

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 Hostels at George River  
IAP School Narrative**

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

Federal Hostels at George River

**OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)**

No information found.

**LOCATION**

The community of George River was situated in the Arctic Quebec Region approximately 150 miles northeast of Fort Chimo, and 20 miles inland from the mouth of the George River [GWR-000233-0002, pg. 1-2; FGR-000023, pg. 2]. The tent hostels at George River were located on a ridge adjacent to the George River Community Hall [FGR-000015-0001, pg. 3]. The Community Hall was located on the northwest shore of a small inlet on the east bank of the George River [FGR-000018-0001, pg. 1].

**PROVINCE/TERRITORY**

Quebec

**OPERATING DATES AS AN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**

These dates represent the time during which the Government of Canada was responsible for the operation of the Indian Residential School, excluding any periods of closure.

June 27 to August 6, 1960

**OPERATING DATES CONTEXT**

On June 27, 1960, federal tent hostels were established adjacent to the George River Community Hall and operated until August 6, 1960. The federal tent hostels were not used again [FGR-000015-0001, pg. 6-9; FGR-000016].

**RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**

The George River Federal Hostels were non-denominational.

**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**

Date	Event	Document Reference
June 27, 1960	The federal tent hostels opened on a ridge adjacent to George River Community Hall. Two teachers employed by the federal government supervised the tent hostels.	FGR-000004 FGR-000010 FGR-000011 FGR-000015-0001, pg. 6
June to August, 1960	The children residing in the hostels were divided according to family groups.	FGR-000015-0001, pg. 5
August 6, 1960	The hostels operated until August 6, 1960, after which the children returned to their home communities.	FGR-000015-0001, pg. 6 FGR-000016

## EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

### Grades Taught at the Indian Residential School

The Federal Hostels at George River were residences only. The hostels did not provide classroom instruction; residents attended the George River Seasonal School, which operated inside the Community Hall.

### Other Schools Attended by Residents

School Years	Name of School	Location	Administration	Grades	Document
June to August, 1960	George River Seasonal School	George River, in the Community Hall	Federal Government	Beginners and Advanced. No formal grades offered.	FGR-000015-0001, pg. 3-5

## GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
June to August, 1960	24	Not applicable	FGR-000015-0001, pg. 4

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
June to August, 1960	In clear weather, the children were taken outside for games and hikes in the early evenings. In wet weather, they remained in their tents after supper until 7:30 p.m. and returned to the Community Hall to play with blocks, do art and crafts, sing, and dance.	FGR-000015-0001, pg. 6

## INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
June to August, 1960	The tent hostels were made by local women at Chimo, with materials provided by the federal government. Beds and mattresses were not supplied, and instead gravel floors were built in the tents and blankets were provided to children who did not bring their own. Children from the same family were housed together.	FGR-000010 FGR-000012 FGR-000015-0001, pg. 5
June to August, 1960	The Federal Hostels at George River consisted of four sleeping tents and a wash tent adjacent to the Community Hall. A tent for teachers was pitched near the hall and the cook tent was behind the Hall. Families were grouped together in the tents. The Community Hall was also used as a dining hall for residents.	FGR-000015-0001, pg. 3-5

## PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
September 1959	Map of George and Koruk river area.	FGR-000006-0003

June 28, 1961	Sketch of the Community Hall site at George River, showing partitions.	FGR-000018-0002
June 30, 1961	Sketch of an oblique view of Community Hall site positioned on a high rock hill and point of land on the George River.	FGR-000018-0003

**DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS**

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the Federal Hostels at George River or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

Incidents (Sexual)

No information found.

Incidents (Physical)

No information found.

Incidents (Student on Student)

No information found.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 1960            During the first two weeks of the hostels operations, most of the residents became ill. Most of the ill residents recovered within three to four days [FGR-000015-0001, pg. 4].
- 1960            Hostel residents were divided according to family groups. For the first week only, boys and girls from the ages of 14 to 15 stayed in separate tents. The practice of separating older residents ended after one week in order to stop “night visits” from younger siblings and to minimize homesickness [FGR-000015-0001, pg. 5].
- 1960            Parents of children resident at the hostel were welcome to visit when they were in the area [FGR-000010].
- 1960            A Community Teacher complained that frequent visits by parents and community members put pressure on limited food supplies meant for the hostel, and that these visitors expected to stay in the tent hostels with the children [FGR-000015-0001, pg. 1-3].

**PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

There were no Principals or Administrators at the Federal Hostels at George River. The Hostels were instead administered by Community Teachers [FGR-000012; FGR-000015-0001, pg. 4-9].

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Joan Ryan	Community Teacher	1960
Miss Will	Community Teacher	1960

Narrative Completed: October 26, 2012  
Narrative Updated: February 4, 2013

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



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