

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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**MISTASSINI HOSTELS
IAP School Narrative**

NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)

Mistassini Hostels (September 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978)

OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)

1976 Mistassini Group Homes [LTR-000623-0001]

LOCATION

Mistassini, Baie-du-Poste, was located at the south end of Mistassini Lake, in the Province of Quebec. The hostel site was located on property currently surrounded by the following streets: Amanda Street, Amisk Street, Pine Street, and Sunset Street [MHQ-000086-0001; MHQ-000026-0001; MHQ-000033; MHQ-000056; MHQ-000128-0006; MHQ-000145; MHQ-000146].

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, 1971 to June 30, 1978

OPERATING DATES CONTEXT

The three Mistassini Hostels began operating in the fall of 1971 [LTR-000500]. Each hostel accommodated up to 12 elementary level residents and was operated by an Aboriginal couple who received a monthly per capita amount from the federal government to cover food, clothing, and allowances [LTR-000623-0001; HFG-000035-0006]. Effective December 1, 1976, responsibility for the administration of the monthly Hostel allowances was transferred to the Mistassini Band [MHQ-000121-0000; MHQ-000121-0001; MHQ-000119]. The Mistassini Band continued to administer the Hostel program in 1977/78 [MHQ-000124-0000; MHQ-000124-0001; MHQ-000124-0002]. On July 1, 1978, the Cree School Board assumed full responsibility for all education programs in the James Bay area, including the operation and maintenance of student hostels and residences, as part of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement [HFG-000025, pg. 3, 5-6; NCA-000895; NCA-001490-0000; MHQ-000123-0001; MHQ-000123-0002].

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

The Mistassini Hostels were non-denominational.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
Fall 1971	The three Mistassini Hostels began operating in the fall of 1971, and were occupied by residents on October 5. The hostels accommodated up to 36 elementary level residents, 12 per hostel, from the Mistassini Reserve. Hostel accommodation enabled students to attend the Mistassini Day School while their parents were trapping.	LTR-000500 LTR-001566 MHQ-000073 MHQ-000079-0001 MHQ-000025-0002
1971 to 1972	The Principal of the Mistassini Day School and an officer of Community Affairs were responsible for providing supervision and training to the three Aboriginal couples who operated the Hostels.	MHQ-000062
September 1976	The federal government provided the Hostel guardians \$150.00 per student each month for amenities such as food and clothing. A federal government form outlining the Mistassini Hostels operation indicated that in "most cases", the funds were transferred to the Mistassini Band Council, which selected the couples who operated the Hostels and provided their allowances.	LTR-000623-0000 LTR-000623-0001 HFG-000035-0006
November and December, 1976	<p>A Band Council Resolution indicated that responsibility for the administration of the monthly Hostel allowances was to be transferred to the Mistassini Band on November 1, 1976. A federal Assistant District Supervisor recommended that the transfer begin a month later. The precise date of transfer was not found.</p> <p>The Mistassini Band agreed to provide the federal government with a monthly summary of costs and lists of residents approved by the Mistassini Band Manager and the local liaison officer.</p>	MHQ-000121-0000 MHQ-000121-0001 MHQ-000119
September 1, 1977 to March 31, 1978	<p>The Mistassini Band Council continued to administer the Hostel program, and to submit to the federal government a monthly summary of costs and a list of residents approved by the Mistassini Band Manager.</p> <p>Hostel guardians were selected by the Mistassini Band.</p>	MHQ-000124-0000 MHQ-000124-0002 LTR-000622-0002 LTR-000622-0003
July 1, 1978	The Cree School Board assumed full responsibility for all education programs in the James Bay area, including the operation and maintenance of student hostels and residences, as part of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.	MHQ-000123-0000 MHQ-000123-0001 MHQ-000123-0002 HFG-000025, pg. 3, 5- 6; NCA-000895 NCA-001490-0000

EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

Grades Taught at the Indian Residential School

Not applicable. The Mistassini Hostels were residences only, and residents received classroom instruction at the Mistassini Indian Day School.

Other Schools Attended by Residents

School Years	Name of School	Location	Administration	Grades	Document
1971 to 1973	Mistassini Indian Day School, also known as Mistassini Lake Indian School	Mistassini Lake, Mistassini Reserve	Federal government	Elementary [Pre-K to Grade 6]	MHQ-000025-0000 FGA-001679-0013 MHQ-000088-0001, pg. 2 MHQ-000098-0001

A June 1972 report indicated that classrooms at the Mistassini Indian Day School were organized according to age rather than grade. There were two kindergarten classes and classes for children ages 6 to 11 at the Day School [MHQ-000088-0001].

No further information was found from 1974 to 1978.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1971/72	36	Not applicable	MHQ-000075
1972/73	36	Not applicable	MHQ-00098-0001
1973/74	36	Not applicable	MHQ-000108, pg. 5
1974/75	36	Not applicable	MHQ-000105 MHQ-000108, pg. 5
1975/76	36	Not applicable	MHQ-000114-0001 MHQ-000116-0001
1976/77	36	Not applicable	MHQ-000118
1977/78	34	Not applicable	LTR-000622-0002

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

No information found. Please see the Additional Information section for extra-curricular activities held at the Mistassini Indian Day School attended by residents.

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
1971	Construction of the three 12 bed cottage style dormitories or Hostels in Mistassini commenced in early 1971. The site of the Hostels ensured that residents would be situated closer to educational and recreational facilities and further away from staff accommodation than had been originally planned.	MHQ-000029-0000 MHQ-000029-0001 MHQ-000033 MHQ-000035 MHQ-000037 MHQ-000040-0000 MHQ-000040-0001 MHQ-000055 MHQ-000056 MHQ-000057

		MHQ-000071 MHQ-000128-0006
October 1971	<p>The three hostels were completed and occupied.</p> <p>On one side of the hostel building were two bedrooms - one for male residents and one for female residents. Across the hall from each bedroom was a bathroom and linen closet. The boys' linen closet contained an access door to the roof space, and the girls' linen closet contained an access door to the crawl space.</p> <p>Down the hall from the bedrooms and on the other side of the hostel building was a living room, a coat closet, bookshelves, a dining room, kitchen and utility room. A door from the living room led to staff quarters, which consisted of a living room, bedroom, bathroom and closet.</p>	MHQ-000073 MHQ-000079-0001 MHQ-000075 LTR-000500 MHQ-000126-0001 MHQ-000128-0001 MHQ-000127

PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
August 1968	Foundation plan for a 12 bed cottage dormitory.	MHQ-000126-0000
August 1968	First floor plan for a 12 bed cottage dormitory, depicting quarters for girls and boys, bathrooms, dining room, living room, kitchen, and another separate living room and bedroom.	MHQ-000126-0001
August 1968	Left, right, front, and rear elevation plans for a 12 bed cottage dormitory.	MHQ-000126-0002
August 1968	Left, right, front, and rear elevation plans for a 12 bed cottage dormitory.	MHQ-000126-0003
August 1968	Dormitory fitting details for a 12 bed cottage dormitory, depicting bunk beds, closets, study elevation, and drawers.	MHQ-000126-0004
September 1969	Diagram depicting federal government accommodation on the Mistassini reserve, including three 12 bed cottage dormitories, unit motels, and a 3 bedroom unit for a "Residence Counselor."	MHQ-000016-0001
May 1970	Site plan indicating a suggested change of location for the planned hostels.	MHQ-000029-0000 MHQ-000029-0001
May 1970	Electrical plan and details for a 12 bed cottage dormitory.	MHQ-000127
September 1970	Site plan for the three cottage dormitories at Mistassini.	MHQ-000043-0013
November 1970	Foundation plan for a 12 bed cottage	MHQ-000128-0000

	dormitory.	
November 1970	First floor plan for a 12 bed cottage dormitory, depicting quarters for girls and boys, bathrooms, dining room, living room, kitchen, and another living room, bedroom, and bathroom.	MHQ-000128-0001
November 1970	Left, right, front, and rear elevation plans for a 12 bed cottage dormitory.	MHQ-000128-0002
November 1970	Dormitory fitting details for a 12 bed cottage dormitory at Mistassini, depicting bunk beds, closets, study elevation, and drawers.	MHQ-000128-0003
November 1970	Plumbing, heating, ventilating and floor and foundation plans for a 12 bed cottage dormitory.	MHQ-000128-0004
November 1970	Electrical plan and details for a 12 Bed cottage dormitory.	MHQ-000128-0005
November 1970	Community plan associated with school construction projects in Mistassini; depicts the site of the three 12 bed cottage dormitories, as well as one 2 bedroom unit motel and four 2 bedroom unit motels and day school.	MHQ-000128-0006
September 1973	Site plan of Mistassini Reserve depicting the day school and student hostels.	MHQ-000100-0002

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the Mistassini Hostels or of any convicted abusers present at the Hostels.

Incidents (Sexual)

No information found

Incidents (Physical)

No information found

Incidents (Student on Student)

No information found

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1970 Seven diagrams of the Mistassini Day School were attached to diagrams and correspondence concerning the hostels. Some of these diagrams depict the Day School location relative to the hostels, across the Streets then named "G" and "J". [MHQ-000043-0006; MHQ-000043-0007; MHQ-000043-0008; MHQ-000043-0009; MHQ-000043-0010; MHQ-000043-0011; MHQ-000043-0012]

- December 1971 The Mistassini School Committee was newly formed with two members. A School Committee form indicated that the committee was responsible for “la bonne marche des Hostels”, or ensuring the smooth operation of the Hostels [MHQ-000081].
- 1970 to 1972 Extra-curricular activities offered at the Mistassini Indian Day School attended by hostel residents included a winter carnival, volleyball games between teachers, parents, and students three times per week, variety shows, and “outdoor school” during ice break-up that lasted approximately two weeks [MHQ-000088-0001].
- 1975 to 1976 The responsibilities of the two Mistassini Band-employed Liaison Officers included monthly visits and the placement of residents in the Hostels [MHQ-000110-0000; MHQ-000110-0001; MHQ-000111-0001].
- 1978 to 1979 On July 5, 1978, the federal government agreed to the temporary transfer of the Mistassini Hostel buildings to the Cree School Board for purposes of alteration by the Board until the final transfer of the buildings could be legally enacted.
- In an unsigned agreement dated May 1979, the federal government planned to transfer the Hostel buildings to the Cree School Board retroactive to 1978 as part of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement [HFG-000025, pg. 3, 5-6; FGA-001582; NCA-001490-0000; NCA-001490-0001, pg. 1, 4-5; NCA-001490-0002; NCA-001490-0003; NCA-001490-0004].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

There was no Principal or Administrator position at the Mistassini Hostels. Hostel parents or guardians operated the hostels and supervised residents. No further information was found from 1971 to 1975 and 1978.

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Johnny Huskey and Charlotte Huskey (Husky)	Hostel guardians – hostel #1	1976 to 1977
Mr. and Mrs. Louis (Louie) Whiskeychan	Hostel guardians – hostel #2	1976 to 1977
Philpi (Philippe) Charlot Shecapio (Shicapio) and Minnie Shecapio	Hostel guardians – hostel #3	1976 to 1977

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



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