

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.

**Cote Improved Federal Day School  
IAP School Narrative**

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

Cote Improved Federal Day School

**OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)**

1928 to 1940 Cote Improved Day School [CTS-000418-0000; CTS-000472]

1928 to 1940 Cote Indian Day School [CTS-000419; CTS-000508-0000]

**LOCATION**

The Cote Improved Federal Day School was located on the Cote Reserve near the town of Kamsack, Saskatchewan in the Pelly Indian Agency. [CTS-000126-0001; CTS-000472].

**PROVINCE/TERRITORY**

Saskatchewan

**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 1, 1928 to June 30, 1940

**OPERATING DATES CONTEXT**

The federal government officially recognized and supported the boarding of students at the Cote Improved Federal Day School as of September 1928. The boarding of students at the Cote Improved Federal Day School ceased at the end of the 1939/40 school year [CTS-000273; CTS-000275; CTS-000418-0000; CTS-000418-0001; CTS-000492; CTS-000331]. The IRS accommodated boarders from Monday to Friday who could not travel daily to and from their homes [CTS-000415; CTS-000420]. After June 1940, the former IRS operated only as a day school [CTS-000470-0001].

**RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**

1928-1940 United Church of Canada / The Women's Missionary Society of the United Church of Canada [CTS-000418-0001; CTS-000224, CTS-000054-0001, pg. 4, 15; CTS-000458]

**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Document Reference</b>
September 1, 1928	The federal government officially recognized and supported the boarding of children at Cote Improved Federal Day School. From Monday to Friday, the IRS accommodated boarders who could not travel daily between their homes and the	CTS-000448 CTS-000415 CTS-000418-0000 CTS-000420 CTS-000424

	school.	
June 1940	The Cote Improved Federal Day School ceased the boarding of students at the end of the 1939/40 school year. After June 30, 1940, the former IRS operated only as a day school.	CTS-000492 CTS-000331 CTS-000470-0001

## EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

### Grades taught at the Indian residential school

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1928/29	1 to 5	CLD-000902, pg. 5
1929/30 to 1930/31	1 to 4	CLD-000903, pg. 5 CLD-000904, pg. 5
1931/32	1 to 5	CTS-000432 CLD-000905, pg. 5
1932/33	1 to 4	CLD-000906, pg. 5
1933/34 to 1934/35	1 to 5	CLD-002403, pg. 6 CLD-000907, pg. 5
1935/36 to 1936/37	1 to 4, 6	CLD-002304, pg. 2 CLD-000908, pg. 5
1937/38	1 to 6	CLD-002306, pg. 2
1938/39	1 to 5	CLD-002307, pg. 2
1939/40	No information found	

### Other Schools Attended by Residents

There is no indication that residents attended other schools while boarding at the Cote Improved Federal Day School.

## GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1928/29	6	36 (may include residents)	CTS-000420 CLD-000902, pg. 5
1929/30	No information found	36 (may include residents)	CLD-000903, pg. 5
1930/31	No information found	36 (may include residents)	CLD-000904, pg. 5
1931/32	3	27 (may include residents)	CTS-000432
1932/33	2	31 (may include residents)	CTS-000148 CLD-000906, pg. 5
1933/34	4	34 (may include residents)	CTS-000213 CLD-002403, pg. 6
1934/35	6	33 (may include residents)	CTS-000224 CLD-000907, pg. 5
1935/36	No information found	28 (may include residents)	CLD-002304, pg. 2
1936/37	No information found	29 (may include residents)	CLD-000908, pg. 5
1937/38	No information found	22 (may include residents)	CLD-002306, pg. 2
1938/39	No information found	23 (may include residents)	CLD-002307, pg. 2
1939/40	No information found	No information found	

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1930/31-1931/32, 1935/36, 1937/38-1939/40	Instruction in gardening, sewing, knitting, handicrafts and manual training was being carried out at the Cote Improved Federal Day School; adults participated on occasion.	CTS-000430 CTS-000431 CTS-000432 CTS-000054-0001, p. 15 CTS-000330 CTS-000056

**INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Date	Event	Document Reference
1928/29	The female boarding students were accommodated on the upper floor of the Cote Improved Federal Day School, along with the staff. Sleeping accommodation was provided for three or four boys in the dining room for the winter. This room served as a dining room, dormitory and washroom.	CTS-000418-0001 CTS-000423 CTS-000424
1931/32	There was no fire escape from the upstairs floor where the girls' dormitory area was located. Rope and hooks were purchased to serve as fire escapes.	CTS-000432 CTS-000135-0000 CTS-000135-0001
1932/33	The main building included five bedrooms upstairs; the ground floor included a classroom and a four-room area that served as the matron/teacher residence; the basement included a furnace room, a vegetable room and a clothing room.	CTS-000159 CTS-000126-0000
1936/37	The Cote Improved Federal Day School was 100 yards from the federal government Indian Agency buildings on the Cote Reserve and 75 feet from the road. It was fenced and the front space was used as the children's playground. The main building included classroom at the front; students were served a hot lunch in the dining room at the rear of the building. Two other rooms on the main floor served as the living quarters of the missionaries and included a kitchen and living room. The upstairs of the building contained five bedrooms, with only one small room reserved for pupils. Three bedrooms were for staff members and one bedroom was in use as a linen storage room. There were two outdoor toilets and a barn.	CTS-000056

**PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT**

Date	Description	Document Reference
Unknown, though 191[6] depicted above the building entrance.	Diagram of the front elevation of combined Cote Day School and Teacher's Residence.	SPR-004394

**DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS**

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the IRS.

Incidents (Sexual)

No information found

Incidents (Physical)

No information found

Incidents (Student on Student)

No information found

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 1928 to 1940      Milk was provided to the Cote Improved Federal Day School by the nearby federal government Indian Agency; water was hauled six miles daily to the IRS by the Agency labourer [CTS-000472].
- 1930              A teacher stated in March 1930 that she used her car to “take resident children five miles on their way home every Friday after four o’clock” [CTS-000112].
- 1932, 1937      The outdoor toilets at the Cote Improved Federal Day School were cleaned and maintained by a local labourer [CTS-000134-0000; CTS-000134-0001; CTS-000393-0001].
- 1934/35         While boarding accommodation continued to be provided for a few pupils from Monday to Friday whose families lived farther away from the school, staff noted that fewer parents made use of the boarding facilities at the Cote Improved Federal Day School [CTS-000054-0001, pg. 15].
- 1937/38         Two pupils were diagnosed with tuberculosis and were sent to the Sanatorium at Fort Qu’Appelle for treatment. An outbreak of measles lowered overall attendance during the spring months [CTS-000055].

**PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Tenure Dates</b>
Rev. W. McWhinney	Principal	September 1928 to May 1935
Mrs. R. F. Roy	Matron	January 1929 to March 1937
Mr. L.L. Dobbin	Teacher/Missionary	September 1937 to June 1940

Narrative Completed: September 27, 2012

Narrative Updated: November 8, 2012

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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