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Federal Hostel at Pangnirtung
IAP Hostel Narrative
10 26 2009

Federal Hostel at Pangnirtung [Pangiqtuuq], Nunavut

Three 8-pupil Small Hostel residences were built in 1963 in the community of Pangnirtung on south-eastern Baffin Island. Initially, two of these buildings were used as classrooms while the third housed a construction crew that was working in the community on various community projects. Two of the three residence buildings opened as Federal hostels officially August 29th, 1964, housing 17 students. Enrolment was steady through the mid-1960s, though dropping to under 10 students by the 1966/67 school year. The Federal hostels closed by the end of that school year, with the last records of residential pupils dated to June 16th, 1967. As of January 1968, two of the hostel buildings were used for staff housing while the third remained vacant. As with many other Arctic locations in the late 1960s, families moving off the land and settling into the community lessened the demand for residential accommodation while simultaneously increasing the demand for day school classrooms. An additional 12-pupil hostel was planned to be built in the community in 1968 to provide for some residential pupils, however this new hostel was not ultimately built.

NAME OF HOSTEL AND VARIANTS

1964 – Pangnirtung Hostel [PAS-000020]¹

1964 – Pupil Residence at Pangnirtung [PAS-000025]

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

August 29th, 1964 to June 16th, 1967 [operated solely by the Federal Government] [PAS-000001]; [PAS-000002]; [PAS-000012]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY:

1957 – In a December 1957 community welfare report, a recommendation was made by the community teacher to the Chief of the Education Division for a hostel to be constructed at Pangnirtung to allow children from the ages of 8 to 12 in surrounding camps to be provided with regular schooling. The Chief of Education Division responded on February 6th, 1958 reporting that consideration was being given to the establishment of hostel facilities in the community and requested maps of surrounding camps/communities for projected hostel occupancy enrolment figures. [PAS-000049]; [PAS-000050]

1958 – A second recommendation for the construction of hostel facilities in Pangnirtung was made by the community Principal/Teacher at the Federal Day School in a May 1958 welfare report. In the report, the Principal comments on the hunting practices of the Inuit surrounding the Pangnirtung area noting the requirement of children to attend the Federal Day School in the

¹ The prefix PAS indicates that this document is from the Federal Hostel at Pangnirtung [Nunavut] document collection found in the National database.

community 'would tend to keep people in one place, lessen there traveling and so their hunting'. The report further notes 'the alternative suggested before, seems to be a hostel placed in Pangnirtung, where the children could remain for part of the year, preferably the winter months.' [PAS-000051]

1960 – On March 29th, 1960, it was reported by the Northern Administration Branch that the Federal Day School facilities in Pangnirtung [rented from the Anglican Church] were in adequate and that a new two-classroom day school be constructed in the community while the existing school building be used as a hostel. [PAS-000052]

On April 7th, 1960, the Deputy Minister reported that the building of three 8-pupil hostels was to be made part of the 1960/61 construction program in Pangnirtung in effort to accommodate a percentage of the 201 school aged children living the Pangnirtung/Cumberland Sound area. This plan was initially rejected by the Secretary of the Treasury Board to due to the lack of information supporting the need of additional classroom and hostel facilities in the community. [PAS-000053]

In June of 1960, the Administrator of the Arctic submitted a request to the Bishop of the Arctic for the indefinite rental of the Anglican Mission building in Pangnirtung to continue Federal Day School education. The building was intended to be used until a new two-class room building could be constructed. Concern was raised over the completion of three family type hostels in 1961/62 as resulting in the increased enrolment of the Federal Day School beyond current capacity. It was felt the Department's utilization of the Mission building would be essential given the projected enrolment increase as a result of the hostel construction. [PAS-000055]; [PAS-000056]

On June 20th, 1961, it was reported by the Administrator of the Arctic the completion and opening of three small family type hostels at Pangnirtung was to commence September 1961. [PAS-000056]

In responding to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Deputy Minister reported on July 6th, 1960, that the three 8-pupil hostels at Pangnirtung would be reserved for children whose parents were required to be out of the settlement for long periods of time. In addition, it was reported that the three hostels would be operated by an Inuit couple/Inuit widow and that the implementation of the Small Hostel approach at Pangnirtung was more 'economical on a per pupil basis' than the standard Large Hostels program currently operated by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [PAS-000057]

1961 – In April of 1961, the Community Teacher of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School planned a 14 day trip to outlying camps of the area to inform Inuit parents of the proposed construction of the three 8-pupil small hostels. The Teacher was to ask for their co-operation and stress the 'importance of sending their children to the hostels so they can attend school.' [PAS-000059-0000]

An April 27th, 1961 letter to the Bishop of the Arctic from the Acting Administrator of the Arctic thanked the Bishop for the extended lease on the Anglican Mission building used for the Federal Day School at Pangnirtung. In the letter, the Acting Administrator reported that construction on the new Federal School and Federal Hostels in the community would be completed by March of 1962. [PAS-000060]

In May of 1961, it was projected in a Forecast of Educational Facilities and Staff report that 24 children could be accommodated should three 8-pupil hostels be completed in Pangnirtung for the 1961/62 academic season. Furthermore, it was reported that 48 children could be accommodated should six 8-pupil hostels be completed for the 1962/63 school year. [PAS-000061-0001]

In July of 1961, the Community Teacher of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School reported that her visit to four camp sites surrounding Pangnirtung [Bon Accord, Nunata, Avatuktu and Imigen] was successful. Response from Inuit parents concerning their children attending school/residing in hostels was reportedly positive overall and the Community Teacher urged the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to construct additional hostel facilities in order to accommodate all of the children interesting in attending school. [PAS-000062-0001]

1963 – In a memorandum dated January 18th, 1963, the Administrator of the Arctic reported that the three 8-bed hostels near completion in Pangnirtung were to remain empty as the two classrooms in the community were running at full capacity with 59 pupils. It was further reported that additional students could not be instructed without the addition of another teacher at the Federal Day School or additional classroom space. [PAS-000064]

On January 25th, 1963, the Community Principal/Teacher of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School reported to the Superintendent of Education that a winter storm had damaged both the school and hostel buildings in the community. The report details damages occurring to two un-completed hostel buildings in addition to damages to wall and roof of the prefabricated Federal Day School building. Two of the three un-finished hostel buildings were ultimately secured as classrooms as damages incurred by the school were severe enough that classes could not continue in the building. Ultimately, this further delayed the opening of the hostel buildings for student accommodation usage. [PAS-000065]; [PAS-000069]

On January 25th, 1963, it was reported that the opening of three hostels at Pangnirtung would increase school enrolment from 59 to 84 which was felt at the time to be too high for two teachers to successfully accommodate at the Federal Day School. [RCN-004468]²

In April of 1963, the Principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School reported in an Enrolment Forecast report that approximately 117 children from several camps within a hundred mile radius of the community would be able to attend school if hostel facilities were provided. It was further reported that two [of three] completed 8-pupil hostel buildings erected in Pangnirtung were being used as temporary classroom space as a result of the wreckage incurred by the school building in the January 23rd storm. The Principal further reported that the three hostel buildings would not be utilized for student housing until additional classroom space/teaching staff was provided in the community. All of the temporary classroom [hostel] facilities were running at max capacity with no further room available for additional students from outlying camps in the community to attend school. [PAS-000070]; [PAS-000071]; [PAS-000073]

On April 4th, 1963, it was reported by the Community Principal that no children attending the Pangnirtung Federal Day School were being boarded in private homes. [PAS-000072]

In May of 1963, it was reported by the Chief of the Education Division that a shipment of replacement materials required for the re-construction of damaged hostel buildings at Pangnirtung was delayed due to an epidemic which led to death of most dogs in the community. The result of

² The prefix RCN indicates that this document is from the Nunavut/Northwest Territories General document collection found in the National Database.

the deaths meant that many families who lived in camps surrounding the Pangnirtung community were now living in the settlement, temporarily eliminating the need of school hostels. [PAS-000077]

In October of 1963, it was reported to the Deputy Minister that the Pangnirtung school hostels could hold a capacity of 24 students. It was further noted that two of the hostels were being used as classrooms while the third hostel was housing a construction crew. [RCN-000861]

On November 25th, 1963, it was reported by the Administrator of the Arctic that the construction crew residing in one of the hostel buildings at Pangnirtung would be moving out before Christmas. However, it was recommended that only one hostel building open as a student residence as enrolment at the Federal Day School was reported at 40 children under the instruction of only two teachers. [RCN-003694]

1964 – In May of 1964, it was proposed that one of the school hostel buildings at Pangnirtung be transformed into two classrooms with a partition separating each in effort to accommodate the arrival of two additional teachers in the community. [PAS-000082]

In July of 1964, the Acting Administrator of the Arctic advised the Regional Administrator that a shipment of material required for the construction of additional classroom facilities at Pangnirtung would ultimately not arrive until 1965. It was further recommended that three partitions be removed from one of the hostel buildings in the community so that the building could be used as a third classroom. [PAS-000083]

The first Quarterly Return filed for the Federal Hostel at Pangnirtung, a September 1964 return indicates the first pupils to enter the Hostel were admitted on August 29th, 1964, marking the official opening of the residence. [PAS-000001]; [PAS-000002]

1965 – On January 27th, 1965, it was reported by the Acting Regional Administrator that three additional large hostels were proposed for construction in Pangnirtung due to children from surrounding areas being unable to attend school as a result of the lack of adequate school/hostel facilities in the community. [PAS-000096-0000]; [PAS-000096-0001]

In April of 1965, the Principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School reported that one 8-pupil hostel was being used as two classrooms, noting the building was ‘very inadequate’. It was recommended that a large school and hostel be constructed in the community in effort to increase school enrolment. [PAS-000100-0001]

A statement of hostel operation costs dated December 10th, 1965, indicates only two student hostels were in operation in Pangnirtung for the 1964/65 academic year. [PAS-000114]

1966 – A September 18th, 1966 recommendation submitted by the principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School indicated that only one 8-pupil hostel in the community was being used for its intended purpose. The recommendation suggested the remaining two hostels be utilized as single teacher residences. [PAS-000135-0000]

It was further proposed in September 1966 that a 100 pupil hostel be constructed at Pangnirtung within the next five years. This plan was ultimately extinguished as the continued development of Inuit housing in the community [14 house constructed in 1966, 24 houses constructed in 1967] mitigated the need for student hostel accommodation. [RCN-004106-0001]

In December of 1966, it was proposed by the Administrator of the Arctic that one of the un-used 8-pupil hostel buildings at Pangnirtung be used as a teacher residence for two single teachers while the other be utilized for the purposes of a community adult education centre. [PAS-000143]

1967 – In May of 1967, it was suggested by the Administrator of the Arctic that immediate action be taken to convert one of the 8-pupil hostels at Pangnirtung into two single teacher residence apartments in order to address the lack of educational staff accommodation in the community. [RCN-004125]

The last Quarterly Return filed for the Federal Hostel at Pangnirtung, a June 1967 Return indicates the last day pupils were resident in the hostel was on June 16th, 1967, marking the official closing of the residence. [PAS-000012]

Although the remaining student hostels at Pangnirtung closed in June of 1967, the construction of two additional twelve bed hostels for the 1968/69 academic year was considered by the Chief of the Education Division. Initially, the Administrator of the Arctic requested five 12-pupil residences to be constructed however this plan was ultimately rejected as families were increasingly moving into the Pangnirtung settlement from surrounding camp areas, reducing the need for student hostel accommodation in the community. [PAS-000154]

1968 – In February of 1968, the Administrator of the Arctic reported there would be no need for additional pupil residences [hostels] in Pangnirtung until sufficient classroom space could be made available for additional children to attend the Federal Day School which was filled to maximum capacity. The memorandum notes that two of the three 8-pupil hostels in Pangnirtung were being utilized for staff housing while the third remained empty. The diminishing need for student hostel accommodation was the result of a new housing program development in Pangnirtung which allowed families to settle within the community as oppose to surrounding camp areas. The plan to construct one 12-pupil residence was recommended to be deferred until the 1969/70 academic year however this construction ultimately did not take place. [PAS-000159]; [PAS-000160]

MANAGEMENT OF HOSTEL

Dates managed by Church

The operation and management of the Federal Hostel at Pangnirtung was entirely secular with no Church involvement.

Dates managed by Government

August 29th, 1964 to June 16th, 1967 [operated solely by the Federal Government] [PAS-000001]; [PAS-000002]; [PAS-000012]

The 1950s gave rise to the construction of numerous Large Hostel student residences in the western Arctic. These were built in part to provide centralized residential schooling for the growing and rapidly urbanizing population of the Mackenzie. In the eastern Arctic, with its small and dispersed population, similar Large Hostels were a not viable or effective way to provide residential accommodation. Consequently, in 1960 the Arctic Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources launched its “Small Hostels” program.

The Federal Government operated the Small Hostels program exclusively from 1960 until delegating educational authority to the Government of the Northwest Territories for Arctic District schools in 1970. The Small Hostels program was entirely conceived, developed and implemented by the Northern Affairs Branch (NAB) of the Federal Government. In 1966 this Department was amalgamated with the Department of Indian Affairs to form Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, which managed education in the North from 1966 through 1970. Throughout the 1960s, the Small Hostels program operated in conjunction with a program of “local boarding” of pupils in private residences in many communities. Small Hostels were a priority for communities where private boarding was inadequate for educational needs. [RCN-004411-0000; RCN-003468-0001]

The Small Hostel setting was intended to approximate the traditional home life of Inuit children instead of the highly formal, institutional context of Church-run Large Hostels. Local community members, typically Inuit women, were employed as “Hostel Mothers” or “Hostel Parents”, who managed the residences under the supervision of the Federal Day School Principal. Their salaries were paid by the Federal Government, and in addition to supervising the children they carried out most of the domestic tasks performed in a typical household – washing clothes, cleaning, meal preparation, etc. [RCN-003483-0000; RCN-003483-0001; RCN-003468-0001]

Generally, two pairs of hostel parents were granted service contracts for each academic year children were residing at the hostel. The hostel parents would normally be under the supervision of a ‘Hostel Supervisor’ and all known occurrences of this hostel management type has been documented below:

1964 - Two Service Agreements dated August 10th, 1964, indicated that two ‘Hostel House Parents’ were to serve at Pangnirtung from August 10th, 1964 to July 10th, 1965 as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [PAS-000084-0000]; [PAS-000084-0001]

Similarly, a Service Agreement dated August 10th, 1964, indicated that a ‘Hostel Instructor’ was to serve at Pangnirtung commencing August 10th, 1964, as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [PAS-000085]

1965 – A Service Agreement dated June 11th, 1965, indicated that a ‘Hostel Instructor’ was to serve at Pangnirtung from August 10th, 1965 until September 10th, 1965 as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [PAS-000104-0002]

Three Service Agreements dated August 9th, 1965 indicated that six ‘Hostel House Parents’ were to serve at Pangnirtung from August 9th, 1965 to July 9th, 1966, as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [PAS-000104-0001]; [PAS-000104-0003]; [PAS-000105]

Associated Federal Day School – Pangnirtung

The Pangnirtung Federal Day school opened in September 1956, ultimately replacing the Anglican Mission Day school in the community with existing Anglican Mission building facilities being converted into a classroom and teachers living quarters. The school originally held an enrollment of about 20 students however this number increased to well over a hundred by the late 1960s with the ongoing addition of classroom facilities and new school complex in 1969.

Name of Federal Day School and Variants

1958 – Federal School, Pangnirtung [PAS-000050]

1962 – Pangnirtung Federal Day School [PAS-000063-0001]

1956 – In March of 1956, meeting minutes of the Sub-Committee on Inuit Education indicated that a Federal Day School would go into operation in Pangnirtung in September 1956. The classroom and teachers living quarters were converted from the existing Anglican Mission house in the community. [RCN-005165]

On June 21st, 1960 a letter from the Administrator of the Arctic reported that a Federal School had been in operation at Pangnirtung since 1956 with an average enrolment of 20 pupils. [PAS-000056]

1959 – In 1959, it was reported that the Pangnirtung Federal Day School held an enrolment of 21 children [10 boys; 11 girls] despite the school capacity/number of student desks being recorded as 18. [RCN-002069]

1960 - A memorandum from the Northern Administration Branch dated March 29th, 1960, reported that the Federal Day School building at Pangnirtung [rented from the Anglican Church of Canada in 1956] was no longer adequate for the growing school enrolment, increasing the need for the construction of a two classroom school in the community.[PAS-000052]

On April 7th, 1960, the Deputy Minister advised the Secretary of the Treasury Board of the urgency of constructing a new two classroom school in Pangnirtung due to the increase of the number of school aged children in the community. The Anglican Mission wanted to end its lease of the current Federal Day School building with the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and utilize the structure for their own purposes. It was suggested the construction of a two classroom school proceed in the 1961/62 fiscal year with the potential of expanding into a four classroom school. [PAS-000053]; [PAS-000054]

On June 21st, 1960, it was reported by the Administrator of the Arctic that the classroom building at Pangnirtung rented from the Anglican Mission was required by the Mission commencing September 1961, increasing the urgency for Federal Day School facilities to be constructed in the community. [This was ultimately delayed as the Federal Government continued to lease the building for the 1961/62 academic year.] [PAS-000056]; [PAS-000060]

On a Forecast of Educational Facilities and Staff report for May 1961, it was reported that the Pangnirtung Federal Day School held an enrolment of 18 local children for the 1959/60 academic year. [PAS-000061-0001]

A November 2nd, 1960 Summary of School openings indicates the Pangnirtung Federal Day School opened on September 26th, 1960 for the 1960/61 academic year. [RCN-008644]

1961 – On April 27th, 1961, the Acting Administrator of the Arctic wrote a letter to the Bishop of the Arctic thanking him for the ability to continue leasing the Anglican Mission building for the 1961/62 academic year. In the letter, it is noted that the new Federal School building in Pangnirtung was to be completed by March 1962. The letter also reports that the Anglican Mission building would be returned to the Church once the new Federal school building was completed. [PAS-000060]

In May of 1961, it was reported the by the Principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School that the held and enrolment of 22 local children for the 1960/61 school year. The report also indicates that there was one regular classroom teacher and one janitor employed at the school for the 1960/61 school year. [PAS-000061-0001]

1962 – An Enrolment Form and Classification of Pupils report dated April 30th, 1962, recorded the Pangnirtung Federal Day School as having an enrolment of 18 Inuit Boys and 22 Inuit Girls [total enrolment of 42 pupils]. [PAS-000063-0001]

Additionally, the Principal reported on April 30th, 1962, that one regular classroom teacher, one teacher's aide and one janitor were employed at the Pangnirtung Federal Day School for the 1961/62 school year. [PAS-000063-0003]

A February 1963 report on the community of Pangnirtung indicates the construction of a two classroom Federal Day School was completed just prior to Christmas [December 1962]. [PAS-000069]; [PAS-000070]

1963 – In January of 1963, it was reported that the community of Pangnirtung was stuck by severe winter storm causing damage to the panel roofing and walls of the pre-fabricated Federal Day School building, leaving the structure 'open to the elements.' Two of the three partially completed hostel buildings were ultimately utilized as classroom space until repairs were conducted on the Federal Day School building. The Area Administrator reported on the damage stating: 'On Monday, January 21st, all roof and some wall panels blew off of one school classroom and school office – school shell heating system will require reconstruction.' [PAS-000065]; [PAS-000066]; [PAS-000069]

On April 1st, 1963, it was reported by the Principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School that two completed [of three] small hostel buildings in the community were still being used as temporary classrooms as a result of damages incurred by the Federal Day School building during the January 21st, 1963 storm. The total enrolment at the Pangnirtung Federal Day School at this time was recorded as 47 pupils ranging from Beginners to Grade 4 students. The principal also reported the school had insufficient room [classroom space] to accommodate all children living in the Pangnirtung area. [PAS-000070]

An April 9th, 1963, Forecast of Educational Facilities and Staff form indicates that the Pangnirtung Federal Day School employed a principal, regular classroom teacher, special classroom teacher, janitor and music teacher during the 1962/63 academic year. Further reported on the form is the need for additional classroom space. [PAS-000073]

1964 – A School Term Opening Report dated September 4th, 1964 indicates the Principal opened the Pangnirtung Federal Day School for the 1964/65 academic year on September 3rd, 1964. The Principal also reports that the opening of the school was unable to commence on September 1st, 1964 due to a measles epidemic in the community. [PAS-000086]

On October 28th, 1964, it was reported that 69 children were enrolled at the Pangnirtung Federal Day School. The Area Administrator requested that an additional four classrooms be constructed in the community in order to accommodate all of the school aged children in and around the Pangnirtung/Cumberland Sound area who were of age to attend school. [PAS-000096-0001]

1965 – A Principal's Annual Age Grade Report dated January 1965, reported that the Pangnirtung Federal Day School held an enrolment of 32 Inuit Boys and 36 Inuit Girls enrolled in grades one to four [beginners]. [PAS-000093]

A School Term Opening Report dated January 5th, 1965, indicates the Principal opened the Pangnirtung Federal Day School for the second term of the 1964/65 academic year on January 5th, 1965. In the report, the Principal notes the opening of the school was delayed due to the outbreak of infectious hepatitis in the community. [PAS-000094]

On April 10th, 1965, the Principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School reported in a Forecast of Enrolment, Facilities and Staff report that four teachers were teaching in four classrooms at the Pangnirtung Federal Day School with two of the classrooms existing in one 8-pupil hostel building. [PAS-000100-0001]

In March of 1965, 32 Inuit Boys, 38 Inuit Girls and one non Indian/Inuit student were enrolled at the Pangnirtung Federal Day School [71 total]. [PAS-000100-0002]

A School Term Opening Report dated September 4th, 1965, indicates the Principal opened the Pangnirtung Federal Day School for the first term of the 1965/66 academic year on September 1st, 1965. [PAS-000106]

1966 – In January of 1966, it was reported the construction of a two classroom addition and activity room was completed for the Pangnirtung Federal Day School in December 1965. [RCN-010990]

A January 1966 Principal's Report on Teacher Movement and Annual Age-Grade Report indicated that 43 Inuit Boys, 54 Inuit Girls, 5 Non-Inuit Boys and 2 Non-Inuit Girls were enrolled at the Pangnirtung Federal Day School [Grades 1 to 4 and 6]. [PAS-000118-0000]

On September 18th, 1966, it was reported by the Principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School that the expected enrolment for the 1966/67 academic year was 135 children. [PAS-000135-0000]

On October 28th, 1966, the current enrollment of children at the Pangnirtung Federal Day School was reported at 133. A recommendation was made for two portable classrooms to be placed in the community and ready for use by September 1967. As the development of an Inuit housing plan would result in 14 additional Inuit homes in Pangnirtung, it was thought student enrolment at the Federal Day School would past 150 children. [This housing plan ultimately resulted in the end of the need for student hostel facilities for children in the community]. [RCN-004104]

In December 1966, it was reported by the Regional Administrator that the total enrolment of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School had reduced to 128 students. [PAS-000141]

1967 – A January 1967 Principal's Report on Teacher Movement and Annual Age-Grade report indicated that 60 Inuit Boys, 56 Inuit Girls, 5 Non-Inuit Boys and 3 Non-Inuit Girls were enrolled at the Pangnirtung Federal Day School [Grades 1 to 4]. [PAS-000148-0002]

In February of 1967, it was reported the activity room of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School had been divided into two classrooms creating a total of six classrooms. [RCN-004116]

By June 1967, a Principal's Report on Promotion and Non-Promotion indicated that 52 Inuit Boys, 58 Inuit Girls, 7 Non-Inuit Boys and 3 Non-Inuit Girls were enrolled at the Pangnirtung Federal Day School. [PAS-000150-0001]

A School Term Opening Report dated September 5th, 1967 indicates the Principal opened the Pangnirtung Federal Day School for the 1967/68 academic year on September 5th, 1967. [PAS-000155]

1968 - A School Term Opening Report dated September 3rd, 1968 indicates the Principal opened the Pangnirtung Federal Day School for the 1968/69 academic year on September 3rd, 1967. [PAS-000161-0006]

1969 – On December 9th, 1969, it was reported by the District Superintendent of Vocational Education that construction of the new Federal/Territorial Day School building in Pangnirtung was complete. [RCN-009763]

Hostel/School Life

1964 – On December 8th, 1964, it was reported by the Acting Regional Administrator that the Pangnirtung Federal Day School closed on December 7th, 1964 due to an infectious outbreak of hepatitis. As the school was equipped with only one bathroom, concern was raised about the accelerated spreading of the disease at the school. Two school students and eight adults were hospitalized as a result of the outbreak. [PAS-000089]; [PAS-000090]

1965 – In April of 1965, it was reported by the Principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School that an 8- pupil hostel was being used as two classrooms. The Principal also reported the facility to be 'very inadequate' and 'much too crowded.' [PAS-000100-0001]

In a December 11th, 1965 letter from the Principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School to the District Superintendent of Schools, a brief outline of Federal Day School courses is provided. Classes for grades one to six included: Physical Education, Sewing, Remedial English, Science, Music and a 'Special Inuit' course for senior boys. Details of the 'Special Inuit' course for senior boys are provided in a 1966 report listing First Aid, Boats/Boating Techniques, Northern Construction, Rifle Safety, Care and Marksmanship, and Carving as some of the activities taught throughout the course. [PAS-000115]; [PAS-000119-0001]

1967 – In May of 1967, it was reported by the Chief of the Education Division that the placement of an airstrip in Pangnirtung was too close to the Federal Day School. In order for children to return to their homes from the school, they were required to cross 'the extreme end of the airstrip.' [PAS-000166]

HOSTEL/SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1963 – An April 9th, 1963 Forecast of Educational Facilities and Staff form completed by the Principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School indicates that classes were taught in the kitchen/living room area of two student hostel buildings. The existing Federal Day School building suffered roof/side panel damage as a result of a blizzard and could not be used to host classes. [PAS-000073]

1964 – On December 8th, 1964, it was reported that the Pangnirtung Federal Day School consisted of only one bathroom facility. [PAS-000089]

1966 – An April 1966 Forecast of Educational Facilities and Staff form indicates the Pangnirtung Federal Day School consisted of a library, sewing/medical room, assembly hall [also used for physical education] and a kitchen. [PAS-000124]

A September 1966 diagram of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School indicates the school consisted of an old wing with two classrooms and boys/girls bathrooms and a new wing consisting of four classrooms, an office, staff lounge, boys/girls bathrooms, library, medical room and a kitchen. [PAS-000135-0001]

In October of 1966, a request was submitted by the Acting Administrator of the Arctic to construct a partition wall in the Federal Day School auditorium in order to allow for more classroom space [resulting in two classrooms total]. This proposal was ultimately approved in November of 1966 and slated for completion by January 1967 however the project was delayed until the summer of 1967 when materials required for the renovation could be airlifted into the community. [PAS-000137]; [PAS-000140]; [PAS-000144]

LAND

The Federal Hostel buildings at Pangnirtung were an addition to the existing Federal Day School facility and located within close proximity to the Federal Day School. They were therefore on the same physical property and this land title situation reflects that for the Federal Day School.

On October 4th, 1960, the Chief Superintendent of Schools reported that the site chosen for the new Federal Day School building and hostels at Pangnirtung would be ‘as close as possible to the rest of the settlement buildings and that the hostels be placed a short distance beyond the school.’ [PAS-000058]

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Item #	Date	Description
PAS-000062-0001	July 21 st , 1961	Map of Cumberland Sound and surrounding camps canvassed for hostels students.
PAS-000107	September 9 th , 1965	Drawing of Federal Day School building and 8-pupil hostel building converted into two classrooms.
PAS-000135-0001	September 1966	Diagram of existing and proposed wings of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School.

GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

Year	Number of Students
1964/65	17 students in hostel [5 boys; 12 girls]
1965/66	17 students in hostel [4 boys; 13 girls]
1966/67	12 students in hostel [6 boys; 6 girls]

STUDENTS FROM OTHER LOCATIONS

Students from, at least, the following locations attended the Federal Hostel at Pangnirtung:

1961 – In April of 1961, the Community Teacher of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School reported her intentions to visit numerous camps surrounding the Pangnirtung area to inform Inuit parents of the proposed construction of three hostels at Pangnirtung and urge them to send their children to the hostels so they could regularly attend school. Communities mentioned in the teacher's report of school aged children surrounding the Pangnirtung area include: Tuakjuak, Keepeesshaw, Noonata, Sukpeevesuktee, Avatuktoo, Bon Accord, Twapine, Iglootalik, Kingmilksoon, Nouyabkik, Imigen and Ikaloolik. [There may be alternate ways of spelling these locations]. [PAS-000062-0001]

1966 – In April of 1966, the Principal of the Pangnirtung Federal Day School reported that some of the post Grade 6 students of Pangnirtung attended the Churchill Vocational Centre in Churchill, Manitoba to continue education. In June of 1966, at least one student was transferred to Churchill while two others were transferred to other schools in the N.W.T or Quebec. [PAS-000125]; [PAS-000146-0001]

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

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

1960 - A memorandum dated March 29th, 1960 indicates that from 1956 to at least 1962, the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources was renting a building from the Anglican Church of Canada which was used for the community Federal Day School and teacher-only living quarters. [PAS-000052]

1965 – Although the management and operation of both the Pangnirtung Federal Day School and associated Federal Hostels was secular, a telegram dated October 27th, 1965 indicates the Inuit children who attended the Federal Day School were predominately Anglican [Church of England] with the exception of one female Roman Catholic student. [PAS-000109]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

As a result of the Government running the Federal Hostel at Pangnirtung 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. [see ‘Management of Residence’ section of narrative for all individual contracts located for hostel parents of the Federal Hostel at Pangnirtung].

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO HOSTEL INCIDENTS

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

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Wiltshire, Helen M.	Principal	1964 to 1965
Ellis, Peter D.M.	Principal	1965 to 1967

Narrative Completed: July 31st, 2008
Narrative Updated: October 26th, 2009

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



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