

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.

Kamloops IRS
School Narrative (point form)
April 12, 2004

This School Narrative summarizes documents that provide an over-view of the history and administration of the school. This document will be provided to all parties.

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

- **Kamloops Industrial School [09836]** 1890 - 1926
Kamloops Indian Industrial School [01172E]

- **Kamloops Indian Residential School [00576, 1924 - 1969**
01233] [For a period of approximately two years,
the school was variously referred to as the
Kamloops Industrial School and the Kamloops
Indian Residential School]
Kamloops Indian School [00555]

- **Kamloops Student Residence [07747]** 1969 - 1978
Kamloops Indian Student Residence [60726B]

CHRONOLOGY

- 1886 Request from members of the Kamloops Band for a school to be established amongst them. [08424]
- 1889 The original buildings were erected. [02102]
- 1890 Opening of the Kamloops Industrial School, at Kamloops, B.C., with M. Hagan appointed as principal. [09885, 09836]
- 1892 The School is closed, with the hope that it will soon be re-opened. [09650]
- 1893 The School is re-opened in April of 1893. [09658]
- 1918 Expansion of farming operations at the school with the installation of an irrigation system. [01665]
- 1924 Girls' portion of the old school building is completely destroyed by fire. [00712]
- 1929 Construction of new building at the school, includes dormitories, classrooms and recreation rooms. [00791]
- 1946 Reference to three Kamloops IRS students attending high school away from the residential school. [01559]

- 1948 High school classes commence at Kamloops IRS. **[00223]**
- 1949 Twenty-two students attend high school at Kamloops IRS, consisting of grades 9, 10 and 11. **[00148]**
- June 1951 Graduation of first high school class at Kamloops IRS. **[90182]**
- 1958 Completion of Indian Day School building at Kamloops IRS. **[00271]**
- 1959 High school students (grades 10, 11 and 12) attend classes at St. Ann's Academy, in Kamloops, B.C. **[90191]** Twenty-seven day pupils of Indian status attend the Indian Day School at Kamloops IRS. **[01476]**
- 1963 Official opening of the Kamloops Hostel. **[02396]**
- 1965 Grade nine classes no longer held at Kamloops IRS. **[01415]** Sixty-nine students from the Kamloops Indian Reserve attend as Day students. **[04070]**
- 1966 Grade eight classes no longer held at Kamloops IRS. **[01388]**
- 1967 Grade seven classes attend provincial schools in Kamloops, B.C. Indian Day School no longer in operation at Kamloops IRS. **[01398, 90199]**
- 1969 Classes are no longer taught at the Kamloops Student Residence. Students live at the Residence and attend school in Kamloops, B.C. **[01732]**
- 1970 Land surrounding the Kamloops Student Residence has reverted back to the Kamloops Band and must be leased from the Band as required. **[60577, 04255B]**
- 1978 Kamloops Student Residence is closed. Residence buildings are transferred to the Kamloops Band. **[08004]**

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

From its inception in 1890 until 1969, the Roman Catholic Church managed the Kamloops Indian Residential School. Upon the re-opening of the school in 1893, a Roman Catholic religious order, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, assumed management of the school which continued until 1969. **[09832, 00167, 02391]**.

In 1962 there was an Agreement for the Operation of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada and Indianescom (a company controlled by the Oblate Order). **[01112]**

Dates managed by Crown

From April 1, 1969 until its closure in 1978, the school was administered by the government.

[04131I, 08004].

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The buildings which comprised Kamloops IRS and Kamloops Student Residence were owned by the government. **[00167, 02117]** However, several structures associated with the farm appear to have been Church-owned. **[00347, 00348]**

- 1889 The original buildings were erected. **[02102]**
- 1895 Renovations to the school in order to accommodate more pupils; includes a girls' dormitory, dining room and laundry facilities. **[09682]**
- 1908 A classroom for female students was erected; general description of the school buildings and water supply. **[02112]**
- 1912 Expenditures for the sewage and water system, as well as for electric lights are approved. **[09681]**
- 1918 Installation of irrigation pump, capable of irrigating 100 acres of school land. **[01665]**
- 1920 A barn and stables are erected. **[09527]**
- 1921 Installation of domestic water supply system. **[07423]**
- 1924 Girls' portion of the old school building is completely destroyed by fire. **[00712]**
- 1929 Construction of new building at the school, includes dormitories, classrooms and recreation rooms. **[00791]** New pump, reservoir and water plant installed. **[00803]**
- 1938 New sewage system installed. **[08292]** A new gymnasium and auditorium/concert hall were constructed. **[02017]** The hog houses and pens were destroyed by fire. **[02245]**
- 1939 A new barn was constructed. **[05070]** New pig pens were constructed. **[02197]**
- 1942 A technical shop and house for the farm instructor were constructed. **[02004]**
- 1943 Improvements made to irrigation pump intake system. **[02386]**
- 1947 Construction of a root cellar, grain storage building and machine shed. **[00958]**
- 1950 New eight room classroom block completed. **[00212]**
- 1958 Completion of sewage treatment facilities. **[2135]** New four classroom block completed to serve as Indian Day School. **[00271]**
- 1961 Relocation and improvements to staff buildings. **[00337]**

- 1963 Official opening of the Kamloops Hostel. **[02396]**
- 1964 Eight room classroom block used as a Day School. Description and condition of buildings at Kamloops IRS. **[00357]**
- 1967 New fire sprinkler system completed. **[62269A]**
- 1969 Renovations to basement and third floor washroom facilities. **[04135]**
- 1970 Negotiations with Kamloops Band Council regarding the lease of two vacant school buildings to Kamloops Regional College. **[07181]** Band Council Resolution authorizing lease of buildings to Cariboo Regional College. **[04255B]** Band Council Resolution stating that ownership of the vacant buildings will revert back to the Department of Indian Affairs, once the term of the lease to the College is over. Adds that when the buildings are no longer used for education of the Indian people, ownership will revert to the Kamloops Indian Band. **[40326]**
- 1971 Replacement of kitchen floor and improvements to kitchen lighting. **[04251A]** Transfer of former duplex building to the Kamloops Indian Band. **[40242D]**
- 1973 Installation of fire alarm system and emergency lighting. **[07334]** Removal and replacement of shingle roof. **[07333]** Renovations of bathrooms completed. **[07293]**
- 1974 Contract for conversion from oil and propane heating to natural gas heating in residence. **[60682A]**
- 1975 Conversion to natural gas heating is completed. **[60666A]**
- 1976 Band Council Resolution requesting that all buildings and property of the Kamloops Indian Residential School be transferred to the Kamloops Indian Band, upon closure of the School. **[07198A]**
- 1977 Transfer of Brown, White and Annex buildings of the Kamloops Student Residence to the Kamloops Indian Band. **[07171]** Band Council resolution regarding this transfer. **[01376A]**
- 1977 An appraisal report was prepared describing the school for inventory purposes. A detailed description and photographs are provided of the buildings on site at that time. These include: an annex building, 2 school buildings, a main student residence and administration building, gymnasium, 2 additional residences, garage and carpenter shop, old barn, 3 storage sheds (one formerly the Brothers' residence), root cellar, old Blacksmith shed, and pump-house. **[02401]**
- 1978 Closure of Kamloops Student Residence and transfer of buildings and assets to Kamloops Indian Band. **[06998, 08004, 08015]**

LAND

- 1888 160 acres of land, situated on the north bank of the South Thompson River, are selected as a site for the Kamloops Industrial School and purchased by the government in 1889 for \$165.00 from an Aboriginal woman named Mary LeRoux (also know as the Widow LeRoux and Mary Hli-hleh-kan). **[01733]**
- 1926 Kamloops Industrial School is described as being located on the Kamloops Indian Reserve, about three miles from the city of Kamloops. The school property consists of approximately 283 acres, 82 acres of which are suitable for agricultural purposes. An additional 80 acres of land have been leased for agricultural purposes. **[01698]**
- 1932 A survey determines that the portion of the Kamloops Indian Reserve occupied by the Kamloops Indian Residential School is 258.3 acres. **[01739]** A Band Council Resolution resolves that the land occupied by the Kamloops Indian Residential School on the Kamloops Indian Reserve be surrendered and set aside for school purposes. **[06783]**
- 1955 Regarding total number of acres utilized by the school: 525.7 acres, consisting of 258.3 acres of reserve land assigned to the government and 267.4 acres of land leased from Aboriginals. **[62535]**
- 1961 72 acres of land is retained by the school for its operation. The remaining acres are to be returned to the Kamloops Indian Band. **[02402]**
- 1962 Kamloops Indian Band Resolution accepting the changes in the land occupied by Kamloops Indian Residential School. **[62506]**
- 1969 The government declares 35 acres of land, formerly used by the school, as surplus and transfers control and administration of the land to the Kamloops Indian Band Council. **[07927]**
- 1970 Land surrounding the Kamloops Indian Student Residence has reverted back to the Kamloops Indian Band and must be leased from the Band as required. **[60577, 04255B]**
- 1976 Kamloops Indian Band Council Resolution requesting that upon closure of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, all buildings and property be transferred to the Kamloops Indian Band. **[07198A]**
- 1977 Appraisal of the buildings and property of the Kamloops Indian Residential School indicates that it is located on Indian Reserve land - specifically Kamloops Indian Reserve No. 1. **[02401]**

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

- | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------------------------|
| #00345 | 00/00/0000 | Floor Plan of second floor. |
| #00345A | 00/00/0000 | Floor Plan of first floor. |

#00345B	00/00/0000	Floor Plan entitled "Detail of Shower Room".
#00345C	00/00/0000	Floor Plan entitled "Sketch Plan for Senior Boys".
#00345D	00/00/0000	Floor Plan entitled "Sketch Plan for Senior Boys and Girls Residence".
#00356	00/00/0000	Photograph of the Kamloops IRS Hostel.
#00795	00/00/0000	Schematic drawing indicating the location of the new school building in relation to other buildings on the site and the South Thompson river.
#00870	00/00/0000	Schematic drawing indicating the layout of the laundry facilities at Kamloops IRS.
#01677	00/00/0000	Plan showing proposed irrigation of land west of Kamloops IRS.
#02108	00/00/0000	Hand-drawn plan of the upper and lower storeys.
#06784	00/00/0000	Map of the Kamloops Indian Reserve, including the school.
#08688	00/00/0000	Plan and sectional view of pump house, as well as bills of material required for construction.
#09332	00/00/0000	Plan of the kitchen.
#09954	00/00/0000	Hand-drawn plan of the boys' building, upper floor.
#09955	00/00/0000	Hand-drawn plan of the girls' dormitory, upper floor.
#90203A	00/000000	Photographs of the new building, built in 1926.
#02388A	00/00/0000	Basement floor plan for the new school. Circa 1923.
#08642	00/00/0000	Plan of basement area of Kamloops IRS. Circa 1941.
#00958A	00/00/0000	Photographs of the grain storage facility and machine shed. Circa 1948.
#00958B	00/00/0000	Photographs of shed and root cellar. Circa 1948.
#00273G	00/00/0000	Photograph of school taken from the sewage pond. Circa 1950.
#00357A	00/00/0000	Photographs of main building, auditorium and day schools. Circa 1964.

#00357B	00/00/0000	Photographs of new dormitory, barn, workshop building and garage. Circa 1964.
#00357C	00/00/0000	Photographs of fire escapes and attic dormitory area. Circa 1964.
#00357D	00/00/0000	Photographs of dormitories and the interior of the main building. Circa 1964.
04132W	00/00/0000	Plan of school grounds indicating which buildings and areas may be used for Cariboo Regional College. Circa 1975.
#01377B	00/00/0000	Plan of the buildings and grounds of Kamloops Student Residence. Circa 1977.
#02454A	06/14/1895	Hand-drawn plans of the main building.
#02104B	03/30/1898	Hand-drawn floor plan of the girls' dormitory.
#07901	03/30/1918	Drawing of proposed pump installation for irrigation of 100 acres.
#02388	06/00/1923	Plan of the proposed new sewage system and refrigeration unit at Kamloops IRS.
#09333	06/00/1923	Plan of Kamloops IRS.
#00768A	03/23/1927	Plans for temporary sleeping quarters for the boys after the fire of 1926.
#60502	06/00/1960	Plan of laundry room at Kamloops IRS.
#04252B	02/09/1971	Plan for new lighting in the kitchen area at Kamloops Student Residence.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS (most are September figures for each year and based on Quarterly Returns where possible):

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
1890	25 students	1958	438
1895-1897	Enrollment ranges between 50-53 students	1959	386
1905-1909	Enrollment ranges between 57 to 65 students	1960	394

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
1913	66	1961	381
1917	64	1962	390
1920	69	1963	373
1927	100	1964-1965	352
1929	approx. 200	1966	370
1933-1942	Enrollment ranges between 280-301 students	1967	355
1943	325	1968	237
1944	340	1969	232
1945	354	1970	271
1946	370	1971	242
1947	351	1972	231
1948	393	1973	185
1949	416	1974	157
1950	469	1975	126
1951	505	1976	118
1952	494	1977	55
1955	402		
1957	424		

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students from at least the following Bands attended Kamloops IRS:

Adams Lake, Ahousat, Alkali Lake, Anahim (Anaham, Anaheim), Anderson Lake, Ashcroft, Bonaparte, Boston Bar, Bridge River, Burns Lake, Canim Lake, Canoe Creek, Cayoose, Cayoose Creek, Chase, Chehalis, Chemainus, Chu Chua, Clayquot (Clayaquot), Clinton, Coldwater, Columbia Lake, Cook's Ferry, Cornwall, Cowichan, Deadman's Creek, Deroche, Deroche-Skwah, Douglas Lake, Ehaitteset (Ehattisat, Ehattisaht), Enderby, Fort Douglas, Fort Fraser, Fort George, Fort Langley, Fort Nelson, Fountain, Hazelton, Head of Lake (Head-O-Lake), Hesquiat, High Bar, Homalco, Hope, Inkameep, Isitsk, Kalahoose (Klahoose), Kamloops, Katz, Keltsamet, Kilgard, Kitwanga, Kootenay, Kuper Island, Kyuquot, Lake Babine, Leon's Creek, Lillooet, Little Shuswap, Lower Nicola, Lytton, Matsqui, Merritt, Moricetown, Mount Currie, Musqueam, Nanaimo, Necosalie (Necoslie), Neskainlith, Nesquiat, Nicola, Nicomen, North Thompson,

Ohamil, Okanagan, Okanagan-Westbank, Omineca, Oregon Jack, Osoyoos, Pavilion, Pauquachin, Pemberton, Penelukit (Penelakut), Penticton, Ruby Creek, Quilchena, Saanich, Salmon River, Salteau, Samahquam, Scowlitz, Seabird Island, Sechelt, Seton Lake, Shalalth, Shaw, Shulus, Shuswap, Skawhlooks, Skwah, Slave, Soda Creek, Sominos, Songees, Sooke, Spalumcheen, Spuzzum, Squilax, Sugar Cane, Tathlon, Tsarlip, Uchucklisst, Ulkatcho, Union Bar, Upper Nicola, Vernon, Westbank, Williams Lake, Yale.

Please note that there may be alternate ways of spelling these band names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Oblates of Mary Immaculate [00191]
Sisters of Saint Ann [90121, 00178]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

- 1962 Agreement for the Operation of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada and Indianescom. [01112]
- 1970-1971 Chaplaincy Agreement between Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and John Hennessy, O.M.I., to provide chaplaincy services to the students and staff of Kamloops Student Residence. [08187]
- 1972-1973 Chaplaincy Agreement between Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and John Hennessy, O.M.I., to provide chaplaincy services to the students and staff of Kamloops Student Residence. [04609A]
- 1974-1975 Chaplaincy Agreement between Indian and Northern Affairs and John Hennessy, O.M.I., to provide chaplaincy services to the students and staff of Kamloops Student Residence. [08792]
- 1975-1976 Chaplaincy Agreement between Indian and Northern Affairs and John Massel, O.M.I., to provide chaplaincy services to the students and staff of Kamloops Student Residence. [08786J]
- 1976-1977 Chaplaincy Agreement between Indian and Northern Affairs and the Bishop of Kamloops, to provide chaplaincy services to the students and staff of Kamloops Student Residence. [08750]

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO ABUSE

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Kamloops IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the school. However, Gerald Moran has been charged with 33 counts (not all of which pertain to Kamloops IRS), and is awaiting trial in September 2004. [RCMP Press Releases, 04/23/2003, 11/14/2003]

Student on Student Abuse

There is a letter from the local Roman Catholic bishop, written in 1893, which refers to immorality at the school and alleges that the older students were involving the younger ones in sodomy and self-abuse. [02393]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Kamloops IRS has been referred to as the largest Indian Residential School in Canada. [01202, 06243]

Tuancy

There are references to truancy at the Kamloops Industrial School. In one letter, dated March 9, 1913, the Principal refers to the incidence of truancy as an “epidemic”. [97243] The Principal employed several measures to apprehend the truant pupils, including hiring a man to track the boys, notifying the Indian Agent to alert the local police force and railway employees, and writing to a local Indian Chief to secure his cooperation in returning the truants. [97252, 97253, 97251, 97246, 97233B, 97233] Once the truants were apprehended, the issue of their punishment was addressed. There are references to the truants being handcuffed, if they appeared uncooperative. [97312, 97314, 97287, 97311] After their return to the school, the Indian Agent advised the Principal that the truant boys should be flogged by the Principal and placed in solitary confinement for five days, eating bread and water for their morning and evening meals. [97285, 97318, 97316] The Principal reported that having administered this punishment, the student ran away again. [97286]

The incidence of truancy appears to have diminished by 1924, when the Principal of the school acknowledges that “we have not had a child run away for over a year”. [01234] In 1945, the local Indian Agent states that all absenteeism from the school is rigorously investigated, and prosecution instituted when necessary, with the result that there are no cases of truancy to report. [93171] However, in 1947, three boys ran away from the school and died when the freight train they had boarded was derailed by a landslide. [90179]

Student Interactions

Several documents, dating from 1892 to 1893, refer to an incident where six boys from the Kamloops Indian Reserve visited the girls’ dormitory at the school. The Indian Agent reported that two of the girls attacked the boys with broom handles and drove them out of the dormitory. The six boys were arrested, with three boys imprisoned for varying terms and three boys released from custody. [09633, 09632, 09960].

Farming Operations

As early as 1906, there are references to the cultivation of alfalfa and hay at Kamloops IRS. However, agricultural activities were not successful due to the lack of water. [09981] In 1918, an irrigation system was installed at the school, increasing the area of farm operation to 100 acres and providing crops of beans, potatoes, alfalfa, wheat and oats. [01665, 07805] By the early 1920's, there are references to cattle pastured at the school, which provided the students with milk and beef. [01218, 01234]

In March of 1948, the school had a dairy herd of 45 cows producing over 1000 pounds of milk per day, which was sufficient to supply the staff and students each with one quart of milk per day. There was also a beef herd of approximately 250 steers, as well as 500 chickens, which served to supply the school with beef, chicken and eggs. [06202]

In 1956, 1957 and 1958 there are references to extensive livestock and agricultural activities at the school, producing large quantities of vegetables, fruit, eggs, meat and milk. [02014, 02015, 02016]

In 1959, it appears that farming operations at the school had ceased, with the farm land leased out to other parties and food supplies purchased from wholesale suppliers. [04052]

Health at the school

There were numerous outbreaks of influenza, pneumonia, measles, mumps and scarlet fever at the school. [97383, 97376, 97367, 00866, 90050, 00137, 90179, 90182, 90189]

The greatest incidence of illness appears to have occurred during the 1936-1937 academic year when there were epidemics of mumps, influenza, and measles. A few weeks following the measles epidemic, chicken pox was reported amongst the students and staff. [90168]

In 1926, there is a reference to cases of dysentery at the school. [01713]

Vocational Training at the school

The intention behind the construction of the Kamloops Industrial School was to provide practical training, as well as academic education for the students. [08424] The teaching of trades at the school distinguished it as an Industrial school, rather than a boarding school. As early as 1894, preparations were made for instruction in carpentry and shoe-making. [09964]

In 1920, it is reported that the girls were taught housekeeping, sewing, cooking and dressmaking. The boys learned farming, irrigation techniques, care of buildings and the use of tools. [09527] In 1929, the first formal manual training classes for the boys commenced. [00570] The areas of the school in which the students received training included the farm, dairy, technical shop, sewing rooms, laundry and kitchen. [00585]

Until 1948, students received academic instruction on a half-day basis. [00223] In 1948, when high school classes began at Kamloops IRS, students in grades 9 and 10 began full days of academic instruction, and by 1953, students in grades 6, 7 and 8 began full days of academic classes. [90079, 90090]

As of September 1965, Industrial Arts and Home Economics were no longer taught at Kamloops IRS. [01098]

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Mr. M. Hagan	Principal	March 1889 to December 1892
A.M. Carion, O.M.I.	Principal	April 1893 to January 1916

P. LeChesne, O.M.I.	Principal	February 1916 to March 1917
John B. Salles, O.M.I.	Principal	March 1917 to August 1917
J.R. Desmarais, O.M.I.	Principal	August 1917 to September 1918
John J. Duplanil, O.M.I.	Acting Principal	September 1918
James McGuire, O.M.I.	Principal	September 1918 to October 1927
John J. Duplanil, O.M.I.	Principal	November 1927 to June 1933
Thomas M. Kennedy, O.M.I.	Principal	June 1933 to March 1939
Rev. E. Baxter	Acting Principal	March 1939
Fergus O'Grady, O.M.I.	Principal	March 1939 to September 1952
J.P. Mulvihill, O.M.I.	Principal	September 1952 to September 1958
Gerald P. Dunlop, O.M.I.	Principal	September 1958 to July 1964
Allan F. Noonan, O.M.I.	Principal	September 1964 to December 1973
Sister Mary Edwina	Senior Teacher acting as Principal	September 1968 to June 1969
Nathan Matthew	Administrator	December 1973 to March 1977
Ken W. Manuel	Administrator	April 1977 to June 1978

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



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA