

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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**Crowstand Indian Residential School
IAP School Narrative**

NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)

Crowstand

OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)

1889 to 1915 Crowstand Boarding School [CRW-000005; CRW-000259]
1893 to 1911 Crowstand Mission School [CRW-000014; CRW-000139]
1895 Crow Stand Presbyterian Boarding School [CRW-000066]
1900 to 1915 Crowstand Indian Boarding School [CRW-000291; CRW-000208]

LOCATION

The Crowstand IRS was located on the Cote reserve 45 miles north-east of the town of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, in the district of Assiniboia [CRW-000095, pg. 1].

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.

January 28, 1889 to December 1, 1915

OPERATING DATES CONTEXT

The Crowstand IRS opened on January 28, 1889 [CRW-000095 pg. 8; CRW-000005; CRW-000124, pg. 5, 8]. Due to dilapidated conditions at the IRS, it was scheduled to close on June 30, 1915, but remained open as late as December 1, 1915 [CRW-000259; CTS-000060; CTS-000061; CTS-000254; CRW-000200, pg. 8]. After the IRS closed, some pupils went to the File Hills IRS, while the rest remained home with their parents pending the opening of the new "Improved Day School" on the Cote Indian Reserve [CRW-000200, pg. 8; CRW-000220].

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

The Presbyterian Church

1890 to 1912 Foreign Mission Committee [CRW-000009; CRW-000098]
1912 to 1915 Board of Home Missions [CRW-000098; CRW-000192]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
January 28, 1889	The Crowstand IRS opened under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church.	CRW-000124, pg. 6 CRW-000005, pg. 2
1890	During the summer, the Presbyterian Church enlarged the IRS by constructing a stone building.	CRW-000048, pg. 2
1899	The stone building at the IRS was condemned and torn down. The Presbyterian Church began construction on a new frame IRS building measuring 38' X 70' with a stone basement.	CRW-000080, pg. 6 CRW-000292
1908	A new 24' x 18' two storey high wing was added to the main IRS building. The wing was to be used for isolation and general hospital purposes.	CRW-000085, pg. 8
1912	Mission work of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, including the operation of the IRS, was transferred from the Foreign Mission Committee to the Board of Home Missions.	CRW-000098
June to November 1915	The IRS was slated for closure in June 1915, as the federal government planned to build an Improved Day School at the Cote reserve to replace the IRS. Due to delayed construction of the Day School, the IRS remained open from September to November.	CRW-000259 CRW-000207 CRW-000208 CRW-000209
December 1, 1915	The Crowstand IRS closed. Eleven students were transferred to the File Hills IRS and the rest were sent home pending the opening of the new Cote Improved Federal Day School.	CRW-000200, pg. 8

EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

Grades taught at the Indian residential school

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1888/89 to 1891/92	1 to 5	CRW-000124, pg. 8-9 PCR-007000, pg. 4-5 BIR-060002, pg. 3-4 BIR-060003, pg. 4-5
1892/93	1 to 4	CRW-000164, pg. 12
1893/94	No information found	
1894/95	1 to 4	CRW-000059, pg. 16
1895/96	1 to 3	CRW-000088, pg. 8
1896/97	1 to 2	CRW-000094, pg. 10
1897/98	1 to 3	CRW-000211, pg. 11
1898/99 to 1899/00	1 to 4	CRW-000080, pg. 10 CRW-000212, pg. 12
1900/01 to 1902/03	1 to 5	CRW-000081, pg. 14 CRW-000082, pg. 12 CRW-000210, pg. 10
1903/04	1 to 4	CRW-000204, pg. 12
1904/05 to 1915/16	1 to 5	CRW-000205, pg. 12 CRW-000213, pg. 12 CRW-000083, pg. 11 CRW-000085, pg. 13 BIR-060020, pg. 17-18 CRW-000087, pg. 9 CRW-000203, pg. 5 CRW-000096, pg. 6 CRW-000101, pg. 4 CRW-000103, pg. 4 CRW-000105, pg. 8

Other Schools Attended by Residents

No information was found to indicate that residents attended other schools.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Year	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1888/89	41	No information found	CRW-000124, pg. 8
1889/90	37	No information found	PCR-007000, pg. 4-5
1890/91	38	No information found	BIR-060002, pg. 3-4
1891/92	47	No information found	BIR-060003, pg. 4-5
1892/93	34	No information found	CRW-000164, pg. 8
1893/94	40	No information found	BIR-060005, pg. 22-23
1894/95	35	No information found	CRW-000059, pg. 16
1895/96	36	No information found	CRW-000088, pg. 8
1896/97	28	No information found	CRW-000094, pg. 10
1897/98	30	No information found	CRW-000211, pg. 11
1898/99	32	No information found	CRW-000080, pg. 10
1899/00	35	No information found	CRW-000212, pg. 12
1900/01	41	No information found	CRW-000081, pg. 14
1901/02	42	No information found	CRW-000082, pg. 12
1902/03	45	No information found	CRW-000210, pg. 10
1903/04	45	No information found	CRW-000204, pg. 12
1904/05	48	No information found	CRW-000205, pg. 12
1905/06	50	No information found	CRW-000213, pg. 12
1906/07	49	No information found	CRW-000083, pg. 11
1907/08	52	No information found	CRW-000085, pg. 13
1908/09	58	No information found	BIR-060020, pg. 17-18
1909/10	52	No information found	CRW-000087, pg. 9
1910/11	54	No information found	CRW-000203, pg. 5
1911/12	48	No information found	CRW-000096, pg. 6
1912/13	50	No information found	CRW-000101, pg. 4
1913/14	47	No information found	CRW-000103, pg. 4
1914/15	56	No information found	CRW-000105, pg. 8
1915/16	46	No information found	CRW-000200, pg. 6

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1902/03	Separate playgrounds were provided for the boys and girls. Football and various other games were played.	CRW-000210, pg. 6-7
1904/05	The boys played football seasonally, and in winter they coasted and skated. Girls played skipping and ball in the summer and coasting and skating in the winter.	CRW-000205, pg. 7-8
1906/07	Sports and recreational activities at the IRS included football, baseball, skipping, coasting, and skating.	CRW-000083, pg. 6-8

1910/11	Sports and recreational activities for boys and girls at the IRS included football, baseball, skipping, coasting, and skating.	CRW-000203, pg. 8-9
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INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
1889 to 1915	The Crowstand IRS was located on the Cote reserve in the Swan River Agency, Treaty No. 4, in the district of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan. The IRS lands consisted of 320 acres and comprised the south half of section 19, township 29, and range 31 west of the first principal meridian.	CRW-000095, pg. 1
1889	The Presbyterian Mission constructed a large building for the purpose of an IRS for the children of the Cote Reserve.	CRW-000124, pg. 6
1890	The Presbyterian Church enlarged the IRS by constructing a stone building. The ground floor contained two classrooms and two private rooms for teachers, and the upper floor contained a dormitory for the children.	CRW-000048, pg. 1-3
1898/99	The IRS buildings consisted of a two storey frame building with a log annex which served as a dining room, kitchen, laundry, store rooms, private rooms and girls' dormitory, and a 2 ½ storey high stone building that contained a boys' recreation room, classroom, boys' dormitory and staff bedrooms.	CRW-000080, pg. 6-7
1899/00	A new IRS building with a stone basement was built to replace the stone building and log annex. The basement contained the boys' recreation room, the laundry, a bathroom, and vegetable room. On the first floor was a classroom, children's dining room, a private dining room, parlour, sewing room, study, pantries, storerooms and closets. On the second floor were dormitories, seven private bedrooms and a large clothes storeroom.	CRW-000080, pg. 6-7 CRW-000212, pg. 7
1906/07	A new frame poultry house was built during the year.	CRW-000083, pg. 6-7
1907/08	A new two storey wing was added to the main IRS building during the year. The wing was to be used for isolation and general hospital purposes.	CRW-000085, pg. 8
1910	The IRS buildings consisted of the main IRS with two wings, one for a boys' recreation room on the ground floor and store-rooms overhead, and the other for hospital and isolation purposes. The main IRS building contained a classroom, kitchen, laundry, dining-room, dormitories, and staff-rooms. Other separate buildings included the Principal's residence, a stone milk-house, a frame shop, granary, stables and a poultry house.	CRW-000087, pg. 9
1911/12	A new barn at the IRS was completed during the year.	CRW-000096, pg. 4

PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
March 1903	A diagram of land adjacent to the Crowstand	CRW-000184-0001

	IRS including the Assiniboine River and the C.N.R. (Canadian National Railway) line.	
February 1904	Floor Plans for Principal's house on the IRS site, showing the dining room, parlor, pantry, and kitchen.	CRW-000251-0001

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the Crowstand 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.

Incidents (Sexual)

July 1914 A federal Indian Agent reported that two girls at the IRS made written statements alleging that a staff member had sexual intercourse with each one separately in his private room. The Indian police reported the incident to the Indian Agent but he did not act on the matter until the Principal was on a leave of absence. By then the staff member was dismissed and left the district. A warrant was issued for the man. Additional statements alleged that the staff member and boys from the reserve had been in the dorms at night with different girls, and that male IRS pupils had also tried to get into the girls' dorms. The court heard that the reserve boys had not been in the dorms as first alleged, and only attempted to enter. The case against the former IRS staff member was sustained, as he could not be located [CRW-000051; CRW-000052; CRW-000054].

August 1914 The Principal confirmed that back in May, a staff member confessed that he had been involved with girls at the IRS. The Principal did not disclose the information to anyone at that time and told the staff member to leave the IRS immediately. The Principal admitted that he should have reported the incident and launched proceedings against the staff member, but noted that his health was in such a condition that he wanted to take a course that would relieve him "of all possible worry" [CRW-000053; CRW-000356].

September 1914 Members of the Cote Band complained that the IRS administration and the Principal did not take proper precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of the girls at the IRS. The federal government notified the Presbyterian Church that all the girls were to be discharged and returned to their homes, and suggested that the Principal be sent to some other field of work as soon as possible [CRW-000055-0000; CRW-000358].

Incidents (Physical)

July 1907 A federal government Inspector stated that on more than one occasion the IRS Principal had caught runaways and "tied ropes about their arms and made them run behind the buggy" from their homes to the IRS. The Inspector told the Principal to stop the practice at once. Presbyterian Church authorities were notified about the Principal's "unusual manner" of bringing students back to the IRS. In communication with the Foreign Mission Committee, the federal government questioned the advisability of keeping the Principal in charge of the IRS. The Presbyterian Church appointed a committee to look into the situation. The committee found there was no wrongdoing in the incident and remained convinced that the IRS management had "been on the whole excellent..." In his statement about the incident, the Principal wrote that the usual punishment for truancy was whipping [CRW-000023; CRW-000170; CRW-000024; CRW-

000173; CRW-000237; CRW-000168-0000; CRW-000168-0001; CRW-000171; CRW-000166; CRW-000026].

- 1907 A November 1907 newspaper article alleged that “debaucheries” had been happening on several reservations, including a break in of the girls’ dormitories at the Crowstand IRS and the allegation that girls had been “intoxicated and assaulted by a band of young roughs.” The Canadian Detective Agency investigated the matter. The resulting convictions involved gambling and liquor violations. Men who had entered the girls’ dormitory were charged with burglary and criminal assault. The Principal and (Indian) Agent decided not to prosecute the boys who had broken into the girls’ dormitories at the IRS. One of the boys who had broken into the IRS and brought liquor was tried and convicted and fined. The Indian Agent noted that there was “no truth in the statement that the girls were outraged; but it is not hard to surmise what would happen if Indian boys and girls of 16 to 18 years of age got together at night...” [CRW-000030-0000; CRW-000030-0001; CRW-000031; CRW-000034; CRW-000032].
- 1912 The Principal reported that in June 1912, after several acts of truancy, a male student attempted to set fire to the IRS and was therefore disciplined “severely” [CRW-000044].

Incidents (Student on Student)

No information found.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1898/99 A severe flu epidemic occurred at the IRS and one death occurred from scrofula [CRW-000080, pg. 6-7].
- 1903 Seventeen pupils at the IRS had measles [CRW-000195].
- 1905 An outbreak of scarlet fever occurred at the IRS and residents were placed under quarantine [CRW-000020].
- 1905/06 During the year there were several cases of typhoid and pneumonia at the IRS [CRW-000213, pg. 7-8].
- 1907 An Indian Agent reported that former male graduates from the IRS had snuck into the dormitories and brought liquor to the girls [CRW-000021]. Trouble with boys attempting to enter the girls’ dormitories at night was reported during the year [CRW-000170; CRW-000172; CRW-000169; CRW-000168-0000; CRW-000166].
- 1911 The Indian Agent reported that male former pupils who were working at or visiting the IRS had entered the girls’ dormitory at night and that this had a negative effect on the children and made it difficult to get pupils to come to the IRS. The federal government requested an investigation to ascertain whether there had been laxity in managing the IRS [CRW-000038; CRW-000039].
- 1912 Complaints about the performance of the IRS Principal led to the recommendation that the matter be investigated and a report submitted by an Inspector [CRW-000043].
- 1913 The Principal reported that in June 1912, after several acts of truancy, a male student attempted to set fire to the IRS and was therefore disciplined “severely.” Another attempt to burn the IRS had been made in March 1913 by two male students. After admitting their involvement, the boys were “locked up” and eventually transferred to the industrial school at Portage la Prairie under the Children’s Protection Act. Maintenance for the children

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was to be paid by the federal government to the Manitoba Government
[CRW-000044; CRW-000045].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Reverend George A. Laird	Principal	1889 to 1892
Reverend C.W. Whyte	Principal	1892 to 1897
Reverend Neil Gilmour	Principal	1898 to 1902
Reverend W. McWhinney	Principal	1903 to 1915

Narrative Completed: March 23, 2012
Narrative Updated: December 31, 2012

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