

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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**FORT GEORGE HOSTELS
IAP School Narrative**

NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)

Fort George Hostels (September 1, 1975 to June 30, 1978)

OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)

1975 to 1978 Fort George Hostel Program [HFG-000010-0002, pg. 2; HFG-000030-0004; HFG-000001]

1977 Fort George Student Hostels [HFG-000030-0003]

LOCATION

The Fort George Hostels were located in Fort George, Quebec, on the east shore of James Bay, and 200 miles north of Moosonee, Ontario [FGA-000165].

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.

September 1, 1975 to June 30, 1978

OPERATING DATES CONTEXT

Four of the Fort George Hostels at the former Fort George Anglican IRS site were in use during the fall of 1975. By January 4, 1976, eight hostels were in use and the hostel program was fully operational. The eight hostels had accommodation for up to 96 residents. The hostels were jointly administered by the federal government, the Fort George Band Council, and hostel parents/guardians [FGA-000329-0003, pg. 1; HFG-000011; HFG-000010-0002, pg. 2, 4; HFG-000010-0004]. Responsibility for the hostel operation was transferred to the Cree School Board on July 1, 1978, as part of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, which had been signed in 1975 [FGA-000104; FGA-001582; FGA-000505-0000; FGA-000505-0002; FTG-000171; FTG-000172; FGA-000538-0003; FGA-000538-0004, pg. 1, 4].

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

The Fort George Hostels were non-denominational.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
September 1975	The Fort George Hostels program was intended to begin operation in September 1975, but this was not possible due to construction delays and furnishing problems. A 1976 report by an Acting Senior Education Counsellor indicated that four of	HFG-000010-0002, pg. 2 HFG-000065 HFG-000027-0002

	the hostel buildings were in use to a “limited extent” in the fall, before Christmas. The “limited” use of the buildings was not specified.	
January 4, 1976	<p>The hostel program was fully operational with all eight hostels in use. The hostels were jointly administered by the federal government, the Fort George Band Council, and the hostel parents or guardians.</p> <p>The federal government was responsible for providing and maintaining the hostel accommodation, and for paying monthly room and board costs for hostel residents.</p> <p>The Fort George Band Council selected the hostel parents, and was responsible for the overall supervision of the program.</p> <p>The hostel parents were responsible for the supervision of the hostel residents, and the general upkeep and cleaning of the hostel property.</p> <p>The federal government, the Fort George Band Council and the hostel parents were jointly responsible for the provision of rules and regulations for the hostels and for the welfare of residents, and for dealing with any problems associated with the hostel operation.</p>	HFG-000010-0002, pg. 2 HFG-000010-0004
July 1, 1978	Responsibility for the hostel operation was transferred to the Cree School Board as part of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.	FGA-000104 FGA-001582 FGA-000505-0000 FGA-000505-0002 FTG-000171 FTG-000172 FGA-000538-0003 FGA-000538-0004, pg. 1, 4

EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

Grades Taught at the Indian Residential School

Not applicable. The Fort George Hostels were residences only, and residents received classroom instruction at other schools.

Other Schools Attended by Residents

School Years	Name of School	Location	Administration	Grades	Document
1975/76; 1976/77	Sand Park Federal School / Sand Park Elementary (Federal Day School)	Fort George, Quebec	Federal government	K to 10	HFG-000078 FGA-000617-0000 FGA-000617-0001 NCA-001711-0002 NCA-001711-0003 NCA-001711-0004 NCA-001711-0007 NCA-001711-0009 FTG-000631
1975/76;	Ecole Ste.	Fort	Federal	K, 1, 2, 5,	HFG-000078

1977/78	Therese	George, Quebec	government	6	FTG-000631
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GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1976	74	Not applicable	HFG-000073
1977	84	Not applicable	LTR-000622-0004
1978	71	Not applicable	HFG-000001 HFG-000002 HFG-000003 HFG-000004 HFG-000005 HFG-000006 HFG-000007 HFG-000008

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1976	The federal government was to provide games for the entertainment of the hostel residents. No further information was found to confirm whether these games were supplied to residents.	HFG-000010-0004
1976	Home Economics instruction was provided.	HFG-000010-0006

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
1975 to 1976	The federal government constructed eight pre-fabricated group homes at the former Fort George Anglican IRS site. The Hostels were to be ready for occupancy in September 1975. Due to construction delays, only four of the hostel buildings were in use to a limited extent during the fall of 1975. The hostel program was fully operational with all eight hostels in use by January 4, 1976. The federal government converted the former Fort George Anglican Student Residence building into classrooms and teachers' residences in order to accommodate a secondary education program for an increased number of high school students. No information was found to confirm if this was part of the Sand Park School attended by hostel residents.	FGA-000329-0001 FGA-001365 FGA-100104 HFG-000065 HFG-000070 HFG-000027-0002 HFG-000010-0002, pg. 2
1975	Each hostel building measured 40' x 48' and	HFG-000027-0005

	had a basement and a main floor.	
1976	A report by the Acting Senior Education Counsellor indicated that the hostel program consisted of eight buildings, each “like a double house” with accommodation for up to twelve residents. Each hostel was a self contained unit in that it had all the rooms and facilities required to carry on a regular “family program”. The hostels were equipped with electricity, running water, indoor plumbing, “modern” heating, as well as electric stoves, washers and dryers, freezers, and refrigerators.	HFG-000010-0002, pg. 2

PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
1975	Diagram of Anglican Church land at Fort George, Quebec, acquired by the federal government. Diagram features the site of the former Fort George Anglican IRS building converted into classrooms and staff accommodation in order to support the education program at Fort George.	HFG-000072-0000 HFG-000072-0003 FGA-001365 HFG-000065 HFG-000070
1975	Plans of the hostels at Fort George.	HFG-000027-0004

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

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

Incidents (Sexual)

No information found.

Incidents (Physical)

No information found.

Incidents (Student on Student)

No information found.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1976 A report by the Acting Senior Education Counsellor indicated that the hostel program operated as part student residence and part private home. Accommodation for twelve residents in each hostel resembled a group home setting, but the supervision of each hostel by one family - usually an Aboriginal family - was “like a private home”. Parents and friends of the residents living in the hostels were welcome to visit during the school year but were not allowed to eat or sleep at the hostels [HFG-000010-0002, pg. 2, 6].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

There was no Principal or Administrator position at the Fort George Hostels. Hostel parents or guardians operated the hostels and supervised residents.

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Mary-Anne Sam Edna Matthew Juliette Iserhoff Harriet Scipio Janie Sam Annie Herodier Mary Pepabano Irene Pashagumiskum	Houseparent – Hostel #1 Houseparent – Hostel #2 Houseparent – Hostel #3 Houseparent – Hostel #4 Houseparent – Hostel #5 Houseparent – Hostel #6 Houseparent – Hostel #7 Houseparent – Hostel #8	1976
Mary Ann Sam Edna Matthew Juliet Iserhoff Robert Washapabano Emily Georgekish Elsie House Hannah Pachano Gail Dick	Hostel Guardian – Hostel #1 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #2 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #3 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #4 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #5 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #6 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #7 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #8	1977
Mary Ann Sam Edna Matthew Juliet Iserhoff Robert Wash Emily Georgekish Elsie House Hannah Pachano Gail Dick	Hostel Guardian – Hostel #1 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #2 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #3 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #4 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #5 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #6 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #7 Hostel Guardian – Hostel #8	1978

Narrative Completed: August 18, 2015
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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