

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.

Holy Angels IRS
IAP School Narrative
September 28, 2009

This IAP School Narrative summarizes documents that provide an over-view of the history and administration of the school.

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

- 1877 Athabaska Orphans' Asylum [AGL-000581]
- 1895 Holy Angels Convent (Nativity Mission) [AGL-000528]
- 1911 Fort Chipewyan Boarding School [DMK-020003]
- 1918 Holy Angels Boarding School [AGL-000907]
- 1936 Holy Angels Indian Residential School [AGL-001010]
- 1943 Ecole des Sts Anges [GNA-000810, p. 1] ¹
- 1953 Fort Chipewyan Residential School [RCA-003294, page 11] ²
- 1960 Holy Angels School of Fort Chipewyan R.C.S. School District No. 57 [AGL-000079]
- 1963 L'ecole des Saints-Anges [GNA-000811, p. 1]
- 1967 Holy Angels Hostel [AGL-000267]
- 1968 Holy Angels Residence [AGL-000594]
- 1970 Holy Angels Student Residence [AGL-000264]
- 1971 Holy Angels Residential School [AGL-002374]
- 1974 Holy Angels Indian Student Residence [AGL-002666]

Day School Names Associated with Holy Angels Residential School

- 1957 Fort Chipewyan School #726 [AGL-001639-0000]
- 1960 Chipewyan Indian Day School [AGL-000027]
- 1960 Fort Chipewyan Indian School [AGL-000079]
- 1963 Fort Chipewyan R.C. Separate School [AGL-001745-0001]
- 1964 Bishop Piche School [AGL-001459-0001]

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

Under the Settlement Agreement Holy Angels IRS is eligible from 1874 to June, 1974.

¹Documents with the prefix GNA are from the Other Party - Roman Catholic Grey Nuns Collection. These are not Crown sourced documents.

² Documents with the Prefix RCA are from the Alberta Regional Collection.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- 1874 Holy Angels Mission School was founded in 1874 at the request of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate by the Grey Nuns of Montreal [GNA-000878, p. 4-5]. The School consisted of a one room warehouse that also provided shelter for the two Sisters who arrived to found the school. The first day of classes was on July 28, 1874 with 15 students, two of whom were boarders. [GNA-000633; GNA-000610]
- 1881 A combined School and Residence was built in 1881 [GNA-000878, p. 4-5]
- 1898 The original school and residence building was enlarged [GNA-000878, p. 4-5]
- 1904-1907 The building was enlarged once more to include two classrooms and four dormitories. No other school construction was undertaken until 1942. [GNA-000878, p. 4-5]
- 1942 A new school and residence building was constructed in the summer of 1942 [AGL-000735; AGL-000834] and ready for occupancy in the fall of 1943 [AGL-000724]
- 1952 As of 1952 Holy Angels School had 5 classrooms [RCA-003294, page 11]
- 1953 An additional classroom was added; the small dormitory on the 3rd floor, was turned into a classroom for students in grades 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 [GNA-000810, pg 138]
- 1956 Two new classrooms were constructed at Holy Angels IRS bringing the total to seven. In addition, the school had a games room (recreation room), playground, a new laboratory, a new sewing room, a new “experiments” room and a new wash house with appliances. Some students received new beds and the upper grades received new desks from the Separate School District [GNA-000810, pg 182]
- 1955-56 In 1955, the Government announced plans to build a 6 room federal day school adjacent to and within walking distance of Holy Angels Residence for 120 students attending Holy Angels IRS and for up to 60 students living in homes nearby in Fort Chipewyan [AGL-000099]. This school building was not completed and occupied until January, 1960.
- Pending completion of construction, the Government assumed control of the day school inside the residence. On September 1, 1956 the Government created and opened the Chipewyan Indian Day School inside the Residence building and paid

the salaries of four teachers [OGP-170051]³. The day school became known as Fort Chipewyan Indian Day School #726. [AGL-000127]

An additional school entity was established on December 30, 1955 by Roman Catholic Separate School District #57 to provide education for Non-Treaty and Metis Catholic children at Holy Angels IRS. [AGL-000337] After September 1, 1956, Fort Chipewyan Separate School District #57 operated two classrooms inside Holy Angels School (under rental agreement with the owners of Holy Angels Residence) for local non-Indian and Metis day students. Teachers for the two classrooms were provided by Separate School District #57. [AGL-000338]

- 1957-58 The Government continued to provide teaching staff for the newly established day school. [AGL-002269]
- 1958-1960 Seven classrooms were in operation inside the residence [AGL-000001]; The Government continued to pay the salaries of 5 teachers and the Fort Chipewyan Roman Catholic Separate School Board [Separate School District #57] paid the salaries of two teachers [AGL-000023; AGL-000071]
- 1959-60 December 15, 1959 – Government assumed possession of day school building [AGL-001343]. December 29, 1959 - Staff, students and materials began moving into the new day school building that housed 6 classrooms. Two Grade 1 classrooms remained in operation inside Holy Angels Residence [GNA-000868, p. 11]. The Government provided 6 teachers and Fort Chipewyan RC Separate School District #57 provided two teachers. Discussions were in progress to amalgamate the Separate School with the federal school [AGL-000061, p.3].
- 1960 January 4, 1960 - First day of classes inside the new Fort Chipewyan day school [GNA-000868, p.12]. A fire in the new day school building auditorium on April 8, 1960 caused smoke and heat damage to classrooms [AGL-002254-0002]
- 1961 The Fort Chipewyan RC Separate School District #57 rented and occupied two classrooms inside Holy Angels Residence until June 30 1961 [AGL-000454, p. 2]. The Fort Chipewyan RC Separate School and the Fort Chipewyan Indian Day School amalgamated on September 1, 1961. [AGL-000033]; by Sept. 28, 1961 all classes were taught in the day school building and the residence remained a hostel facility. New classrooms were created in the day school by using space in the recreation room, boys' workshop and nursing room [AGL-000346].
- 1963 Fort Chipewyan Indian Day School remained under federal government administration until June 30, 1963 [AGL-001736-0002]. On July 1, 1963, the

³ Documents with the prefix OGP are from the Missionary Oblates of Grandin Province Document Collection. These are not Crown sourced documents.

management of the day school was transferred to the Province of Alberta under the Northland School Division. [AGL-001716-0001]

- 1964 Fort Chipewyan Day School is renamed Bishop Piche School; the earliest document found that refers to Fort Chipewyan Day School as Bishop Piche School is dated June 23, 1964 [AGL-001459-0001]
- 1971 The Province of Alberta through Northland School Division continued to operate the day school until August 30, 1971, when responsibility for the management of the day school reverted back to the federal government. [AGL-001496-0001; AGL-002395-0002]
- 1974 The official closing date of Holy Angels Residence was June 30, 1974. The last of the student residents departed on June 22, 1974. Three of the lay staff members were employed until July 14, 1974, and six religious staff until July 31, 1974 for the purpose of closing down the premises. [AGL-000517, p.7]
- 1975 Holy Angels Residence and 9.27 acres of land surrounding the school area were bought from the RC Church by the federal Department of Indian Affairs in June of 1975. [AGL-002606] The Holy Angels Residence building was demolished sometime in the fall of 1975. [AGL-002543]
- 1981 Bishop Piche Day School was destroyed by an arson fire on July 19, 1981. Sixteen portable classrooms were brought in by barge to replace the destroyed facilities. [AGL-002013]

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

The residence at Holy Angels IRS was managed by the Roman Catholic Oblates and Grey Nuns through the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Mackenzie throughout the lifetime of the residence. Classrooms were managed by the Church until 1956 when the residence and classroom functions of the school were separated into Church and Government areas of control respectively. In addition, after 1956, classrooms were managed at various times by the board of Fort Chipewyan Roman Catholic School District #57, and by the Province of Alberta through Northland School Division #61.

MANGEMENT of RESIDENCE

Dates managed by Church

- 1874 - 1974 Holy Angels Residence was managed by the Roman Catholic Oblates and Grey Nuns through the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of McKenzie of the from 1874 to June 30, 1974 [GNA-000878, p. 4]. In [DMK-020003], the 1911 Agreement for the Operation of Holy Angels IRS, Emile Grouard, OMI, the RC

Bishop of Athabasca, is referred to as the “Management.” A succinct description of the relationship of the Episcopal Corporation to the residence is found in [AGL-000506, 04/00/1970]. The management and administration of all student residences in Canada were transferred to the Government on April 1, 1969. Holy Angels Residence was an exception and remained under Church management and operation. [RCA-000485, p. 161-164]. The church still clearly operated the residence in 1973 toward the end of its lifetime [AGL-002384], and subsequently and sold the building and the land to the Government in 1975 once the residence closed [AGL-002606].

Dates Managed by the Government

No documents have been located to show that the Government managed or operated the Holy Angels Residence at any time during its existence as a student hostel.

MANAGEMENT of CLASSROOMS

Classrooms Managed by the Church

1874-1956 In 1953, all teachers in Government owned Residential schools became paid directly by the Government. Holy Angels IRS was an exception. The school portion of Holy Angels IRS was managed by the Diocese of Mackenzie who provided all teachers until at least 1955-1956. No documents were located to show that the Government managed the classroom function of the school prior to the formal establishment of Fort Chipewyan Indian Day School on Sept. 1, 1956, as described above and below in [OGP-170051]

Classrooms Managed by the Federal Government

1956 As noted in the Chronology section above, on September 1, 1956 the Government created and opened the Chipewyan Indian Day School inside the Residence building and paid the salaries of four teachers [OGP-170051]⁴. The Fort Chipewyan Roman Catholic Separate School Board paid the salaries of two teachers (see Separate School Board section below).

1958-60 Construction of the new Federal Day School building beside Holy Angels Residence began in 1958 [AGL-002268; AGL-002263]. In 1958 the Department paid the salaries of 5 teachers [AGL-000057]. The Fort Chipewyan Roman Catholic Separate School Board paid the salaries of two teachers for the 1959-60 school years [AGL-000071]. Not all documents are available. The assumption is

⁴ Documents with the prefix OGP are from the Missionary Oblates of Grandin Province Document Collection. These are not Crown sourced documents.

that this arrangement continued until the transfer of all classroom instruction to the new school building in 1960/61.

- 1960 Classroom instruction at the new Government-managed Fort Chipewyan Indian Day School building began on January 4, 1960 [GNA-000868, p. 12]. Two classrooms rented by Fort Chipewyan Roman Catholic School District #57 continued to operate within the Holy Angels Residence until June 30, 1961 [AGL-000454, p. 2]. These two classrooms in Holy Angels Residence were closed and moved next door to the day school in September and October of 1961. The space formerly occupied by the classrooms in the Residence was converted into dormitory space. [AGL-000342, p. 1; AGL-000346, p. 1]

Classrooms Managed by the Fort Chipewyan Roman Catholic School District #57

- 1955 Separate School District #57 was established on December 30, 1955. After January 1, 1956, the Fort Chipewyan Separate School operated two classrooms inside Holy Angels School (under rental agreement with the owners of Holy Angels Residence) for local Indian, non-Indian and Metis day students. Teachers were provided by Separate School District #57 for these classrooms. [AGL-000336, pages 2, 3, 4]
- 1960 Once the Fort Chipewyan Indian Day School began operation on January 4, 1960, the Fort Chipewyan Separate School continued to rent two classrooms at Holy Angels Residence until the June 30, 1961. [AGL-000454, p. 2]
- 1961 The Fort Chipewyan Separate School and the Fort Chipewyan Indian Day School amalgamated on September 1, 1961. [AGL-000033] In September and October of 1961 the remaining classrooms inside Holy Angels Residence were closed and moved next door to the day school. The space formerly occupied by the classrooms in the Residence was converted into dormitory space. [AGL-000342, p. 1].

Classrooms Managed by the Province of Alberta

- 1963 On June 30, 1963, administration of Bishop Piche School was transferred to the Province of Alberta. The Province's Northland School Division leased the 8 classroom Fort Chipewyan Indian Day School and 4 room teachers' quarters from the Government [AGL-001716-0000]. The day school name changed from Fort Chipewyan Day School to Bishop Piche Day School sometime in 1964. No documents are available for a precise date. The earliest document found that refers to the day school by the name of Bishop Piche is dated June 23, 1964 [AGL-001459-0001].

1971 The Province managed the day school until August 30, 1971, when the management of the school reverted back to the Department of Indian Affairs [AGL-001496-0001]. For a summary of events please see [DMK-020015].

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Dates of buildings, renovations, and additions that were part of IRS complex

- 1874 The first school was a one room warehouse that also provided shelter for the two Sisters who arrived to found the school. [GNA-000633]
- 1880-81 Construction of the first school building; a combined school and residence built [GNA-000878, p. 4-5]
- 1881 Construction of Convent [GNA-000609, p. 3] French
- 1888 Construction of the Residence for the Fathers and the Brothers [GNA-000877, p. 5]
- 1898 Original building enlarged [GNA-000878, p. 4-5]; north wing added [GNA-00609, p. 4]
- 1904-1907 School additions were built 1904 and 1907 [GNA-000615]; south wing added to original building [GNA-00609, p. 4]
- 1906 Construction of New Chapel [GNA-00609, p. 4]
- 1907 By 1907 the main building included two classrooms and four dormitories. No other additions or improvements to the school facilities were made until 1942 [GNA-000878, p. 4-5]
- 1935 An Inspection Report contained information that, in addition to the two school classrooms and residence building, there was a barn, a storehouse, various outbuildings, a small farm and a separate building for all male members of the staff, all owned by Church. [AGL-000992, p. 1-3]
- 1938 A Sanitation Report listed the buildings at Holy Angels IRS as follows: a residential school for children, a church, priest's residence, stable and barn, and "numerous other outbuildings" [AGL-000696, p. 1]
- 1942 A new school and residence building was built by the Oblates in the summer of 1942 [AGL-000735]; in an Agent's Report, the new school building was to be ready for occupancy in fall of 1943 [AGL-000724].

- 1944 Construction of New Convent [GNA-000609, p. 4]
- 1953 Small dormitory on the 3rd floor of Residence converted into a classroom for students in grade 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 [GNA-000810 , pg 138]; at the end of 1953 Holy Angels IRS had 5 classrooms [RCA-003294, page 11]
- 1954 Holy Angels School had five classrooms in 1954. [GNA-000810, pg 154]
- 1955 Holy Angels School had five classrooms [RCA-003300-0002]. In a table of schools within Indian Agencies in Canada, Holy Angels is listed on page 1 as having 5 classrooms, a dormitory and temporary shop.
- 1956 The Diocese of Mackenzie funded and built two classrooms inside the residence, bringing the total to seven classrooms. In addition, the school had a games room (recreation room), playground, a new laboratory, a new sewing room, a new “experiments” room and a new wash house with appliances. Some students received new beds and the upper grades received new desks from the Separate School District [GNA-000810, pg 182]
- 1958 7 classrooms in operation at Holy Angels IRS [AGL-000001]
- 1959 The new Fort Chipewyan day school building was completed in late fall of 1959 and the Government took formal occupancy on December 15, 1959. Teachers’ accommodation was completed at the same time [AGL-001343]. On December 29, 1959, staff, students and material began moving into new day school [GNA-00868, p. 12].
- 1960 January 4, 1960, First day of classes in new day school. [GNA-00868, p. 12]
- 1961 Two classrooms continued to operate within the Holy Angels Residence until June 30 1961. [AGL-000454, p. 2] The two remaining classrooms in Holy Angels Residence were closed and moved next door to the day school in September of 1961. Two new rooms provided inside the day school increased the total number of classrooms to eight. [AGL-002226]
- 1962-63 As of December 10, 1962, the day school facilities were listed as: six standard classrooms on the main floor and four classrooms on the ground floor. The classrooms on the ground floor were converted from a former playroom, an industrial arts shop, and a home economics room. [AGL-001726-0003]
- 1963-68 Northland School Division #61 [province of Alberta] contributed to Bishop Piche School with the construction of a total of 11 additional classrooms between 1963 and 1968. During the same time period, Northland acquired an additional 7 units

of teachers' accommodation and leased two units from the Department of Indian Affairs (for a total of 9 dwelling units). [AGL-000316]

- 1969 A list of buildings on the Holy Angels IRS site includes the following: Bishop Piche School; Teacherages; Holy Angels Residence; Roman Catholic Church; Oblates Residence; Parish Hall. [AGL-001675-0002]
- 1970 A Fire Marshall's report of Holy Angels Residence, dated 12/29/1970, reads that: "This is a school complex consisting of a residence building, a 16 classroom day school, several teacherages and several small service buildings. A brother's residence is Church owned. The residence is also owned and operated by the RC Church, and the day school is jointly owned by the Federal and Provincial authorities." [AGL-000259, p. 3]
- 1971 An inventory of buildings used by Northland on the Holy Angels IRS site as of July 26, 1971 is listed as follows: 1 school building, 9 teachers' residences (including 2 trailers, 2 duplexes, and 3 single dwellings). [AGL-001499]; by November, 1971 these school buildings and facilities were turned over to the federal government for \$1.00.
- 1972 An inventory of school facilities in October, 1972 was as follows: accommodation for teachers including two 3 bedroom units, three 2 bedroom units, and one house; a day school with 16 standard classrooms, a library, gymnasium, industrial arts room, health unit, kindergarten, and home economics room. Grades taught are one to nine. [AGL-002482]
- 1975 Holy Angels Residence and 9.27 acres of land surrounding the school area were bought from the RC Church by the federal Department of Indian Affairs in June of 1975. [AGL-002606] The Holy Angels Residence building was demolished sometime in the fall of 1975. [AGL-002543, p. 2]

Dates owned by Church

- 1874 - 1975 The Catholic Church, through the Diocese of Mackenzie and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Mackenzie, owned the land and buildings that housed the Holy Angels Residence from its founding in 1874 until June, 1975.

Dates owned by Government

- 1975 Holy Angels Residence closed on June 30, 1974 and a By Treasury Board Minute No. 735789 dated May 8, 1975 authority was granted to the Department of Indian Affairs to purchase 9.27 acres and the student residence erected by the Roman Catholic Church. [AGL-002606] Holy Angels Residence and a portion of the land surrounding the residence were bought from Roman Catholic Church by the

Government in June of 1975. The Residence building was demolished in the fall of 1975. [AGL-002543, p. 2]

Bishop Piche Day School was owned by the Federal Government during the lifetime of its existence from 1960 until 1981.

The original Teacher accommodation on the Holy Angels IRS site was built with the day school in 1959-1960 and, at the time, was owned by the Federal Government. Teacher accommodation built between 1963 and 1971 was owned by Northland School Division until 1971.

From 1963 to 1971, the Province of Alberta, through its agency, Northland School Division 61, took over administration of the Bishop Piche Day School and teacher's accommodation from the Department of Indian Affairs and leased the day school building and teacher's accommodation, consisting of two 2-bedroom duplex apartments, from the Federal Government for the sum of \$1.00. [AGL-001743; AGL-001746] The federal government retained ownership of the original portion of the day school building and the original Teachers' quarters throughout the lifetime of the agreements between Northland School Division and Department of Indian Affairs.

During the time that this agreement was in effect from 1963 until 1971, the Province of Alberta, through Northland School Division, built additional classroom space at the day school and purchased additional teacher accommodation in the form of new apartments and several mobile homes. In 1971, management of Bishop Piche School reverted back to the federal government, and use of all school facilities, including improvements made by Northland School Division to Bishop Piche School in the form of classroom additions and the purchase of teacher accommodation, were transferred to the Federal Government for the sum of \$1.00. [AGL-002020-0001]

No actual records of ownership of these buildings have been located.

LAND

The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Mackenzie owned the land immediately surrounding and including the Holy Angels Residence building for the lifetime of the Residential School from 1874 to 1874.

The land that Holy Angels IRS was situated on was under Treaty 8, and was not on a reserve. The closest town was Fort Chipewyan, approximately 1 mile away.

In 1958 construction began on the Fort Chipewyan Indian Day School building that was situated on a parcel of Church owned property 33.60 acres in size [RCA-000418]. As of 1969 the land occupied by the school was still owned by the Diocese of Mackenzie [AGL-001558-0001].

In 1971 a parcel of 4.14 acres of Church owned land attached to the school complex was sold by the Church to the Government [AGL-001560; AGL-000231; AGL-002311; AGL-002314]

The land immediately surrounding and including the Holy Angels Residence building [9.27 acres] was owned by the Roman Catholic Church until June 1975. The government acquired ownership of the land and Holy Angels Residence in 1975 and contracted to demolish the residence [AGL-002606; AGL-002543].

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Item #	Date	Description
AGL-001669-0002	June 6, 1972	Sketch map of buildings on Holy Angels RS and Bishop Piche school site
AGL-001239	Undated - circa 1974	Site map of Bishop Piche School and Holy Angels IRS
AGL-001653-0003	November 7, 1974	Survey map of land at Holy Angels/ Bishop Piche school site
AGL-000243	September 10, 1975	Survey plan of oil tanks that show layout of other buildings on Holy Angels IRS site
GNA-000598	January 1, 1981	Community Calendar - photographs of the original RC Mission and school in Fort Chipewyan prior to 1942, pages 15, 17
GNA-000863	November 2, 1983	Book - Photos of the RC Mission 1899, 1915 - Holy Angels School, Bishop Piche School, Fort Chipewyan Public School, pp. 8, 9, 11, 14
GNA-000956	January 1, 1967	Photo Album - Holy Angels IRS and Bishop Piche School – various dates, pp. 2, 3, 19, 20, 63

GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

NOTE: The figures in the tables below are based on averages of enrolment figures from available documents for each year. Enrolment figures often vary from document to document for the same school year in terms of information provided regarding status residents, day pupils, non-status and Metis residents. These documents include various student lists, Quarterly Returns, correspondence and Student Registers. The only document that lists residents for all year that the residence was in operation is DMK-000001, a Register of Residential Pupils compiled by the Grey Nuns. This document does not list day pupils or resident pupils who were funded by the province of Alberta. A gap in dates in the tables below indicates that no enrolment figures were available.

Year	Number of Students
1874	2 children in residence, 13 day students
1879	25 children in residence
1891	18 children in residence
1900	40 children in residence
1901	39 children in residence
1902	36 children in residence
1903	35 children in residence
1904	36 children in residence
1905	42 children in residence
1906	45 children in residence
1907	33 children in residence
1908	33 children in residence
1909	39 children in residence
1910	44 children in residence
1911	37 children in residence
1912	41 children in residence
1913	28 children in residence
1914	25 children in residence
1915	25 children in residence
1916	41 children in residence
1917	45 children in residence
1918	47 children in residence
1919	41 children in residence
1920	46 children in residence
1921	43 children in residence

Year	Number of Students	Day Students
1922	71 children in residence	
1923	69 children in residence	
1924	80 children in residence	
1925	76 children in residence	
1926	79 children in residence	10 day students
1927	80 children in residence	13 day students
1928	80 children in residence	12 day students
1929	80 children in residence	20 day students
1930	80 children in residence	22 day students
1931	81 children in residence	17 day students
1932	79 children in residence	17 day students
1933	89 children in residence	15 day students
1934	No figures located	
1935	72 children in residence	24 day students
1936	88 children in residence	22 day students

Year	Indian Students	Non-Indian Students	Day Students
1937	67 children in residence		22 day students
1938	72 children in residence		30 day students
1939	72 children in residence		30 day students
1940	72 children in residence		27 day students
1941	38 children in residence	53 children in residence	25 day students
1942	72 children in residence		12 day students
1943	72 children in residence		30 day students
1944	64 children in residence	34 children in residence	

Year	Indian Students	Non-Indian Students	Day Students
1945	66 children in residence	39 children in residence	32 day students
1946	108 children in residence		53 day students
1947	75 children in residence	26 children in residence	56 day students
1948	71 children in residence	15 children in residence	46 day students
1949	87 children in residence	22 children in residence	49 day students
1950	89 children in residence	22 children in residence	67 day students
1951	96 children in residence	16 children in residence	58 day students
1952	96 children in residence	16 children in residence	52 day students
1953	82 children in residence	16 children in residence	58 day students
1954	91 children in residence	15 children in residence	77 day students
1955	92 children in residence	10 children in residence	83 day students
1956	91 children in residence	10 children in residence	70 day students
1957	92 children in residence	11 children in residence	84 day students
1958	97 children in residence	13 children in residence	91 day students
1959	109 children in residence		91 day students
1960	119 children in residence		121 day students
1961	144 children in residence		111 day students
1962	138 children in residence		139 day students
1963	133 children in residence		161 day students
1964	142 children in residence		182 day students
1965	133 children in residence		177 day students
1966	142 children in residence		185 day students
1967	139 children in residence		192 day students
1968	129 children in residence	18 children in residence	226 day students
1969	106 children in residence	10 children in residence	224 day students

Year	Indian Students	Non-Indian Students	Day Students
1970	102 children in residence	14 children in residence	286 day students
1971	75 children in residence	17 children in residence	240 day students
1972	75 children in residence	17 children in residence	226 day students
1973	79 children in residence		238 day students
1974	66 children in residence		

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students from, at least the following bands attended Holy Angels IRS:

Quarterly Returns for Holy Angels IRS have been located for the years 1945 -1949 inclusive, and 1965 - 1974 inclusive. A search of available Quarterly Returns for Holy Angels IRS from 1945 to 1949 inclusive shows that children from the following Bands or Reserves were admitted to Holy Angels IRS at various times:

- Cree, Maurice, Janvier, Chipewyan, Tall Cree, Cree-Chipewyan, Little Red River, Chip.-Smith.

A search of available Quarterly Returns for Holy Angels IRS for the time period 1965 to 1974 inclusive shows that children from the following Bands or Reserves were admitted to Holy Angels Residence:

- Fond du Lac, Fort Smith, Cree, Chipewyan, Cree-McKay, Fort McKay

There may be alternate and/or updated ways of spelling these band names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Holy Angels IRS was located in what is presently the Roman Catholic Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith [AGL-001187, p. 4]

Oblates

1874-1974 Holy Angels Residence was administered by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, the Grey Nuns, from its founding in 1874 until its closure in 1974. [AGL-001187, p. 4]

Grey Nuns

- 1874-1993 The Grey Nuns, also known as the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, were present at the founding of Holy Angels IRS. During the lifetime of the School and the Residence the Grey Nuns acted as teachers and residence supervisors. [AGL-001187, pp. 4, 10-18] After the closure of Holy Angels residence in 1974, the Grey Nuns continued to operate Holy Angels Convent until 1993. [GNA-000682]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

- 1911 The only written agreement respecting the operation of Holy Angels IRS that has been located is the 1911 Agreement for the operation of Holy Angels IRS between His Majesty the King and the Rt. Rev. Emile Grouard, O.M.I., Bishop of Athabaska. [DMK-020003]
- 1961 Memorandum and copies of Cost Sharing Agreement between Roman Catholic Fort Chipewyan Separate School District #57 and Canada. The substance of the agreements between Canada and the RCCSD was a cost sharing formula whereby the Catholic School Board would pay a proportional share of operating costs based on numbers of non-Indian students admitted at their request, while the remainder of school operating expenses including infrastructure costs would be funded by Canada. [AGL-000065, 10/03/1961]
- 1962 Agreement for the Operation of a School between Canada and Northland School Division No. 61 to provide Indian pupils with classroom accommodation and instruction at Divisional schools including Fort Chipewyan [AGL-001799, 07/12/1962]
- 1962 Memorandum of Understanding between Northland School Division No. 61 and Fort Chipewyan Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 57 to

“...accept for enrolment in the school known as Holy Angels School and in such other school or schools as may be built adjacent to the Holy Angels School in the Fort Chipewyan Roman Catholic Separate School District No 57...” [DMK-020005-0001, 11/29/1962]
- 1969 Correspondence has been located that refers to Liaison Agreements between the Government and the Oblate Indian-Eskimo Council for Holy Angels IRS after April 1, 1969. However, the agreements themselves have not been located. [AGL-000494]
- 1971 Copy of Agreement for transfer of operation of Bishop Piche School from Northland School Division back to Canada [AGL-002421, 11/22/1971]; under

this agreement Canada will provide school accommodation for all students and cover all operating costs; the Northland School Division will pay to Canada a per capita share of school operating expenses based on numbers of students provided by the Province of Alberta and shall AMake interim payments quarterly or as mutually agreed to by parties concerned, subject to settlement of the share of operating costs as determined in sub-paragraph (a) at the end of each fiscal year upon receipt of the annual financial statement for Bishop Piche school.” [AGL-002421, 11/22/1971, p.2]; Canada will undertake capital expenditures and make repairs; any building programs would be undertaken by special agreement between the Canada and the province.

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, no documents have been located to show any convictions for abuse at Holy Angels IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

Incidents (Sexual)

No documents have been located that include information about incidents related to sexual abuse at the school.

Incidents (Physical)

No documents have been located that include information about incidents related to physical abuse at the school.

Incidents (Student on Student)

No documents have been located that include information about incidents related to abuse of students by students at the school.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. Health

1. Diseases

1874-1923 Between 1874 and 1923, 59 deaths were recorded at the school out of a registered total of 552 pupils. [GNA-000878]

1938 The control of tuberculosis at the school was a health issue in 1938 due to the lack of facilities for carrying out segregation of tubercular pupils at the school. [AGL-001020]

1955 A flu epidemic throughout the north also affected children at Fort Chipewyan IRS; classrooms were closed. [AGL-000011]

2. School Buildings and Facilities

1960 After 1960 school buildings and accommodation at Holy Angels IRS were judged to be aged and inadequate for the number of boarders present. Of concern were unsanitary conditions and inadequate sleeping, eating, washing and dishwashing facilities due to overcrowding. [AGL-000069; AGL-000205; AGL-000346]

3. Water System and Sewage Disposal at Holy Angels IRS

1915 Lake water from Lake Athabaska was judged by school staff to be unsafe for use as drinking water by school children at Holy Angels IRS. [AGL-000943]

1938 Health authorities recommended that “Lake Athabaska be discontinued as a source of drinking water for the school during the summer months as the amount of local pollution to which it is subjected renders it unsafe for this purpose unless it is either boiled or chlorinated and filtered as well.” [AGL-000696]

1957 As of 1957 students still used outside latrines and staff used an antiquated sewage disposal that was judged to be in unsanitary condition. [AGL-000168; AGL-002297-0002]

1962 Tests of the water supply in 1962 and 1964 showed high nitrate and ammonia content in wells in Fort Chipewyan, apparently indicative of ongoing sewage pollution. [AGL-002445-0000, AGL-002445-0001; AGL-002443-0001; AGL-02443-0004]

4. Dietician's Reports on Health Conditions at Holy Angels IRS

1961 In 1961 a Dietician’s Report identified the lack of vitamin C in diets of children at Fort Chipewyan IRS and below standard levels of sanitation as potential health risks. [AGL-000633; AGL-000631; AGL-000630; AGL-000154]

1965 In 1965 a Dietician’s Report Re: Food Service conditions at Holy Angels IRS recommended that Afruit be served twice daily....”Also recommended is a source high in Vitamin C. This may be the citrus fruits or their juices, vitamin enriched apple juice, tomatoes juice, and vitamin enriched juice crystals, raw cabbage, raw turnips...” [AGL-000359]

B. School Inspections

- 1911 The first recorded School Inspection located up to this time was in 1911 by Indian Affairs Inspector H.A. Conroy. [GNA-000878]
- 1920 The earliest available reference to a provincial inspection of Holy Angels IRS is [RCA-005555, 09/24/1920], a letter of enquiry from DIA to the Alberta Minister of Education.
- 1935 An Inspection Report re buildings and school owned by Church. [AGL-000992]
- 1938 A Sanitation Report listed the buildings at Holy Angels IRS [AGL-000696]
- 1949 [RCA-000011, 11/07/1949], Letter from DIA Superintendent of Education to Superintendent of Schools, Province of Alberta with request to inspect Indian Schools including Holy Angels
- 1951 Letter from DIA Superintendent of Education to Superintendent of Schools, Province of Alberta with request to inspect Indian Schools including Holy Angels [RCA-001557]
- 1952 The first recorded Provincial Inspections of Holy Angels IRS, that have been located up to this time, were in 1952. [AGL-000349]

C. Fires

- 1960 Fire damaged part of the gymnasium and shop areas of school on April 8-9, 1960, but the classroom facilities could still be used [AGL-002254-0002; AGL-001337]
- 1965 A fire in the boiler room of the Day School, February 2nd, 1965, caused some damage to heating equipment. [AGL-001470-0002]
- 1981 Bishop Piche Day School was destroyed by an arson fire on July 19, 1981. Sixteen portable classrooms were brought in by barge to replace the destroyed facilities. [AGL-002013]

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Tenure Dates of Principals and Administrators at Holy Angels IRS

Dates for all Principals and Residence Administrators are approximate and are taken from the first and last instances of their names on reports located. At Holy Angels IRS classroom instruction was administered by the Grey Nuns and the Residence was administered separately by the Oblates. Principals and Administrators are listed below in separate categories. In addition, there exist various inconsistencies within documents regarding the precise dates that a staff member held the title of Principal. These inconsistencies have been footnoted.

A. Principals

NOTE – At Holy Angels IRS the positions of School Principal and Residence Administrator were separate from each other – the Principal of the classroom portion of the school was a Grey Nun and the Administrator of the Residence portion was an Oblate; between 1934 and however, the title of Principal does not appear on any staff lists for Holy Angels Convent

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
The title of Principal is applied to any staff member nor found on any documents prior to 1917	Principal	1874 - 1915
Sister Laverty - (Marguerite O'Brien) also known as Sister Lafferty	Principal	1917 - 1918
Sister M. Zephirina Dufault	Principal	1918 - 1930
Sister Marie Louise Champoux	Principal	1931 - 1933
According to Holy Angels Convent staff lists located in the Grey Nuns Archives, no Grey Nuns held the title of Principal from 1934 to 1948. One reference cites Father Caudier as Principal at Holy Angels IRS for two years as of 02/27/1935. Another reference lists Father Coudert as Principal of Holy Angels IRS from 1927 to 1936. Sister Souka and Sister Deslauriers were also listed in documents as Principal during the same time period.	Principal	1934 - 1935
Sister Marie Louise Champoux	Principal	1935

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Unknown	Principal	1936 - 1937
Sister Souka	Principal	1938
Sister Mary Anne Deslauriers	Principal	1942 - 1948
Sister Oliva Lavoie	Principal	1948 - 1950
Sister Archangel Brady	Principal	1951 - 1960
Sister Archangel Brady	Principal	1960 - 1976 ⁵

B. Residence Administrators

Holy Angels Residence was administered by the Oblates from Nativity Mission beside the school and residence at Fort Chipewyan.

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Father Laity, O.M.I.	Administrator	1874 - 1880
Father Pascal, O.M.I.	Administrator	1880 - 1882
Father Le Doussal, O.M.I.	Administrator	1882 - 1913
Father Letreste, O.M.I.	Administrator	1913 - 1916
Mgr. Joussard, O.M.I.	Administrator	1916 - 1927
Father Letreste, O.M.I.	Administrator	1927
Father Coudert, O.M.I. ⁶	Administrator -	1929
Father Picard, O.M.I.	Administrator	1936 - 1950
Father Gilles Mousseau, O.M.I. ⁷	Administrator - in at least one document Fr. Mousseau is also	1950 - 1956

⁵ In 1960 most classroom instruction transferred from Holy Angels Residence to the new Bishop Piche Day School situated beside the Residence. Sister Brady was Principal of Bishop Piche Day School until 1976.

⁶ In at least one document Fr. Coudert is listed as Principal from 1927 to 1936.

⁷ In at least one document Fr. Mousseau is also referred to as Principal.

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
	referred to as Principal of Holy Angels	
Father Lucien Casterman, O.M.I. ⁸	Administrator -	1956 - 1962
Father Gilles Mousseau, O.M.I.	Administrator	1962 - 1971
Father Jean Porte, O.M.I.	Administrator	1971 - 1974

Narrative Completed: August 18, 2009
Narrative Updated: September 28, 2009

⁸ In at least one document Fr. Casterman was also referred to as Principal.

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



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