

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.

Federal Hostel at Baker Lake
IAP Hostel Narrative
[09 14 2009]

This IAP Hostel Narrative summarizes documents that provide an over-view of the history and administration of the hostel.

NAME OF HOSTEL AND VARIANTS

The temporary hostel at Baker Lake [BLS-000756]¹
Baker Lake Federal Hostel [BLS-000001]
Buildings 19 and 20 at Baker Lake [BLS-000357]
Baker Lake Federal Day School Pupil Residence [BLS-000015]
North Hostel and South Hostel at Baker Lake [BLS-000022]

Years during which the hostel was operated solely or in part by the Federal Government as a residence for school age students

1961 (January to July); January 9, 1962 to January 22, 1968 [BLS-000352] [BLS-000320] [BLS-000001] [BLS-000027-0001]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

Although a temporary hostel operated at Baker Lake during November 1957, the Federal Hostel at Baker Lake did not open until January 1961. Composed of two eight-bed units, one for boys and one for girls, the hostel remained in continuous operation until January 1968. In February 1969 approval was granted to convert the former hostel buildings into school staff accommodation and by mid April at least one of them was occupied by a teacher from the FDS.

1956: At a meeting in March 1956, senior government and church officials reached two conclusions regarding the future of education at Baker Lake:

1. Although a rudimentary day school education had been available through the Anglican and Catholic Missions for some time, a federal day school would be opened at Baker Lake as soon as possible.
2. With the recent opening of Turquetil Hall, the Roman Catholic residence at Chesterfield Inlet, a comparable facility for Anglican children was required in the Eastern Arctic. Because of its central location, and because it was predominantly Anglican, Baker Lake was selected as the probable location for the proposed residence.

The Minutes from that meeting also note that seven buildings formerly used by the Department of Transport had been made available for “school purposes”, that a structural engineer had confirmed that at least three of them could be moved from their location about a mile outside

¹ Documents with the prefix BLS are from the Baker Lake Hostel documents collection. These are Crown-sourced documents.

Baker Lake into the community, and that “funds have been provided in the current year’s Estimates for doing some renovation of these buildings.” [RCN-005165]²

Correspondence from September 1956 states that the first attempt to move the three buildings had resulted in substantial damage to one of them. However, a construction crew was working “vigorously” to repair the damaged building and to facilitate moving all three buildings to the settlement. Government officials remained “confident that the buildings will be quite suitable for their proposed purpose at Baker Lake.” [RCN-005205]

Correspondence from September and October 1956 states that to circumvent the delayed arrival of the Department of Transport buildings, the Anglican Canon at Baker Lake would teach “part time school until the school is ready and the teacher arrives”. Although the building renovations were complete, the work crew was waiting for the lake to freeze to sufficient depth to permit sledging the buildings to the community site. [BLS-000716] A Memorandum notes that arrangements to provide lunches for pupils attending the temporary school would be made by the local Northern Service Officer. [BLS-000717]

1957: A Report from the Welfare Teacher at the Baker Lake FDS notes that the Baker Lake Federal Day School opened in January 1957. [BLS-000726]

In reference to hostel construction at Baker Lake, Minutes from a meeting of government and church officials in May 1957 state that “the Committee discussed at some length the question of the need for hostel accommodation in the Keewatin District and in the Cambridge Bay and Coppermine areas. The opinion was expressed that Baker Lake was really the most central point for the entire region and that a hostel there could serve children from Cambridge Bay and Coppermine as well as from Keewatin. It was also pointed out that the cost of operating a hostel at Baker Lake would be about one third the cost of a similar establishment at Cambridge Bay. The Committee agreed that Baker Lake was the most suitable location for a school hostel to serve the Keewatin District.” [BLS-000745-0001]

Senior public servants, noting the extreme isolation of Baker Lake, particularly during winter months because of fierce and unpredictable weather conditions, recommended that the government approach hostel construction at Baker Lake cautiously owing to impact that rapid growth could have on the ability of the local population to provide for itself. It states “We should seek to avoid placing in the traditional communities institutions which contribute to congregation and which may work to the detriment of hunting and trapping on the land. Baker Lake is one of the traditional communities.” [RCN-005285]

Government correspondence throughout 1957 reiterates the need for expanding the education system in the Eastern Arctic, repeatedly pointing out that the construction of an Anglican Hostel at Baker Lake would serve as a regional counterpoint to the Roman Catholic Hostel at Chesterfield Inlet and thereby deflect suggestions of favoritism of one church at the other’s expense. [RCN-005285]

A temporary student residence operated at Baker Lake during November 1957. Making reference

² Documents with the prefix RCN are from the Northwest Territories-Nunavut General documents collection. These are Crown-sourced documents.

to the need for a strategy to accommodate local orphans and students who came from homes outside Baker Lake, a Letter from the Welfare Teacher to the Chief of the Education Division states that, "boarding places are very hard to come by as most of the Eskimos who live in the settlement have been made to take old and indigent persons to live with them." Down the page it states, "I have tried several ways of setting up a hostel and have been able to obtain the use of a three roomed building in good condition which was formerly used by the Catholic Mission which is now housed in a new building. The building which is available for our use is less than fifty yards from the school and I consider it very suitable. The other officials here have been consulted and approve of the project. It is my intention to set up this hostel for six students by January 1st, but to put it into operation when the school opens. I would like your permission to begin on November 2nd." It concludes, "I have an Eskimo Lady who will cook meals and live with the children and my wife and I will supervise everything." A post script to the same Letter states "P.S. since I wrote this letter I have received your permission to operate the hostel." [BLS-000752]

A subsequent Memorandum from the Welfare Teacher states that three students "boarded in the temporary hostel from November 2nd to 30th, 1957, this on the authority of your telegram." It then notes that the temporary hostel would be closed 11/30/1957, and that the hostel pupils would be put into local boarding. Two would live with the Welfare Teacher and the third would board with a local family. [BLS-000756]

1960: By the end of the 1959/60 school year it was evident that the existing school facility at Baker Lake was not meeting local education needs. Of the approximately one hundred school age children in and around the community just seventy were enrolled, and many of these attended only on a part time basis. To rectify this situation plans were made to construct two 8 pupil student hostels, expand the day school facility, and hire at least one more teacher prior to the 1960/61 school year. [BLS-000291-0001]

In reference to the proposed hostel construction a Memorandum dated 7/5/1960, states "the design has been completed, tender calls for materials are going out in the next day or two. It is unlikely that materials will be delivered to the site until August. Completion of the hostels is not expected before October 31." [RCN-004430]

A Memorandum to the Regional Administrator states that owing to harsh weather conditions at Baker Lake it was unlikely that both hostels would be completed before 1/1/1961. It recommended the completion of one hostel prior to Christmas, to be opened in the new year, and then completing the second in 1962 as the weather became less hostile. [BLS-000310-0002]

A Memorandum dated 12/23/1960 states "The Chief Superintendent of Schools in company with the Chief Engineer from the Arctic District Office recently visited the settlement of Baker Lake. As mentioned previously, one hostel is almost complete and should be ready for occupancy in early January. The other cannot be completed this year and consequently we are postponing its date of opening until September 1961." [BLS-000315]

1961: The first hostel at Baker Lake opened in January, 1961. A Service Agreement identifies the first Hostel House Mother at Baker Lake, employed from 1/21/1961 to 7/5/1961. [BLS-000320]

Correspondence in late 1961 confirms that one eight bed hostel operated during the 1960/61

school year. However, following the completion of the school year it was occupied by “visitors to the settlement” and then by a construction crew working on the second hostel. Thus neither hostel was occupied by students from the beginning of the 1961/62 school year until after the Christmas holiday. [BLS-000348-0002] [BLS-000352]

1962: The two 8 bed hostels at Baker Lake opened on January 1, 1962. The children in each hostel were placed in the care of a local Inuk woman employed as a hostel mother. The two hostel mothers reported to the hostel supervisor. The hostel supervisor subsequently reported to the school principal, the chief administrator at the FDS and the residence. [RCN-006477]

The 3/31/1962 Quarterly Return identifies fifteen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. Eight of them are noted as having spent six months in residence previously. [BLS-000001]

The 6/30/1962 Quarterly Return identifies fourteen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000002-0001]

A Report by the Principal just prior to the beginning of the 1962/63 school year states that one of the hostel mothers had indicated that she was planning to resign. Regarding the hostel mothers’ workload it states “they have no water pressure system, no hot water system, and no dryers yet they are expected to do all the washing for 8 children in addition to the extra chores around the hostel.” [BLS-000260]

Making reference to the recruitment of residential pupils from camps around Baker Lake for the 1962/63 school year, a Memorandum from the Regional Administrator to the Area Administrator states “it appears in order to extend congratulations to Ivan Mouat, Evan Cotterill and yourself for the successful flying visits to settlements in your area to gather 24 children for attendance during the school year in the hostels. Respecting your need of 8 additional mattresses, presumably to accommodate the 8 extra children over the usual limit of 16 for two hostels, we have determined that a number of single beds and mattresses were purchased for the welfare homes here and because these proved not too satisfactory, they are in the warehouse new and unused.” [BLS-000389]

The 9/31/1962 Quarterly Return notes that following the 1961/62 school year one hostel had remained in operation over the summer, until 8/14/1962, on which date the final child in residence was returned to his parents. It identifies twenty-six students in residence at the Baker Lake Hostels between 7/1/1962 and 9/30/1962. [BLS-000004-0001] and [BLS-000003]

As per the Principal’s warning in August, one of the Hostel Mothers was replaced after her resignation on 9/30/1962. Anticipating her departure, the principal had hired her replacement on 9/15/1962 to facilitate two weeks of job training for the new hostel mother. [BLS-000392] [BLS-000391]

The Quarterly Return dated 12/31/1962 identifies twenty-five students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. To alleviate the overcrowded conditions two students were returned to their parents and five were put into home boarding in November and December. One other student spent fourteen days in hospital at Churchill. [BLS-000005-0001]

1963: The 3/31/1963 Quarterly Return identifies eighteen students in residence at the Baker

Lake hostels. [BLS-000006-0001]

Making reference to the number of residential pupils at Baker Lake during the 1962/63 school year, a Report by the Principal states “we experienced some overcrowding for the first few months of the year but relieved the situation by placing the older pupils in local boarding.” Further down the page it notes “I must stress the difficulties under which our hostel mothers operate. They are expected to do all the washing of clothes, bed linens etc. for eight or more children yet the equipment provided is most inadequate. They have no running water, no piped hot water, no water pressure system, and no clothes dryer. Although this has been brought to the attention of our regional office, the Arctic District Office, and some officials of the Northern Administration Branch, no improvement has been made. There is space in the toilet room for the installation of this equipment.” [BLS-000425-0001]

The 6/30/1963 Quarterly Return identifies eighteen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000008]

The 9/30/1963 Quarterly Return identifies nineteen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000009]

A Memorandum from the Regional Administrator to the Administrator of the Arctic in late 1963 notes that “during this year’s round-up”, forty children had been brought into Baker Lake from outlying camps to attend school and that more than half were boarding with local families. “This creates something of a problem in the minds of our educational personnel because there is a quite evident difference in the standards of food, attempted cleanliness, and training in regular habits between the two types of accommodation. If we are to continue to attempt to accommodate as many of these children as possible in hostels, then it should appear that immediate consideration must be given to the construction of additional accommodation in the very near future.” [BLS-000455]

The 12/31/1963 Quarterly Return identifies nineteen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000010]

1964: A Memorandum to the Administrator of the Arctic, dated 1/6/1964, states that no new hostel will be built at Baker Lake in the foreseeable future. “If the plans envisaged for Fort Churchill are carried out, it is probable that the children from outside Baker Lake who cannot be accommodated in the two hostels would be accommodated at Fort Churchill.” [BLS-000458]

Speaking to the need for more student accommodation at Baker Lake, a Memorandum from the Regional Administrator to the Administrator of the Arctic, dated 1/28/1964, states that “although extreme care had been taken in the selection of homes to which children have been assigned for local boarding purposes, cases of outright neglect have been detected, and through close cooperation with the local nurses they have attempted to deal with such problems.” The Memorandum points out that there is an unoccupied building at Baker Lake which the Principal there has suggested would, with minimal renovation, be adequate to serve as a third hostel. [BLS-000464]

The 3/31/1964 Quarterly Return identifies seventeen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000011]

The 6/30/1964 Quarterly Return identifies twenty-one students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000012]

Owing to poor weather and the absence of an available airplane to return children to their homes at outlying camps, the Baker Lake hostels remained open until 7/24/1964. [BLS-000487]

The 9/30/1964 Quarterly Return identifies nineteen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000013]

The 12/31/1964 Quarterly Return identifies sixteen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000014]

1965: The 3/31/1965 Quarterly Return identifies fourteen students in residence in the hostels. [BLS-000015]

A Memorandum from the Administrator of the Arctic, dated 6/9/1965, states that the Government will pay for clothing for children in Small Hostels if it is needed and the parents are not able to supply it. [BLS-000501]

The 6/30/1965 Quarterly Return identifies seventeen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000016]

The 9/30/1965 Quarterly Return identifies twenty students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000017]

The 12/31/1965 Quarterly Return identifies seventeen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000018]

1966: The 3/31/1966 Quarterly Return identifies ten students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000019]

The 6/30/1966 Quarterly Return identifies twenty students in residence in at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000020]

The 9/30/1966 Quarterly Return identifies seventeen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000021]

The 12/31/1966 Quarterly Return identifies sixteen students in residence at the Baker Lake hostels. [BLS-000022]

1967: The 3/31/1967 Quarterly Return identifies nine students in residence in the hostels. [BLS-000023]

A Memorandum, dated 4/3/1967, from the Principal to the Regional Administrator, recommended the closing of student hostel number 20 at Baker Lake following the 1966/67 school year. [BLS-000574]

The 6/30/1967 Quarterly Return identifies eighteen students in residence in the hostels. [BLS-000024]

A Memorandum, dated 8/23/1967, from the Regional Administrator to the Area Administrator and Principal at Baker Lake, states that the services of the Hostel Assistant at Baker Lake, will not be required during the 1967/68 school year as only one hostel will be in operation and will be run by a husband and wife team. As such, the husband would be capable of performing the assistant's former duties. [BLS-000589] Hostel #20 at Baker Lake closed 7/9/1967 when the last pupils were returned to their parents in camps outside Baker Lake. [BLS-000025]

A Memorandum, dated 9/8/1967, from the Regional Administrator to the Area Administrator, suggests that the recently closed hostel be converted to a community sewing centre. [BLS-000591]

The 9/30/1967 Quarterly Return identifies eighteen students in residence in the hostels. Of that number, just nine were in residence for the 1967/68 school year. The others had been in the recently closed hostel after 6/30/1967, the date previous Quarterly Return was submitted. [BLS-000025]

A Memorandum to the Administrator of the Arctic, dated 11/22/1967, confirmed that the recently closed hostel at Baker Lake was currently in use as a community sewing centre at Baker Lake, and that the remaining hostel would likely be closed after the 1967/68 school year. It goes on to state "we will be submitting a project approval in the new year to move the two pupil residences at Baker Lake to the school site. These will be required for classrooms possibly next year. In previous memoranda we have indicated the phasing out of small pupil hostels in this region as more and better local board facilities become available with the completion of the Rental Housing Program." [RCN-004520-0002]

The 12/31/1967 Quarterly Return identifies nine students in residence at the Baker Lake hostel. [BLS-000026]

1968: A Memorandum from the Regional Administrator to the Administrator of the Arctic, dated 1/30/1968, notes that there would be no need to purchase parkas for the hostel students at Baker Lake as the second hostel had been closed earlier in January. [RCN-002847]

A Memorandum from the Area Administrator to the Regional Administrator, dated 3/21/1968, states that the Principal at Baker Lake had requested that both of the former hostel buildings be moved from their current locations to the school site, that one be converted into classroom space, and that the other be converted to a lunchroom. [BLS-000608]

The 3/31/1968 Quarterly Return identifies six students in residence at the Baker Lake hostel. It notes that Hostel # 19, the second hostel at Baker Lake, closed 1/22/1968. Of the six students housed in the residence, two were returned to their parents and four were placed into local boarding. [BLS-000027-0001]

On 2/12/1969 approval was granted to convert the two former hostels into four apartments that would serve as staff housing at the Baker FDS. By mid April at least one of them was occupied. [BLS-000257] [BLS-000254]

Although the hostels at Baker Lake were officially closed the previous school year, An Enrolment Form from the Baker Lake FDS, dated 9/30/1968, notes that one pupil spent an unspecified number of nights in residence during September, 1968. [BLS-000643-0021]

Associated Federal Day School – Baker Lake Federal Day School

The Baker Lake Federal Day School offered elementary school education to children living in the community of Baker Lake or in the Federal Hostel at Baker Lake. It opened in January of 1957 and operated until December of 1969. In 1970 its operation was assumed by the Northwest Territories Territorial Government and it was re-named Kamanituak School.

1956/57 School Year:

A Report from the Welfare Teacher at the Baker Lake FDS notes that the Baker Lake Federal Day School opened in January, 1957. [BLS-000726]

1957/58 School Year:

The Baker Lake FDS opened on November 4, 1957 for the 1957/58 school year with forty students and a single teacher. [BLS-000746] [BLS-000765]

In reference to swelling enrollment at the Baker Lake FDS, and the school's impact on the community, a letter from the Principal to the Chief of the Education Division states "we have twenty six local children, twenty four boarded children and nine or ten transient children. The transient children are here for a short time either because their parents are trading or whilst they are waiting to be re-established, by the government, in their hunting grounds. There is considerable movement of people right now. I have followed your instructions regarding the boarding of children until April 22nd, but I have since refused to board children until I have received your advice regarding food supplies at Baker Lake." [BLS-000834] A second letter, from the Principal to the same recipient states "the Hudson's Bay Manager has asked me to close school on some date in May or to send away the boarders" owing to a lack of food. [BLS-000835-0001]

A letter from the Principal to the Chief of the Education Division expresses relief that a second teacher will arrive at the school for the 1958/59 school year. It also states: "you will realize that unless some arrangements are made for the children who live a nomadic life or in camps away from the Baker Lake settlement, we will eventually require three teachers. The only thing which prevents us from raising our enrolment to eighty five is the shortage of food." [BLS-000840]

A Student List dated 6/17/1958 identifies eight pupils from the Baker Lake FDS who would remain in home board over the summer "until they can rejoin parents or until school re-opens." It notes that "authority has been given by the Chief of the Education Division to continue payment of the boarding allowance of one dollar fifty per day in respect of the above named children." [BLS-000874-0001]

A Report by the Principal dated 6/17/1958, states "during the school year 1957-58, 82 children were enrolled." Of those eighty-two, the Report notes that "twenty-eight have permanent homes

in the settlement.” Further down the Report states “since I have recommended 18 good boarding places I recommend that no more than 18 be boarded. If more are accepted for boarding, sub standard accommodation will have to be used and this was bad last year.”[BLS-000867-0000]

The Baker Lake FDS opened in September 1958 with 57 students and two teachers. [BLS-000883]

A Telecommunication from the Principal to the Chief of the Education Division, dated 11/29/1958 notes that fifteen students at the FDS were living in home board around Baker Lake and requests permission to accept two more students who will also be put into home board. [BLS-000889]

A Telecommunication from the Principal to the Chief of the Education Division states that Enrolment through 1958/59 was sixty-four. It also states that Enrolment for 1959/60 could exceed one hundred, “depending on the number of classrooms and boarding homes provided.” [BLS-000267]

1959/60 School Year:

Regarding enrolment at the FDS in 1959/60, a Memorandum to the Regional Administrator states “at the time Mr. Mullen and Miss Doerkson took up the chalk last autumn the pressure was still on and increasing. Attendance was soon up over sixty and more of last year’s pupils still had to come in from the land.” Further down the page it continues, “Mr. Mullen and I decided to take the six year old beginners off the rolls and to limit future enrollment to those who were already enrolled and in attendance during the previous school year...present enrolment stands at sixty-one. There are actually ninety-one children of school age (as of Dec.31/59) in this settlement.” [BLS-000277-0001]

A student list identifies twenty students “who boarded in Baker Lake to attend school in 1959-1960.” [BLS-000286]

1960/61 School Year:

A Memorandum notes that the Baker Lake FDS opened 9/12/1960 with seventy-four pupils enrolled. [RCN-008644]

A Report dated 10/2/1960 identifies four teachers at the Baker Lake FDS. It states that the primary class is being taught in the warehouse, the second year pupils “are using half of the building housing the janitor”, the third year pupils are taught in the Wildlife Building, and the senior class is being taught in the one room school building. It also notes that “for the first time since the school has been in operation, all of the children who wish to be in school are attending. For the children in the immediate area the attendance is one hundred per cent.” [BLS-000300]

A Memorandum notes that 84 pupils were enrolled at the Baker Lake FDS in 1960/61. [RCN-002115]

1961/62 School Year:

A Report by the Principal notes that 109 students were enrolled at the Baker Lake FDS in 1961/62. [BLS-000160-0001]

1962/63 School Year:

A Memorandum for the Administrator of the Arctic notes that enrolment at the Baker Lake FDS was 106 during 1962/63. [RCN-009052-0000]

A Telecommunication to the Regional Administrator notes that one teacher had been transferred to the Eskimo Point FDS mid way through the school year and that another had been hired to replace her at the Baker Lake FDS. [BLS-000404]

A letter to the Principal at the Baker Lake FDS dated 3/25/1963 notes that two students from the FDS were working as Aids at the Baker Lake Nursing Station. [BLS-000408]

Promotion Forms identify five teachers at the Baker Lake FDS during 1962/63: [BLS-000178-0000]; [BLS-000178-0001]; [BLS-000178-0002]; [BLS-000178-0003]; [BLS-178-0004]

1963/64 School Year:

A Service Agreement identifies a Homemaking Instructor at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 11/1/1963 to 6/30/1964. [BLS-000443]

A Service Agreement identifies a Special Instructor at the Baker Lake FDS. The contract runs from 1/15/1964 to 6/30/1964. [BLS-000459]

A Memorandum from the Regional Superintendent of Schools authorized the hiring a relief teacher at the Baker Lake FDS for up to five hours per week to free the Principal to perform supervisory and administrative work. [BLS-000460]

A Report by the Principal, dated 6/29/1963 notes that a new person was working in the school kitchen preparing lunches for the students at the FDS. It also notes that one of the teachers at the school had taught a vocational course in construction over the past year and that his class had built a hall for the Baker Lake chapter of the International Order of the Daughters of the Empire. [BLS-000425-0001]

A Service Agreement identifies a Kitchen Helper at the Baker Lake FDS. The contract runs from 9/1/1963 to 6/30/1964. [BLS-000428]

Promotion Forms identify five teachers at the Baker Lake FDS during 1963/64. [BLS-000205-0000]; [BLS-000205-0001]; [BLS-000205-0002]; [BLS-000205-0003]; [BLS-000205-0004]

1964/65 School Year:

A Service Agreement identifies a Kitchen Helper at the Baker Lake FDS. The contract runs from 9/1/1964 to 6/30/1965. [BLS-000478]

A Service Agreement identifies a Special Instructor at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 9/1/1964 to 6/30/1965. [BLS-000483]

Reports identify five teachers at the Baker Lake FDS during 1964/65: [BLS-000209-0000]; [BLS-000209-0001]; [BLS-000209-0002]; [BLS-000209-0003]; [BLS-000209-4]

1965/66 School Year:

A Telecommunication identifies five teachers at the Baker Lake FDS during 1965/66. [BLS-000508]

A Service Agreement identifies a School Cook at Baker Lake FDS. The contract runs from 8/31/1965 to 6/30/1966. [BLS-000509]

1966/67 School Year:

A Memorandum identifies six teachers at the Baker Lake FDS for 1966/67. [BLS-000553]

A Memorandum for the Administrator of the Arctic, dated 10/14/1966, describes the Baker Lake FDS complex. Noting the general lack of space at the school it requests permission and funding to rent the Baker Lake I.O.D.E. Hall. It also states “our building program at Baker Lake is at least a year behind schedule now. We have six teachers, one four room school, one older classroom, and the homemaking cabin has been renovated to house a small class.” [BLS-000558] Permission to rent the hall for 1966/67 arrived 10/19/1966. [BLS-000561-0000]

A Letter identifies a Teaching Assistant at the school during 1966/67. [BLS-000560-0001]

1967/68 School Year:

A Report by the Principal states that 160 students were enrolled at the Baker Lake FDS during the 1967/68 school year. [BLS-000612]

A Memorandum from the Administrator of the Arctic to the Regional Administrator, dated 7/3/1968, identifies the six teachers at the Baker Lake FDS during 1967/68. It notes that all will be returning for 1968/69. [BLS-000624]

1968/69: On 12/31/1968, the Baker Lake FDS was re-named Kamanituak School. “The word means a place where a lake is joined by rivers and it was the original Eskimo name for this locality.” [BLS-000651]

MANAGEMENT OF HOSTEL

The Federal Hostel at Baker Lake was conceived, developed, funded and operated by the Northern Affairs Branch of the Federal Government until 1966 and by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs after a merger of government departments in 1966. As with other Small Hostels, the Federal Government hired and trained the people who worked in the Baker Lake Hostel and provided food for its occupants. People who worked at the Baker Lake hostel were contractors rather than employees of the Federal Government. [RCN-003483-0000] and [RCN-003483-0001]

"In connection with small hostels, our policy may be briefly stated as follows: small hostels with accommodation for 8 children in the 6 to 10 year age group will gradually be constructed at centres where day schools are already in operation, provided local boarding facilities are inadequate to take care of the children in this age group. The children admitted to these hostels will be those who normally reside beyond daily commuting distance of the school but within a radius of 50 to 100 miles. For this purpose 'daily commuting' means that the child cannot attend school at least 70% of the time with or without local transportation. As far as possible these hostels are to assimilate family units with the normal house atmosphere. Standards are to be as close as possible to those prevailing in the area and supervision, including cooking, laundry and so on is to be carried out under contract by an older Eskimo couple or widow who might otherwise require some form of government assistance. Local food resources are to be utilized to the greatest possible extent. Provision is made in the 1960-61 estimates for the construction of family type hostels at the following locations: Baker Lake, Great Whale River, Port Harrison. Several more are planned for 1961-62." [RCN-004411-0000]

Dates managed by Church

The operation and management of the Federal Hostel at Baker Lake was entirely secular with no Church Involvement.

Dates managed by Government

1961 (circa January to July); January 9, 1962 to January 22, 1968 [BLS-000352] [BLS-000320] [BLS-000001] [BLS-000027-0001]

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Commenting on the building used as the Baker Lake FDS facility, a letter dated 5/15/1958 states "as you are aware this building was acquired as surplus to D.O.T. requirements and was moved across the bay to its present location in 1956 where changes and renovations were carried out with the result that the building is in an excellent state of repair. The original concept was of a combined living and office structure which we have converted to a school building." [BLS-000847]

The Baker Lake FDS continued to operate in a single building through 1958/59 as in 1957/58. [RCN-008035-0002]

1959: Plans to add a second classroom to the Baker Lake FDS were developed in January of 1959. [RCN-005772] This appears to have taken place by March of the same year. [RCN-008421]

During the 1959/60 school year a warehouse building was leased from the Canadian Wildlife Service and used by the FDS for storage and classroom space as necessary. [BLS-000291-0001]

1960: A Report dated 00/00/1960 describes the housing available for employees at the Baker Lake FDS. Referring to the Principal's "Three Bedroom Arctic Unit" it states "the doors were

difficult to close, there was no stripping on the edges and snow sifted along the jambs making it necessary to scrape continuously. When the front door was slammed the back door sprang open and vice versa.” Further down, speaking of the one bedroom teacherage it states “the system of drainage for this house as well as all DNA houses at Baker Lake is somewhat questionable. For example, Miss Doerkson’s waste drains out at the side. Since her house is on an incline, the water runs down the hill and over her front steps. In summer this should be lovely! In winter at least it freezes – One wonders how sanitary disposal can be taught to other members of the community in the face of DNA disposal.” [BLS-000280-0001]

The same Report describes the school buildings at the Baker Lake FDS as being “in good repair” and, “warm and clean.” It notes that classes are being conducted in three separate buildings. “Miss Doerkson is teaching in the old green school.” Further down, “The new school is occupied by Mr. Mullen.” And, later, “there is little point in discussing the inadequacies of the warehouse as a school since it was not meant to be used as a classroom and relief should come with the addition of another classroom next fall. With the addition of the small hostels and continued local boarding, there are sufficient pupils to warrant the construction of a fourth classroom.” [BLS-000280-0001]

1961: A Memorandum to the Administrator of the Arctic confirms that the Baker Lake FDS can continue to use the Canadian Wildlife Services building as classroom space through 1961/62. The building has been in use by the FDS since 1957. [BLS-000337] [BLS-000348-0002]

1962: A Memorandum confirms that the Baker Lake FDS will utilize the Canadian Wildlife Services Building as a classroom during the 62/63 school year. [BLS-000388]

1963: A Telecommunication from the Regional Administrator, dated 00/00/1963, approves funding to move buildings #1 and #11, “known locally as the green school and blue school”, closer to the rest of the school facilities. [BLS-000688]

A Report by the Principal, dated 6/29/1963 notes that the new four classroom school building had opened and that it was housing the community library. [BLS-000425-0001]

1965: A Report by the Principal notes that despite the completion of the new school building, the Canadian Wildlife Services Building was utilized by the FDS during 1964 and 1965. [BLS-000211]

LAND

A Report dated 9/27/1957 describes Baker Lake as being in the centre or “hub” of the region “with the majority of the outlying points in the region... (such as Bathurst Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Spence Bay, Coral Harbour, Igloolik, Repulse Bay, Eskimo Point, etc.) being, on the average, approximately 400 miles distant.” The Report also states that Baker Lake lacks both an airfield and a hospital. [BLS-000745-0001]

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Docid #	Date	Description
BLS-000901	00/00/0000	“Greenschool” classroom floor plan.
BLS-000277-0002	1/8/1960	Baker Lake Site Plan. Includes the school buildings and the housing provided for the FDS employees
BLS-000357	00/00/1963	Baker Lake Site Plan. Includes the school buildings, hostels, and the housing provided for the FDS employees
BLS-000523-0002	00/00/1966	A scale drawing of the homemaking classroom/cabin at the Baker Lake FDS
BLS-000592-0001	00/00/1967	A Map that locates the Baker Lake school complex relative to the I.O.D.E. Hall, the Anglican Mission, and the RCMP detachment.

GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

Year	Number of Students
Nov. 1957	3
1960/61	8
1961/62	15
1962/63	25
1963/64	19
1964/65	16
1965/66	17
1967/68	18
1968/69	9

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students at the Federal Hostel at Baker Lake came from the Baker Lake area. [BLS-000455]

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Please note: The management of the Federal Hostel at Baker Lake was entirely secular with no Church Involvement.

Up until the opening of the Baker Lake Federal Day School, the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches were actively educating children in the Baker Lake area. As was the case in most Northern communities, the mission run schools in Baker Lake were closed by the time the government day school opened in 1959. [RCN-005915]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

As a result of the Government running the Federal Hostel at Baker Lake directly with no Church involvement, no operational agreements were signed with religious organizations.

Contracts were signed with various community members to act as “Hostel Parents” or “Hostel Mothers” to manage the residences.

1960/61 School Year:

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel House Mother at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 1/21/1961 to 7/5/1961. [BLS-000320]

1961/62 School Year:

A Service Agreement, dated 2/5/1962, identifies a Hostel House Mother at Baker Lake. Her contract runs from 1/1/1962 to 8/1/1962. [BLS-000365-0001]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostels Supervisor, “to give instruction and supervision to the two hostel mothers at Baker Lake.” The contract runs from 11/30/1961 to 6/30/1962. [BLS-000362]

1962/63 School Year:

A Service Agreement identifies an “understudy to the Hostels Supervisor.” The contract runs from 4/1/1962 to 3/31/1963. [BLS-000374]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel House Mother at Baker Lake. Her contract runs from 9/15/1962 to 3/31/1963. [BLS-000391]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel House Mother at Baker Lake. Her contract runs from 9/1/1962 to 9/30/1962. [BLS-000392]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel House Mother at Baker Lake. Her contract runs from 9/1/1962 to 3/31/1963. [BLS-000393]

A Service Agreement identifies Hostel Supervisor. The contract runs from 9/1/1962 to 6/30/1963. [BLS-000394]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Mother at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 4/1/1963 to 7/15/1963. [BLS-000420-0001]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Mother at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 4/1/1963 to 7/15/1963. [BLS-000420-0002]

1963/64 School Year:

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Mother at Baker Lake. The contract runs from

8/15/1963 to 6/30/1964. [BLS-000426]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Mother at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 8/15/1963 to 6/30/1964. [BLS-000427]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Supervisor at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 9/30/1963 to 5/30/1964. [BLS-000434]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Assistant at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 11/1/1963 to 6/30/1964. [BLS-000449-0001]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Supervisor at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 4/1/1964 to 7/17/1964. [BLS-000469]

A Service Agreement identifies a married couple as Hostel Parents at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 7/1/1964 to 7/21/1964. [BLS-000475]

1964/65 School Year:

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Assistant at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 8/15/1964 to 7/15/1965. [BLS-000480]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Parent at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 8/15/1964 to 7/15/1965. [BLS-000481]

A Service Agreement identifies a married couple as Hostel Parents at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 8/15/1964 to 7/15/1965. [BLS-000482]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Supervisor at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 11/1/1964 “until the end of school term or until the hostels are vacated”. [BLS-000492]

1965/66 School Year:

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Supervisor at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 8/15/1965 to 7/15/1966. [BLS-000510]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Mother at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 8/15/1965 to 7/15/1966. [BLS-000511]

A Service Agreement identifies a married couple as Hostel Parents at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 8/15/1965 to 7/15/1966. [BLS-000512]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Assistant at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 8/15/1965 to 7/15/1966. [BLS-000513]

1966/67 School Year:

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Mother at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 8/16/1966 to 8/15/1967. [BLS-000547]

A Service Agreement identifies a Hostel Assistant at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 8/16/1966 to 8/15/1967. [BLS-000548]

A Service Agreement, dated 10/1/1966, identifies Lilian Shaw as Hostel Supervisor at Baker Lake. The contract runs from 10/1/1966 to 7/15/1967. [BLS-000556]

1967/68 School Year:

A Memorandum from the Regional Administrator to the Administrator of the Arctic, dated 11/2/1967, identifies the Hostel Parents at Baker Lake. [BLS-000594]

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the Federal Hostel at Baker Lake or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1958: A Report from the Principal at the Baker Lake FDS dated 3/17/1958 states “fifteen students are at hospital right now. Of these fifteen, three were boarded students. They were boarded so that they could attend school.” Down the page it states that, “fourteen children have tuberculosis and twelve of those have regular residence in the settlement...we have had several bad interruptions caused by sickness, we have all had Asian Flu. Almost all of the children had chicken-pox just before and after Christmas. We have also had several respiratory ailments that have affected everyone. We seem to have at least one epidemic per month.” [BLS-000782-0001]

A Student List names sixteen FDS pupils in home board at Baker Lake on 4/1/1958. Five are identified as having a parent with tuberculosis. [BLS-000043-0001]

1962: In reference to health conditions at Baker Lake, a Report by the Principal in 1962 states that “something is wrong when people are x-rayed in mid April and the most urgent cases leave the settlement sometime in June. There was a boy in my class (he still has not left the settlement) who is a suspected TB case. If he has TB he should be sent immediately for treatment. As it is he has been left almost 3 months in a crowded house. Looking at this from a purely personal point of view, I object to being needlessly exposed to active TB germs in a crowded classroom. Taking the larger view, I certainly must protest the needless endangering of the whole class – and these, or at least some of them, have a past history of TB.” [BLS-000260]

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Jean Rayner	Welfare Teacher/Teacher In Charge	1956/57
Terrance Golding	Welfare Teacher/Teacher in	1957/58

	Charge	
Rilla Wright	Acting Principal	1958/59
Bernard A. Mullen	Principal	1959/60 – 1960/61
W. Ivan Mouat	Principal	1961/62 – 1963/64
John Poste	Principal	1964/65-1965/66
Robert MacQuarrie	Principal	1966/67 – at least 1968/69

Narrative Completed: August 14, 2008
Narrative Updated: September 14, 2009

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