various Photos of School and Students (circa dated) |
| 14823C | 00/00/1985 | Explanatory Plan of Lot 1, D.L. 22, Cariboo District Plan 5968 |

(circa dated)

14823D 00/00/1985 Plan of Subdivision of Part of Lot 22 (circa dated)

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

| | | | |
|------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1892 | 20 children in residence | 1961 | 303 children in residence |
| 1893 | 30 children in residence | 1963 | 296 children in residence |
| 1915 | 60 children in residence | 1965 | 308 children in residence |
| 1927 | 80 children in residence | 1967 | 287 children in residence |
| 1935 | 120 children in residence | 1968 | 256 children in residence |
| 1947 | 110 children in residence | 1970 | 271 children in residence |
| 1952 | 170 children in residence | 1974 | 261 children in residence |
| 1953 | 220 children in residence | 1976 | 185 children in residence |
| 1954 | 282 children in residence | 1978 | 117 children in residence |
| 1956 | 273 children in residence | 1980 | 56 children in residence |
| 1959 | 280 children in residence | | |

These figures are based on the average number of children in residence for each respective year.

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students from, at least, the following bands attended Cariboo Indian Residential School:

Alexandria, Alexis Creek, Alkali Lake, Anaham, Anderson Lake, Ashcroft, Bonaparte, Bridge River, Canim Lake, Canoe Creek, Clinton, Coldwater, Cowichan, Dog Creek, Euchinico, Fountain, High Bar, Kamloops, Kluskus Lake (Kluxkux Lake), Kuklinko, Lake Babine, Lillooet, Little Shuswap, Moricetown, Mount Currie, Natzoo, Nazko, Nemiah Valley, North Thompson, Pavillion, Pemberton, Quesnel, Redstone, Riske Creek, Seton Lake, Skwah, Soda Creek, Squamish, Stone (Stoney), Taodistan, Toosey, Ulkatcho (Ulgatcho), Williams Lake

There may be alternate ways of spelling these band names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Oblates of Mary Immaculate [06624]
Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus [JP-0201] [JP-0202]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

1962 Agreement for the Operation of Cariboo Indian Residential School, between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada represented by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and Indianescom (Oblate Indian and Eskimo Commission) -

September 25, 1962 [00371]

1981 Chaplaincy Contract - March 31, 1981 [62011A]

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

We are aware of the following charges and convictions for abuse at Cariboo IRS:

Brother Glen Doughty was convicted on June 28, 1991, for abuse perpetrated at Cariboo IRS and was sentenced to 12 months in prison. He was also convicted in April 1995, and in October 2002, for abuse perpetrated at Kuper Island IRS. [RCMP News Release, April 23, 2003]

Father Harold McIntee was convicted in May 1989 for abuse perpetrated at Cariboo IRS. He was sentenced to 3 years in prison and 3 years probation. [RCMP News Release, April 23, 2003]

Bishop Hubert O'Conner was charged in 1992 for abuse perpetrated at Cariboo IRS. After two appeals to the Supreme Court, the charges were eventually stayed. [RCMP News Release, April 23, 2003]

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 (Physical)

In February 1902, three children ran away from the school resulting in the death of one child from exposure and exhaustion. An inquiry into the death revealed allegations of physical abuse and poor conditions at the school, including students receiving excessive punishment and being forced to eat rotten food. It is alleged that the three children, including the deceased child, ran away from the school as a result of these conditions. [47074 - 47104]

In 1920, a complaint was received from the parent of a student at the school regarding a staff member who "was much too free with his cane." This parent also alleges, in reference to a case where nine children ingested hemlock, resulting in the death of one child and the illness of the remaining eight, that the children "were in a very depressed frame of mind" and ingested the poisonous weed deliberately. [47108 - 47116]

In April 1946, a police report detailed the allegations of a student regarding physical abuse by a religious resident at the school. The student alleged that the individual "walked up to him, threw him down, his stomach striking [sic] a stick of wood, struck him with his hand, then when the [student] tried to get up, the [individual] kicked him." This individual was removed from the

school as a result of this incident. [44047 - 44053]

Incidents (Student on Student)

In 1938, a Reverend Father writes to the Provincial regarding certain Fathers in the Province. In the course of his letter, he refers to boys admitting to practicing sodomy. It is difficult to determine whether the children he is referring to are students at Cariboo IRS. He also mentions general misconduct of the Oblates, however the misconduct is not necessarily of a physical or sexual nature. [45000]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In 1899, a complaint by a Williams Lake resident which accused the Oblates of poor management of the school, led to an unannounced inspection of the school by the Indian Agent and School Superintendent. This inspection concluded that the charges were unfounded. [JP-0027] [JP-0028]

In 1911, a boy charged with the attempted rape of a six year old girl was placed in the residential school [JP-0039]

In 1955, some “unfortunate publicity” was issued by the British United Press concerning the school. This publicity surrounds the unsupervised discharge of a student from the school [01292] [JP-0527]

In 1958, a Girls’ Pipe Band was started at the school. The band toured throughout Canada [22075B]

In 1969, a complaint was made regarding the “mal-administration” of the school by the Superintendent [20810] [20810A] [21937] [21805]

Overcrowded conditions were noted throughout the operation of the school [JP-0051] [JP-0056] [JP-0062] [27583] [JP-0645] [15113]

Farming Operations

The Oblates owned and operated the farm apart from the school [63060]

Children were working on the farm as part of vocational training at least as early as 1931 [13531]

Health Matters

In 1927, flu and meningitis outbreaks caused the death of two pupils [13190]

In 1928, an analysis of the drinking water at the school determined that it was not safe for domestic use [28761] [62003] [62003A]

In 1943, there was an outbreak of mumps that affected at least 84 students [20855]

In 1945, it appears that an annex was constructed to be used as an infirmary and for isolation purposes [JP-0060] The new school building also contained an infirmary [JP-0205]

In 1947, the hair of three students was found to be infested with nits [21223]

In 1956, there was an outbreak of measles at the school [25662]

In 1960, there were epidemics of influenza, measles, and chicken pox [60320]

In 1969, there was an infestation of bedbugs in the school dormitory [64706A]

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Rev. Fr. J.M.J. Lejacq, O.M.I. | Principal | at least August 1892 to at least December 1898 |
| Rev. Fr. Henry Boening, O.M.I. | Principal | at least March 1902 to at least February 1911 |
| Father Chenelle | Principal | at least August 1922 |
| Rev. Fr. E. Maillard, O.M.I. | Principal | at least July 1923 to at least June 1925 |
| Rev. Fr. V. Rohr, O.M.I. | Principal | at least December 1926 to at least February 1931 |
| Rev. Fr. J.M. Patterson, O.M.I. | Acting Principal | July to September 1929 |
| Rev. Fr. G. Forbes, O.M.I. | Principal | July 1931 to June 1938 |
| Rev. Fr. M. Murphy, O.M.I. | Principal | March 1939 to July 1942 |
| Rev. Fr. J.M. McGrath, O.M.I. | Principal | October 1942 to July 1946 |
| Rev. Fr. J.A. Morris, O.M.I. | Principal | July 1946 to July 1952 |
| Rev. Fr. Fergus O'Grady, O.M.I. | Principal | July 1952 to July 1953 |
| Rev. Fr. Dennis J. Shea, O.M.I. | Principal | July 1953 to January 1956 |
| Rev. Fr. J.A. Morris, O.M.I. | Principal | January 1956 to January 1961 |
| Rev. Fr. Hubert O'Connor, O.M.I. | Principal | January 1961 to August 1967 |
| Rev. Fr. John W. Hennessy, O.M.I. | Principal | September 1967 to September 1968 |
| Rev. Fr. T.J. Lobsinger, O.M.I. | Administrator | September 1968 to July 1975 |

L.B. Wenezenki
J.H.G. Smith

Administrator
Administrator

August 1975 to July 1976
August 1976 to June 1981

* Please note that Mary A. O'Donovan's signature appears in the "Signature of Principal" section of various Principal's Monthly Reports dating from April 1976 to January 1978. However, J.H.G. Smith appears as Administrator of the school on documents dated during the same period.

Narrative Completed: 10/08/2004
Narrative Updated: 09/20/2005

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