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**Grollier Hall Student Residence (Inuvik, NWT)**  
**Residence/School Narrative**  
 February 28, 2005

**This Narrative summarizes documents that provide an over-view of the history and administration of the Roman Catholic residence in Inuvik (Grollier Hall) and its related school.**

**NAME OF RESIDENCE AND VARIANTS**

Name	Item No.	Dates
Roman Catholic Hostel at East 3 / at Aklavik East 3 <sup>1</sup>	NWT000528 (p. 5), NWT002001	Pre-1959
Roman Catholic Hostel at [New] Aklavik	NWT000023, NWT003015 [000-019], NWT000500	Pre-1959
Notre-Dame Residence	NWT000258, NWT000259	1959-60
Roman Catholic Hostel / Residence [at] Inuvik	NWT000254, NWT000257	1959-61
Federal Hostel (Roman Catholic), Inuvik	NWT003366 [000-009]	1959-61
Grollier Hall Hostel / Residence	NWT000614	1961-62
Grollier Hall Pupil Residence	NWT000316, NWT000730	1962-75

Note that the terms “hostel” and “residence” were used interchangeably throughout the history of the large NWT/Nunavut student residences. The term “hostel,” however, tends to appear more in early correspondence (1950s to early 1960s) while the terms “student residence” and “pupil residence” tend to appear more in correspondence from the late 1960s onward.

While we have limited knowledge of the history and administration of Grollier after the Government of the Northwest Territories assumed control in 1969, we have general knowledge that Grollier Hall was referred to as “Grollier Hall” until circa 1996 when it was finally closed by the Territorial Government.

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<sup>1</sup> The community of Inuvik was originally named ‘Aklavik East 3.’ ‘East 3’ was the third of 6 possible town sites on the ‘East’ Channel of the Mackenzie Delta. Inuvik was a ‘manufactured’ or ‘planned’ community, built on the east ‘bank’ of the Mackenzie River, across from Aklavik on the west; the community was built to replace Aklavik, as it was believed that the Aklavik town site was eroding into the river. The new student residences in ‘Aklavik East 3’ – Grollier Hall (Roman Catholic) and Stringer Hall (Anglican) – were identical 250-bed residences built on the same parcel of land and, when they opened in 1959, replaced the older mission-owned / mission-run residential schools in Aklavik – Immaculate Conception and All Saints Anglican – and students and staff were transferred from Immaculate Conception to Grollier Hall. ‘Aklavik East 3’ became ‘Inuvik’ on July 18, 1958.

## NAME OF RELATED SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

Name	Item No.	Dates
Federal School at Inuvik	NWT000824, NWT003350 [001-001]	1959-69
Sir Alexander Mackenzie School (a.k.a. "SAMS")	NWT000614	1959-present

## NAME OF OTHER RELATED INSTITUTIONS

Samuel Hearne Secondary School [NWT000536]: 1968-present

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1955-59 In 1955 the Federal Government begins a new education and related construction program in the Northwest Territories (NWT) [NWT000539, NWT000023, NWT000088].

Circa 1956 or 1957, as part of this new program, construction begins in the future town site of Inuvik on Grollier Hall (Roman Catholic), Stringer Hall (Anglican) and the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, to be administered conjointly as part of the new 'large hostel' (and day school) program [NWT000416].

1959 A report entitled "1959-60 [Construction] Program" indicates that "September 1959 will see the completion of a three-year construction program [at Inuvik] in the Mackenzie Education District" [NWT000416].

One hostel is for 250 Anglican children, "mostly Eskimos" and the other for 250 Roman Catholic children, "mostly Indian and Eskimo" [NWT000023].

The Catholic and Anglican residences – though identical and built adjacent to one another – were physically separate facilities. The adjacent federal day school (Sir Alexander Mackenzie), had separate Anglican and Catholic "wings" for elementary grades, with a third, non-denominational wing for high school grades (and a non-denominational Principal / administration) [NWT000416]. Grollier residents attend the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School in the segregated Catholic "wing" which has its own Catholic Assistant Principal and teachers of the Catholic faith [NWT000480].

The Inuvik hostels are supposed to open for "approximately September 1, 1959" [NWT000413 [000-001]], but there is initially some question as to whether the residences will be completed and ready to open by this date [NWT000454]. By May 1959 construction is, however, ahead of schedule [NWT000449] and the Government proceeds with student recruitment (a combination of recruiting Indian and Inuit children from outlying areas /

communities without local day or other school facilities, and transferring a number of students from the Aklavik residential schools) [NWT000450, NWT000449, NWT000490, NWT000446, NWT000439, NWT000438 [000-002] [001-002] [002-002]].

The following construction completion dates were projected [NWT000445 [005-005] (Item 19, p.5)]:

Students' Residence	– August 1
School	– August 15
Laundry	– August 31
Housing [staff]	– August 31

Grollier Hall, Stringer Hall and the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School were meant to specifically replace the older Catholic and Anglican mission residential schools in Aklavik. The Aklavik schools were closed when Grollier and Stringer opened in the fall of 1959, and in the case of Grollier, many of the staff and students were transferred to Grollier from the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Residential School in Aklavik.

*Transfer of Aklavik staff:* It was agreed that the official closing date of the Aklavik residential schools would be August 31, 1959, and that all residential school staff would stay on the payroll until that date [NWT000445 [005-005] (Item 18, p. 4)].

*Transfer of Aklavik students:* Some students at Aklavik would be relocated to the Inuvik hostels when the Aklavik facilities closed [NWT000487, NWT000446, NWT000385]. Estimates indicate that between 192 and 249 Aklavik students were eligible to be transferred to the new Roman Catholic and Anglican hostels in Inuvik, based on the admissions criteria for the new hostels [NWT000490].

*Transfer of Mission-owned equipment at Aklavik Residential Schools:* it appears that none of the equipment from the old Aklavik residential schools was transferred to the new hostels, as Government officials assessed that no equipment was worth transferring and the local mission authorities agreed [NWT000445 [005-005] (Item 14, p.3)].

Completion of the “centralized” laundry facilities (shared by all federal institutions in Inuvik, including both hostels) was delayed until mid-October [NWT000414, NWT000418].

Staff housing was not completed by September. As an interim measure, teaching staff were allowed to live in the residences so that the day school could open on time [NWT000393, NWT000392, NWT000366 [001-001]].

It appears that there were several late admissions for the “opening” due to a “late breakup” of ice [NWT000381, NWT000387] and the School itself might not have opened until the second week of September [NWT000389].

The Sir Alexander Mackenzie School went into operation as of September 8, 1959 [NWT003350 [000-001]].

As of August 1959, it is the Government’s plan that the hostels at Inuvik are not expected to be filled to capacity until 1962 or 1963 [NWT000400].

- 1961 The Government adopts the policy to name the “large hostels” after northern Anglican and Catholic missionaries, and the related day schools after northern explorers. The Catholic residence in Inuvik is officially referred to as Grollier Hall (after Father P. Grollier, OMI, the first missionary to found a Roman Catholic mission in northern Canada (Fort Resolution, July 1858) (p. 6)) and the day school Sir Alexander Mackenzie (after explorer Sir Alexander Mackenzie, known for reaching the Arctic Ocean via the Mackenzie river in 1789 (p. 5)) [NWT000614].
- 1962 Quarterly returns begin referring to Grollier as a “pupil residence” rather than a “hostel” as of the quarter ending March 31, 1962 [NWT000316]. Quarterly returns continue to refer to Grollier as a “pupil residence” up to and including the last returns currently in our possession (for the quarters ending March 1969 [NWT000779], December 1974 [NWT000729] and March 1975 [NWT000730]).
- 1968 Samuel Hearne Secondary School officially opens in October 1968 (the 1968-69 school year) [NWT000536]. At this time, the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School is used for elementary students only, as the older hostel students begin attending the new Samuel Hearne high school.
- 1969 March 1969 is the last quarter for which we have continuous attendance records for the residence [NWT000779].
- April 1, 1969, the fledgling Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) becomes responsible for all of the “large hostels” in the NWT [NWT000221].
- 1969-87 We do not have exact knowledge as to Grollier’s history after the GNWT assumed responsibility in 1969, but do have “general” knowledge that the residence remained in operation as a Church-managed residence until circa 1987.

We have general knowledge that at some point in the early 1970s the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School became part of the Territorial public school system.

1987-96 We have general knowledge that Grollier remained in operation as a Government-owned, Government-managed student residence under the GNWT until its closure in 1996.

Present To our knowledge, the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School is open to this day as part of the Territorial public school system.

### **MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENCE**

From 1959 to 1969 Grollier Hall was a Government-owned, Church-managed student residence, owned by the Federal Government and managed by the Roman Catholic Church. We have limited documentation post-1969, but have general knowledge that under the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Grollier continued to be operated as a Government-owned, Church-managed student residence from 1969 until circa 1987, at which date the Catholic Church withdrew from the original management agreement. We have further general knowledge that Grollier continued to be operated beyond that date, by the GNWT, as a Government-owned, Government-managed student residence, until its eventual closure circa 1996.

1955 The Federal Government introduces its new education program in the NWT [NWT000539]:

The centerpiece to the new education program is the proposed “large hostels” (and adjacent day schools) program, meant to replace the older mission residential school system and other, older, varied federal and mission schools in operation in the NWT at this time [NWT000023, NWT000088].

The ultimate goal of the new, integrated program is to provide schooling to children of all ethnicities, both within the communities in which the hostels/day schools would be built, but specifically for children in isolated communities (who would reside in the large hostels/residences while away from home). Construction begins on a number of new day schools and “hostels,” while other, older facilities are renovated and integrated into the “large hostel” program. This program, administered by the Department of Northern Affairs, was distinct and separate from the “Indian Residential School” program administered in southern Canada through the same period by Indian Affairs [NWT000539, NWT000023].

Grollier Hall was one of these “large hostels,” established in the Mackenzie District; Grollier Hall, Stringer Hall and the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School were all “new” constructions under the program [NWT000539, NWT000088].

### **Dates managed by Church**

C 1955 In reference to the new education program and the planned construction of hostels in various communities a Government report states:

These hostels will be built and owned by the Federal Government; those intended primarily for Indian and Eskimo children will be operated by the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, as virtually all Indians and Eskimos in the Northwest Territories are either of these faiths [NWT000539].

A document titled “Relationship of Department with Church Authorities and Pupil Residences” states:

By 1955 many of the residential schools operated by the Roman Catholic and Anglican Missions had reached such a state of disrepair that they needed replacing. Discussions were held at which Church authorities and the Federal and Territorial Governments were represented. As a result of these discussions it was agreed by all parties that the Government should build pupil residences, to be operated by the two Churches concerned but with the schools to be operated by the Federal Government. Agreements between the Churches and the Department were negotiated and signed for the operation of each of the pupil residences as they were constructed....

At Inuvik, two 250-bed pupil residences were completed in 1959. The two buildings are exactly the same. One is operated by the Roman Catholic Church for pupils of that faith, and the other is operated by the Anglican Church for Protestant pupils [NWT000088].

1959 The church authority directly contracted for the management of Grollier Hall is the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Mackenzie, as per the Memorandum of Agreement for the management of Grollier Hall student residence (in the agreement, the “hostel at Inuvik”) dated October 1, 1959, effective September 1, 1959 [NWT000355 [001-001]].

A list of the “Estimated per Pupil Costs at Inuvik Hostels” notes estimates payable to management which include: staff, food, clothing, freight, housekeeping supplies, laundry, extra-curricular activities and miscellaneous (telephone, office supplies, travel, minor building repairs, insurance, etc.) [NWT000419].

Notes regarding a discussion with a Government official and Bishop Piché and Canon Cook include the following information about the management of the residences at Inuvik [NWT000461]:

A central freezer will be shared by the Missions.

Both Missions would purchase bread. However they were free to bake their own “pies, cakes and cookies.”

A central laundry would be operated by the Department in connection with hostel operations.

1959-69 From September 1959 to 1969, the Catholic Church manages the Government-owned residence on behalf of the Federal Government, as per the terms of the 1959 agreement [NWT000355 [001-001]].

The Church is obligated to manage the hostel and its programs in cooperation with the Principal of the day school and in a manner which complements the day school’s programs:

Clause 8. In co-operation with the school principal the Management [the Roman Catholic Church] will establish and administer a recreational and extra curricular activity program designed to supplement and support the school program.

The Church is responsible for hiring all staff at the Government-owned residence, as per the parameters of the October 1959 contract:

Clause 2. The Management [the Roman Catholic Church] will employ only such persons who are from time to time necessary to operate and manage the hostel [NWT000355 [001-001]].

With respect to all other residence staff, the contract stipulates that the Church is responsible for all hiring for the residence (Clause 2), for paying all residence employees (Clause 3), and for providing janitor service, cleaning equipment and repairs for the residence (Clause 4) [NWT000355 [001-001]].

The residence recruited its own staff (following Government standards) [NWT000547, p. 6-7], but the residence staff continued to be Church employees and at no point became Federal public servants [NWT00192 [001-001]].

The Federal Government provides a training program for administrators and supervisors of pupil residences in the Northwest Territories [NWT000546].

1969-70 The terms of the original contract with the Church are unchanged, but as of April 1, 1969 the three Catholic hostels in the Mackenzie District, including Grollier Hall, are transferred to the Territorial Government. The Federal Government writes to the Church on April 1, 1969 to confirm the termination of the Memorandum of Agreement for the management of Grollier Hall, and to confirm that the Territorial Government will be in



contact to arrange for a new agreement, whereby the only changes will be to the signing authorities [NWT000202].

We do not currently possess copies of any new agreements for the management of Grollier Hall but have general knowledge that the terms of management by the Church, as per the original agreement, were still in place under the GNWT until the Church withdrew from the management of the residence circa 1987.

### **Dates managed by Government**

1959-69 From September 1, 1959 to March 31, 1969, the residence is Government-owned and the Roman Catholic Church manages the residence on behalf of the Federal Government [NWT000355 [001-001]].

As of 1960, the Federal Government enters into an agreement to pay for all operating costs of the hostel to the managing Church organization (the Catholic Church) [NWT000055].

While the Church manages the day-to-day administration of the residence, it does not control admissions. As per the terms of the contract [Clause 5] and the Government's own criteria for selecting children to attend Grollier Hall, the Government controls all student admissions to the student residence, under the direction of the (federal) Chief Superintendent of Schools and Area Superintendent of Schools. It is the Government's policy in the "large hostel/day school" program, that all admissions to the Church-run student residences are controlled by the non-denominational administration (i.e., the Principals) of the adjacent, federal day schools [NWT000547, p. 7].

1968 The Government writes to the Grollier Hall Administrator regarding the "imminent transfer of the Education function to the Northwest Territories Government," expressing uncertainty as to the "extent the staff of church-operated pupil residence in the Northwest Territories will be affected" [NWT000240]. Administrators are requested to attend training sessions in Edmonton which have been organized to "brief the administrators of Indian pupil residences on the implications of decisions regarding the status of residence employees" [NWT000241].

### **Dates taken over by the NWT**

The fledgling Government of the Northwest Territories assumes control over education and Grollier Hall as of April 1, 1969 [NWT000202].

### **Pre-1969 Territorial Role**

Prior to 1969, the role of the Territorial Government in federal education programs in the NWT was almost exclusively financial: in the broadest terms, the Territorial Government was responsible for funding aspects of the federal education programs in proportion to

the number of “other” (non-aboriginal and Métis) students enrolled in school or residence. This ethnic distinction was based on the Federal Government’s constitutional responsibility for aboriginal peoples (and so the Federal Government funded all expenses related to the education of Indian and Inuit students).

1955-69 In general, the Territorial Government financially contributes proportionately for “other” education in all of the different schools in operation at this time in the NWT (i.e., all mission residential schools, mission day schools, federal day schools, etc.) [NWT000701]. As of 1955, with the implementation of the construction program for the new “large hostel” residence and day school education program, the initial expenditure for the construction (“capital costs”) and operation of the federal schools and hostels in the NWT is made by the Federal Government, with the Territorial Government paying its share based on the proportion of “territorial” (or “other” [non-aboriginal and Métis]) pupils [NWT000539].

With respect to the hostels, the Territorial Government repays the Federal Government the “actual direct” operating costs for each “other” pupil accommodated in a federal residence, and repays a proportional capital cost for initial construction (as noted above) and any subsequent capital expenditures (like additional buildings or upgrades) [NWT000722]. The recoverable “actual direct” costs for the operation of the hostels include the maintenance of buildings and equipment, transportation, heat, electricity and “other utilities” [NWT000727 [000-001]].

*Post-1969: Government of the NWT (GNWT)*

It should be emphasized that we have no post-1969 correspondence to show how the actual role of the Government of the NWT evolved in practice with respect to the administration of Grollier Hall up to its closure, or the continued administration of the Alexander Mackenzie School.

1968 Due to the limited ability of the GNWT to generate financial resources, the Federal Government would continue to provide educational funding and ensure, through supervision, that the level of educational programs, in particular for aboriginal peoples, would not diminish under the GNWT [NWT000072 [000-002] [001-002] [002-002]].

1969-87 The terms of the original contract with the Church are unchanged, but as of April 1, 1969 the agreement for the operation of Grollier Hall becomes a Territorial responsibility [NWT000202].

There is confirmation as of April 3, 1969 that the Government has drafted new agreements between the Church and Territorial Government (where only the signing authority has been changed) for each of the seven “large

hostels” – but we do not actually possess a copy of such a draft agreement for Grollier Hall [NWT000197].

Through this period the Government of the Northwest Territories:  
...is responsible for the planning, guidance, and operation of student residences in the Northwest Territories, including those operated under contract with the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches [NWT000556].

1987-96 We have general knowledge that Grollier ceased to be a Roman Catholic-managed residence circa July 1987, and that it continued in operation as some form of Government-managed student residence (managed by the GNWT) until its closure circa 1996.

### **MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL**

The Sir Alexander Mackenzie School was a Government-owned, Government-managed “combined” school. The Government classed this day school as a “combined” school (a term unique to the NWT program) because Catholic children from Grollier and Anglican children from Stringer both attended the school in segregated Catholic and Anglican “wings” [NWT006010, pp. 10-12, 20, 34, 46, and in Appendix H].

#### Dates managed by Church

The school was never managed by the Church, and was always administered as a non-denominational Government school. However, in agreement with the Church, the school was administered as a “combined” school with separation between Catholic and non-Catholic students.

The student programs run by the residence and school were interconnected and managed by the Church and Government in a complementary fashion. In the case of Inuvik, this meant that the Catholic administration at Grollier was expected to cooperate with the Anglican Stringer Administration, and with the non-denominational administration at the school, to coordinate academic and extra-curricular programs which all students (day and residential, both Catholic and Anglican) were supposed to take equal part in [[NWT000355 [001-001] (Clause 8), NWT000547, p. 6]; and (as noted above) by the 1960s, the Principal of the school was controlling admissions to the adjacent student residence [NWT000547, p. 7].

#### Dates managed by Government

1959-69 The “combined” day school is managed by the Federal Government as a non-denominational federal school [NWT000539, NWT000547].

The “day to day” administration of the school is carried out by the field staff of teachers, principals, and federal District and Regional superintendents of schools [NWT000547, p. 5]. New teachers are annually recruited by the superintendents in March and the salary scale for teachers is fixed by the Federal Government which “receives advice from

the Chief of the Education Division and after consultation with the representatives of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association" [NWT000547, p. 6].

In agreement with the Church, and as per the "combined schools regulations" [see Written Agreements section, below] when the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School was opened, it was stipulated that grades 1 - 8 would be segregated into two wings - one Roman Catholic and one non-Roman Catholic. The teachers in each "wing" would be exclusively Roman Catholic or non-Roman Catholic depending on which "wing" they taught in. An Assistant Principal of the appropriate religious faith was to be placed in charge of each wing, with independent authority to conduct his or her own programme, answerable to the Superintendent (of Schools for the Mackenzie District), not to the Principal. The Principal was designated to be a non-Roman Catholic with general supervisory authority over the whole physical plan and specific authority over the secondary grades, which were non-segregated and comprised a third wing [NWT006010, pp.11, 34]. (In 1968 when grades 7 to 12 are moved from the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School to the new Samuel Hearne Secondary School, the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School operates as two wings, but the Principal continues to be a non-Catholic, and the assistant principals are still the same faith as that of the students in the wing to which each is assigned. The Samuel Hearne School is not divided along religious lines and Stringer and Grollier high school students attend religiously "blended" classes.)

#### Dates taken over by the NWT

The Sir Alexander Mackenzie School was a federal school from the time that it opened in 1959 until April 1, 1969, at which point the Territorial Government became responsible for all federal schools.

- 1959-69 Prior to 1969, the Territorial Government's role was largely financial, reimbursing the Federal Government for the cost of construction and operation of hostels and schools in proportion to the attendance of non-aboriginal and Métis children [NWT000539].
- 1969-present As of April 1, 1969, the fledgling Government of the Northwest Territories is responsible for education in the Northwest Territories [NWT000202]. We have no knowledge as to the continued religious segregation of classes in the school under the GNWT, but do have general knowledge that at some point in the 1970s the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School became part of the Territorial public school system, and is open to this day.

## **RESIDENCE/SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

Aside from the construction phase (circa 1956/57 to 1959) we have very little documentation discussing additions or upgrades to Grollier Hall or the related Alexander Mackenzie School. We do know that the physical structures of Stringer Hall, Grollier Hall and the day school were all brand new constructions, built adjacent to one another, in close proximity at the same site.

1956/57 Ca. Construction begins on Grollier Hall, Stringer Hall and the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School [NWT000416].

1959 Staff housing is not completed by September and as an interim measure, teaching staff are allowed to live in the residences so that the day school could open on time [NWT000393, NWT000392, NWT000366 [001-001]]. The teachers move into their own accommodation October 16, except for the two teaching sisters and two male teachers, who remain living in Grollier [NWT000341].

The Government was responsible for providing all buildings and equipment for the residences and day schools under the post-1955 “large hostel / day school” program [NWT000539, NWT000547].

### ***Residence***

1959 The two Inuvik hostels (Grollier and Stringer) were identical structures and were designed to house 250 pupils each. The interior layout of both hostels was identical, and each contained: a service area with office; a chapel; recreation rooms; laundry, kitchen, bakery and dishwashing rooms; a sewing room; a students’ dining-room and staff dining-room; staff bedrooms and common rooms; staff washrooms; janitor’s quarters; student study rooms; boys’ and girls’ dormitories each with washrooms; medical rooms (infirmary, pharmacy, treatment room, nurse’s room); storage space; mechanical and heating rooms; a staff lounge and supervisor’s quarters [NWT000416, NWT000455].

Documents from the pre-completion stage indicate that a single, centralized laundry facility was put in place for the combined federal facilities in Inuvik (rather than individual laundry facilities at both hostels), including the new hospital, rehabilitation centre, and the new naval base [NWT000481, NWT000476]. Later / other documents appear to indicate that each hostel has its own laundry facilities [NWT000416, NWT000455, NWT000417].

Grollier has a small swimming pool [NWT000609, pp. 15, 32].

1960 The Government, in consultation with the hostel administrators (both Grollier and Stringer) and the school principal, agree that improvements to the school and hostel grounds are required. Amongst several suggested changes, key improvements affecting Grollier include: reducing the graveled area beside Grollier, which is used for play by the girls during school hours and by all the

Grollier pupils in the evenings; channeling the natural flow of surface water that crosses the southeast corner of the Catholic playground near the school; and improving the access roads to each hostel [NWT003010].

1969 There are three outside ice rinks [NWT000207 [001-001], p.6].

1996 We have general knowledge that Grollier Hall was demolished one or two years after it closed in 1996.

### ***Sir Alexander Mackenzie School***

The Sir Alexander Mackenzie School was T-shaped, with three distinct “wings” (which up until 1968 [when the Samuel Hearne School opened] consisted of a separate wing for Anglican and Catholic elementary grades, and a third wing housing non-denominational high school grades and the school administration) [NWT000547, NWT000416].

1959 The school at Inuvik consists of 24 “standard classrooms” and includes the following special facilities: auditorium-gymnasium, shops, library, home economic laboratory, social studies classroom, guidance suite, and guidance classrooms. The school is built in a “T” formation with facilities used in common housed in the stem of the “T.” The west wing houses 10 classrooms for Roman Catholic children. The east wing has 14 classrooms to accommodate Protestant pupils. Instruction is given in grades one to nine inclusive [NWT000416].

1960 The area between the Anglican Hostel and the School is used as the general area for play by both the School and the Community [NWT003010].

There is a “Homemaking Cabin” used as a classroom located near the rear of the school [NWT003010].

1961 As of 1961, the following changes are made to the original room designations at the school. Specific to the Anglican wing: the guidance area is a staff lounge; the male teachers’ room is now the non-denominational wing; the female teachers’ room is a counseling room; and the teachers’ committee room is now a special classroom. Specific to the Roman Catholic wing: the lay teachers’ room is now an Art room; the “sister teachers” room is an opportunity classroom; and the Roman Catholic Wing General office is now a music room [NWT003011 [000-001]].

1965 The Sir Alexander Mackenzie School’s original 24 classrooms have been expanded to 38, with classroom space for 890 pupils [NWT000609, in Appendix A].

### ***Samuel Hearne Secondary School***

We have no knowledge of the physical structure of the Samuel Hearne Secondary School, but do know that it was a new construction, officially opened as of October 1968 and served students from grades 7-12 in denominationally-blended classes (i.e., the high school was not separated into “wings” like the Sir Alexander Mackenzie school [NWT000536]). We have general knowledge that the Samuel Hearne School is still open to this day.

**LAND**

Grolier Hall is located in Inuvik on the East Channel of the Mackenzie River Delta. Inuvik is located at 68° 18' north latitude, 133° 29' west longitude (it is 10 degrees farther west than Vancouver, BC), in the vicinity of the Yukon / NWT border at the Arctic Ocean (top northwest corner of the NWT). Inuvik is 97 kilometres south of the Arctic Ocean / Beaufort Sea (“60 miles from the Beaufort Sea” [NWT000609, p. 62]), 200 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle and 1100km northwest of Yellowknife.<sup>2</sup> In terms of historical administration, Grolier Hall/ Inuvik were located in the Mackenzie District [NWT000416, p.18].

Given that the Northwest Territories is a Federal territory, the Government of Canada owned the land on which the community of Inuvik, Grolier Hall and the associated schools evolved.

**PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA**

Date	Item No.	Description
February 22, 1961	NWT003011 [001-001]	Floor plan, Inuvik Federal School - First Floor
October 19, 1962	NWT003041 [001-001]	Floor plan, Inuvik Federal School – Second Floor

**GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME**

Missing years reflect gaps in available attendance records. The residence was open from 1959 to 1987 as a Catholic-managed residence, and then as a non-denominational government-managed residence from 1987 to 1996. The Sir Alexander Mackenzie School was open from 1959 to the present, and the Samuel Hearne Secondary School was open from 1968 to the present.

The school and residence were ethnically integrated and because the Territorial Government repaid the Federal Government for the costs of educating non-aboriginal children, the school and hostel records tracked ethnicity in three categories: “Eskimo” [Inuit], Indian [status Indian], and “Other” [white or Métis].

***Grolier Hall***

We do not possess a complete set of hostel attendance records after the quarter ending March 69 and no records for the hostel after 1975.

<sup>2</sup> See for example the Inuvik Tourism link: <http://www.inuvik.ca/tourism/facts.html>

Year	Inuit	Indian	Other	Totals
1959	55	90	57	202
1960	82	88	50	220
1961	81	89	53	223
1962	53	113	68	234
1963	54	104	66	224
1964	55	86	72	213
1965	63	67	85	215
1966	69	90	76	235
1967	84	95	66	245
1968	80	92	59	231
1969	83	72	52	207
1971	-	-	-	156 or 157
1974	51	35	35	121
1975	46	29	25	100

***Sir Alexander Mackenzie School***

We do not currently possess regular attendance records for the Alexander Mackenzie School and cannot consequently provide attendance statistics at this time.

***Samuel Hearne Secondary School***

We do not currently possess a complete set of attendance records for the Samuel Hearne School. The years below correspond to the records currently in our possession.

Year	Inuit	Indian	Other	Totals
1970	142	65	204	411
1971	156	70	232	458
1972	132	70	256	458

**STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES/LOCATIONS**

Attendance in the post-1955 hostel / day school program was not reserve-based, as enrolment was not ethnically segregated (both aboriginal and non-aboriginal children lived in residence and attended the associated schools); rather, attendance was based on geographic proximity to the residence and the associated schools were attended both by students in residence, and by children living in the local community. The purpose of this section, therefore, is to identify locations / communities / regions from which students might have been transported / recruited for attendance at the residence and associated schools.

Note that children living in the local Inuvik community (in addition to those living in Grollier/Stringer) also attended the Sir Alexander Mackenzie day school. In a few cases, it seems that some children lived in Grollier even when their home community was Inuvik.



1959-69 Attendance records indicate that students in Grollier came from the following locations over this span of years:

Aklavik  
Arctic Red River  
Cambridge Bay  
Cape Parry  
Colville Lake  
Coppermine  
DEW Line [various camps close to various DEW Line cites]  
Fort Franklin  
Fort Good Hope  
Fort McPherson [only a few occurrences]  
Fort Norman  
Fort Smith [only 1 or 2 occurrences]  
Gjoa Haven  
Holman Island  
Norman Wells  
Paulatuk  
Pelly Bay  
PIN Main  
Reindeer Station  
Sachs Harbour  
Spence Bay  
Thom Bay  
Tuktoyaktuk  
Yellowknife [only a few occurrences]

1959 For the opening of Grollier in September 1959, the Government recruited (and transported by airplane) children within geographic boundaries which included 5 regions for this first quarter [NWT000439]:  
Region 1 - The coastal area between “Pin 3 and Spence Bay.”  
Region 2 - The coastal area “from Pin C westward.”  
Region 3 - The Mackenzie River basin south of Inuvik.  
Region 4 - The Aklavik Area.  
Region 5 - The Contwoyite Lake area.

Note generally that the majority of status Indian children (as opposed to Inuit, Métis and non-aboriginal children) seem to have come from Fort Good Hope, Fort Norman and Arctic Red River. Inuit children tended to come from places like Cambridge Bay, Cape Perry, Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour.

### **RELIGIOUS GROUPS**

#### *The Catholic Church*

- Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Mackenzie / Vicariate Apostolic of the Mackenzie: 1959- ca.1987 [NWT000355 [001-001]].

*The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

- 1959- ca. 1987 [NWT000355 [001-001], NWT000415, NWT000480].

*The Oblate Fathers Indian and Eskimo Welfare Commission*

- 1950s-1960s [NWT000415, NWT000431, NWT000432].

*The Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns)*

- 1959 – ca. 1987 [NWT006010, p. 12 (p. 15 electronic image)].
- We have general knowledge that the Grey Nuns were specifically employed at Grollier Hall, and that they were employed generally at all of the “large hostels” in the NWT education program.

**WRITTEN AGREEMENTS**

***Agreement Consolidating Federal Authority: Post-1955 Education Program***

1955 The Memorandum of Agreement dated February 1955, transfers responsibility over Indian Education from the Indian Affairs Branch to the Commissioner of the NWT / Northern Affairs and consolidates all educational authority in the NWT under Northern Affairs. The agreement further transfers (at no cost) all existing Indian Affairs school buildings, equipment, residences and all Indian Affairs staff (“teachers, welfare teachers, caretakers, and other employees”) to Northern Affairs effective April 1, 1955 [NWT000313].

***Combined Schools Regulations***

The Alexander Mackenzie School in Inuvik was referred to as a “combined school” because it operated with denominationally segregated elementary grades. As of July 5, 1956, the Federal Government approved a set of regulations (which were passed by the Territorial Government) which later became known as the “Combined Schools Regulations” and defined such a school as:

A school where a part of the building in which the school is located has been allocated for the instruction of Roman Catholic children in Grades I-IX, a part of the building has been allocated for the instruction of other children, and the remainder of the building has been allocated for the instruction and use of all children [NWT006010, p. 12 and Appendix H].

***Agreements with the Church***

1959 Memorandum of Agreement for the management of Grollier Hall student residence dated October 1, 1959, effective September 1, 1959, between the Federal Government and the Catholic Church [NWT000355 [001-001]].

***Instructions [Operations] Manuals***

1960 & 1968 Given that the residence / day school system, of which Grollier Hall was part, was unique to the NWT, the field manuals used to supplement the management of southern-Canadian residential schools did not apply to the northern residences. Instead, there were two, consecutive manuals specific to the NWT:

- *Supplementary Instructions for the Management of Hostels Owned by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and Operated Under Contract*, Effective January 1, 1960 [NWT000847]
- *Supplementary Instructions for the Management of Pupil Residences in the Northwest Territories Owned by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Operated Under Contract*, Revised Edition November 1968 [NWT000031]
- As of December 3, 1968, a copy of the “new” 1968 manual was forwarded to the Administrator of Grollier Hall [NWT000223].

The details of the 1959 Memorandum of Agreement [NWT000355 [001-001]], combined with the two “Instructions” manuals for the operation of student residences [NWT000847, NWT000031] constitute the parameters within which the Church was responsible for the management of the residence.

### **DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS**

To date, we are aware of four former Grollier Hall employees who were convicted of abuse:

Employee	Years of Employment	Conviction Date
Jean Louis Comeau	Jan. 1, 1959 to Dec. 31, 1966	Feb. 1998
Martin Houston	August 1960 to 1962	1962; 2004
Paul Leroux	1967 to 1979	1979; 1998
Jerzy George Maczynski	[intermittently] January 1966 to 1968	1997; 1998

#### Jean Louis Comeau Conviction Information:

1998 Comeau was sentenced to a year in jail after pleading guilty to two counts of indecent assault in February 1998, related to his time at Grollier Hall in the 1960s. [<http://www.4worlds.org/4w/resschool/newclips.html#10years>]

#### Martin Houston Conviction Information:

1962 In October 1962, Martin Houston pled guilty to ten charges of abuse against students at Grollier Hall, Inuvik, NWT, and was declared a dangerous offender; he was sentenced to 10 years and served 9 at Stony Mountain Penitentiary near Winnipeg.

[<http://www.wob.nf.ca/alberta/Press%20Reports/CBC/030416.htm>];  
<http://www.wob.nf.ca/Alberta/Press%20Reports/CBC/040224%20north.htm>;  
<http://north.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=aug17houstonguilt17082004>]

2004 In August 2004, Houston was charged with assaulting two boys in his care and attempting to assault another, dating back to his time at Grollier Hall. He was sentenced to three years’ probation.

[<http://north.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=aug17houstonguilt17082004>]

Paul Leroux Conviction Information:

1998 Leroux was found guilty of abuse against 14 former Grollier students and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. In addition to nine counts of gross indecency, Leroux was found guilty of three counts of indecent assault, one count of attempt to commit indecent assault and one count of attempted buggery. He was also given a 10-year weapons prohibition.  
[<http://www.4worlds.org/4w/resschool/newclips.html#10years>]

Jerzy George Maczynski Conviction Information:

1997 A 1999 report on “Institutional Child Abuse in Canada” includes reference to Maczynski being charged in 1997 with 11 counts of indecent assault, 6 counts of buggery, 1 count of attempted buggery, 9 counts of gross indecency, and 1 count of attempted gross indecency related to his time at Lower Post IRS. Maczynski was sentenced to 16 years in prison. His appeal on sentencing was dismissed. Maczynski was also charged in 1998 with 5 counts including indecent assault, gross indecency, and buggery related to his time at Grollier Hall (NWT). Maczynski pled guilty and was sentenced to 4 years.  
[<http://www.4worlds.org/4w/resschool/newclips.html#10years>; not numbered, Oct. 1999 - [http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/301/lcc-cdc/inst\\_child\\_abuse\\_criminal-e/shear.html](http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/301/lcc-cdc/inst_child_abuse_criminal-e/shear.html)]

At this time, we do not possess any documents directly referring to incidents of abuse at Grollier Hall, for these individuals, with the exception of an indirect reference (and related correspondence) in relation to a staff member [NWT000307 [000-002] [001-002] [002-002]. In one document, a Government official states:

It is considered important that both hostel superintendents [for Grollier and Stringer] have factual information on this incident as there will undoubtedly be numerous rumours that will reach them that have no relationship to the facts of the case [NWT000307 [001-002]].

Without specifically indicating that abuse occurred, a related document states that boys were found in the staff member’s room, that they were initially afraid to speak, and that the staff member requested a trial in Inuvik [NWT000307 [002-002]].

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

1959 “Estimated per Pupil Costs at Inuvik Hostels” allow for salaries for the following residence positions: 1 Superintendent [Administrator]; 1 Assistant Superintendent; 1 Matron; 1 Nurse; 1 Cook; 1 Assistant Cook; 2 Male Assistants; 2 Female Assistants; 3 Boys’ Supervisors; 1 Girls’ Supervisor; 2 Sewing and Laundry workers; 1 Night Watchman; 1 Maintenance Man; 1 Janitor [NWT000419].

Grollier Hall has a resident nurse as per the program requirement that any residence with more than 100 students [Grollier's capacity is 250] is obligated to employ a full-time, live-in nurse [NWT000609, p. 20].

It is proposed that local Inuvik resident students can be admitted to the Inuvik hostels when these children reside "locally at Inuvik [and] whose parents, through force of circumstances, have to live in tents ... as long as there is sufficient space in the Inuvik hostels to accommodate them" [NWT000379].

As of August 1959 the approved annual operating costs for the 250-capacity Catholic hostel in Inuvik is \$198,000, while the per-pupil operating cost is estimated at \$792 [NWT000413 [000-001]].

Both Grollier Hall and the 25-classroom school require pianos as of February 1959 [NWT000475].

In an attempt to reduce the chance of those children with language barriers (or without prior school experience) from dropping out, the Government has organized an education program at the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School "somewhat different from the programs in effect in other northern schools." Classes have been organized into three streams: a "Regular Grade System" for children with previous academic experience who are functioning at their appropriate grade level in grades 1-9; "Preparatory Classes" for children ages 11 and under who have some difficulty with English; and "Opportunity Classes" for students aged 12 or over, who have stronger problems with English or who have otherwise fallen behind academically and who might eventually be streamed into vocational training [NWT003350 [000-001] [001-001]].

1961 The regional dietitian visits Grollier and recommends changing to a cafeteria-style of serving food and using a milk dispenser rather than stainless pitchers [NWT003424].

1962 The residence administrator is willing to switch to a cafeteria-style of serving, but has concerns over space for queuing up. In the existing process, the children do not dine all at once (but attend at different times in their separate groups – junior boys, senior boys, etc.) and food is placed on four wagons in the four corners of the room and the children are served from these wagons [NWT000784].

Another food inspection finds that the hostel students' diet is adequate in proteins and milk, but lacking in some fruit, vegetables and whole grains – but the food itself is attractive, tasty and everyone enjoys their meals [NWT003390 [000-001] [001-001]].

- 1963 In the Fall of 1963 heavy enrolment at the Alexander Mackenzie School results in overcrowding in the Protestant wing of the school; with the written consent of the parents, some of the Anglican pupils are transferred over and attend classes in the Catholic wing [NWT006010, p. 28].
- The Sir Alexander Mackenzie School had 35 teachers as of 1959, but by 1963 fewer than six of these original staff remain; those who left included a Principal and three Assistant Principals [NWT000648 [001-001] p. 2 ].
- A former Assistant Principal at the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School raises concerns with the post-1955 Northern Education program generally, and with the large hostels program specifically, with respect to quality of residential school life, quality of education, and issues of cultural loss [NWT000648 [001-001]].
- The regular staff positions for Grollier as of 1963 include: 1 Administrator; 1 Assistant Administrator; 1 Matron; 11 dorm supervisors; 1 Nurse; 3 Cooks; 9 Kitchen staff; 5 Seamstresses; 1 “Casual Help” [NWT003366 [006-009]].
- 1964 The regional dietitian conducts an inspection and suggests that the resident students are not consuming enough milk or whole grains [NWT003537 [000-004] [001-004]].
- 1965 Grollier has a small swimming pool, used only by Grollier residents [NWT000609, pp. 15, 32].
- The curriculum used in the Mackenzie District (and therefore at the Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Samuel Hearne Schools) is the Alberta curriculum [NWT000547, p. 10].
- The report by Joseph Katz titled “Educational Environments of School - Hostel Complexes in the Northwest Territories” includes a statement about student activities in Inuvik:
- Grollier Hall and Stringer Hall provide examples of hostels in which there are a multiplicity of activities for junior and senior residents alike. Some of these activities include woodwork, sewing, and games, and the trophies which have been won for successful competition are on display in various parts of the buildings [NWT000609, p. 33].
- 1968 A question is raised as to whether the religiously-separated residences, such as those found in Inuvik (Grollier Hall / Stringer Hall) and Fort Simpson (Lapointe Hall / Bompas Hall), should be physically combined following the takeover of education by the GNWT – but this is considered an unworkable option, stemming not the least from the formal

management agreements with the different Church authorities [NWT000089, p. 3].

1969

Grollier does not have any written rules, regulations or student manuals (and has never had any up to and as of 1969) applicable to the daily life of the resident student body, but does have certain unwritten rules, applying to things like hours of meals, hours of play and recreation, restrictions on being in certain parts of the residence, visiting people in the hospital, and going into town [NWT000207 [000-001]].

The age range of children living in Grollier as of 1969 spans from ages 6 to 21 [NWT000207 [000-001]].

In spite of the unwritten rules for hours of meals, there is some flexibility: on Saturday and Sunday, the resident children can have breakfast any time before 9:30 and if a supervisor decides to keep them in the dorm longer than that, he or she can arrange to have breakfast made for the children in their dorms [NWT000207 [000-001]].

The hostel and dorms are divided into four groups of children: junior boys and junior girls (aged 6-14); and senior boys and senior girls (aged 15-21). There are usually 40 to 50 children in the senior groups and 50 to 70 in the junior [NWT000207 [000-001]].

The junior students are not allowed to go into town by themselves, but can go into town (for example, to go to the store or to visit someone at the hospital) if they are accompanied by a senior student. The older students can go into town by themselves and can “easily receive permission” for this especially after classes (after 4 or 5pm) or on the weekend [NWT000207 [000-001]].

Study period is from 6:30 to 8:30 [pm], which is followed by organized activities like hockey, badminton, basketball, volleyball, etc., and the senior students also participate in some activities in town, like curling from 4:30 – 5pm, which means they are not in the hostel for supper (but can pack sandwiches or eat when they return) [NWT000207 [000-001]].

Some older students are allowed to have part time jobs as long as it does not interfere with their studies; the girls baby-sit in town Friday and Saturday evenings, but the hostel administration asks that the baby-sitting clients accompany the girls back to the hostel [NWT000207 [000-001]].

Even the seniors are divided into smaller groups along age lines, which affects certain activities: for example, the hostel has movies for the children twice a week, but some senior students are allowed to go to the theatre – but even then, the younger seniors are allowed to go only two or

three times a month, while the oldest are allowed more frequency [NWT000207 [000-001]].

Life for the students and supervisors in the large hostels (and in Grollier in particular) is detailed in a written report by a Grollier dorm supervisor [NWT000207 [001-001]]. Relevant points from this report include:

- a generalization is made alluding to supervisors having given alcohol to resident students [paragraph 8, p. 3]
- the supervisor notes missing days off to meet the chores of the hostel and devotion to the students [p. 4]
- a high turnover of hostel supervisors is noted, including the fact that some supervisors had “not too good a reputation” [paragraph 4, p. 4]
- this supervisor believes that previous supervisors have relied too heavily on friendship with the boys, rather than firmness, to maintain discipline in the dorms [paragraph 7, p. 4]
- a schedule of free periods / sports shows that the senior boys were divided into “A” and “B” groups [p. 5]
- this supervisor felt on his arrival that many children had no interest in studies and the December report cards were discouraging [p. 5]
- there are no proper storage facilities for the sports equipment and much of it is stored in the supervisor’s own quarters [p. 6]
- this particular supervisor maintains a “black list” of students who break sports equipment, as a means of enforcing respect for property [p. 6]
- this supervisor limits the use of the record player and radio in the playroom [p. 6]
- sports are a major part of the program at the hostel, and Grollier has three outside ice rinks [p.6]

**PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

*Residence*

Name	Position	Dates
Father Franche, OMI	Hostel Superintendent	Sept. 1959 – ca. March 1960
Father Max Henri Leon Cornille Ruyant, OMI	Hostel Superintendent / Residence Administrator	April 1960 – ca. July 1987
Eddie Lavoie	Residence Administrator	1987 - 1996

*Sir Alexander Mackenzie*



Name	Position	Year
W. B. Shaw	Principal	1959-1961
D.W. Hepburn	Assistant Principal [Anglican Wing]	Pre-1963
Mr. William Bock	Principal	1963-1965
J. G. Mahar	Principal	1968
Fred J. North	Principal	June 1968

*Samuel Hearne Secondary School*

Name	Position	Year
J. Mahar	Principal	1970-1971
Ron Thody	Principal	1972

Narrative Completed: February 28, 2005

Narrative Updated: August 18, 2005

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



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Truth *and* Reconciliation  

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