

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.

**Fort Pelly Indian Residential School
IAP School Narrative**

NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)

Fort Pelly

OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)

1905 to 1913	Keeseekoose / Keeseekouse (St. Philips) Boarding School [SPR-000824; SPR-000966, pg. 7; SPR-001021, pg. 2]
1906 to 1909	Fort Pelly School [FFR-004340; FFR-004341-0000]
1906 to 1913	St. Philip's (Boarding) School [SPR-000968, pg. 11; SPR-001020, pg. 15]

LOCATION

The Fort Pelly IRS was situated just off the east edge of the Keeseekoose Reserve, in the province of Saskatchewan. The IRS was built on property owned by the Roman Catholic Oblate Order [SPR-000970, pg. 4; SPR-000966, pg. 7; SPR-000068].

PROVINCE/TERRITORY

Saskatchewan

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.

July 1, 1905 to September 30, 1913

OPERATING DATES CONTEXT

The Fort Pelly IRS received federal government support from July 1, 1905 [SPR-000824; SPR-000451]. The IRS closed on September 30, 1913, due to low enrolment, the ill health of the Principal, and the poor conditions of the IRS building [SPR-000828; SPR-001958; SPR-001020, pg. 16; SPR-001021, pg. 2].

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Roman Catholic Church

1905 to 1913	Oblates of Mary Immaculate of St. Boniface, Manitoba [SPR-001919; SPR-001928; SPR-000826-0001].
1905 to 1909	Sisters of St. André de la Croix / Sisters of the Holy Cross [SPR-005403, pg. 3, 5; SPR-000967, pg. 7; SPR-001936; SPR-001937; SPR-001938].
1910 to 1913	The Missionary Oblate Sisters (Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate) arrived at the IRS on May 4, 1910 [SPR-004700, pg. 1-3; SPR-001020, pg. 15-16].

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
July 1905	The Fort Pelly IRS began operating with federal government support on July 1, 1905.	SPR-000824 SPR-000451
May 1910	The Missionary Oblate Sisters (Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate) arrived at the IRS on May 4, 1910 to replace the Sisters of St. André de la Croix / Sisters of the Holy Cross.	SPR-004700, pg. 2-3
September 1913	Due to low enrolment, the ill health of the Principal, and the poor conditions of the IRS building, the IRS closed on September 30, 1913.	SPR-000828 SPR-001958 SPR-001020, pg. 16 SPR-001021, pg. 2

EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

Grades Taught at the Indian Residential School

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1905/06 to 1907/08	1 to 4	SPR-000968, pg. 15 SPR-000967, pg. 14 SPR-001017, pg. 13
1908/09 to 1911/12	1 to 5	SPR-000966, pg. 16 SPR-001018, pg. 16 SPR-001019, pg. 19 SPR-000965, pg. 9
1912/13 to 1913/14	1 to 4	SPR-001020, pg. 21 SPR-001021, pg. 3

Other Schools Attended by Residents

There is no indication that residents from the IRS attended any other schools.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1904/05	16	No information found	SPR-000969, pg. 8
1905/06	26	No information found	SPR-000968, pg. 15
1906/07	25	No information found	SPR-000967, pg. 14
1907/08	30	No information found	SPR-001017, pg. 13
1908/09	29	No information found	SPR-000966, pg. 16
1909/10	29	No information found	SPR-001018, pg. 16
1910/11	29	No information found	SPR-001019, pg. 19
1911/12	30	No information found	SPR-000965, pg. 9
1912/13	27	No information found	SPR-001020, pg. 21
1913/14	27	No information found	SPR-001021, pg. 3

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1911/12	Boys at the IRS were taught farming and care of livestock. Girls were taught general house keeping	SPR-000965, pg. 12-13

	skills such as cooking, knitting, and sewing. Pupils played baseball and football, marbles, cards, dominoes and checkers. Religious training was given to IRS pupils twice daily by the Principal.	
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INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
1906	The IRS consisted of a 60' x 25' log structure, with a wing at the back, and a detached 24' x 24' building used as the Principal's residence.	SPR-000968, pg. 11
1908/09	The buildings at the IRS site consisted of the following: a 35' x 60' two storey house containing a chapel, refectory, recreation room, work room, two dormitories for the girls, rooms for the Sisters and teacher, and a kitchen; a 32' x 20' one and a half storey house containing a recreation room, dormitory for boys, two rooms for the priest and the teacher in charge of the boys; and a 26' x 32' log stable for horses, cattle and hens.	SPR-000966, pg. 7
1912/13	There was a granary and milk house at the IRS.	SPR-001020, pg. 23

PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
April 1902	Sketch of the proposed IRS building.	SPR-001912-0002

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the Fort Pelly IRS 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

1909 A federal Indian Agent reported that female students had been sneaking out of their sleeping quarters to meet with young men from the Key and Keeseekoose Reserves. The Agent suggested that the "local ladies" who had taken over from the Sisters who had previously worked at the IRS had no experience in working with pupils and "let the children do very much as they please..." The federal government advised that the Principal was in charge of discipline at the IRS and should be more vigilant in light of the recent staff changes [SPR-001936; SPR-001937; SPR-001938].

1911 The Chief of the Keeseekoose Reserve reported to a federal Indian Agent that the assistant to the Principal had been intoxicated at the IRS and had taken a rifle and told those who were there at the time that he was going to shoot some of them. The Agent noted that the assistant to the Principal had left the IRS and that two other Fathers had arrived. The federal government requested that the Principal explain what had been done to "...quiet the trouble caused by this painful incident;" however, the Principal would not comment on the matter. The Principal tendered his resignation shortly thereafter. In September 1911, the federal government was told by Church authorities that the former assistant to the Principal (involved in the previous incident) had become the Principal of the IRS [SPR-000062; SPR-001943; SPR-001945; SPR-000063; SPR-001947].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Reverend Father J. DeCorby, O.M.I.	Missionary, Principal	1905 to 1911
Reverend Father Ruelle, O.M.I.	Principal	1911 to 1913

Narrative Completed: March 30, 2012

Narrative Updated: January 15, 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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UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA