

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.



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## **McIntosh IRS** **School Narrative**

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

### **NAME OF SCHOOL and VARIANTS**

- McIntosh Indian Residential School (aka McIntosh Indian Boarding School) [MCI-000585, MCI-000585a]
- McIntosh R.C. Residential School [MCI-002031]
- Indian Training School, McIntosh [MCI-000192a, MCI-000192b]
- Indian Industrial School, vicinity of McIntosh [MCI-000014]
- Indian Mission School, McIntosh [MCI-000469, MCI-000469a]

### **CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY**

1923 The Oblates request the government to establish a school at McIntosh, on the Canadian National Line, or in the vicinity, early in the spring. [MCI-000006].

1924 The government purchases land on which to build McIntosh IRS. The land was formerly owned by the Ontario government. [MCI-000010, MCI-000035, MCI-000078, MCI-000081, MCI-000092, MCI-000093, MCI-000110, MCI-000110a, MCI-000564a, MCI-001390] Documents indicate that a family had previously squatted on this land. In January 1924, a member of the family consents to release any claim to this property upon payment. [MCI-000001, MCI-000002, MCI-000004, MCI-000010]

An October 1924 Ontario Order in Council transfers 325.35 acres of land to the government. The Ontario government reserves road allowance along Canyon and Forest Lake shore lines, along with waters of Canyon and Forest Lake. [MCI-006576a]

Construction work on McIntosh IRS begins in September 1924 [MCI-000111]

1925 Finishing touches (i.e. painting, plumbing, etc.) are made to the school. Two Oblate fathers already live in the building, and plans for recruiting children from nearby reserves are underway [MCI-000129]. The McIntosh IRS building is completed in February, 1925 [MCI-000135, MCI-000137]. The school opens on May 27, 1925 [MCI-000760].

1935 The Oblate Order builds and pays for an addition to the north side of the school which contains the new chapel and has accommodation for 52 beds. The government pays only for fire fighting equipment. [MCI-004962, MCI-004963, MCI-004964, MCI-005041, MCI-005041a, MCI-001007, MCI-007297a]

1937 Farming operations are reportedly very small and the garden good. [MCI-001012a. See also MCI-001010b in which similar findings are reported for 1936]

1951 Farming is discontinued, but the garden is maintained. [MCI-005688a, MCI-005702a]

1956 Auditor reports no farm or garden activity in 1955-56. [MCI-005807a]

1958 Construction begins on a six classroom Indian day school at McIntosh IRS. [MCI-001911, MCI-001911a, MCI-001923, MCI-001925, MCI-001940a]

- 1958 In July 1958, authority for the operation of a sixth academic classroom is granted and a new position for a sixth classroom teacher established due to the impending admission of a number of pupils on a day basis effective September 1958. [MCI-004112, MCI-004113] A temporary classroom is to be arranged until the new classroom block is complete. [MCI-002010] In September 1958, day pupils begin to attend McIntosh IRS on a regular basis. [MCI-002040, MCI-002051, MCI-002061]
- 1959 The new classroom block (Indian Day School) at McIntosh IRS officially opens on November 11, 1959. [MCI-004180, MCI-002190]
- 1964 Farm operations cease. [MCI-006589h] The Widjitiwin Corporation proposes establishing a temporary settlement on school property. The government recommends leasing the land for settlement to the corporation and granting a right of way across school property. Children from the settlement may attend McIntosh as day pupils. The school principal authorizes use of the school land for road purposes, as it is no longer used for pasture or gardening. [MCI-006272, MCI-006273, MCI-006276, MCI-006276a, MCI-006284, MCI-006284a-c, MCI-006285, MCI-006288, MCI-006290, MCI-006293, MCI-006293a, MCI-006294a, MCI-006304, MCI-006304a-e]
- 1965 30 day pupils from the local Widjitiwin Corporation are attending McIntosh IRS. [See, for example, MCI-004415]
- 1968 In June, the Director, Oblate Indian and Eskimo Committee, is advised by the government that McIntosh IRS will cease to operate as of June 30, 1969. [MCI-000856, MCI-001376]
- 1969 McIntosh IRS closes on June 30, 1969. [MCI-001391a, MCI-001393c]
- 1970 Land on which the Church and cemetery are located is leased by the government to the Oblate Fathers [MCI-001393c-d, MCI-006609, MCI-006608, MCI-006610a]. The government also leases other sections of land to a former employee at McIntosh [MCI-004039a, MCI-001393f, MCI-001394, MCI-006610a, MCI-006611] and the Widjitiwin Corporation. [MCI-006613a, MCI-001394, MCI-006610a, MCI-006611]
- 1979 The Widjitiwin Corporation lease is cancelled in 1979. [MCI-006613, MCI-006613a] It is recommended that the entire McIntosh school property where the school and auxiliary buildings are located be listed as surplus in 1978. [MCI-006611. See also MCI-006610a] The government cancels any disposal process of excess property at the former McIntosh IRS. [MCI-006614] The residence is closed (water lines drained, windows boarded up and property posted) [MCI-006615] and caretaker service is withdrawn. [MCI-006616]

### **MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL**

#### Dates managed by Church

McIntosh IRS was managed by the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate [O.M.I.] from the opening of the school in 1925 to school closure in 1969. [MCI-000080, MCI-000147, MCI-000856]

### **SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

- Construction work on McIntosh IRS began in September, 1924. [MCI-000111]
- In 1925 finishing touches (i.e. painting, plumbing, etc.) were made to the school. Two Oblate fathers already lived in the building, and plans for recruiting children from nearby reserves were underway [MCI-000129]. The McIntosh IRS building

was completed in February, 1925. [MCI-000135] The school opened on May 27, 1925. [MCI-000760] An inspection of the school indicated it was well-built and the entire building was completed, except the basement and the dam. [MCI-000145] Installation of fire escapes was requested. [MCI-006770]

- In spring of 1926 work was completed on a hydro electric power plant and water supply system. [MCI-006691; MCI-006691a; MCI-006694; MCI-006695; MCI-006796; MCI-006796a; MCI-006797]
- In the summer of 1935 the Oblate Order built and paid for an addition to the north side of the school which contained the new chapel and had accommodation for 52 beds. The government paid only for fire fighting equipment. Authority for construction was granted by the government on the understanding that no claims for compensation for the chapel be submitted. The government also approved use of the per capita grant to pay 4% interest charges to the Church on the sum used for construction. [MCI-004962, MCI-004963, MCI-004964, MCI-005041, MCI-005041a, MCI-001007, MCI-007297a]
- In 1943 the District Chief Engineer reported that a continuous supply of electric energy allowed for modern facilities for the school, while turbine supplied ample energy for the saw-mill, planing mill and well-equipped machine shop. Well qualified school mechanics made, without expense to the government, numerous repairs to plant and school equipment and installed many conveniences throughout the school. [MCI-007253]
- In 1947 a Doctor recommended that the basement classroom be moved upstairs, as it was detrimental to the health of the children to be confined to the basement classroom. The girls' recreation room on the second floor was to be switched with the classroom. [MCI-005383, MCI-005383a, MCI-005384]
- In December 1955, an appeal was made to the government regarding the need for increased accommodation by means of extra classroom blocks at McIntosh IRS. [MCI-004096] A survey assessing the educational needs in the area was to be conducted early in the new year. [MCI-004097][See also MCI-001854, MCI-001858]
- Construction began in 1958 on a six classroom Indian day school at McIntosh IRS. [MCI-001911, MCI-001911a, MCI-001923, MCI-001925, MCI-001940a] The new classroom block and teachers' quarters would allow for the current five classrooms operating in the building to be used for additional dormitory accommodation as well as additional living facilities for the operating staff. The new classroom block would include living facilities for the teaching staff which would release accommodation in the old building for the use of the operating staff. [MCI-001922] Also in 1958, the government arranged for the re-construction of the sewage disposal system at the school. [MCI-002052a]
- The new classroom block (Indian Day School) at McIntosh IRS officially opened on November 11, 1959. [MCI-002190, MCI-004180] That same year, the government awarded a contract for a new water supply system at McIntosh IRS [MCI-005884, MCI-005890, MCI-005912] Significant problems were found with the work later in the year. [MCI-005960, MCI-005976]
- In August 1961, two 3 bedroom staff units were completed. [MCI-001677, MCI-006083, MCI-006103, MCI-006115, MCI-006180] In 1961 the government also constructed a new Canyon River Bridge at the entrance to the school grounds. [MCI-006064]
- Phase I alterations and additions provided a new heating system, laundry and kitchen improvements in 1962. [MCI-006412]

- A contract for Phase II alterations and additions was undertaken in 1964 for addition to each end of the building for wash, study and cloak rooms for boys and girls and accommodation for dormitory supervisors, including emergency escape stairs and renovation of heating, plumbing and electrical facilities. [MCI-006368a-e]
- Construction of a new addition was delayed in 1965 by relocation of hydro lines away from girls' washroom wing. [MCI-006352, MCI-006354] A fire in March 1965 completely destroyed the main residence. [See especially MCI-006374, MCI-006376a, MCI-006379, MCI-006385, MCI-006385a, MCI-006386, MCI-04409] The government did not recommend rebuilding due to the isolated location of the school (poor communications and transportation, lack of fresh food, forest fire and water safety hazards, etc.). [MCI-006379, MCI-004411a] In November 1965, a contract was signed for alterations to the six classroom block. [MCI-006521, MCI-006521a-e]
- In 1966, the contract for alterations to six classroom block was extended [MCI-006541, MCI-006542, MCI-006544, MCI-006544a-b, MCI-006554] and changes to the contract were carried out at the request of a school staff member. [MCI-006553, MCI-006554, MCI-006558, MCI-006558a]
- In 1967, a Fire Protection Engineering Survey described the school properties as comprising a six-classroom day school converted to a residence area, a residence for personnel, and six former farm buildings. About 60 residents were housed at the school with up to 20 day pupils. One classroom was converted to a girls' dormitory and 32 boys were living in the basement manual training area used as a dormitory. [MCI-001366a. See also MCI-001368]
- Upon closure of McIntosh IRS in June 1969, a portion of the school site was proposed for the Dryden Board of Education. It was recommended that the property and buildings (with the exception of parcels of land leased to 3 other parties) be transferred to the Board, by lease. [MCI-001396. See also MCI-001395, MCI-004423 and MCI-001394] (No documents indicate that the Board's plans ever came to fruition nor that the lease was granted.)
- The Widjiitiwin Corporation also expressed interest in using the school buildings as a home for the aged. [MCI-004043] (No documents indicate that Widjiitiwin's plans ever came to fruition. By 1978 the firm was out of business. [MCI-006611] Their lease was cancelled by the government in 1979. [MCI-006613])
- It was recommended that the entire McIntosh school property where the school and auxiliary buildings were located (Lots 1 to 6 and road allowance and the parcel known as PP115) be listed as surplus in 1978. [MCI-006611. See also MCI-006610a]
- In September 1979 the government cancelled any disposal process of excess property at the former McIntosh IRS. [MCI-006614] The residence was closed that same year (water lines drained, windows boarded up and property posted) [MCI-006615] and caretaker service was withdrawn. [MCI-006616]

#### LAND

- McIntosh IRS was located 3 miles more or less north of the Station of McIntosh, Ontario, on the C.N.R. (G.T.P.) Line [MCI-000001, MCI-000003] and 168 miles east of Winnipeg. [MCI-000033, MCI-000071].
- Prior to survey of the school site in 1924, the area was described as Concession L.K. 175, a regular quarter Section (160 acres) and Concession L.K. 174 of similar size. [MCI-000001, MCI-000003]

- The Department of Public Works, Land Record Form, McIntosh IRS, described the property as follows: PP 115 191 acres adjoining Forest & Canyon Lakes and S½ Lot 12, Con 6, Township of Smellie, 325.35 acres in total. [MCI-000035, MCI-000064b, MCI-000252b, MCI-000505] Location PP 115 was surveyed in 1924. [MCI-000064, MCI-000064a, MCI-000064b, MCI-000252b]
- The land on which the McIntosh IRS was built was owned by the Ontario government until it was purchased by the federal government in 1924. [MCI-000010, MCI-000035, MCI-000078, MCI-000081, MCI-000092, MCI-000093, MCI-000110, MCI-000110a, MCI-000564a, MCI-001390].
- Documents indicate that a family had previously squatted on this land. In January 1924, a member of the family consented to release any claim to this property upon payment. [MCI-000001, MCI-000002, MCI-000004, MCI-000010]
- October 1924 Ontario Order in Council transferred 325.35 acres (Location PP 115 & South ½ of Lot 12, Con 6, Smellie Township) to the government. The Ontario government reserved road allowance along Canyon and Forest Lake shore lines, along with waters of Canyon and Forest Lake. [MCI-006576a]
- The Ontario government and the federal government agreed on terms for development of water power between Canyon and Forest Lakes early in 1930, after flooding by reason of the dam constructed for the school. [MCI-006799, MCI-006802, MCI-006803, MCI-006804, MCI-006805, MCI-006805a, MCI-006807, MCI-006812, MCI-006812a-d, MCI-006813, MCI-006814, MCI-006820] The government requested that school authorities remove timber from the flooded area, and clear up approximately 20 acres of flooded land each winter. All wood suitable for firewood would be used for domestic consumption at the school. [MCI-000606]
- The Ontario government issued License of Occupation (LO) 2237 to the federal government, giving right to overflow lands, effective May 1, 1930. LO 2237 covered about 399 acres of land adjacent to several lakes in Smellie Township, and in the unsurveyed township West of Smellie which have been flooded by reason of dam construction. [MCI-006822. See also MCI-006823, MCI-006824]
- In 1935 the Oblate Fathers wanted to acquire 400 ac. north of Location PP115 from the Ontario government for an industrial farm and "to provide protection to the Indian adults who find it necessary to regularly visit their children while at school, their homes being far distant from the school site". [MCI-007020] One 1964 sketch, for example, suggests the parcel north of the school could be owned by the Oblate Fathers. [MCI-006285c]
- In 1951 the Water Power Lease was renewed for a 10 year period. [MCI-001050a. See also MCI-007304]
- In May 1961 the federal government requested termination of the Water Power Lease with the Ontario government, as electrical wiring of the school was now complete. [MCI-006094a. See also MCI-006163]
- Later in 1961 the Ontario government proceeded with repair of the dam and the federal government confirmed that the penstock was no longer needed by the school. [MCI-006124, MCI-006125]
- In 1962 the Principal confirmed the Province could use the field across from the school for storage purposes during dam construction. The government authorized complete removal of the penstock. [MCI-006154, MCI-006154a-b, MCI-006158, MCI-006159]

- In 1964 Widjiitiwin Corporation (or wood co-op) proposed establishment of a temporary settlement on school property of about 24 moveable homes. The government recommended leasing the land for settlement to the corporation and granting a right of way across school property. The school principal authorized use of the school land for road purposes, as it was no longer used for pasture or gardening. [MCI-006272, MCI-006273, MCI-006276, MCI-006276a, MCI-006284, MCI-006284a-c, MCI-006285, MCI-006288, MCI-006290, MCI-006293, MCI-006293a, MCI-006294a, MCI-006304, MCI-006304a-e] (The Widjiitiwin Corporation was founded in 1961 by Oblate Fathers as a charitable organization under the Province of Ontario to provide employment for Indians and non-Indians. [MCI-004372. See also MCI-004372c, and MCI-004358a] A 1969 document comments that the Widjiitiwin Corporation had constructed 29 buildings (which included a store, carpenter shop, one hall and 26 houses) on McIntosh school lands. [MCI-001393e])
- As early as 1966 the Widjiitiwin Corporation requested a transfer of land. The school principal authorized use of the land, as it was no longer needed for educational purposes. [MCI-006589, MCI-006589a-u]
- The process of leasing land to Widjiitiwin slowed when other parties expressed an interest, but in 1968 the government proceeded with their plan to declare surplus the portion of land in which the Widjiitiwin Corporation had expressed an interest. [MCI-006585a]
- In 1968 the government received a request from two former employees at McIntosh IRS to lease the land on which their private residence was located [MCI-006577, MCI-006577a, MCI-006578, MCI-006579, MCI-006580; MCI-001389a], and a request from the Oblate Fathers to lease the land on which the church and missionary's residence were located. [MCI-006582, MCI-006582a]
- A 1969 document estimated the value of the land on which McIntosh IRS was located. [MCI-004423] A portion of the school site was proposed for the Dryden Board of Education. [MCI-001396] (No documents indicate that a lease was ever granted to the Board.)
- In 1970 the land on which Church and cemetery were located (Lots 4 and 5 of Location PP115) was leased by the government to the Oblate Fathers, for 20 years. [MCI-001393c-d, MCI-006609, MCI-006608, MCI-006610a] Lot 3, Location PP115, was leased to a former employee at McIntosh, for 20 years. [MCI-004039a, MCI-001393f, MCI-001394, MCI-006610a, MCI-006611] 30 acres (M517) of Location PP115 were leased by the government to the Widjiitiwin Corporation for 20 years. [MCI-006613a, MCI-001394, MCI-006610a, MCI-006611]
- In 1978 the Oblates reportedly attempted to dispose of a house located on Lot 5 of their lease but were unable to due to Clause 11 of the lease, which they contested on the grounds that the lease form used was applicable to Indian reserve only. [MCI-006609a, MCI-006611, MCI-006612]
- It was recommended that the entire McIntosh school property where the school and auxiliary buildings were located (Lots 1 to 6 and road allowance and the parcel known as PP115) be listed as surplus in 1978. [MCI-006611. See also MCI-006610a]
- The Widjiitiwin Corporation lease was cancelled in 1979. [MCI-006613] It was recommended that two former employees of the Corporation who were still residing on the property be issued a lease covering the portion of PP115 they occupied. [MCI-006611]

- In September 1979 the government cancelled any disposal process of excess property at the former McIntosh IRS. [MCI-006614] The residence was closed that same year (water lines drained, windows boarded up and property posted) [MCI-006615] and caretaker service was withdrawn. [MCI-006616]
- No documents were located indicating that the land on which McIntosh IRS was located was ever turned over to the Band.

#### **PHOTOS, PLANS and OTHER MEDIA**

MCI-006696a	9 May 1924	Photographs of proposed power site
MCI-006696c	9 May 1924	Map of Canyon River power site
MCI-007334	Jun 1924	Front elevation plan of McIntosh IRS
MCI-007334a	Jun 1924	Basement plan for McIntosh IRS
MCI-007334b	Jun 1924	Ground floor plan for McIntosh IRS
MCI-007334c	Jun 1924	First floor plan for McIntosh IRS
MCI-007334d	Jun 1924 McIntosh IRS	Second floor and side elevation plan for
MCI-006005	Sep 1924	Canyon River Dam Power Site plan showing location of school
MCI-006695d	11 Sep 1924	Part plan of McIntosh School showing proposed addition for pump house
MCI-006761a	1925	Diagram of proposed location of power plant
MCI-000252b	Undated	Plan of McIntosh IRS site
MCI-000252c	Jun 1927	Photographs of penstock and power house
MCI-000252d	Jun 1927 dam	Photographs of high water channel, school and dam
MCI-000266c	Sep 1927 dam site	Sketches of high water channel at proposed dam site
MCI-000424c	Undated McIntosh IRS	Sketch of Forest and Canyon Lakes and McIntosh IRS
MCI-000496a	Circa Apr 1929 McIntosh IRS	Map of Smellie Township and location of McIntosh IRS
MCI-006812d	12 Mar 1930	Map of areas affected by flooding
MCI-006813	27 Mar 1930	Plan showing flooded lands in township of Smellie
MCI-000688a	Circa Mar 1932	Plan of basement at McIntosh IRS - proposed additions and alterations
MCI-000688b	Circa Mar 1932	Plan of ground floor at McIntosh IRS - proposed extensions and alterations
MCI-000688c	Circa Mar 1932	Plan of first floor at McIntosh IRS - proposed

McIntosh IRS



## additions and alterations

MCI-000688d	Circa Mar 1932 additions and alterations	Plan of second floor at McIntosh IRS - proposed
MCI-007041a	29 May 1937	Photographs of dam at McIntosh IRS
MCI-007041b	11 Jun 1937	Plan of Canyon River Power Development
MCI-005159	2 Jul 1941	CNR survey plan for township of Smellie and unsurveyed territory
MCI-007122a	Circa Jul 1941	Photographs of penstock at McIntosh IRS
MCI-007150b	00 Sep 1927	Plan of proposed dam on high water channel
MCI-007150c	00 Dec 1941	Sketch plan of high water channel
MCI-005375a	00 Jul 1947	Sketch plan of proposed route from McIntosh IRS to McIntosh Station
MCI-005438a IRS	Circa Jul 1948	Sketch of proposed school road at McIntosh
MCI-007297a	21 Sep 1948	Photographs of exterior McIntosh IRS and plans of dam
MCI-005602b	00 Aug 1949	Photographs of road at McIntosh IRS
MCI-007331	Feb 1957	Plan of 6 classroom Indian day school with teachers quarters at McIntosh IRS
MCI-007331a	Feb 1957	Floor plan of domestic science room for 6 classroom Indian day school at McIntosh IRS
MCI-007331b	Feb 1957	Plan of 6 classroom Indian days school with teachers quarters at McIntosh IRS
MCI-007331c	Feb 1957	Plan of woodworking shop and furnishings at 6 classroom Indian days school at McIntosh IRS
MCI-005814b	25 Jun 1957	Sketch of access road from McIntosh IRS to Trans Canada Highway
MCI-006003	Jul 1958	Plan of new water supply system at McIntosh IRS, showing new 6 classroom school
MCI-006003a	Dec 1958	Plan of pump house for new water supply system at McIntosh IRS
MCI-001657b	23 Jul 1959	Map of government land, areas under License of Occupation
MCI-007332	Oct 1959	Proposed alterations and additions to basement of existing McIntosh IRS
MCI-007332a	Oct 1959	Proposed alterations and additions to first floor of existing McIntosh IRS
MCI-007332b	Oct 1959	Proposed alterations and additions to second

McIntosh IRS

		floor of existing McIntosh IRS
MCI-007332c	Oct 1959	Proposed alterations and additions to third floor of existing McIntosh IRS
MCI-006001	Dec 6, 1960	Plan of new Canyon River Bridge at McIntosh IRS
MCI-006001a	Dec 6, 1960	Plan of new Canyon River Bridge at McIntosh IRS, with site plan
MCI-006000	Mar 16, 1961	Plan of partial removal and replacement of Canyon River Dam at McIntosh IRS
MCI-004386	00 Apr 1962	Blueprints regarding alterations and additions to McIntosh IRS
MCI-004387	00 May 1962	Blueprints regarding alterations and additions to McIntosh IRS
MCI-006284b	22 May 1964	Map of proposed new road and homes on school land
MCI-006285c	Undated	Map with sketch of proposed new road and homes on school land
MCI-006293a	Circa Jun 1964	Map with sketch of government land area for temporary settlement
MCI-004361a	Circa Jul 1964	Map showing proposed road through McIntosh IRS land
MCI-004361b	Circa Jul 1964	Map of Widjiitiwin Corporation's location, operations and area proposed for settlement
MCI-004412b	Circa Apr 1965	Diagram for temporary accommodation for McIntosh IRS students
MCI-004413a	Circa May 1965	Photos of McIntosh IRS fire
MCI-007335	Jun 1965	Proposed alterations to 6 classroom school at McIntosh IRS to accommodate 50 live-in pupils
MCI-006577a	27 Mar 1968	Plan and Field notes of survey of Lots 1 and 2 and road

#### **GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME**

- 1926 Average attendance: 68; authorized enrolment: 78
- 1927 Average attendance: 38; authorized enrolment: 50
- 1928 Attendance: 100-125
- 1930 Attendance: 81
- 1931 Authorized enrolment: 65
- 1935 Authorized enrolment increased to 80
- 1936 Authorized enrolment increased to 105
- 1937 Authorized enrolment increased to 110
- 1938 Average attendance: 93
- 1940 Attendance: 95-140
- 1943 Attendance: 83
- 1944 Enrolment allowance: 105
- 1945 Enrolment allowance: 102-113

- 1946 Enrolment allowance: 90-106
- 1947 Enrolment allowance: 65 to 104
- 1948 Enrolment allowance: 86-117
- 1949 Enrolment allowance: 106-124
- 1950 Enrolment allowance: 122-130
- 1951 Enrolment allowance: 128-149; Authorized enrolment increased to 125; 158 in attendance
- 1952 Enrolment allowance: 119-160
- 1953 Average attendance 150; Enrolment allowance: 122-146
- 1954 Enrolment allowance: 144-147; attendance: 148
- 1954 By October overflow of pupils had to be sent to Kenora;
- Average attendance 142
- 1955 Enrolment allowance: 148-168; Average attendance 149
- 1956 Enrolment allowance: 162 -172; attendance: 174
- 1957 Enrolment allowance: 159-172; attendance: 180
- 1958 Attendance: 167-194
- 1959 Authorized enrolment increased to 160; Quarterly Returns: 161-163; Authorized enrolment Increased to 170; Quarterly Returns: 168-172
- 1960 Attendance: 175
- 1961 Attendance: 167-187; Classroom attendance at 195
- 1962 Attendance: 168-173; 178 in residence and 182 in classrooms
- 1963 Authorized enrolment decreased to 169; Quarterly Returns: 162-169; Principal's Monthly Reports: 170 IRS, 12 non-Indian
- 1964 Authorized enrolment increased to 189; attendance: 193 IRS (Indian Residential School), 25 IDS (Indian Day School)
- 1965 189 in residence at time of March 19 fire; September: 57 IRS and 19 IDS
- 1966 Attendance: 62-64
- 1967 Authorized enrolment decreased to 64; attendance: 62 IRS, 19 IDS, 2 non-Indian
- 1968 Attendance: 55 or 59 IRS, 1 or 5 IDS

#### **RELIGIOUS GROUPS**

- McIntosh IRS was managed by the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate [O.M.I.] from 1925-1969. [MCI-000080, MCI-000147, MCI-000856]
- In January 1925, shortly before the McIntosh IRS building was completed, it was reported that the "sisters" would soon arrive at the school. [MCI-000129][See also MCI-000148] During the school's history, the Oblate Sisters were employed at both the residence [MCI-002065b] and as teaching staff at the school. [MCI-006250a] [For other examples, please see MCI-004080, MCI-004080a-b, MCI-004081, MCI-001496, MCI-001496a, MCI-001229, MCI-006540d, MCI-001391a]

#### **WRITTEN AGREEMENTS**

- In September 1962 Indianescom (Oblate Indian and Eskimo Council) and the government signed an Operation Agreement. [MCI-006196a]

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

##### Incidents (Sexual)

No information found

##### Incidents (Physical)

No information found

##### Incidents (Student on Student)

No information found

#### **CONVICTIONS**

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

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- A 1949 water analysis report showed contradictory results on two separate occasions. The school was warned to take precautions against possible contamination of water. [MCI-005591, MCI-005591a, MCI-005597, MCI-005597a, MCI-005597b, MCI-005598] A June 1949 National Health and Welfare Bacteriological Report suggested possible contamination of the drinking water supply. [MCI-007299, MCI-007299a-b]
- In 1957 the government asked that five high school age students be transferred to Kenora [MCI-004099] in order that McIntosh would be left with students from grades 1-8 [MCI-004102]. However, the students remained at the school, for the reason given "...that they refused to leave..." [MCI-004101] and the concern that the students were not ready for high school work. [MCI-004104] The Principal told the government that he had been given authority from his Church Order to establish the grades. [MCI-004103] The government continued to insist that consolidation of high school grades should be at Kenora IRS. [MCI-004104, MCI-004107, MCI-004107a, MCI-001977, MCI-004110]. By September 1958, high school pupils had been transferred from McIntosh IRS. [MCI-002034a, MCI-002065a]
- A June 1960 bacteriological report by the Department of National Health and Welfare revealed that water samples taken from several locations were contaminated. [MCI-001674d]
- In 1963 a staff member at McIntosh IRS expressed dissatisfaction with work done to repair the heating system. [MCI-000949] In January, the Ontario government condemned the water heaters. [MCI-000959a] An explosion occurred in the boiler in April. [MCI-006686] In November teachers and residents complained about cold temperature of the school block. [MCI-006685, MCI-006686]
- When fire destroyed the main residence in 1965, children were disbursed to Cecilia Jeffrey IRS, St. Mary's (Kenora) IRS or Fort Frances IRS, while grades 6 to 8 children stayed at McIntosh IRS and slept in the new classrooms. [MCI-006378, MCI-006379, MCI-006375, MCI-000776, MCI-000776a, MCI-000777] Some children had to be sent home. [MCI-004120, MCI-004121]
- In October 1964 a severe outbreak of intestinal infection reportedly occurred. [MCI-001381a. See MCI-001381b and MCI-001381c, which indicate that the situation was identical throughout 1967]

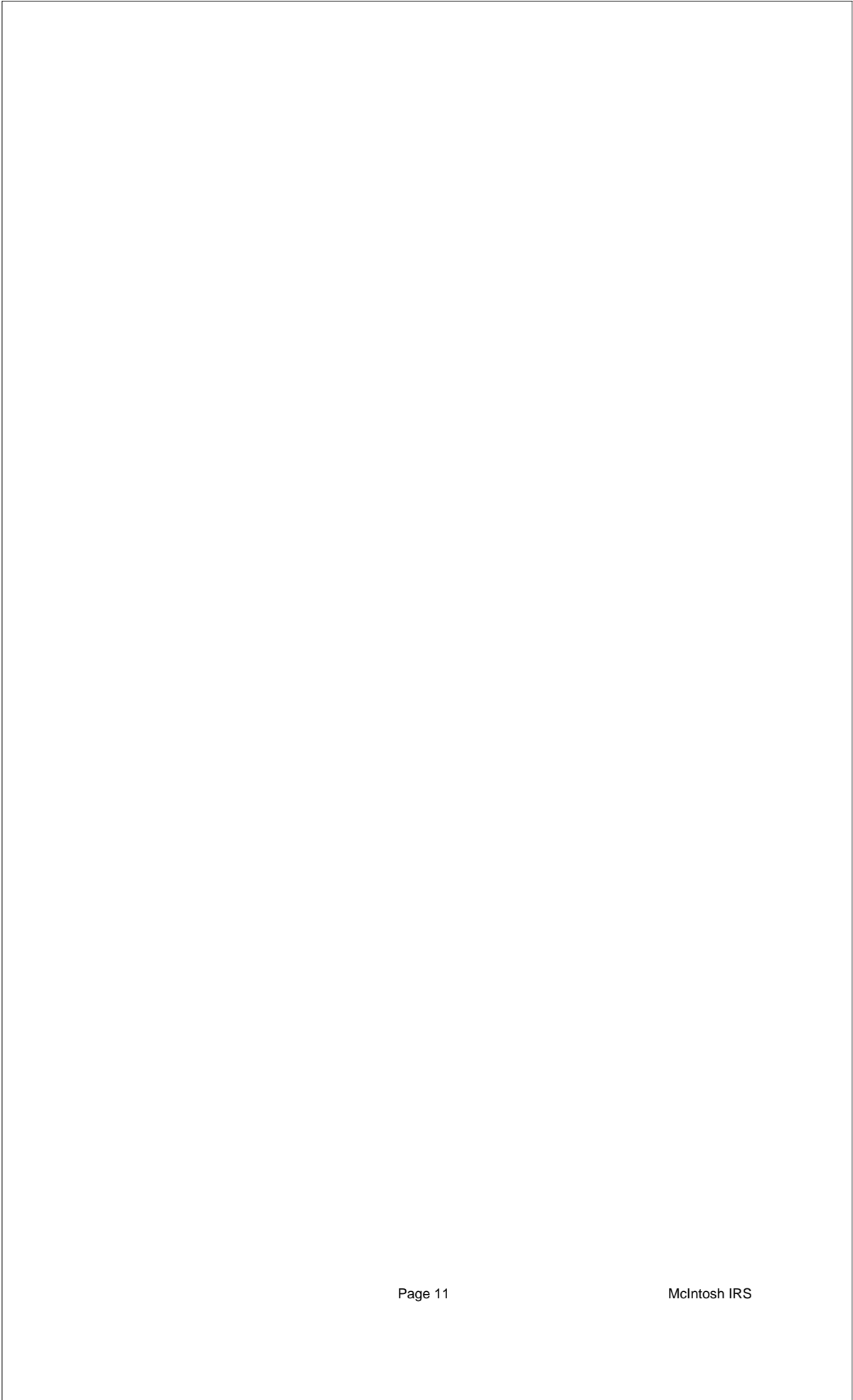
#### **PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

- Reverend Father J.B. Boyer, O.M.I. - Principal - 1924 to 1925  
(During construction phase)
- Reverend Father C. Perreault, O.M.I. - Principal - 1925 to 1946
- Reverend Father C.E. Comeau, O.M.I. - Principal - 1946 to 1949
- Reverend Father J. Brachet, O.M.I. - Principal - 1949 to 1953
- Reverend Father J. Lemire, O.M.I. - Principal - 1953 to 1969

- Father A. Lacelle, O.M.I. - Acting Principal May 1964

Research completed: Sept. 28, 2004

Research updated: Sept. 28, 2004



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