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Federal Hostel at Lake Harbour
IAP Hostel Narrative
11 24 2009

Federal Hostel at Lake Harbour [Kimmirut], Nunavut

A federal hostel at Lake Harbour appears to have been operated out of a building owned by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources as early as September 1964; one year after permanent full-time schooling was reintroduced in this southern Baffin Island community. However, documents from 1964 and 1965 indicate delays were encountered in the opening of an ‘official’ hostel due to difficulties finding facilities for an additional, much needed day school classroom to accommodate increasing enrolment. The Lake Harbour Federal Day School was originally operated out of an abandoned nursing station owned by the Department of National Health and Welfare and proper school facilities were not constructed in the settlement until the late 1960s. The federal hostel appears to have operated only temporarily as limited classroom space mitigated the possibility of camp children [or other children requiring accommodation] attending class in the settlement. Local boarding arrangements were also used to accommodate students of the Federal Day School, but limited housing in the settlement proved this practice less than favourable.

NAME OF HOSTEL AND VARIANTS:

1963 – Government Building “130” type [LHS¹-000038]²

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

September 1964 to approximately April 1965³ [operated solely by the Federal Government] [LHS-000013]; [LHS-000072]

Chronological History:

1956 – Having recently arrived in the Lake Harbour settlement, an Anglican Missionary who provided part-time schooling for Inuit children suggested in October of 1956 that a ‘tent hostel’ scheme be established in effort to increase the number of children who could receive ‘permanent’ or regular schooling at the Mission. [LHS-000029]

1960 – In January of 1960, the Administrator of the Arctic submitted a recommendation to the Director of the Northern Administration Branch [Department of Northern Affairs and National

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

² Please note: The reference to this hostel name is located on documentation which suggests that a pre-fabricated house owned by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources was utilized as hostel for students of the Lake Harbour Federal Day School.

³ Please note: Research is unable to ascertain specifically when the building owned by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources was likely no longer used to accommodate students. A government report indicates there were no hostel facilities in operation in the settlement by April of 1965, a point at which local boarding arrangements were used to accommodate students of the Lake Harbour Federal Day School.

Resources] for the names ‘Adamee’ and ‘Huvoolear’ to be given to the proposed student hostels to be constructed at Lake Harbour. The recommendation was made in response to the Department’s request for a list of culturally suitable names for schools and student hostels in the Arctic District of the [then] Northwest Territories. [RCN⁴-009901-0004]

1963 – In a response for information requested by the Arctic District Office about educational buildings at Lake Harbour, it was reported that as of January 1963, the Lake Harbour Federal Day School operated out of a one-classroom building previously used as a Department of National Health and Welfare nursing station. Although no ‘real’ hostel buildings were operation in the settlement at the time, an existing Anglican Mission building in the community was reportedly large enough to be converted into a hostel for approximately 8 to 10 children [including a Hostel Mother/Parent]. [LHS-000033-0000]

On September 11th, 1963, a visiting Superintendent of a Rehabilitation Centre reported it was unlikely for the number of Inuit families who resided permanently in the Lake Harbour settlement to increase. The Superintendent submitted a recommendation to the Acting Regional Administrator for arrangements to be made to bring the children of non-permanent residents of the Lake Harbour area into the settlement for schooling. It was suggested three pre-fabricated houses occupied by Inuit families be utilized as student hostels and two of the three families reportedly agreed to share their facilities with children requiring accommodation while attending the Lake Harbour Federal Day School. The newly appointed teacher of the Lake Harbour Federal Day School was reported to have also willingly agreed to allow children to reside with her while required to attend school. The Superintendent further suggested that a government building referred to as a ‘130’ type building be utilized as a school hostel. [LHS-000038]

On September 16th, 1963 the Administrator of the Arctic reported that only seven children were permanent residents of the Lake Harbour settlement and able to attend school full-time. However, the Administrator advised this number would increase if lodging could be provided for children residing in outlying camps and not directly in the Lake Harbour settlement itself. It was suggested the partitioning of the nursing station utilized as the Federal Day School classroom would provide bedroom space for camp children. The Administrator of the Arctic requested the Regional Administrator to keep the Department of National Health and Welfare informed of any changes to the nursing station as the building was only on lease to the Arctic Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [LHS-000040]

On September 26th, 1963, the Acting Regional Administrator reported that no bedroom space had been constructed in the nursing station housing the one classroom Federal Day School at Lake Harbour. The space was reportedly not constructed due to departmental concerns that construction of that type would ‘hamper’ the school’s ability to accommodate up to 20 to 25 children in class. However, it was reported that a building owned by Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources [located three hundred yards south of the school] was planned to be used by one Inuit woman to accommodate and care for five school children. [LHS-000042]

A September 30th, 1963 Enrolment Form for the Lake Harbour Federal Day School indicates that six out of fourteen beginner aged students were residing in ‘local boarding’ arrangements for the start of the 1963/64 academic year. [The document does not indicate however whether or not these children were maintained in the above mentioned building owned by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources]. [LHS-000012]

⁴ The prefix RCN indicates that this document is from the Nunavut/Northwest Territories General document collection found in the National Database.

In November of 1963, the Acting Administrator of the Arctic recommended children of the Lake Harbour area requiring hostel accommodation be sent to Churchill to attend school as hostel students [pending the availability of space at the residence]. The nursing station in the settlement would continue to be used as temporary classroom space however it was reported that out of 32 school aged children in and around the Lake Harbour area, 25 were eligible for hostel accommodation. [LHS-000046]

1964 – On June 15th, 1964, the newly appointed Community Teacher of the Lake Harbour Federal Day School submitted a report to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources regarding the number of school-aged children in the Lake Harbour area not receiving education. It was reported that 18 camp children were not receiving schooling while 14 others were enrolled at the Federal Day School [six of whom were residing in local home boarding arrangements]. The Community Teacher submitted a recommendation to the Department for he himself go out to camps and provide education to children directly as oppose to having students reside in local boarding/hostel arrangements. It was felt this practice would more easily allow Inuit families to continue sustainable hunting/trapping practices while enabling camp children to receive schooling in their native environment. The Community Teacher feared that the implementation of student hostel arrangements at Lake Harbour would ultimately result in Inuit families relocating directly to the settlement where hunting/trapping practices would likely prove insufficient to support the community. [LHS-000052]

On June 30th, 1964, the Community Teacher of the Lake Harbour Federal Day School revised his original opinion on hostel accommodation and reported the existing school facilities in the settlement to be inadequate; noting twenty-three school aged children residing in camps surrounding the settlement would be able to attend school if adequate hostel/local home-boarding facilities were provided. It was suggested that an unused two-storey Anglican Mission house in the settlement be utilized as a student hostel as the building was in good repair and had remained vacant for some time. The Community Teacher requested permission from the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to find two suitable hostel parents to staff the building [anticipated to hold four children] while two other children requiring hostel accommodation would reportedly be boarded with local community residents. This six pupil increase in enrollment was expected to fill the nursing station [Federal Day School] classroom capacity of approximately 15 children. [LHS-000053-0001]

In an August 1964 report to the Director of the Northern Administration Branch, the Administrator of the Arctic reiterated the opinion held by the Lake Harbour Federal Day School Community Teacher regarding the use of the Anglican Mission house for a student hostel. The Administrator advised the Anglican Mission house would be suitable as both a hostel and additional classroom space for approximately 12 to 14 pupils [pending the Anglican Church's willingness to lease the building]. The Administrator further advised that a suitable candidate for a 'Hostel House Mother' [a Lake Harbour resident] had been identified. [LHS-000056]

On September 4th, 1964, the Administrator of the Arctic wrote the Anglican Bishop of the Arctic and inquired on whether the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources would receive permission to rent the Anglican Mission house at Lake Harbour for the purposes of a second classroom/student hostel facility. The Bishop was reportedly reluctant to the idea of renting the house to the Department for the purposes of a student hostel as concern was raised over the potential depreciation of the building as a result of hostel-type usage. [LHS-000058]

A September 15th, 1964 Enrolment Form for the Lake Harbour Federal Day School listing pre-reading and grades 1, 2 and 5 students indicates that four [out of sixteen] students were provided with residential accommodation at the start of the 1964/65 academic year. [This document suggests accommodation was provided in the building previously planned for the use of a student residence (owned by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources) as the Anglican Mission house in the settlement was ultimately not used. The students are identified on the form as 'residential' and not as 'local/home boarders' as recorded on the September 1963 Enrolment Form, suggesting hostel-type accommodation was provided for this period]. [LHS-000013]; [LHS-000012]

On September 25th, 1964, the Director of the Northern Administration Branch responded to the Administrator of the Arctic's August 26th memorandum regarding the opening of a temporary small pupil residence at Lake Harbour. The Director was agreeable to the opening of a student residence, pending the location of suitable hostel space and the willingness of Inuit parents to admit their children into the hostel. The Director further advised that Treasury Board approval would ultimately be required for the operation of facility. [LHS-000061]

On October 7th, 1964, the Administrator of the Arctic drafted a letter to the Bishop of the Arctic advising that the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources no longer required the use of the Anglican Mission house at Lake Harbour for educational purposes due to the lack of an adequate power supply and available ration supplies in the settlement. [LHS-000064]; [LHS-000063]

In an October 28th, 1964 memorandum to the Regional Administrator, the Administrator of the Arctic requested for information concerning educational buildings at Lake Harbour requiring power to be provided to the District Engineer in order to facilitate the opening of a second classroom in the settlement. The Administrator of the Arctic further requested that in the preparation of this estimate, the Regional Administrator account for the possibility of having residential accommodation provided for up to 12 camp children. [LHS-000066]

1965 – An Arctic district 'School and Pupil Construction Program' report compiled in 1965 estimated that construction of a 12-bed pupil residence would be completed in Lake Harbour by the 1967/68 academic year. [RCN-002234-0006]

In an April 1965 Forecast of Enrolment, Facilities and Staff report, the Community Teacher of the Lake Harbour Federal Day School reported on the inadequacies of the educational facilities in the settlement. A total of 23 children were reportedly not receiving education as a result of the Federal Day School classroom only being able to accommodate a maximum capacity of 12 children at a time. It was further reported that no student hostel building was in operation in the settlement and local boarding arrangements were reportedly poor as all but two houses in the community were overcrowded. As an immediate solution, the Community Teacher suggested a traveling teacher be hired to circulate camps surrounding the Lake Harbour area in effort to provide education for children who could not otherwise be taught [nor accommodated] at the existing Federal Day School facility. Additionally, it was recommended that a new hostel building and second classroom be constructed in effort to increase school attendance. [LHS-000072]

A September 30th, 1965 Enrolment Form for the Lake Harbour Federal Day School lists all 26 students as 'day pupils' and does not list any student as a residential or local/home-boarding pupil [as occurred on Enrolment Forms for the 1963/64 and 1964/65 school years]. [LHS-000014]

1966 – On December 27th, 1966, the Chief of the Education Division reported on the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development’s intention to construct small hostels in various Eastern Arctic communities, including Lake Harbour. [RCN-012178]

1967 – An Arctic district ‘School and Pupil Construction Program’ report compiled in 1967 estimated that a two year construction program for a 12-bed pupil residence at Lake Harbour was to commence in 1968/69 and be completed by the 1969/70 academic year. [RCN-004111-0001]

1969 – A June 23rd, 1969 report on ‘Hostel Mothers and Assistants Remuneration’ compiled by the Administrator of the Arctic makes reference to proposed hostel staff ‘for a twelve bed hostel to be opened next year at Lake Harbour’. The report indicated that ‘four Hostel Mothers and four Hostel Assistants’ would be employed to serve the twelve bed facility. [GWR⁵-000243-0000]

A July 28th, 1969, report from the Administrator of the Arctic [Territorial Relations Branch] to the Director indicates Lake Harbour was one of the locations the Territorial Relations Branch contemplated having a small [12 bed] residence go into operation for the 1969/70 academic year. [GWR-000244]⁶

MANAGEMENT OF HOSTEL:

Dates managed by Church:

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

Dates managed by Government:

September 1964 to approximately April 1965 [operated solely by the Federal Government] [LHS-000013]; [LHS-000072]

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

⁵ The prefix GWR indicates that this document is from the Federal Hostel at Great Whale River [Quebec] document collection found in the National database.

⁶ To date, research has found no indication of this 12 pupil residence actually going into operation. Early 1970s documentation for the Lake Harbour Federal/Territorial Day School makes no reference to hostel facilities being provided for students of the school.

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 - In October of 1963, the Administrator of the Arctic requested the Regional Administrator to prepare a service contract for an Inuit woman who was to care for five school children in a Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources building at Lake Harbour. [LHS-000043]

Associated Federal Day School – Lake Harbour

A part-time Anglican Mission Day School [also known as ‘St. Paul’s’] operated intermittently in the community of Lake Harbour since 1923 [the Mission in the community was first established in 1909]. The first Federal Government schooling was provided from 1949 to 1952 in a Department of Health and Welfare nursing station and unused United States Army Air Force building. In 1955, an Anglican Missionary returned to the settlement and by May of 1956 was providing part time schooling in the community. With the departure of this Missionary to Cape Dorset in 1960, the Department of National Health and Welfare nursing station building was re-utilized by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources for the purposes of a one classroom Federal Day School. This school operated on a part-time [summer month] basis from 1960 until September 1963 when year round schooling was re-introduced in the settlement.

Name of Federal Day School and Variants:

1949 – Government Day School at Lake Harbour [LHS-000108]

1965 – Lake Harbour F.D.S. [One Room] [LHS-000018]

1967 – Lake Harbour Federal Day School [LHS-000020]

1949 – A report on Anglican Missionary activities at Lake Harbour indicates that in 1949, the Department of Mines and Resources established a Federal Day School in the community using a local government nursing station as a classroom facility. The school held an enrollment of 12 pupils and was open for 174 days during the 1949/50 academic year [ending for the term in July of 1950]. After the departure of the Federal Day School teacher, a local community nurse is reported to have provided instruction at the school until the time of her death. [LHS-000108]

A separate Lake Harbour settlement report provides slightly different enrollment information for the 1949/50 academic year. It notes that a government welfare teacher provided education for seven pupils for the 1949/50 school year using the vacant Department of National Health and

Welfare nursing station as their headquarters. The report further indicates that school was also held in part of a former American Army building which was transitioned into a nursing station warehouse. According to this account, instruction was initially provided for seven Inuit children [two girls and five boys] although three of the children eventually departed with their families to winter camps. [LHS-000028]

1954 – In March of 1954, it was reported the St. Paul’s Anglican Mission at Lake Harbour had not been paid a grant by the Northern Administration and Lands Branch for the teaching of Inuit children. The Federal Day School teacher is reported to have left the community in 1952 and no schooling [Mission or Federal] was provided at Lake Harbour during this period. [RCN-005060]

1955 – A Lake Harbour settlement report compiled in 1955 indicates an Anglican Missionary returned to the Mission in the community. Provisions were to be made for the Missionary to conduct part-time schooling and educational instruction was to take place in a Mission house building reported to have ‘good schoolroom facilities.’ The provision of education for camp children was reportedly a key concern as only three local native families resided permanently in the settlement. It was felt that unless the Anglican Missionary was able to adequately provide instruction to camp children, education for Inuit families in and around the Lake Harbour area would be severely limited. Correspondence teaching was suggested as a temporary method of providing more regular education for Inuit camp children however it was ultimately recommended that a permanent Federal Day School be re-established in the community. [LHS-000028]

1957 – In June of 1957, it was reported the construction of a proposed one room Federal Day School and teacher’s living quarters at Lake Harbour would ultimately be deferred. The Chairman of the Committee of Eskimo Affairs decided not to include provisions for the construction in 1958/59 estimates due to the limited number of Inuit families residing permanently in the settlement at the time. The establishment of seasonal schools in isolated Arctic communities was considered low priority by the Chairman and Lake Harbour was considered a lesser priority behind other Arctic district communities with more permanent Inuit settlements requiring Federal Day Schools. [LHS-000030]

1959 – A Northern Administration Branch report on Arctic district schools indicates that as of December 1959, the department had no plans to open a government school at Lake Harbour. The Anglican Mission in the settlement was operating a part-time school with an enrollment of 21 pupils; however this school was reportedly expected to close with the departure of the Anglican missionary from the settlement. [RCN-005915]

1960 - In April of 1960, the Administrator of the Arctic sought approval from the Director of the Northern Administration Branch to use an abandoned nursing station and house owned by the Department of National Health and Welfare for seasonal school purposes at Lake Harbour. A directing official from the Department of National Health and Welfare had previously discussed this usage of the buildings with Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources officials and had advised the nursing station would likely not re-open for its intended purpose. [LHS-000208]

On May 6th, 1960, the Regional Superintendent of Indian and Northern Health Services [Eastern Region] granted approval to the Administrator the Arctic for the use of two Indian and Northern Health Services [Department of National Health and Welfare] buildings at Lake Harbour for educational purposes. As part of this agreement, the Regional Superintendent suggested the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources assume the responsibility of paying an

Inuit caretaker who looked after the buildings under the supervision of the R.C.M.P. [LHS-000213]

By June of 1960, a federally employed teacher had arrived at Lake Harbour and was preparing for the upcoming school term in the abandoned nursing station provided by the Department of National Health and Welfare. [RCN-010587]

1962 – In October of 1961, the Administrator of the Arctic's proposal/cost estimate of providing summer schooling at Lake Harbour for 1962 was approved based on a breakdown of costs for the summer schooling provided in 1961. However, a memorandum dated December 9th, 1964 indicates that seasonal school was ultimately not held at Lake Harbour during 1962/63 academic year. [LHS-000032]; [RCN-009335]

1963 – In a January 10th, 1963 letter from the Administrator of the Arctic to the Regional Superintendent of Medical Services [Department of National Health and Welfare] it was reported the Department of National Health and Welfare's nursing station at Lake Harbour had been utilized for educational purposes since 1960. In the anticipation of a full-time federal teaching position being approved for Lake Harbour for the 1963/64 academic year, the Administrator of the Arctic requested permission for the continued use of the building until the end of the 1963/64 academic year [June 1964]. [LHS-000034]

On February 7th, 1963, the Administrator of the Arctic reported that plans were underway to conduct seasonal school at Lake Harbour from May to August 1963. Additionally, the Administrator reported full-time schooling in the community would likely commence in September of 1963 pending the decision of the seasonal school teacher to continue in that position for the full term of the 1963/64 academic year. [LHS-000035]

In April of 1963, it was reported the Northern Administration Branch would be taking over [on loan] buildings owned by the Department of National Health and Welfare at Lake Harbour in effort to conduct full-time schooling for the 1963/64 academic year. The buildings acquired included a nursing station, a two storey/two bedroom house [to be used as teachers quarters], a small house occupied by an Inuit janitor, an insulated/un-heated warehouse and a power house. Approximately 11 children were living in the settlement year round and the Regional Administrator reported that one additional family would reside permanently in the settlement upon the establishment of full-time schooling. As a result, it was estimated the total number of children who would reside in the settlement year round would fall between 15 and 18. [The maximum classroom capacity that could be provided at the nursing station facility was reported at 18]. [LHS-000036]

In November of 1963, the Acting Administrator of the Arctic reported that the Lake Harbour Federal Day School opened for its first full-year term on September 24th, 1963 with an enrolment of 14 students. The Northern Administration Branch's request for a new two-classroom school for the 1964/65 school year was ultimately rejected as it was anticipated student hostel accommodation would be provided for Lake Harbour students in Frobisher Bay by 1965. The Administrator further reported the need for a full-time teacher [and additional classroom facilities] at Lake Harbour would likely diminish with the possibility of children being sent to school at Churchill. [LHS-000044]

A government report indicates the Lake Harbour Federal Day School was closed in November of 1963 due to the failing health of the community teacher who was ultimately removed from the position. [RCN-012182-0001 p.21]

1964 – In February of 1964, the Acting Administrator of the Arctic requested permission from the Regional Superintendent [Eastern Region] of the Department of National Health and Welfare for the continued use of the nursing station facility at Lake Harbour for the anticipated September re-opening of the Federal Day School. [LHS-000048]

On March 10th, 1964 it was reported the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources received formal approval for the continued school use of the Department of National Health and Welfare's nursing station at Lake Harbour until July of 1965. The Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources was responsible for paying the janitor of the nursing station in addition to replacing any fuel used to heat the school. A new teacher was reportedly arriving to the settlement in May of 1964 and was to be employed until August of 1964 to complete the 1963/64 academic year via summer school. Additionally, a teacher who previously taught at Lake Harbour was to be transferred from Ivuyivik to conduct full time schooling for the 1964/65 academic year. [LHS-000049]

A 1965 Forecast of Enrolment, Facilities and Staff report for the Lake Harbour Federal Day School indicates the school re-opened on May 11th, 1964 and held an enrolment of five Inuit and one white child. No children were reportedly promoted a grade level due to the length of time the school was closed [since November 1963] during 1963/64 academic year [with the exception of one white student who completed grade level requirements via correspondence]. Enrolment at the school reportedly dropped as a result of students accompanying their parents on the land for the summer seal hunting season. [LHS-000051-0000]; [LHS-000051-0001]; [LHS-000054]

In August of 1964, the Administrator of the Arctic requested departmental permission to open a second classroom for the Lake Harbour Federal Day School in September of that year. There were reportedly 31 school aged in and around the Lake Harbour area however of the 31, only 15 could be accommodated in the existing Federal Day School facilities. The Administrator recommended an unused Anglican Mission house in the community be utilized as both a hostel and classroom space for 12 to 14 pupils upon the Anglican Church's compliance to lease the building to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [LHS-000056]

On September 9th, 1964, the Bishop of the Arctic responded the Administrator of the Arctic's inquiry regarding the use of the Anglican Mission building at Lake Harbour for a second classroom and/or student hostel. The Bishop gave the Administrator of the Arctic a conditional approval, requesting that any existing furniture/supplies be moved and stored, the building be returned to the Anglican Church in good repair and the rental rate be set by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [LHS-000060-0001]

On September 11th, 1964, the Administrator of the Arctic responded to the Bishop of the Arctic noting the department would take the administrative steps involved in transitioning the Mission house into a second classroom for the Lake Harbour Federal Day School. Correspondence indicates it was the preference of the Administrator of the Arctic to utilize the Mission house only as a second classroom provided other facilities could be made available for the purposes of student hostel accommodation. [LHS-000059]

In October of 1964, the Administrator of the Arctic reported that a second classroom would not open for the Lake Harbour Federal Day School until the fall of 1965. The delay was in response to the Regional Administrator's concerns regarding 'limited power supplies and other administrative details' that would make the opening of the second classroom [and the use of the Anglican Mission house] in the settlement favoured for 1965. [LHS-000063]

1965 – A Principal’s Annual Age-Grade Report indicates that as of January 1965, the Lake Harbour Federal Day School held an enrolment of eight Inuit boys and five Inuit girls enrolled in primary, grade one, grade two and grade five level classes. [LHS-000069]

A Forecast of Enrolment, Facilities and Staff report indicates that as of April 1965, 23 school aged children in and around the Lake Harbour area were not attending school due to the Federal Day School only being able to accommodate a maximum capacity of 12 children. [LHS-000072]

The Lake Harbour Federal Day School opened for the 1965/66 academic year on September 14th, 1965 and was in operation for 66 days as reported on Summary of Attendance Records report dated December 31st, 1965. [RCN-002228-0001]

1966 – By January of 1966, the Lake Harbour Federal Day School held an enrolment of eight Inuit boys and eight Inuit girls. This same enrolment figure was reported on an Enrolment Form and Classification of Pupils Report ending March 31st, 1966. [LHS-000080]; [LHS-000083]

On April 5th, 1966, the Community Teacher of the Lake Harbour Federal Day School reported that four beginner age students would begin taking kindergarten courses on April 18th, 1966. Concern was expressed over the inadequacies of the nursing station facility utilized as the Federal Day School classroom as it was felt the facility would be unable to accommodate the additional enrolment. Additionally, it was felt camp children from the area surrounding Lake Harbour would also not be adequately accommodated given the lack of additional classroom space. The Community Teacher ultimately requested for a second teacher be employed at the school to teach the beginner age children for the 1966/67 academic year. [LHS-000084]

In October of 1966, the Administrator of the Arctic reported that ‘no start’ had been made on plans to construct a new two-classroom school [with activity room] at Lake Harbour which was originally scheduled to open in September of 1967. The Administrator expressed concern over the construction of new Inuit housing in the settlement, fearing it would result in Northern Health Services needing to re-occupy the nursing station facility utilized as the Federal Day School classroom. [RCN-009575-0000]

1967 – A Principal’s Report on Teacher Movement and Annual Age Grade report indicates that as of January 1967, enrolment for the Lake Harbour Federal Day School had increased to 19 pupils [eight Inuit boys; eleven Inuit girls]. [LHS-000089]

In February of 1967, the Chief of the Education Division [Northern Administration Branch] reported on the delay of construction on the proposed two-classroom school at Lake Harbour. The delay was reportedly due to the lack of available land in the settlement favourable for the construction site. It was predicted that by 1970, over 50 school aged children would be residing in the settlement, escalating the need for additional classroom space. [RCN-004116]

On May 8th, 1967, the Administrator of the Arctic reported on the inadequacy of the nursing station facility utilized as the Lake Harbour Federal Day School. The facility was reportedly inadequate for the school’s increasing enrollment demands which were expected to increase further as a result of 10 new low rental Inuit houses being constructed in the settlement. The Administrator requested that a portable classroom [estimated cost of \$30,000] be placed in the settlement immediately as construction on a new two-classroom school was not to be completed until 1970. [RCN-004125]

A Principal's Report on Promotion and Non-Promotion indicates that as of June 1967, the Lake Harbour Federal Day School had maintained its January 1967 enrolment of 19 students [eight Inuit boys; eleven Inuit girls]. [LHS-000092]

A September 30th, 1967 Enrolment Form for the Lake Harbour Federal Day School indicates the schools' enrolment increased by 12 pupils [totaling 31 students] by the beginning of the 1967/68 academic year. [LHS-000015]

On November 8th, 1967, the Chief of the Education Division reported that design/structural plans originally developed for the Federal Day Schools at Hall Beach and Repulse Bay would be utilized for the proposed new school at Lake Harbour. [LHS-000095]

1968 – A Principal's Report on Teacher Movement and Annual Age Grade report indicates that as of January 1968, enrolment for the Lake Harbour Federal Day School decreased from its initial September 1967 enrolment of 31 pupils to 25 pupils [eleven Inuit boys; fourteen Inuit girls]. This same enrolment figure was reported on a Principal's Report on Promotion and Non-Promotion for the school year ending in June of 1968. [LHS-000096]; [LHS-000097]

On November 21st, 1968 it was reported the Lake Harbour Federal Day School had an Inuit classroom assistant employed on contract through the Department of Northern Affairs and Indian Development. [RCN-009705]

1969 – A January 16th, 1969 report to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories indicates a two-classroom school was slated for completion at Lake Harbour by the 1969/70 academic year. [RCN-004178]

On September 30th, 1969, the Lake Harbour Federal Day School was reported as having a preliminary enrolment of 48 Inuit children. [RCN-009757-0001]

1972 – A Forecast of Enrolment, Facilities and Staff report indicates that by May of 1972, the Lake Harbour School held an enrolment of 26 Inuit boys, 34 Inuit girls and one non-Inuit girl. Schooling was provided in one three room school and a portable utilized for additional classroom space. The school consisted of five staff members including three teaching staff members, a classroom assistant and a janitor. [RCN-012387-0037]

HOSTEL/SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1963 – A diagram of the Department of National Health and Welfare's nursing station utilized as the Lake Harbour Federal Day School indicates the facility consisted of a kitchen, a bathroom, a cloak room, two porches [with storage area] and 16 student desks. [LHS-000033-0001]

1964 – A September 11th, 1963 memorandum indicates residential accommodation for students of the Lake Harbour Federal Day School for 1964/65 was likely provided in a '130' type building owned by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [LHS-000038]; [LHS-000013]

1965 – In 1965, it was reported the nursing station utilized as the Lake Harbour Federal Day School was 'too small' and that the roof of the facility often leaked, resulting in the schools' closure during the parts of the spring when ice/snow began to thaw. The interior of the school was required to be covered in plastic to help mitigate the amount of water seeping into the

building. Additionally, the school did not have a blackboard or adequate library space. [LHS-000077]

Similarly, a June 1st, 1965 letter from the Community Teacher of the Lake Harbour Federal Day School to the Regional Administrator reported the school facility to be in ‘terrible condition’ requiring cleaning and repair work. [LHS-000074]

LAND

The Federal Hostel building at Lake Harbour was an addition to the existing Federal Day School facility and located within close proximity to the Federal Day School. It was therefore on the same physical property and this land title situation reflects that for the Federal Day School. [LHS-000042]

1954 - A June 1954 report submitted to the Northern Administration Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources provides the following description of the Lake Harbour settlement: “The settlement at Lake Harbour is located at the end of the inlet referred to as ‘Lake Harbour’. Located directly to the west of the uppermost part of the inlet are the Hudson’s Bay Company’s post buildings, the Anglican Church and Missionary’s residence, the Department of National Health and Welfare’s nursing station, two old type pre-fabricated huts discarded by the United States Air Force, now the property of the Canadian Government, and an Eskimo Camp comprised of some 36 tents.’ [LHS-000027]

1955 - A separate report compiled in 1955 further describes the Lake Harbour settlement as consisting of ‘two parts which are quite separate and apart from one another. The main part of the settlement is to the left at the head of the bay as one approaches land consists of the Hudson’s Bay Company’s post, the Department of National Health and Welfare Nursing station and the Anglican Church and Missionary’s residence.’ [LHS-000028]

1963 – A memorandum dated September 26th, 1963 indicates the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources building likely chosen for the operation of a student hostel was located ‘three hundred yards south’ of the Lake Harbour Federal Day School. [LHS-000042]

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Item #	Date	Description
LHS-000235-0002	1961	Floor plan of the Department of National Health and Welfare nursing station facility used as the Lake Harbour Federal Day School [pre-classroom transition]
LHS-000031	June 15 th , 1960	Sketch of buildings in an area designated as the Lake Harbour ‘school area.’
LHS-000033-0001	1963	Floor plan of the Department of National Health and Welfare nursing station facility used as the Lake Harbour Federal Day School [post classroom transition]

LHS-000077	1965	Sketch of the building exterior and floor plan of the Department of National Health and Welfare nursing station facility used as the Lake Harbour Federal Day School
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GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Year	Number of Students
1964/65	4 students in hostel [4 girls]

STUDENTS FROM OTHER LOCATIONS

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

1964 – A memorandum dated October 24th, 1964 indicates children residing in camps in and around the Lake Harbour area were the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources favoured choice of students eligible for hostel accommodation. A separate report from 1955 suggests many of these camps were in a region ‘along the southern coast of Baffin Island from Amadjuak to the entrance of Frobisher Bay’. [LHS-000066]; [LHS-000028]

There may be alternate ways of spelling these locations.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

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

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

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

It appears a contract was signed with a community member to act as a Hostel Mother to manage the residence. [See ‘Management of Residence’ section of narrative]

DOCUMENTS REFFERING TO HOSTEL INDICENTS

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

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
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Simms, Elizabeth	Principal	1964 to 1966
Zimmer, Iona	Principal	1965 to 1966

Narrative Completed: January 26th, 2009

Narrative Updated: November 24th, 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