

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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**Churchill Vocational Centre  
IAP School Narrative**

**NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)**

Churchill Vocational Centre

**OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)**

1964 to 1973	(Fort) Churchill School [CVC-001468; CVC-000467-0000]
1964 to 1965	(Fort) Churchill Federal School [CVC-000331; CVC-001906]
1964 to 1968	(Fort) Churchill Hostel [CVC-000467-0000; CVC-000411; CVC-001427-0000]
1965 to 1970	(Fort) Churchill Pupil Residence [CVC-003213-0001; CVC-000443; CVC-001732-0001]
1965 to 1973	Churchill Vocational Centre [CVC-000951-0001; CVC-000299-0000; CVC-000205-0001]
1966 to 1973	Churchill Vocational School (Vocational School at Churchill) [CVC-001865-0000; CVC-000615-0000]
1970	(Churchill) Student Residence [CVC-000879]
1971	Eskimo Residential School [CVC-000832]

**LOCATION**

Fort Churchill, which was approximately five miles from the Town of Churchill, Manitoba [CVC-001896-0000, pg. 1, 4; CVC-000401, pg. 17]

**PROVINCE/TERRITORY**

Manitoba

**OPERATING DATES AS AN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**

These dates represent the time during which the Government of Canada was responsible for the operation of the Indian Residential School, excluding any periods of closure.

September 9, 1964 to June 30, 1973

**OPERATING DATES CONTEXT**

The Churchill Vocational Centre opened on September 9, 1964, in former military barracks [CVC-000332; CVC-001217-0000, pg. 2, 4.]. The federal government owned and operated this educational complex, which provided residential accommodations and technical and vocational training, primarily for Inuit pupils who had not had the opportunity to get the basic academic training needed to proceed to secondary education [CVC-001529; CVC-000479-0000, pg. 1-4; CVC-000479-0001; CVC-000479-0002; CVC-000479-0003; CVC-000479-0004; CVC-000479-0005, pg. 1-4; CVC-000476-0001; CVC-000476-0003; CVC-000476-0004; CVC-000467-0000]. A smaller group of “academic pupils” lived in the residence and attended classes in the town of

Churchill [CVC-001649]. The Churchill Vocational Centre closed on June 30, 1973, [CVC-000615-0000; CVC-000006-0000].

## RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

The Churchill Vocational Centre was designated as a non-denominational institution. However, the federal government requested the assistance of Roman Catholic and Anglican authorities in an informal advisory capacity for the recruitment of pupils and the nomination of candidates for supervisory positions in the residence [CVC-000479-0000, pg. 1-4; CVC-000479-0001; CVC-000479-0002; CVC-000479-0003; CVC-000479-0004; CVC-000479-0005, pg. 1-4; CVC-000476-0001; CVC-000476-0003; CVC-000476-0004; CVC-000467-0000].

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
September 9, 1964	The Churchill Vocational Centre opened in former military barracks, and it was owned by the federal government throughout its operation.	CVC-000332 CVC-001217-0000, pg. 2, 4 CVC-001529
1966	Students in the academic program were obligated to remain at the IRS each year until the end of June, whereas vocational students were often returned to their settlements prior to ice break-up each spring.  The federal government decided to begin the 1966/67 school year at the Churchill Vocational Centre in late August and to operate during the Easter break. As a result, the school year ended earlier in June to allow pupils to return home before the ice break-up.	CVC-001896-0000, pg. 7 CVC-001883 CVC-001871
1968	An agreement was made between the federal government and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (C.N.I.B.) to provide food services for students and staff at the Churchill Vocational Centre.	CVC-001427-0003
March 13, 1970	The Principal of the Churchill Vocational Centre decided that students would not be allowed to return to their home settlements for Easter, due to difficulties encountered when some students returned to their homes for the previous Christmas	CVC-001628
May 1970	Officers of the Northwest Territories and Quebec governments were allowed access to the Churchill Vocational Center, including the student residence, provided advance notice was given. These provincial and territorial officers assumed an advisory role.	CVC-000501
November 18, 1971	The Churchill Vocational Centre admitted to the residence Indian students receiving classroom instruction at Duke of Edinburgh School.	CVC-000821-0000 CVC-000821-0001
1971	There was a reduction in the number of students from the Northwest Territories and Arctic Quebec. The primary group of students remaining at the Churchill Vocational Centre was students returning to complete their second and third year of the vocational program.	CVC-000299-0000 CVC-000861
June 30, 1973	The Churchill Vocational Centre closed.	CVC-000615-0000 CVC-000006-0000

## EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

### Grades taught at the Indian residential school

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1964/65 to 1969/70	Vocational training and academic training.	CVC-003217-0001 CVC-003251 CVC-003219 CVC-003223 CVC-003224 CVC-003229 CVC-003233 CVC-003235

Students enrolled at the Churchill Vocational Centre for vocational training must have completed grade 5 or have been at least 15 years old [CVC-003020]. Ages for pupils receiving training ranged from mid to late teens, with an average age between sixteen and seventeen years old [CVC-001647-0001; CVC-000879]. The pupils residing at the Churchill Vocation Center were as young as ten years old. Younger Inuit students living at the residence attended the academic programs at Duke of Edinburgh or Hearne Hall schools [CVC-001649].

### Other Schools Attended by Residents

School Years	Name of School	Location	Administration	Grades	Document
1964/65	Duke Of Edinburgh School	Fort Churchill, MB	Federal government	4 to 9	CVC-001217-0000, pg. 3 CVC-001217-0002 CVC-001217-0004
1965/66 to 1972/73	Duke Of Edinburgh Senior High School Manitoba School District No. 2137	Fort Churchill, MB	Federal government; sometime after 1969, the facility was turned over to the operation of the Province of Manitoba	K to 6 to dependants of federal employees and Eskimos in Akudluk; 10 to 12 to all residents of the area	CVC-001732-0001 CVC-000401, pg. 18 CVC-001526 CVC-001693
1969/70 to 1972/73	Hearne Hall Junior High School	Churchill, MB	Operated by the Town of Churchill School Board under financial agreement with the federal government to provide instruction for dependents of federal employees and Eskimo children from Akudluk	7 to 9	CVC-001732-0001 CVC-000879 CVC-000615-0000

### GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1964/65	154	No information found	CVC-003215-0001, pg. 1, 10, 11
1965/66	251	No information found	CVC-003251, pg. 1, 19, 20
1966/67	237	No information found	CVC-003220-0001, pg. 1, 16, 17
1967/68	226	No information found	CVC-003225-0001, pg. 1, 14, 15
1968/69	230	No information found	CVC-003230, pg. 1, 14, 15

1969/70	234	No information found	CVC-003252, pg. 1, 17, 18
1970/71	290	No information found	CVC-000879
1971/72	142	No information found	CVC-000002-0000, pg. 170, 182-208
1972/73	75	No information found	CVC-000002-0000, pg. 259, 266-285

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1964 to 1972	<p>Activities for the Churchill Vocational Centre residents included bowling, skating, hockey, broomball, basketball, archery; Boy Scouts and Army Cadets, amateur radio clubs, chess groups, gymnastic groups, square-dancing groups, Young Peoples' church activities, and choir units.</p> <p>Courses for boys included: mechanics, carpentry, metal work (electrical and plumbing).</p> <p>Courses for girls included: home-making, home economics, hairdressing, typing and shorthand, nurses' aides, clerical work, food services.</p>	CVC-001896-0000, pg. 3, 8, 9
September 1964	Though the Churchill Vocational Centre was opened on September 9, 1964, the shop and home economics programs that formed the basis of the pre-vocational training were not yet fully operating and the teaching staff required additional training.	CVC-001217-0000, pg. 3-4
1966 to 1967	<p>Boys' program included: drafting, carpentry, metal work, maintenance and repair of motors.</p> <p>Girls' program included: typing, office practice, food preparation, child care, dress-making, beauty culture, home management.</p>	CVC-000401, pg. 17
1966 to 1969	<p>The following sports were played at the IRS: volleyball, basketball, hockey, curling, bowling, muscle building, ice skating, floor hockey, gymnastic.</p> <p>Courses at the IRS included: home economics, commercial class, carpentry, house building, sheet metal shop, machine shop, waitress training, typing, drafting, mechanics; Cadets, Christmas Choir, carving.</p>	CVC-000001, pg. 31-37, 65, 73, 74, 78, 157-167, 183, 324, 332, 345, 348, 349, 350, 352-359, 360, 364
1969 to 1973	<p>Boys' shops included: sheet metal, welding, mechanics, drafting, building construction, carpentry.</p> <p>Girls' shops included: personal and family development, cooking, typing, home management, clothing; Army Cadets, Radio Club, Guitar Club, Ballet Troup.</p> <p>The following sports were played at the IRS: volleyball, hockey, basketball, curling, softball, table tennis, athletics, gymnastics, badminton, soccer, shooting, wrestling;</p> <p>Inuit language courses were offered for the first time in the 1970/71 school year.</p>	CVC-000002-0000, pg. 57-59, 76, 82-86, 90, 150, 156, 158-169, 223, 231-234, 247-258, 290, 293, 314-320

Date	Event	Document Reference
Undated	The Churchill Vocational Centre had four wings in a single complex, each wing having a ground floor and first floor. The dormitories had two floors with each floor housing thirty-two pupils, divided into eight rooms of four. Supervisors slept in a room on each of the floors. The Churchill Vocational Centre also had a recreational hall, as well as two gymnasiums (equipped with bowling lanes) and a covered skating rink.	CVC-001896-0000, pg. 1-10
1964	The Churchill Vocational Centre buildings had previously been part of a military base that was jointly owned and operated by the Canadian and American governments. The facilities consisted of a military barracks block which was converted into classrooms, residences, workshops and other facilities for students and staff. The boys' shops were located in a remodeled hangar, while the laboratories for the girls' programs were situated in the classroom wing. The physical layout of the complex extended one quarter of a mile from one end to the other.	CVC-001468 CVC-001467-0000 CVC-001467-0001 CVC-001217-0000, pg. 1-8 CVC-001443 CVC-000401, pg. 17

### PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
Undated	Diagrams and floor plans of the dormitory, dining, recreation building and classroom building	CVC-000043
Undated	Diagram of dormitory wing and room layout	CVC-001896-0000, pg. 2
September 28, 1964	Plan showing use of Fort Churchill buildings by Northern Affairs and Natural Resources including Duke of Edinburgh School, Pre Vocational I.A. [Industrial Arts] Shop, and male and female residences	CVC-001217-0010
November 3, 1966	Diagram of a dormitory	CVC-002340-0002
November 30, 1966	Second floor plan of the residence	CVC-002343-0002
November 1968	Diagram of the Churchill Vocational Centre facilities illustrating recreational facilities, Boy's and Girl's hostel wing, and general relationship to other nearby buildings such as the Boy's Shop Building, Duke of Edinburgh School, Hudson's Bay Store, Churches, hospital, and to rink and gymnasium	CVC-003021-0001 CVC-001896-0001
November 1968	Diagram of a typical dormitory block and study bedroom plan	CVC-003021-0002
1968/1969	Photographs of the Churchill Vocational Centre and Boy's Shop Building	CVC-000001, pg. 276-277

### DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the Churchill Vocational Centre or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

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)

April 1965 In a letter to the federal government, the Bishop of the Arctic noted that there was a problem regarding a male "Supervisor who has become too familiar with the students" [CVC-000411]. No further details on this matter were found.

### Incidents (Physical)

May 1973 A student allegedly assaulted a staff member who had been called in to assist when the student was found "drunk and disorderly" in the Garrison Theatre. Upon being asked to return to the dorm, the student responded by becoming verbally and physically abusive towards staff resulting in the RCMP being called in to remove him from the building. The incident report lists other episodes in which this same student had been drunk or abusive [CVC-000205-0000; CVC-000205-0001; CVC-000205-0002; CVC-000205-0003].

### Incidents (Student on Student)

December 1966 A media report in 1966 claimed that the federal program at the Churchill Vocational Centre was jeopardized by "drinking and immorality among students" despite denials by federal officials. The allegations centered on drinking, sexual misconduct and fighting between Inuit and Indian students, although there were no Indian students residing there at the time [CVC-000363-0001]. These allegations were refuted in an article in the Taiga Times newsletter [CVC-001835].

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Undated Students participated in a "sick parade" when the Matron and a registered nurse would evaluate the students and identify any potential health problems [CVC-001896-0000, pg. 4].

August 1965 Two teachers had an altercation during a school session and tendered their resignations after an investigation into the incident was completed by the federal District Superintendent [CVC-000454; CVC-000452].

November 1965 The protocol for monitoring the health of the pupils was outlined as a complete physical examination conducted by the Hostel Residence Matron, assisted by a male nurse, upon the arrival of children at the Churchill Vocation Centre. Although gynecological exams were not conducted, the Matron was vigilant about watching for symptoms of venereal disease or pregnancy [CVC-000951-0001].

March 1966 The IRS was closed on March 15 by the Public Health Officer due to an epidemic of influenza. The quarantine was to be in effect until at least March 20 [CVC-001887]. No information as found concerning alternative accommodations for pupils.

July 1966 The Anglican Bishop of the Arctic expressed concern that Inuit residents of the Churchill Dormitory were exposed to "wild parties" held in the single persons' quarters at the residence. The federal government responded that pupils were well-supervised and no such problem had been encountered [CVC-001058].

November 7, 1967 There were allegations that children left the IRS every night to go to the town of Churchill [CVC-000367, pg. 2].

April 1970                      Students were occasionally sent from Churchill to Winnipeg by "Public Health", for medical reasons such as ear surgery. The Principal asserted that parents and administrators should be advised immediately when such a situation arose and criticized how the students were handled by Public Health [CVC-002003].

### **PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

At the Churchill Vocational Centre, the Vice Principal and the Residence Administrator managed day to day operations under the direction of the Principal [CVC-000501].

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Tenure Dates</b>
John Kitchener Clapperton	Principal	September 1964
Walter Archie Boyko	Acting Principal	June to October 1965
Ivan Mouat	Acting Principal	October 1965
Norman B. Chapple	Residence Administrator	October 1965
Reg L. Graves	Principal	1966 to 1968
Reg A. Page	Residence Administrator	1966 to 1967
Hugh C. Stevenson	Residence Administrator	1967 to 1968
C. (Graham) Rees	Principal	1968 to 1969
E. Ted Hayes	Residence Administrator	1970 to 1971
Fred Dunford,	Principal	1969 to 1972
Derek Mills	Residence Administrator	1969 to 1970
David Nisbet	Residence Administrator	1970 to 1972
John Alexander Provins	Principal	1972 to 1973
David Wilson	Residence Coordinator	1972 to 1973

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



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Truth and Reconciliation  

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