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Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet
IAP School Narrative
07 25 2009

Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet [Mittimatalik], Nunavut

Two 8-bed hostels were constructed in 1962 at Pond Inlet on north-western Baffin Island, and these residences went into operation on December 1st, 1962 with an enrolment of nine students. High enrolment demand through the mid 1960s resulted in the construction of an additional three 12-bed hostels in 1966, which were quickly brought into service. As of 1968, the two original 8-bed hostels were being used as staff housing rather than residences. The Federal Hostel continued to operate in Pond Inlet, despite dwindling residential demands until April of 1970, officially closing on April 13th, 1970. With the exception of the Federal Hostel at Cambridge Bay [which remained in operation into the late 1990s], the Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet was the last Arctic Federal Hostel to close. As it was situated above the 72nd parallel, the Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet was also the most northerly residential school to operate in Canada.

NAME OF RESIDENCE AND VARIANTS:

1962 – Pond Inlet [POS-000001]¹
1964 – Pond Inlet Federal Day School Hostel [POS-000004]
1965 – Pupil Residence at Pond Inlet [POS-000049-0000]
1968 – Pond Inlet Hostel [POS-000022]

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

December 1st, 1962 to April 13th, 1970 [operated solely by the Federal Government] [POS-000001]; [POS-000028]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY:

1961 – In April of 1963, a Forecast of Education Facilities and Staff report indicated that prior to the opening of the Federal Hostel in the community, 21 students who attended the Pond Inlet Federal Day School were being boarded locally for the 1961/62 academic year. [POS-000101]

1962 – A 1962 Arctic District Education report on construction estimates for 1961/62 indicated that two family style small hostels were to be built in Pond Inlet to ‘ensure regular attendance’ at the Federal Day School for children of hunter and trapper families surrounding the Pond Inlet area. [RCN-008503-0001]²

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

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

In November of 1962, the Pond Inlet Federal Day School Principal requested that a temporary student hostel be made from an existing Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources Inuit house in Pond Inlet. The Principal reported that a maximum of seven hostel students could be accommodated in addition to the Hostel Mother and her three school aged children. [POS-000088]

The first Quarterly Return filed for the Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet, a December 31st, 1962 Return, indicates the first pupils to enter the hostel were admitted on December 1st, 1962 marking the official opening of the residence. [POS-000001]

1963 – In an October 11th, 1963 ‘Occupancy of Hostels’ report submitted to the Deputy Minister by a directing of official of the Northern Administration Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, it was reported that the Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet held a capacity of 16 pupils with additional hostel space under construction. [RCN-000921]

1964 – A 1964 report on Arctic education facilities and proposed facilities indicates that as of 1964, Pond Inlet consisted of ‘a new two classroom school, two 8-bed hostels, a three bedroom house, a two bedroom house, a one classroom school and a one bedroom house on loan.’ In addition, future facilities listed in the report as required for the 1965/66 academic year include ‘three 12-bed hostels, two classrooms and a three bedroom house.’ [RCN-002205-0004]

In October of 1964, it was reported by the Principal of the Pond Inlet Federal Day School that both the school and Federal Hostel did not re-open until October 12th of the 1964/65 academic year as teaching staff were unable able to arrive at the community until the winter freeze up made transportation into the community possible. [POS-000128; POS-000006; POS-000131]

A December 4th, 1964 report on the Federal Hostel situation at Pond Inlet from the Area Administrator indicates the two 8-pupil hostel units were full during the 1964/65 academic year. However, the Area Administrator suggested that the construction of new 12-pupil hostels in the community be canceled due to the difficulty of having the parents of children in surrounding camps willingly separate from their children for the purposes of education. [POS-000140-0001]

1965 – In a January 19th, 1965 memorandum from the Administrator of the Arctic to the Acting Regional Administrator, it was reported the construction of additional hostel facilities in Pond Inlet would commence in 1965 with the 1965/66 academic year being the first year of a two year hostel construction program. [POS-000138]

In a 1967 community report by the Principal of the Pond Inlet Federal Day School, the expansion of the Federal Day School and Federal Hostel facilities at Pond Inlet is detailed: ‘In the summer of 1965, a special ship brought materials for a massive extension to the school and for three hostels in which camp children could live during the school year.’ [POS-000174]

A July 2nd, 1965 memorandum from the Acting Area Administrator to the Acting Regional Administrator reporting on Federal Hostel operational costs indicates that two school hostel buildings were expected to be in operation at Pond Inlet for the 1965/66 academic year. [POS-000156-0000]

On July 23rd, 1965, the Acting Area Administrator reported to the Acting Regional Administrator that 16 Application for Admission forms for the admittance to the Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet had been received. The Acting Area Administrator further reported that four hostel vacancies

remained, indicating that the Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet held a maximum capacity of approximately 20 students. [POS-000048-0000]

By October 28th, 1965, it was reported by the Regional Administrator that the enrolment of pupils at the Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet had risen to 22. [POS-000049-0000]

1966 – An undated report on student hostel operation in the Baffin Island region provides a brief summary of the Federal Hostel situation at Pond Inlet. It notes: ‘three 12 pupil hostels erected by the Department of Public Works in 1966 now fully utilized as intended for small hostels.’ The report also indicates that one of the original 8-pupil hostels was now being used as staff housing with the other 8-pupil hostel was also being renovated for the use of school staff. [RCN-004524-0001]

A September 1966 report titled ‘Arctic District Education Requirements’ indicated that as of September 1966, construction was being conducted on 20 Inuit houses in Pond Inlet for 1966/67 with 20 more to be constructed in 1967/68. As a result, the report speculated ‘hostel space may be more than adequate’ for the 1966/67 and 1967/68 academic years as Inuit families were more likely to live in the settlement on a more permanent basis, mitigating the need for hostel accommodation in the community. [RCN-004106-0001]

An October 28th, 1966 report from the Administrator of the Arctic on the need of expansion for school facilities describes Pond Inlet as having adequate education facilities as the result of a recently completed three 12-bed pupil hostels project and two classroom additions. [RCN-004104]

1969 – A 1969 Forecast of Enrolment, Facilities and Staff report from the Principal of the Pond Inlet Federal Day School indicates that as of April 3rd, 1969, one of the 12-pupil hostels at Pond Inlet was being used as a kindergarten room while another 12-pupil hostel was being utilized as a ‘home economics room for school children and in the evening for adults’. [POS-000203]

1970 - The last Quarterly Return completed for the Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet on April 13th, 1970, indicates the four remaining pupils at the hostel were officially discharged as a result of the hostel closing on April 13th, 1970. [POS-000028]

MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENCE:

Dates managed by Church:

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

Dates managed by Government:

December 1st, 1962 to April 13th, 1970 [POS-000001]; [POS-000028]

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 the transfer of 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:

1963 - A memorandum dated March 4th, 1963 from the Acting Administrator of the Arctic to the Regional Administrator requested copies of the Service Agreement of a ‘Hostel House Mother’ who was to serve at Pond Inlet from November 15th, 1962 to June 30th, 1963. This Service Agreement tenure was verified in a memorandum from the Acting Administrator of the Arctic dated April 24th, 1963. [POS-000097; POS-000103]

A Service Agreement dated March 9th, 1963 indicated that a ‘Hostel Supervisor’ was to serve at Pond Inlet from November 15th, 1962 to June 30th, 1963 as directed by the school authority and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [POS-000098]

A Service Agreement dated November 18th, 1963 indicated that two ‘Hostel Parents’ were to serve at Pond Inlet from January 1st, 1964 to March 31st, 1964 as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [POS-000111-0001]

Similarly, A Service Agreement dated December 1st, 1963 indicated that a ‘Hostel Supervisor’ was to serve at Pond Inlet from January 1st, 1964 to June 30th, 1964 as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [POS-000118-0001]

1964 – On March 18th, 1964, a Service Agreement for two ‘Hostel Parents’ was renewed to cover the period from April 1st, 1964 to June 30th, 1964. The Service Agreement was extended again on August 11th, 1964 to cover the period of September 1st, 1964 to May 31st, 1965 [POS-000121-0001; POS-000130-0001]

A Service Agreement for a 'Hostel Supervisor' was renewed on August 11th, 1964 to cover the period from September 1st, 1964 to May 31st, 1965. [POS-000130-0002]

A Service Agreement dated August 31st, 1964 indicated that two 'Hostel Parents' were to serve at Pond Inlet from September 1st, 1964 to June 30th, 1965 as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [POS-000126-0001]

1965 – On April 22nd, 1965, a Service Agreement for two 'Hostel Parents' was renewed to cover period from September 1st, 1965 to June 30th, 1966. [POS-000148-0001]

In addition, a Service Agreement for two additional "Hostel Parents" was also renewed on April 22nd, 1965 to cover the period from September 1st, 1965 to June 30th, 1966. [POS-000148-0002]

A Service Agreement dated April 29th, 1965 indicated that a 'Hostel Supervisor' was to serve at Pond Inlet from May 15th, 1965 to June 30th, 1965 as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [POS-000146-0001]

1967- A Service Agreement dated May 1st, 1967 indicated that a 'Hostel Father' was to serve at Pond Inlet from May 1st, 1967 to June 30th, 1967 as instructed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. [POS-000173]

A Service Agreement dated July 5th, 1967 indicated that two 'Hostels Parents' were to serve at Pond Inlet from September 1st, 1967 to June 30th, 1968 as instructed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. [POS-000184]

Similarly, a second Service Agreement dated July 5th, 1967 indicated that two additional 'Hostel Parents' were to serve at Pond Inlet from September 1st, 1967 to June 30th, 1968 as instructed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. [POS-000185]

Two Service Agreements were also renewed on July 5th, 1967 for the return of two individuals to serve 'Hostel Parents' for the period covering September 1st, 1967 to June 30th, 1968 as instructed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. [POS-000186; POS-000187]

Associated Federal Day School – Pond Inlet

The Pond Inlet Federal Day School was constructed during the 1958/59 and 1959/60 academic years and was in full operation by the *Fall of 1960*. The opening of the day school in the community marked the first appearance of regular schooling since the fading use of the part-time Anglican Mission Day School which discontinued schooling as of June 1960. The requirement for regular attendance at the Federal Day School from children of families who regularly hunted on the land and lived in camps ultimately resulted in the construction/operation of the Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet.

Name of Federal Day School and Variants:

1962 – Federal School, Pond Inlet [POS-000057-0000]

1970 – Pond Inlet Federal Day School [POS-000069-0003]

1970 – Pond Inlet Territorial School [POS-000069-0005]

1959 – A March 1959 report from the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration projected the opening of a new Federal Day School facility at Pond Inlet for 1959. [RCN-008421]

In an October 15th, 1959 memorandum from a directing official of the Northern Administration Branch it was reported that the Federal Day School at Pond Inlet would be ready for operation for the start of 1960/61 academic year. It was further reported that construction had already commenced on the Federal Day School facility in the community. [RCN-005887]

A December 1959 report on education in Arctic communities identifies Pond Inlet as not having regular schooling since 1955 with the last Anglican Mission Day School Quarterly Report being submitted to the Federal Government in June of that year. [RCN-005915]

1960 - In a 1960 'Proposed Projects for Education Facilities and Living Quarters for Teachers' list of 1959/60 construction estimates, the Pond Inlet Federal Day School is recorded as being in its second year of a two year construction program with a one room classroom and three bedroom teacher residence currently under construction. [RCN-008035-0003]

1961 – A May 19th, 1961 list of Baffin Island teaching staff compiled by the Administrator of the Arctic indicated that the first/current Principal/Community Teacher employed at the Pond Inlet Federal Day School would serve in the position for the start of 1961/62 academic year. [RCN-006258]

On September 28th, 1961, the Administrator of the Arctic reported that the Pond Inlet Federal Day School had one teacher on staff. [RCN-006321]

1962 – A March 27th, 1962 memorandum from the Administrator of the Arctic to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported that the Annual Age/Grade Report for Pond Inlet listed the Federal Day School as having an enrolment of 41 Inuit children. However, in a memorandum dated June 14th, 1962, the Principal reported that the highest enrolment at the school for the 1961/62 academic year was 33. [RCN-002124] [POS-000082]

A September 1962 Enrolment Form compiled by the Principal of the Pond Inlet Federal Day School indicates that the school was initially 'ungraded' with children of varying ages/skill levels being recorded on the same form. [POS-000057-0005]

A September 30th, 1962 'Enrolment Form Consolidation and Classification of Pupils for Schools in Fulltime Operation' report indicates the Pond Inlet Federal Day School held an enrolment of 18 Inuit Boys and 16 Inuit girls at the beginning of the 1962/63 academic year. [RCN-003674-0001]

1963 – A January 1963 Teacher Annual Age/Grade report indicates that as of January 1963, the Pond Inlet Federal Day School held an enrolment of 32 Inuit Boys and 17 Inuit girls. [POS-000094]

A September 1963 Enrolment Form for the Pond Inlet Federal Day indicates the previous Principal/Community Teacher had been replaced for the beginning of the 1962/63 academic year. [POS-000066-0001]

A September 30th, 1963 'Enrolment Form Consolidation and Classification of Pupils for Schools in Fulltime Operation' report indicates that the Pond Inlet Federal Day School held an enrolment

of 26 Inuit Boys, 23 Inuit girls and one male student of non Inuit/Indian decent at the beginning of the 1963/64 academic year. [RCN-003672-0001]

1964 – In a 1967 report on the community of Pond Inlet by the Principal of the Federal Day School, it is noted the construction of a new two room school in was completed in 1964 and placed half a mile east of the original Federal Day School structure. [POS-000174]

A March 31st, 1964 ‘Enrolment Form and Classification of Pupils Report’ indicates the Pond Inlet Federal Day School held an enrolment of 29 Inuit Boys, 23 Inuit girls and one male student of non Inuit/Indian decent at the time of recording. [RCN-004339]

As of September 30th, 1964, the Pond Inlet Federal Day was recorded as having a total of four teachers on staff. [RCN-002234-0011]

On December 17th, 1964, it was reported to the Administrator of the Arctic that the Principal of the Pond Inlet Federal Day School referred to his school class division as ‘up-graded, older beginner’s class’ as it was felt using ‘grade 1’ would appear confusing or ‘have a negative connotation for his older beginning students.’ [POS-000067-0000]

1965 – A 1964/65 report on attendance at Baffin Island Regional Schools lists the Pond Inlet Federal Day School as having 49 students in attendance for the 1964/65 academic year. [RCN-002205-0006]

An April 7th, 1965 ‘Forecast of Enrolment, Facilities and Staff’ report compiled by the Principal of the Pond Inlet Federal Day School indicated that a total of 40 children living beyond the distance of an 80 mile radius of the Pond Inlet settlement were unable to attend school. [POS-000145-0001]

1966 – A September 1966 report titled ‘Arctic District Education Requirements’ indicates that as of September 1966, the Pond Inlet Federal Day School held a total enrolment of 85 students occupying four classrooms. [RCN-004106-0001]

1967 – In a March 22nd, 1967 telegram from the Administrator of the Arctic to the Regional Administrator, it was recommended the following changes be made to the Pond Inlet Federal Day School: ‘Close two new classroom sections of new school as soon as possible. Use old classroom for one teacher, use one of the other two classrooms for the second teacher, use other classroom for other two teachers on split day basis.’ [POS-000171]

In a June 1967 Principal’s Report on Promotion and Non-Promotion, the Pond Inlet Federal Day school was recorded as having an enrolment of 48 Inuit boys, 45 Inuit girls and one non-Inuit male student. [POS-000183]

In a July 10th, 1967 letter to the House of Commons it was reported that the Pond Inlet Federal Day School would begin hosting preschool aged classes the following year. [RCN-002358]

As of September 30th, 1967 the total number of children enrolled at the Pond Inlet Federal Day School was recorded at 100. [RCN-003938-0001]

1968 – In a June 1968 Principal’s Report on Promotion and Non-Promotion, the Pond Inlet Federal Day school was recorded as having an enrolment of 56 Inuit boys, 51 Inuit girls, three non-Inuit male students and three non-Inuit female students. [POS-000196]

On June 20th, 1968, the Administrator of the Arctic reported the estimated number of preschool aged children that would attend the Pond Inlet Federal Day School for the 1968/69 academic year would be 24. In addition, it was reported that approximately 20 grade-one aged children would be attending that same year. [RCN-003150]

A December 13th, 1968 report on Arctic District schools from the Acting Administrator of the Arctic notes of Pond Inlet: 'we have already placed an addition of two classrooms to the two-classroom school built previously. With the portioning of the activity room to make two classrooms, we will have a total of six classrooms.' [RCN-004173]

1970 – A March 31st, 1970 report on Eastern Arctic District education indicates that plans to include Home Economics and Industrial Arts facilities for the Pond Inlet Federal Day School were ultimately canceled in lieu of the proposed establishment of a technology centre in the community. [RCN-004265]

An October 1st, 1970 Enrolment Form and Classification of Pupils report list the Pond Inlet Territorial School as having an enrolment of 55 Inuit boys, 70 Inuit girls, 2 non-Inuit boys and 3 non-Inuit girls. In addition, it was reported that the school held classes from kindergarten to grade 7. [POS-000074]

School Life:

1965 – A telegram dated October 6th, 1965 indicates the Pond Inlet Federal Day School closed on October 1st, 1965 due to a measles epidemic. [POS-000157]

1967 – In Pond Inlet Area Council meeting minutes captured on May 23rd, 1967, the concern of inadequate supervision for students at recess periods at the Federal School is addressed with the proposal of having four Inuit women supervise school students during recess periods. [POS-000175-0001]

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1965 - A 1967 community report by the Principal of the Pond Inlet Federal Day School provides a description of the Federal Hostel buildings at Pond Inlet: 'The beautiful buildings each have three four-bed dormitories, a playroom, a large dining room, a well equipped kitchen and two bathrooms'. [POS-000174]

LAND

The Federal Hostel buildings at Pond Inlet 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.

An April 7th, 1966 Forecast of Enrolment form describes Pond Inlet as having a 'two roomed school at the end of the settlement and the original one room school in the centre of the settlement used for grade one and beginners.' [POS-000163]

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Item #	Date	Description
POS-000172-0001	March 29 th , 1967 [circa]	Proposal for furnishing of 12-pupil hostels

GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Year	Number of Students
1962/63	9 students in hostel [8 boys; 1 girl]
1963/64	10 students in hostel [8 boys; 2 girls]
1964/65	20 students in hostel [15 boys; 5 girls]
1965/66	24 students in hostel [17 boys; 7 girls]
1966/67	29 students in hostel [15 boys; 14 girls]
1967/68	30 students in hostel [14 boys; 16 girls]
1968/69	7 students in hostel [3 boys; 4 girls]
1969/70	9 students in hostel [4 boys; 5 girls]

STUDENTS FROM OTHER LOCATIONS

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

1966 – Typically students who withdrew from the Pond Inlet Federal Day School/Hostel would continue their secondary education at the Federal School in Churchill, Manitoba [also known as the ‘Churchill Vocational Centre’]. A 1967 Pond Inlet community report states: ‘As soon as possible after the age of twelve, children who have reached Grade IV or higher may have the opportunity to attend a vocational school at Churchill.’ [POS-000174; POS-000168; POS-000170-0001] [There may be alternate ways of spelling this location].

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

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

1970 - Although the management and operation of both the Pond Inlet Federal Day School and associated Federal Hostels was secular, an October 1st, 1970 Enrolment Form and Classification of Pupils report listed the Pond Inlet Territorial School as being predominantly Protestant with 125 Protestant students and only 5 students of the Roman Catholic faith suggesting the community of Pond Inlet was predominately Protestant. [POS-000074]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

As a result of the Government running the Federal Hostel at Pond Inlet 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 Pond Inlet].

DOCUMENTS REFEREING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

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

PPRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Reid, Carl E.	Principal	1962 to 1963
Lett, Allan P.	Principal	1963 to 1965
Davies, David M.	Principal	1965 to 1968
Smith, Lorne A.	Principal	1968 to 1969
Brintell, H. Leigh	Principal	1969 to 1970

Narrative Completed: June 27th, 2008
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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