

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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**Coqualeetza IRS
School Narrative**
[November 9, 2004]

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

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

- **Coqualeetza Boarding School [00323] 1889 - 1924**
Coqualeetza Institute [00328]
Coqualeetza Home [00329]
Coqualeetza Industrial Institute [00330]
Indian Industrial Institute, Chilliwack [00331]
Chilliwack Home [00332]
Coqualeetza Institute [00335A]
Coqualeetza Industrial School [00376]
Coqualeetza Indian Institute [00897A]
Coqualeetza Training Institute [00957]
- **Coqualeetza Residential School [00957] 1924 - 1939**
Coqualeetza Indian Residential School [00004]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- 1886 First Day School organized at the Mission House at Coqualeetza. [00957, 00897A]
- 1887 First pupils taken into residence at Mission House at Coqualeetza. [00973, 00984, 00957, 00897A]
- 1889 School building constructed. [00984]
- 1891 Fire destroyed the school building. [00973,00961]
- 1894 April 26, Coqualeetza Industrial Institute opened. [00984, 00972 00280]
- 1924 The new Coqualeetza IRS was formally opened in October. [00973,00972, 00916]
- 1939 February, first mention of Coqualeetza IRS being transformed into a sanatorium. [00572, 00589B]
 June, a resolution was adopted by the Executive of the Board of Home Missions of the United Church of Canada approving the handing over of the Coqualeetza IRS to be used as a Government Tuberculosis sanatorium. [00607A, 00629A]
- 1940 A press release was issued describing the transition into a sanatarium. [00629A]
 August, The furnishings from Coqualeetza IRS were transferred to Alberni IRS [00944]

September, all pupils from Coqualeetza IRS were transferred to other institutions including St. Michael's IRS [00922] and Alberni IRS [00923, 00938, 00939]

October, an auction was held that sold the effects and stock of the Coqualeetza IRS which were not taken to Alberni IRS. [00659A]

- 1941 September, the Coqualeetza Indian Hospital opened. [00983, 00897A]
- 1950 An alumni of ex-students and teachers was created. [5294]
- 1953 The alumni group re-organized to form the Coqualeetza Fellowship. This incorporated society welcomed anyone "...interested in the welfare of the Natives and their culture." [5294]
- 1969 The Coqualeetza Hospital closed. [00988]
- 1970 Early 1970s. The Stolo Nation took control of the land and buildings and used them as their headquarters, [00982]

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

From its inception in at least 1886, until the school's closure in 1940, the Methodist Church and then the United Church managed the Coqualeetza Indian Residential School. [00241, 00255, 00328, 00961, 00916, 00607A, 5138]

Specifically, the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church and the Board of Home Missions of the United Church were involved. [00241, 00916, 00607A, 5138, 00543]

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- 1889 School building constructed. [00984]
- 1891 Fire destroyed the school building. [00973]
- 1894 April 26, Coqualeetza Industrial Institute opened. Three stories and basement, 110 feet long by 62 feet in width. [00984, 00281]
- 1906 A Principal's residence was constructed in this year. [00361]
- 1906 December, a fire destroyed a portion of a wing of the main building. [00371A, 00366]
- 1908 In this year the buildings consisted of: main building, principal's residence, farm instructor's residence, 3 large barns, a granary, a wagon and implement shed, a bake-house, a hen-house and a root-cellar. [00846]

- 1910 In this year, a new two building piggery was constructed as were two tent dormitories. [00375]
- 1914 A new dormitory was added to the school in this year. [00390]
- 1915 A frame building was constructed for lectures and to be used as a recreation hall. [00852]
- 1920 It was decided to replace the old buildings with a new school. [00957]
- 1922 New Assembly Hall and boiler room completed. [00957, 00963]
- 1923 A new barn was constructed. [00965]
- 1924 New building was formally opened in October. [00966, 00973, 00472, 00967]
This new construction consisted of a residence for 200 students with class room and assembly halls, a principal's residence, one school officer's cottage and a new farm. [00957]
In July the old Coqualeetza school buildings were demolished. [00957]
- 1935 In this year a complaint was made by an Indian Agent regarding the condition of the dormitories at the school. [00023]
A Preventorium was constructed at the school for "...children who are most liable to contract Tuberculosis..." [00189, 00983]
- 1940 In order to remodel the school to become a sanatorium, a survey of the existing premises was undertaken. [01091A]
- 1944 The Government purchased from the United Church of Canada the remaining land and buildings. [00901C, 00901D]
- 1969 The Coqualeetza Hospital closed. [00988]
- 1970 Early 1970s. The Stolo Nation took control of the land and buildings and used them as their headquarters, [00982]

LAND

- 1897 The land on which the school was situated consisted of 20 acres, 16 of which were under cultivation or used for pasture land. [00330, 00840]
- 1899 In this year it was noted that the Methodist Church owned 87 acres of land in the vicinity of the school. [00894]
- 1900 The land was enlarged in this year to consist of 90 acres, it was noted that the land was the property of the Methodist Church. [00842, 00843]
- 1910 3 small pieces of the school land were sold, one section to a Creamery Company and two sections to the B.C.E.R. Company. [00375]

- 1921 The Methodist Church conveyed to the Government approximately 8.178 acres of property which included the school, residence and work shop. [00894, 01913]
- 1940 It was noted in this year that a portion of the land the school was located on was owned by the Government and part by the Methodist Church. The recommendation was made that the Government purchase the entirety of the land for the sanatorium. [01913] Further correspondence indicates that the school, residence and work shop were on government property while all remaining property (which included the old barn, preventorium, farmer's and boat-builder's cottages and pig barns) was owned by the Church. [00893, 01910]
- 1944 The Government purchased from the United Church of Canada the remaining land and buildings. [00901C, 00901D]
- 1970 Early 1970s. The Stolo Nation took control of the land and buildings and used them as their headquarters, [00982]

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

00/00/0000	00224	Newspaper article
00/00/0000	00476	Pamphlet
00/00/0000	00529	Newspaper article
00/00/0000	00968	Newspaper article
00/00/0000	00968A	Newspaper article
00/00/0000	00972	Newspaper article
00/00/0000	00973	Newspaper article
00/00/0000	00984	Book
00/00/0000	00997	Photographs
00/00/0000	01005	Photographs
00/00/0000	01044	Graphic
00/00/0000	01159	Plan
c. 1891	00961	Newspaper article
December 1892	00266	Newspaper article
1894	00897C	Newspaper article
May 2, 1894	00280	Newspaper article
July 1896	00314	Newspaper article
1904	00843	Extract from Annual Report

June 25, 1915	00404	Program
June 28, 1918	00420	Program
June 28, 1918	00421	Programme
September 16, 1919	00428	Newspaper article
June 1920	00435	Program
June 22, 1922	00963	Newspaper article
June 30, 1922	00958	Program
September 19, 1922	00964	Newspaper article
December 14, 1922	00965	Newspaper article
March 29, 1923	00966	Newspaper article
July 1923	01089B	Plan
July 1923	01089C	Plan
July 1923	01089D	Plan
July 1923	01089E	Plan
July 1923	01089F	Plan
July 1923	01089G	Plan
July 1923	01089H	Plan
July 1923	01089I	Plan
July 1923	01089J	Plan
July 1923	01089K	Plan
July 1923	01089L	Plan
July 1923	01089M	Plan
July 1923	01089N	Plan
July 1923	01089P	Plan
July 1923	01089R	Plan
July 1923	01089T	Plan
July 1923	01089V	Plan
July 1923	01089X	Plan
July 1923	01089Z	Plan
July 1923	01089ZB	Plan

July 1923	01089ZD	Plan
July 1923	01089ZF	Plan
July 1923	01089ZH	Plan
July 1923	01089ZJ	Plan
June 23, 1924	00959	Newspaper article
October 21, 1924	00957	Program
October 21, 1924	00474	Menu
October 21, 1924	00472	Newspaper article
October 22, 1924	00967	Newspaper article
December 31, 1924	00490	Newspaper article
March 18, 1925	00970	Newspaper article
June 1925	00491	Program
June 1927	00505	Program
February 27, 1928	00506	Newspaper article
June 12, 1930	00956	Program
June 20, 1931	00537	Program
June 1935	00551	Booklet
May 13, 1936	00187	Newspaper article
October 19, 1938	00971	Newspaper article
December 14, 1938	00569A	Newspaper article
November 15, 1940	01163A	Plan
April 1942	01158A	Plan
1956	00983	Book
August 28, 1968	00975	Newspaper article
January 14, 1976	00988	Newspaper article
April 7, 1976	00989	Newspaper article
May 1, 1991	00979	Newspaper article
June 5, 1991	00981	Newspaper article
June 13, 1999	00982	Newspaper article

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

1890	28 students enrolled	1916	117 students enrolled
1894	63 students enrolled	1919	144 students enrolled
1895	86 students enrolled	1921	137 students enrolled
1896	97 students enrolled	1922	151 students enrolled
1898	119 students enrolled	1924	180 students enrolled
1899	123 students enrolled	1925	211 students enrolled
1900	110 students enrolled	1926	215 students enrolled
1903	104 students enrolled	1929	271 students enrolled
1905	107 students enrolled	1930	237 students enrolled
1907	83 students enrolled	1933	237 students enrolled
1908	93 students enrolled	1934	264 students enrolled
1909	110 students enrolled	1935	169 students enrolled
1911	99 students enrolled	1938	232 students enrolled
1913	94 students enrolled	1939	260 students enrolled
1915	117 students enrolled		

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students from at least the following reserves attended Coqualeetza IRS:

Aiyansh, Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Campbell River, Capilano, Chemainus, Clo'oose, Cowichan, Gitlakdamix, Haida, Hartley Bay, Hazelton, Kemano, Kilgard, Kincolith, Kitalope, Kitamaat, Kitkatla, Klemtu, Koksilah, Lakalsap, Lytton, Malahat, , Massett, Musqueam, Nanaimo, Nanoose, Nitinaht, Port Essington, Port Renfrew, Port Simpson, Quamichan, Saanichton, Salishan, Salmon River, Skulkayn, Somenos, Soowahlia, Sumas, Teheaston.

There may be alternate ways of spelling these reserve names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Methodist Church, Women's Missionary Society

United Church, Board of Home Missions

[00241, 00255, 00328, 00916, 00607A 00961, 00534, 00596, 00897A, 5138, 00543]

In, or around, 1925/26 the Methodist Church joined with the United Church of Canada.

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

To date, we have not located any written agreements regarding Coqualeetza IRS.

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO ABUSE

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Coqualeetza IRS 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.

Sexual Abuse

To date, no references to sexual abuse at the school have been located.

Physical Abuse

In 1900, there was a complaint made about the treatment of the students by the teachers, there were allegations of physical abuse and of being locked in a room. [00344, 00345, 00346, 00347, 00348, 00348A, 00349]

In June and July of 1940, there was an investigation conducted into allegations of physical abuse at the school. The allegations were first made by a male staff member to the government, alleging that another male staff member attempted to strike a male pupil on the face and then administered a "...severe thrashing...with a piece of harness trace..." on a bare bottom. He further stated that this was "...the common form of punishment...towards the boys." The investigation carried out by the government collected statements from 5 staff members and concluded that "...there has been no ill-treatment whatever of the boys as alleged.." It was recommended to the Principal that the use of corporal punishment be limited, his permission first be obtained and, when it is deemed necessary, a regulation school strap made of rubber be used. [41349, 41350, 41351, 41351A, 41351B, 41351C, 41351D, 41351E, 41351F, 41358, 41359]

Student by Student Abuse

To date, no references to student on student abuse at the school have been located.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In 1915, some parents of children at the school wrote to the Government complaining that their children returned from the school in the same clothes they left in, their shoes were worn out and that the food they were provided with at the school was insufficient. [00392] In response the Government inspected the school and found "On the whole...the Indian parents have no just cause for complaint." [00406, 00410]

Infirmery at the school

It appears that there was an infirmery in operation at Coqualeetza Residential School... [00005A] In 1935/1936, a Preventorium was constructed at the school for "...children who are most liable to contract Tuberculosis..." [00189, 00562, 01910, 00916, 00983]

Newsletters

Between at least 1935 and 1940 the Principal of the school wrote numerous newsletters addressed to "Parents, Graduates and Friends" providing updates on school life and events. [00549, 00550, 00552, 00557, 00560, 00561, 00563, 00568, 00571, 00617, 00624]

Farm at the school

It appears that a farm was in operation at the school from its opening in 1894 until the school's closing in 1940. The boys worked at the farm, work which included dairy work, care of stock etc. When the land was expanded in 1900 it made available produce for sale. [00506, 00330, 00331, 00839, 00840, 00842, 00843, 00844, 00371A, 00846, 00848, 00849, 00850, 00572, 00632, 00965]

In 1918, due to the labour situation in the area of the school, it was agreed that boys from the school over the age of 17 would assist the local farmers and would be paid for their services. [00417, 00418]

Vocational Training

During the entire history of the school, vocational training was provided to the pupils in the areas of cooking, laundering, manufacturing, arts and crafts, manual training, boat building, navigation and motor mechanics. [00837, 00841, 00847, 000852, 00855, 00862, 00870, 00970, 00182A, 00182B, 00182C, 00182D, 00191A, 00183, 00185, 00188, 00194, 00187, 00435, 00958, 00491, 00505, 00956, 00537, 5122] Also see the above section on the farm at the school.

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Tate, C.M.	Principal	1886 - 1895
Robson, Reverend E.	Principal	1895 - 1897
Hall, Reverend Joseph	Principal	1897 - 1906
Cairns, Reverend R.H.	Principal	1906 - 1914
Raley, Reverend Geo. H.	Principal	1914 - 06/1934
Scott, Captain Robert Clyde	Principal	06/1934 - 1940

Narrative Complete: Nov. 9, 2004

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



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