

This narrative history of a Residential School was researched and produced by the Government of Canada as part of its response to litigation and the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation has not verified the content of this document. It is provided here for reference purposes only. Documented incidents of sexual and physical abuse are based on the documentary record and do not take into account survivor testimony.



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Igloolik [NU] IRS -Federal/Small Hostel
School Narrative

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Igloolik [NU] IRS [Iglulik]

The Small Hostel at Igloolik, Nunavut was completed in 1961 and opened for the 1961-62 school year on December 26th, 1961. The Hostel consisted of two 8-pupil residence buildings, which operated at full capacity [16 beds occupied] from that time. It appears that the two hostels, one for boys and one for girls, operated throughout the mid 1960s under continual high enrolment demand. However, by the fall of 1967 the need for student accommodation in the community had diminished, mostly due to a new housing program that facilitated Inuit families settling permanently in the village. Enrolment had dwindled to six students by December 1968, and the dilapidated state of the existing residence buildings resulted in the closure of the Small Hostel by the end of 1968/1969 academic year [June 1969].

Name of Residence and Variants:

1962 – Hostels at Igloolik [NOU-000971-0000]¹
1962 – Igloolik Boys Hostel; Igloolik Girls Hostel [IGS-000008-0001]²
1963 – Igloolik [IGS-000010-0001]
1964 – Igloolik F.D.S. Residence [IGS-000012]
1965 – Igloolik Federal Hostel [IGS-000015]
1967 – Igloolik F.D.S. Boys and Girls Hostels [IGS-000020]
1967 – Boys and Girls Hostels: Igloolik [IGS-000002]

Chronological History:

1961 – A January 3rd memorandum to the Regional Administrator indicates that ‘local boarding arrangements’ were made for nine pupils from camps around Igloolik to attend the Igloolik Federal Day School. [NOU-000836]

A memorandum dated February 4th, 1963 indicates that four Inuit pupils lived with O.P. George, former principal of the Igloolik School from September to December 1961. [IGS-000048-0000]

A memorandum to the Administrator of the Arctic from the Regional Administrator indicates that pupils resided in the hostels in Igloolik since December 1961. [NOU-000971-0000]

¹ The prefix NOU indicates that this document is from the Nunavut/Northwest Territories Small Hostels [North Other Unlisted] document collection found in the National database.

² The prefix IGS indicates that this document is from the Igloolik [NU] [Small/Federal Hostel] document collection found in the National database.

The first Quarterly Return filled for the Igloolik Hostel, a March 31st, 1962 Return indicates that all 16 pupils residing at the Igloolik Federal Hostel were admitted December 26th, 1961. [IGS-000007-0002]

1962 – A telegram dated August 10th, 1962 to the Administrator of the Arctic from R.J. Orange; Regional Administrator indicates the opening of both the Boys and Girls hostels at Igloolik is reported to be December 26th, 1961. [IGS-000043]

1963 – A telegram dated September 25, sent to the Acting Administrator of the Arctic from the Acting Regional Administrator indicates two eight bed hostels were occupied in Igloolik. [RCN-0003691]³

1965 – A memorandum dated January 27th, 1965 from the Acting Regional Administrator to the Administrator of the Arctic indicates that a great number of children from camp areas surrounding Igloolik were unable to attend school ‘because of a lack of hostel space’. The memo also makes reference to a plan of a 100 be pupil hostel being constructed at Igloolik however no indication of the plans for construction of this hostel had been referred to the Regional Office for execution. [IGS-000079-0000]

A memorandum dated February 17, 1965 from the Administrator of the Arctic to the acting Regional Administrator advises that students who were unable to be enrolled at the Igloolik Federal Hostel due to over crowding will now have the opportunity to do so as a result of the transfer of student from Igloolik to the residence at Churchill, Manitoba. The Administrator of the Arctic also advises that students may also be sent to the newly constructed classroom additions at Frobisher Bay to help elevate the over-crowding of the hostels at Igloolik. [IGS-000082]

1968 – A telecommunications document dated February 13th, 1968 from the Administrator of the Arctic to the Regional Administrator requests a re-assessment of the pupil resident/hostel demands required at Igloolik due to the dwindling pupil residency in the hostel buildings. [IGS-000088]

A letter dated September 5th, 1968 from the Administrator of the Arctic to the Director of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development indicates that a new 12 bed hostel was to be completed in the community in the near future. The two existing 8 pupil hostels would be taken over for the accommodation of construction crews and transient people in the community as the pupils in the existing hostels would be amalgamated in the new 12 person hostel. [IGS-000089]

A letter dated September 10th, 1968 from the Regional Construction Superintendent indicated that work on the 12 pupil hostel to be constructed at Igloolik would now cease and materials provided for this project be allocated elsewhere in the community. [IGS-000090]

1969 – A February 1969 Settlement description report by J. Wayne, Principal of the Igloolik Federal Day School identifies the Igloolik hostel as having only 6 pupils in residence: ‘As most outlying camps have now been abandoned and the families concerned now being housed within

³ The prefix RCN indicates that this document is from the Nunavut/Northwest Territories General document collection found in the National Database.

the settlement, only a small number of children now make use of the hostels. At this moment six children are in residence.' [IGS-000094-0001]

On March 31st, 1969, the last Quarterly Return filled for the Igloolik Federal/Small Hostel is completed with only six students in residence. A June 1969 Quarterly Return has yet to be located by IRSRC and likely does not exist as the hostel ceased operation past this period. [IGS-000022]

Management of Residence:

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 in 1969. 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.

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. Generally, two pairs of hostel parents were granted services 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 have been documented below:

1961 – A Service Agreement dated December 27th, 1961 indicates that the funding, instruction and assistance of Hostel Supervisors/Staff at the Igloolik Federal Hostel was to be carried out by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [IGS-000045-0002]

1962 – A Service Agreement dated April 17, 1962 for 'Hostels Parents' at Igloolik from December 27th, 1961 to July 31st, 1962. [IGS-000042-0003]

An October 12th, 1962 memorandum to the Administrator of the Arctic from R.J. Orange, Regional Administrator, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, North Administration Branch regarding the Hostel Supervisor at Igloolik from December 27th, 1961 to June 30th, 1962. [IGS-000045-0001]

A Statement of Account dated November 11, 1962 indicates that the Hostel Supervisor was in charge of the training/management of the Igloolik Hostel Parents, from September to October, 1962 under direct funding from DNANR. [IGS-000053-0001]

1963 – A Service Agreement dated November 30th, 1962 for a ‘Hostel Mother’ at Igloolik from December 1st, 1962 to June 30th, 1963 as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [IGS-000049-0002]

Similarly, A Service Agreement dated November 30th, 1962 for ‘Hostels Parents’ at Igloolik from December 1st, 1962 to June 30th, 1963 as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [IGS-000049-0002]

1964 - A Service Agreement dated September 1st, 1963, for a ‘Hostel Mother’ at Igloolik from September 1st, 1963 to June 30th, 1964 as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [IGS-000058-0001]

A Service Agreement dated September 1st, 1963 for ‘Hostels Parents’ at Igloolik from September 1st, 1963 to June 30th, 1964 as instructed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [IGS-000058-0001]

A Service Agreement dated February 1st, 1964 for ‘Hostels Parents’ at Igloolik from February 1st, 1964 to June 30th, 1964 as instructed by the Hostel Supervisor and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [IGS-000065-0002]

A Service Agreement dated September 1st, 1964 indicated that a ‘Hostel Instructor’ was hired to assist with various hostel/classroom duties. [IGS-000073-0001]

1965 - A Service Agreement dated April 29th, 1965 for ‘Hostels Parents’ at Igloolik from September 1st, 1965 to June 30th, 1966 as instructed by the Hostel Supervisor and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [IGS-000083-0001]

In addition, A Service Agreement dated October 28th, 1965 for ‘Hostels Parents’ at Igloolik from September 1st, 1965 to June 30th, 1966 as instructed by the Hostel Supervisor and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [IGS-000084-0002]

1966 – A memorandum dated January 17th, 1966 from the Regional Administrator to the Administrator of the Arctic, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources indicates the estimated costs of maintaining the Igloolik Hostels for 10 months as approximately [REDACTED] [IGS-000085]

1967 – A contract for service to work document dated April 21st, 1967 for ‘Hostels Parents’ at Igloolik from September 1st, 1967 to June 30th, 1968 as instructed in appendix B of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources publication ‘Small Hostels, Their Management and Operation. [IGS-000086-0001]

Additionally, a contract for service to work document is dated April 21st, 1967 for the duties of Supervising the Hostels Parents at Igloolik from August 15th, 1967 to July 15th, 1968 as instructed in appendix B of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources publication ‘Small Hostels, Their Management and Operation’. [IGS-000086-0002]

Another contract for service to work document is dated July 7th, 1967 for 'Hostels Parents' at Igloolik from September 1st, 1967 to June 30th, 1968 as instructed in appendix B of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources publication 'Small Hostels, Their Management and Operation. [IGS-000087]

Associated Federal Day School – Igloolik

1958 – A March 17th, 1958 memorandum from the Chief of the Education Division the Director of the Northern Administration and Lands Branch expresses the need for a potential Federal Day School to be constructed at Igloolik as the Roman Catholic Mission had been providing only part time education for a number of years to the large Inuit population. [RCN-005800]

1959 – As part of the new Arctic School Expansion program, the provisions for the construction of a Federal Day School at Igloolik were made for 1959/1960 as found in the meeting minutes for the Sub-Committee on Eskimo Affairs. [RCN-008466-0003]

1960 – According to a 1960 school list, the construction of a 1 room school classroom and 3 bedroom teachers' quarters was in the second year of a two year construction program in Igloolik. [RCN-008035-0003]

A memorandum dated February 8, 1960 indicates a Federal School will open in Igloolik sometime in 1960. [RCN-005930]

A memorandum dated November 2, 1960 indicates the Igloolik Federal Day School opened on October 3rd, 1960 with 26 children enrolled. [RCN-008644]

1962 – A March 27th, 1962 Annual Age/Grade report indicates the Igloolik Federal Day School currently had an enrolment of 47 Inuit children. [RCN-002124]

1964 – A September 30th, 1964 enrolment statistic indicates the Igloolik Federal Day School had 59 students currently enrolled. [RCN-002205-0004]

1966 – In September 1966, an Arctic District Educational Requirement report indicated that the Igloolik Federal Day School held a current enrolment of 75 students and an estimated enrolment of 111 for the academic period starting September 1967. [RCN-004106-0001]

1969 – A Telegram dated January 16th, 1969 indicated the Igloolik Federal Day School currently comprised of five classrooms with another three being planned for completion in 1970. The enrolment of the school as of January 16th, 1969 is listed as 112 students. [RCN-004178]

School Life:

1963 – In a memorandum dated August 1st, 1963, the District Superintendent of Schools expresses concern that a staff member was unable to 'look after the needs of eight other hostel children' without much needed assistance from other staff. [IGS-000054]

A memorandum dated August 2nd, 1963 from the District Superintendent of Schools states ‘pupils accommodated in these hostels usually have only the bare necessities of clothing, often reaching the situation where when clean clothes are washed, clean clothing is not available.’ [IGS-000055]

After an inspection visit to the Igloolik Federal Day School, a memorandum dated September 30th, 1963 indicates the school heating system was unbalanced and not functioning properly. [IGS-000061]

1964 – A June 24th, 1964 memorandum from the Acting Administrator of the Arctic to the Regional Administrator in Frobisher Bay indicates the services of some staff members ‘were not up to the standards that we would expect.’ [IGS-000067]

An October 1964 Hostel Report compiled by a staff member of the Igloolik Federal Day school outlines several issues with the state of the hostels at Igloolik. Included in the report are concerns about clothing, diet, overcrowding and potential fire hazards as a result of overcrowding in the hostel. The report also indicates that due to the overcrowded state of both the boys’ and girls’ hostels, visitors [including visiting parents of hostel children] were not permitted. [IGS-000071]

Students From Other Locations

1962 – A telegram dated August 27th, 1962 to the Administrator of the Arctic in Ottawa details plans to airlift hostel children from both Pelly Bay, Nunavut and Repulse Bay, Nunavut [areas known not to have school residences] to Igloolik. [IGS-000044]

Land

1965 – A January 4th, 1965 report from W. M. Zuk, principal at the Igloolik Federal Day School pushing for the construction of additional hostel space indicates that Igloolik is the ‘hub’ of all surrounding areas ‘readily accessible by bombardier or airplane in the winter’. [IGS-000079-0001]

Photos, Plans and Other Media

Item #	Date	Description
IGS-000095-0001	Circa 1969	Survey of school at Igloolik showing adjacent hostel location, RCMP detachment and RC Mission.

General Enrolment Statistics

Year	Number of Students
1961/62	16 Students in Hostel
1962/63	17 Students in Hostel

1963/64	24 Students in Hostel
1964/65	27 Students in Hostel
1965/66	21 Students in Hostel
1966/67	8 Boys, 8 Girls in Hostel
1967/68	7 Boys, 6 Girls in Hostel
1968/69	4 Boys, 2 Girls in Hostel

Religious Affiliations

The management of the Igloolik Federal/Small Hostel was entirely secular with no Church Involvement. Despite the Inuit population in Igloolik being approximately fifty percent Roman Catholic and fifty percent Anglican according to a 1969 settlement description, neither entity had any involvement with the management or day to day operations of both the Igloolik Federal Day School and adjacent Hostel buildings. [IGS-000094-0001]

Documents Referring To Incidents

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the Igloolik [NU] Federal/Small Hostel or of any convicted abusers having been present at the hostel.

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



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