

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.

**La Tuque Indian Residential School
IAP School Narrative**

NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)

La Tuque

OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)

1963 to 1970 La Tuque (Indian) Residential School [LTR-000001, pg. 1; LTR-000101]

1968 to 1978 La Tuque (Indian) Student Residence [LTR-000021, pg. 1; LTR-000468; LTR-000957-0000]

LOCATION

La Tuque IRS was located near the centre of La Tuque, Quebec, accessible by Browne Avenue and St. Michel Street [LTR-001170].

PROVINCE/TERRITORY

Quebec

OPERATING DATES AS AN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

These dates represent the time during which the Government of Canada was responsible for the operation of the Indian Residential School, excluding any periods of closure.

September 1, 1963 to June 30, 1978

Effective July 1, 1970, La Tuque IRS became a residence/hostel only [LTR-000286-0000; LTR-000286-0001; LTR-000932-0000; LTR-000932-0001; LTR-000932-0002].

OPERATING DATES CONTEXT

La Tuque IRS opened on September 1, 1963 [LTR-000578; LTR-000100]. By 1968, the IRS was referred to as La Tuque Student Residence [LTR-000468]. Administration of the classroom block was transferred to the Protestant School Municipality of Upper St. Maurice effective July 1, 1970, and the IRS became a residence/hostel only [LTR-000286-0001; LTR-000932-0002]. The IRS closed on June 30, 1978 [LTR-000429; LTR-000274-0000; LTR-001195].

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Anglican Church of Canada

1963 to 1969 Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada [LTR-000812; GSA-000065, pg. 3; LTR-001123-0001, pg. 1; LTR-000196-0001; LTR-000648; LTR-000526-0002].

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
September 1, 1963	<p>La Tuque IRS opened on September 1, 1963, with six classrooms in operation. Forty-four of the IRS residents were enrolled at public school. By November 1963, the enrolment of La Tuque IRS residents attending public school had increased to 73.</p> <p>Prior to the IRS opening, the federal government and La Tuque Public School Board (La Tuque Board of School Trustees) signed an agreement to share the cost to construct a joint public school. The Board/Trustees agreed to accept 125 children in Grades 3 to 11 from La Tuque IRS once it opened.</p>	<p>LTR-000323 LTR-000919 LTR-001192 LTR-000578 NCA-018891 LTR-000577 LTR-000100 LTR-000689-0003 LTR-000310-0000 LTR-000316 LTR-000315 LTR-000098</p>
September 1963 to November 1969	<p>La Tuque IRS was operated by the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada and the federal government.</p>	<p>LTR-000812 GSA-000065, pg. 3 LTR-001123-0001, pg. 6 LTR-000648 LTR-000196-0001 LTR-000648 LTR-000526-0002</p>
December 1964 to February 1966	<p>Students in grades 6 to 8 from La Tuque Protestant Public School took Shop and Home Economics classes at the IRS.</p>	<p>AAC-084494, pg. 24 BAX-000758 NCA-015304 NCA-000876</p>
1969 to 1970	<p>During the 1969/70 school year, two classrooms of the eight-classroom block at the IRS were leased to La Tuque Catholic School Commission through a verbal agreement with the federal government. While the verbal agreement was for an “indefinite” period of time, no information was located to indicate that the classrooms were leased by La Tuque Catholic School Commission after the 1969/70 school year.</p>	<p>NCA-000698-0000 NCA-000698-0003 LTR-000690</p>
November 13, 1969	<p>The federal government assumed sole responsibility for the operation of the IRS.</p>	<p>LTR-000653, pg. 1</p>
April 1970	<p>Mistassini pupils residing at the IRS from Kindergarten to grade 4 received instruction in the IRS classroom block, and those in grades 5 to 12 attended La Tuque Protestant Public School. Waswanipi pupils residing at the IRS attended La Tuque French School, although pupils at the Kindergarten and grade 1 levels received their instruction in classrooms located in the IRS classroom block that were leased to La Tuque French School Board.</p>	<p>NCA-015420-0000</p>
July 1, 1970	<p>An agreement between the federal government and the Protestant School Municipality of the Upper St. Maurice transferred administrative responsibility for the classroom block at La Tuque IRS to the Protestant School Municipality. The IRS became a residence/hostel only.</p>	<p>LTR-000286-0000 LTR-000286-0001 LTR-000932-0000 LTR-000932-0001 LTR-000932-0002</p>
1971	<p>A smaller building at La Tuque IRS used as staff quarters was converted into a senior boys’ residence. Thereafter, nearly all IRS staff lived off of the IRS premises.</p>	<p>LTR-001180, pg. 4, 7</p>
December 1977	<p>The St. Maurice Protestant School Board, known as the Protestant School Municipality of the Upper St. Maurice until 1972, was still using the former IRS classroom block in December 1977.</p>	<p>LTR-000274-0011, pg. 4-5</p>

June 30, 1978	La Tuque IRS closed.	LTR-000429, pg. 1 LTR-000854-0001 LTR-000274-0007, pg.1 LTR-000274-0011, pg. 2 LTR-001194 LTR-001195
---------------	----------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

Grades taught at the Indian residential school

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1963/64 to 1965/66	Kindergarten to 5	LTR-000100 LTR-000091 LTR-000080 LTR-000069
1966/67	Kindergarten to 6 (to March 1967) Kindergarten to 1, 3 to 6 (April to June)	LTR-000067 LTR-000061 LTR-000059
1967/68	Kindergarten to 6	LTR-000058 LTR-000049
1968/69	Kindergarten to 5	LTR-000120 LTR-000112
1969/70	1 to 5	LTR-000110 LTR-000101
1970/71 to 1977/78	In July 1970, the administration of the classroom block at the IRS was transferred to the Protestant School Municipality of the Upper St. Maurice (known as the St. Maurice Protestant School Board as of July 1, 1972) and the IRS became a residence/hostel only.	LTR-000286-0001 LTR-000932-0002 BAX-000766

Other Schools Attended by Residents

In 1962 the federal government and La Tuque Public School Board (La Tuque Board of School Trustees) signed an agreement to construct a joint public school to accommodate non-Indian and Indian students from grades 3 to 11, including residents of La Tuque IRS when it opened in September 1963. It was referenced as both the "joint school" and La Tuque High School in correspondence [LTR-000323; LTR-000919; LTR-001192; NCA-018891; LTR-000577; LTR-000689-0003]. Some of the documents listed below indicate that IRS residents attended the joint public school.

School Years	Name of School	Location	Administration	Grades	Document
1963/64	La Tuque High School	La Tuque, Quebec	La Tuque School Trustees	1 to 6	NCA-000885 LTR-001121-0000 LTR-001121-0001
1964/65	"Non-Indian Schools"	Not stated	Not stated	1 to 7	LTR-000087 LTR-000080
1965/66	"Non-Indian Schools"	Not stated	Not stated	1 to 8	LTR-000079 LTR-000078
1968	French Roman Catholic School in La Tuque	La Tuque, Quebec	Not stated	Not stated	BAX-000777
1969/70	La Tuque Protestant Public School	La Tuque, Quebec	Not stated	5 to 12	NCA-015420-0000
1969/70	La Tuque French School	La Tuque, Quebec	Not stated	Not stated	NCA-015420-0000
1976/77	Ecole Champagnat, Ecole Central, Ecole Eugene Corbeil; the "High School"	La Tuque	The "High School" is an English language school; the other are French	Not stated	LTR-000142, pg. 11
1977/78	Ecole	La Tuque	Not Stated	Not Stated	LTR-000141, pg. 17,

	Champagnat, Ecole Central, Ecole Eugene Corbeil; the "High School"			(students aged 11 to 18)	18
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--------------------------	----

During the 1969/70 school year, the IRS residents from Waswanipi at the Kindergarten and Grade 1 levels received instruction in classrooms leased to La Tuque French School Board located in the IRS classroom block [NCA-015420-0000].

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1963/64	217	No information found	LTR-000004, pg. 1
1964/65	263	No information found	LTR-000006-0000, pg. 1
1965/66	269	No information found	LTR-000009-0000, pg. 1
1966/67	278	No information found	LTR-000015, pg. 1
1967/68	260	No information found	LTR-000016, pg. 1
1968/69	328	No information found	LTR-000025, pg. 1
1969/70	315	No information found	LTR-000026, pg. 1
1970/71	323	No information found	LTR-000030, pg. 1
1971/72	368	No information found	LTR-000033, pg. 1
1972/73	301	No information found	LTR-000035, pg. 1
1973/74	248	No information found	LTR-000039, pg. 1
1974/75	274	No information found	LTR-000041-0001, pg. 1
1975/76	238	No information found	LTR-000043-0001, pg. 1
1976/77	112	No information found	LTR-000622-0001
1977/78	114	No information found	LTR-000956, pg. 1

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1964/65	Basketball hoops were purchased by the federal government for installation at the IRS.	LTR-000755
1970/71	IRS residents were free to take part in team sports. Swimming instruction in the indoor pools at the IRS was compulsory for all students over the age of 9, and all students over age 14 had to pass a Red Cross Survival Examination before being allowed to participate.	LTR-001574-0001
1971	Activities at the IRS included winter sports as well as seasonal picnicking, camping, swimming, and hikes. Boys engaged in many similar activities as well as skating and dodge ball.	LTR-001552-0005
May 1975 and May 1976	Pow Wows organized by the Pointe Bleue and La Tuque residences were held at La Tuque IRS on May 16 to 19, 1975 and on May 21 to 23, 1976.	LTR-001111 LTR-000143
May 1975	Forty-two pupils from Kamloops IRS visited La Tuque for four days; students participated in hockey, skating, basketball, volleyball, broomball and swimming.	LTR-000145, pg. 2, 12-17
1977/78	IRS residents participated in skating, hockey, floor hockey, dodgeball, football, baseball, volleyball, basketball, and sliding.	LTR-000141, pg. 11, 16, 18

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
1963	The IRS was comprised of four buildings: a student residence, a detached classroom block, a staff residence, and a Principal's residence. All buildings were constructed in 1963. The IRS was situated on lots 21A, 22A and 22-A-174, Range 1, of the Township of Mailhot, Quebec.	LTR-000482, pg. 2 LTR-001170 LTR-000966
January 1968	Approval was granted for electrification at the skating rinks at La Tuque IRS.	LTR-000479-0000 LTR-000479-0003
1969 to 1970	The classroom block had eight classrooms, with additional home economics and shop rooms. During the 1969/70 school year, two of these classrooms were leased to the Catholic School Commission through a verbal agreement with the federal government.	NCA-000698-0000 NCA-000698-0003 LTR-000690
July 1, 1970	An agreement between the federal government and the Protestant School Municipality of the Upper St. Maurice transferred administrative responsibility for the classroom block at La Tuque IRS to the Protestant School Municipality. The IRS became a residence/hostel only.	LTR-000286-0000 LTR-000286-0001 LTR-000932-0000 LTR-000932-0001 LTR-000932-0002
1971	A building formerly used as staff quarters was converted into a senior boys' residence. As a consequence of these changes, most staff members no longer lived on the IRS premises.	LTR-001180, pg. 4, 7
1972	Two swimming pools were located in the basement of the IRS building.	LTR-001533-0000 LTR-001533-0001
1973	Buildings on La Tuque IRS grounds included the main IRS residence, the Principal's residence, and a Staff residence which had been used as a senior boys' residence. The former IRS classroom block had been leased by the St. Maurice Protestant School Board during this period.	LTR-000840-0001
1978	Upon closure, La Tuque IRS buildings were declared surplus and the St. Maurice Protestant School Board was required to vacate the classroom block leased by them by June 30, 1978.	LTR-000428-0001 LTR-000274-0011, pg. 3

PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
1961	Plan of the first floor of the IRS showing location of gym and boys' wing.	LTR-001030
1961	Basement floor plan of the IRS.	LTR-001031
March 1961	Plot plan of La Tuque IRS illustrating location of playgrounds, classroom block, and dormitory block.	LTR-001409
March 1961	Three dimensional drawing of La Tuque IRS illustrating classroom block, dormitory, staff residence, and the Principal's residence.	LTR-001410
May 1961	IRS dormitory block details showing balustrade and stairs at the cafeteria entry.	LTR-001405
May 1961	Plan of IRS elevations.	LTR-001407
May 1961	Plan of dormitory block sections at the IRS.	LTR-001414

May 1961	Plan of dormitory block at the IRS showing storage, workshop, and boiler room.	LTR-001418
May 1961	Basement floor plan of the IRS showing office, boiler room, machinery room, sewing room, dining rooms, and kitchen.	LTR-001419
May 1961	Details of interior stairs leading to the caretaker's residence at the IRS.	LTR-001421
May 1961	Basement floor plan of the IRS showing the wing for girls and boys, recreation rooms and storage rooms.	LTR-001415
May 1961	Architectural drawing showing girls and boys wings on first floor of La Tuque IRS dormitory.	LTR-001416
May 1961	Architectural drawing showing girls and boys wings on second floor of La Tuque IRS dormitory.	LTR-001417
May 1961	First floor plan of the dormitory block at the IRS showing gymnasium and assembly hall, bedrooms, living, and dining rooms.	LTR-001420
May 1961	Site plan of La Tuque IRS.	LTR-001411
February 1963	Plan of the chapel at the IRS.	LTR-001412
April 1963	Site plan of the IRS, including buildings, roads, fences and property lines.	LTR-001216
May 1963	Plan of elevations at the IRS.	LTR-001413
May 1963	First floor plan of the classroom block.	LTR-001406
May 1963	Plan of the Principal's residence.	LTR-001408
1964	Floor plan of the Principal's residence showing proposed additions.	LTR-000761-0001 LTR-000761-0002
1969	Map of land parcel that may be available for use by the IRS.	LTR-001198-0001
1975	Map showing the location of La Tuque IRS in relationship to the home communities of band members that attended the IRS.	LTR-001156
April 1978	Aerial photograph of the IRS complex.	LTR-000274-0009 LTR-000428-0007
April 1978	Exterior photographs of the residence, the Principal's residence, and the staff residence. The photographs also include the former IRS classroom block which had been leased by the St. Maurice Protestant School Board during this period.	LTR-000274-0010
April 1978	Aerial photographs of the IRS buildings.	LTR-000428-0006
July 20, 1979	Aerial photograph of the former La Tuque IRS facilities.	LTR-000852-0003

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at La Tuque IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the IRS.

The following suggestions of abuse, listed chronologically, comprise all known identifiable complaints and/or allegations received by government officials and all available information regarding the follow-up and outcome.

Incidents (Sexual)

- 1969 A staff member was discharged after being observed by co-workers at La Tuque IRS spending approximately one half hour in an employee bathroom in the company of a ten-year-old student [NPC-523500].
- 1970 A former employee reported an incident in which inappropriate statements were made to female students during swimming instruction [LTR-001176-0004].
- 1971 An employee was suspended and later discharged after four former students told La Tuque police that they had been sexually abused [NPC-523762-0001; NPC-523762-0003; NPC-523762-0004; NPC-523762-0005; NPC-523762-0006; NPC-523762-0007; NPC-523762-0008; NPC-523762-0009; NPC-523762-0010].

Incidents (Physical)

1970 A federal government enquiry was undertaken into allegations by a former employee that La Tuque IRS mistreated children, including cutting students' hair as punishment for disobedience [LTR-001176-0004; LTR-000166; LTR-001178-0000; LTR-001178-0001].

Incidents (Student on Student)

No information found.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1964 Students from La Tuque Protestant School attended parties at La Tuque IRS [AAC-084494, pg. 24].
- 1966 In April, an influenza epidemic at La Tuque IRS resulted in the absence of 128 students [LTR-000071].
- 1968 The IRS was closed from February 15 to 16 due to a flu epidemic [LTR-000053].
- 1969 The IRS was quarantined from April 17 to 26 due to a meningitis outbreak [LTR-001175; LTR-000906; LTR-000113-0000; LTR-000113-0001; LTR-000168-0001].
- 1970 The IRS was in quarantine for several weeks in February and March 1970 due to a hepatitis outbreak. Although the classroom block at the IRS site remained open, residents attending public schools had to remain at the IRS for instruction until the quarantine was lifted [LTR-001145; LTR-0001146; LTR-000694-0000; LTR-000694-0001; LTR-000694-0002; LTR-001176-0004; LTR-001147].
- 1971 Four students from the IRS took an extended trip to the Maritimes accompanied by the IRS Senior Educator; girls took a trip to Montreal to see the Ice Capades; dances were held every two weeks at the local high school and attended by students from the IRS [LTR-001554-0001; LTR-001552-0005; LTR-001552-0003].
- 1974 La Tuque IRS peewee hockey team (ages 10 to 12) travelled to Switzerland and played games in six locations across the country over 15 days in February [NCA-015338; LTR-000255; LTR-000145, pg. 2].
- 1975 In November, two groups of La Tuque IRS girls went to the Montreal Forum to see the Ice Capades [LTR-000142].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Rev. James Edward DeWolf	Principal/Administrator	September 1963 to June 1968
Rev. Jean/John Maurice Bonnard	Principal/Administrator	July 1968 to June 1978

Narrative Completed: October 16, 2012

Narrative Updated: January 29, 2013

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