

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.

Last updated August 22, 2012

**Muscowequan Indian Residential School  
IAP School Narrative**

**NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)**

Muscowequan (Lestock, Touchwood)

**OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)**

1896	Touchwood Hills School [MDD-000853]
1910 to 1963	Mission School [MDD-000560, pg.11; MDD-013036-0000]
1910 to 1941	Muscowequan (Indian) Boarding School [MDD-006024, pg.22; MDD-001729-0000]
1923 to 1968	Muscowequan Indian Residential School [MDD-000916; MDD-000999]
1937 to 1969	Lestock Indian (Residential) School [MDD-006224; MDD-009943-0000]
1968 to 1988	Muscowequan Student Residence [MDD-004590; MDD-007187-0006; PAR-003383-0003]
1982 to 1997	Muskowekwan Education Centre (M.E.C.) [MDD-000911; MDD-007113-0001; MDD-004136]

**LOCATION**

From 1889 to 1895, the IRS buildings were located on the Muskowekwan Reserve [MDD-006761-0001]. In 1895, the IRS was moved off the reserve to Church-owned land located three miles west of Lestock, Saskatchewan; legal description North West quarter of Section 14, Township 27, Range 15, west of second Meridian [MDD-000749; MDD-006012, pg. 9; MDD-000729; MDD-000968].

**PROVINCE/TERRITORY**

Saskatchewan

**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.

1889 to June 30, 1997

**OPERATING DATES CONTEXT**

The Muscowequan IRS opened with federal government support in 1889 [MDD-000560; MDD-006003, pg. 3-4; MDD-006004 pg. 14]. By the 1968/69 school year, the institution was referred to as the Muscowequan Student Residence [MDD-000292-0002]. In 1982, control of the IRS was transferred to the Board of Directors of Muskowekwan Education Centre (M.E.C.) Inc [MDD-000888-0000; MDD-000889; MDD-000890; MDD-000644-0001; MDD-000895-0000, pg. 4]. The IRS closed June 30, 1997 [MDD-001136; MDD-007309-0004].

## RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Roman Catholic Church

- 1897 to 1969 Oblates of Mary Immaculate and later the Oblate Indian and Eskimo Commission (INDIANESCOM) [MDD-000560, pg. 11-12; MDD-002749, pg. 1, 3; MDD-000606-0001; MDD-000895-0000, pg. 4]
- 1897 to 1932 Grey Nuns [MDD-000560, pg. 13]
- 1932 to 1977 Oblate Sisters [MDD-000560, pg. 13; MDD-008873]

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
1889	The IRS opened with federal government support.	MDD-000560 MDD-006003, pg. 3-4 MDD-006004, pg. 14
1895 to 1896	A new stone IRS building with accommodation for forty pupils was built on Church-owned land adjacent to the Reserve.	MDD-000560, pg. 7, 13 MDD-000748-0000 MDD-006010, pg. 3-4
1897	The Oblate Fathers assumed the administration of the IRS. The Grey Nuns provided teaching and domestic assistance.	MDD-000560, pg. 11-13 MDD-000895-0000, pg. 3
1910	A three-storey annex was added to the main building of the IRS.	MDD-000560, pg. 13 MDD-006024, pg. 22
March 1924	The Oblates sold the IRS and one section of land to the federal government. The land consisted of 640 acres and included buildings, chattels, and livestock.	MDD-000952 MDD-000953 MDD-006038, pg. 6
1930 to 1931	The new three-storey brick Muscowequan IRS was built and was occupied early in 1931.	MDD-000669 MDD-000673
1932	The Grey Nuns were replaced by the Oblate Sisters at the IRS.	MDD-000560
1939	In September, the IRS was closed for a month due to an outbreak of typhoid fever. Provincial medical authorities established that the outbreak was caused by the drinking of ice water taken from a slough.	MDD-000698 MDD-006086
1957 to 1958	The IRS was closed from Christmas 1957 to September 1958 due to insufficient water supply. Four children were resident from January to March 1958, and five were resident for the June 1958 quarter.	MDD-006740 MDD-006741 MDD-006744 MDD-006517-0001 MDD-001492 MDD-001493
1960	The farming operation at the IRS ceased.	MDD-006519-0000 MDD-006519-0001 MDD-006519-0007
1962	Teaching nuns were being transferred out of the IRS, and replaced by lay staff.	MDD-006169
September 25, 1962	The federal government and INDIANESCOM (the Oblate Indian and Eskimo Council) signed an agreement for the operation of the Muscowequan IRS.	MDD-000606-0001
February 25, 1965	The federal government sold a section of surplus IRS land to the Muskowekwan Band. Documents do not specify what this land was previously used for.	MDD-006395-0000 MDD-006395-0001
September	By the 1968/69 school year, the IRS was referred to as the	MDD-000292-0002

1968	Muscowequan Student Residence.	
1969	The federal government took over management of the Muscowequan IRS.	MDD-000895-0000, pg. 4 MDD-000771, pg. 4 NCA-001687-0000
December 23, 1970	A priest from the Oblate Fathers signed an agreement with the federal government to provide chaplaincy services to students and staff at the Muscowequan IRS from December 1970 to August 1971.	MDD-000879-0001 MDD-000879-0002
1973	A Board of Directors, made up of members from seven local Bands, formed to act in an advisory capacity and the federal government began to delegate administrative responsibilities to this Board and provide funding for it.  Please note that this Board was incorporated in 1981 as Muskowekwan Education Centre Inc. It managed the IRS from 1982 to 1997.	MFC-000001-0004 MFC-000001-0005 MFC-000001-0006 MFC-000006-0000 to 0008 MFC-000015-0000 MFC-000015-0001 MFC-000017-0000 MFC-000023 MDD-000888-0000 MDD-000889 MDD-000890 MDD-000891 MDD-007107-0001
October 17, 1973	A priest from the Oblate Fathers signed an agreement with the federal government to provide chaplaincy services to students and staff at the Muscowequan IRS from September 1973 to August 1974.	MDD-006448-0001
October 29, 1976	The Archbishop of Regina signed an agreement with the federal government to provide chaplaincy services to students and staff at the Muscowequan IRS from September 1976 to August 1977.  Financial statements record payments for chaplaincy services until at least 1988.	MDD-000885-0002 MFC-000046, pg. 11 MFC-000048, pg. 11 MFC-000049, pg. 11 MFC-000240, pg. 16 MDD-006524-0001, pg. 12
1981	The Muskowekwan Band claimed 28 acres of Crown land, on which the IRS was situated, as part of its unfulfilled land entitlement.	MDD-000895-0000, pg. 4 MDD-000642 MDD-003994-0002
January 1982	The Muskowekwan Education Centre Inc. assumed responsibility for the operation of the IRS.	MDD-000911 MDD-000644-0001 MDD-000887-0000
June 30, 1997	The Muskowekwan IRS closed.	MDD-001136 MDD-007309-0001 MDD-007309-0004

## EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

### Grades taught at the Indian residential school

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1950/51 to 1953/54	1 to 8	MDD-005045, pg. 9 MDD-000245, pg. 30-31 MDD-002296 MDD-002306
1954/55	Kindergarten, 1 to 8	MDD-002308
1955/56	1 to 8	MDD-002327
1956/57 to 1958/59	Kindergarten, 1 to 8	MDD-002337 MDD-002341 MDD-002350
1959/60 to 1962/63	1 to 8	MDD-002363 MDD-002373 MDD-002383 MDD-002393

1963/64 to 1965/66	Kindergarten/Beginners, 1 to 8	MDD-002403 MDD-002413 MDD-002423
1966/67	1 to 8	MDD-002433
1967/68	1 to 6	MDD-002445

**Other Schools Attended by Residents**

School Years	Name of School	Location	Administration	Grades	Document
1961	Lestock School	Lestock	Cupar School Unit	N/A	MDD-008399
1967	Lestock School (elementary and High School)	Lestock	The Board of School Trustees of the Cupar School Unit	N/A	MDD-008399
1967-1968	Lestock High School and Junior High School	Lestock	Provincial School	N/A 27 pupils attended Lestock High School, and an unspecified number attended Junior High School	MDD-002749, pg. 14 MDD-000999
1969	Not specified	Lestock	Provincial School	N/A	MDD-000895-0000, pg. 4
1969	Not specified	Not specified	Cupar School Unit	N/A	MDD-006629-0000 MDD-006636-0001

**GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME**

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1950/51	172		MDD-005045, pg. 9
1951/52	178		MDD-000245, pg. 30-31
1952/53	189		MDD-000249, pg. 30-31
1953/54	180		MDD-000254, pg. 26-27
1954/55	159		MDD-001481, pg. 2
1955/56	158		MDD-001482-0000, pg. 2
1956/57 to 1957/58	No information found		
1958/59	145		MDD-001451, pg. 1
1959/60	152		MDD-001498, pg. 1
1960/61	150		MDD-000260, pg. 1
1961/62	180		MDD-000264, pg. 1
1962/63	156		MDD-000271, pg. 1
1963/64	192		MDD-000273-0001, pg. 1
1964/65	196		MDD-000275, pg. 1
1965/66	178		MDD-000281-0001, pg. 1
1966/67	165		MDD-000288-0001, pg. 1
1967/68	166		MDD-000285, pg. 1
1968/69	163		MDD-000295-0001, pg. 1

1969/70	165		MDD-000296, pg. 1
1970/71	173		MDD-000301, pg. 1
1971/72	154		MDD-000305, pg. 1
1972/73	180		MDD-000306-0001, pg. 1
1973/74	163		MDD-000309-0001, pg. 1
1974/75	130		MDD-000311, pg. 1
1975/76	133		MDD-000313, pg. 1
1976/77	131		MDD-002279, pg. 1
1977/78 to 1978/79	No information found		
1979/80	120		MDD-000314, pg. 1
1980/81	118		MDD-007954, pg. 1

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1930	Students played football and baseball.	MDD-006489-0001
1945	Students participated in Cadet training.	MDD-000565-0000
1949	Requisitions were made for musical instruments.	MDD-006667-0000
1964	Students participated in the Touchwood 15 and Under Hockey League and Poorman's Quinton 15 and under hockey team.	MDD-008743 MDD-008750-0001
1969	The small boys' hockey team travelled to Weyburn to participate in a tournament. The girls travelled with childcare workers to a rodeo in Regina.  An all-Indian Track and Field Meet was held at then IRS and involved six other Indian Residential Schools.	MDD-000771, pg. 13, 15, 22
1971	There were several field trips to Yorkton, as well as boys going to Fort Qu'Appelle for fishing and swimming. Some girls also participated. Kindergarten and grade 1 pupils saw the Shriner's Circus in Regina. Boxing, Hockey, softball, and soccer were among the sports played at the IRS.	MDD-007348, pg. 19, 28-33
1975	Recreational activities at the IRS included track and field, cross country running, soccer leagues, volleyball, hockey, basketball, and unspecified field trips.	MDD-006396, pg. 1, 3
August 17, 1984	The Muskowekwan Education Centre Board of Directors passed a resolution calling for a comprehensive Sports and Recreation Program, and a Youth Development Program at the IRS.	MDD-007113-0004
1987	Hockey and ballet were among the student activities.	MDD-007157-0003, pg. 3
1988	The IRS participated in the Twin Teen Baseball League. Other activities included 4-H Clubs, and the Wind Up Dance. A recital was held at the Lestock High School Gym.	MDD-007180-0007
1990	Activities at the IRS included hockey, concert in Regina, a Square Dancing Club, and an Art Trip to North Battleford.	MDD-003505

**INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Document Reference</b>
1888 (1 year prior to becoming an IRS)	The ground floor of the building contained a kitchen and dining room, a boys' classroom and a lavatory. The attic contained dormitories for boys and girls and the teacher's room.	MDD-000560, pg. 4 MDD-006002, pg. 3 MDD-006003, pg. 3-4 MDD-006004, pg. 5, 14 MDD-006671-0000 MDD-006671-0001
1889	The Oblates constructed a stone church on the Muskowekwan Reserve next to the IRS.	MDD-000560, pg. 5, 12, 13
1892	An annex was added to the IRS to create more accommodation space.	MDD-006006 pg. 20
1895 to 1896	A new stone IRS with accommodation space for forty pupils was built on Church-owned land adjacent to the Reserve. The church built in 1889 was used as a chapel, classroom and dormitory for boys.	MDD-000560, pg. 13 MDD-000748-0000 MDD-006010
1910	The Catholic Church built a three-storey 42' x 52' annex to the main IRS building that included a large refectory in the basement, a kitchen, dairy room, the girls dormitory and playroom, chapel, classroom, infirmaries, clothes room, sewing room and Sisters' apartments. The former dormitory for girls became the boys' dormitory.	MDD-000560, pg. 13 MDD-006024, pg. 22
1912 to 1913	A large frame barn 116' x 36' which included a 20' x 25' x 8' root cellar, was built.	MDD-006027, pg. 11
March 1924	The Oblates sold the IRS and one section of land to the federal government. The land consisted of 640 acres and included buildings, chattels, and livestock.	MDD-000952 MDD-000953 MDD-006038, pg. 6
1926	The farming instructor's residence was moved closer to the main IRS building in order that it could be converted into a hospital.	MDD-006787 MDD-006788 MDD-006790-0000
1930 to 1931	A new three-storey brick IRS building was constructed and occupied in early 1931.  Three old buildings on the IRS grounds were to be demolished: a 30' x 50' stone building containing two stories and a basement, a 20' x 18' connecting building, and a 12' x 20' pantry / wood shed.	MDD-000669 MDD-000673  MDD-006062-0001 MDD-006212
July 1931	A gasoline fire destroyed the frame part of the old IRS building, laundry building and garage. The laundry building had contained the laundry, bakery, shoe shop, tool shed and ice house. The newly completed main IRS building was undamaged.	MDD-000858 MDD-006063-0001 MDD-006064 MDD-006065-0001 MDD-006213 MDD-006497
May 1948	The slaughterhouse on the IRS grounds burned down due to faulty stove pipes. A new slaughterhouse was built later in the year.	MDD-006126 MDD-006130-0000 MDD-006130-0001 MDD-006130-0002 MDD-006131-0001
1952	The federal government provided funds for the construction of a manual training shop.	MDD-006723
1955	Four classrooms were in operation at the IRS. The sewing room had been converted into a classroom, and grades 5 through 8 were in one classroom, and grades 1 and 2 were in another.	MDD-006142 MDD-006143
1957 to 1958	The IRS was closed from Christmas 1957 to September 1958 due to insufficient water supply.	MDD-006740 MDD-006741

	Four children were resident from January to March 1958, and five were resident for the June 1958 quarter.	MDD-006744 MDD-006517-0001 MDD-001492 MDD-001493
1965	A dining room addition and new staff residence was built.	SMD-000001-0000 pg. 91 MDD-006311-0000 MDD-006311-0001
1966	The five year forecast for renovations at the IRS included construction of a new eight room block and gymnasium (1966/67), four new staff residences (1966/67 to 1970/71), a staff dining room (1966/67), a new garage (1970/71), and the remodeling of four classrooms into additional dormitory space (1968/69).	MDD-006624 MDD-006431
1967	A dwelling referred to as "Residence No. 402" was transferred from the federal government to the Muskowekwan Band Council in October. No information was located concerning who had previously used this building.	MDD-000623 MDD-000637 MDD-006398-0002
1988	A June 1988 report details what rooms are on each floor of the main residence building. Basement: playroom, cafeteria, storage, mechanical rooms, kitchen, and laundry room. Ground floor: Administration space and one classroom. First and second floors had sleeping accommodation.	PAR-003383-0003
1992 to 1993	A total of nineteen graves were uncovered by a contractor at the IRS site during the installation of a new sewage system. A Project Brief asserted that some graves had been moved when the residence was built in the 1930's, and an Elder claimed that a priest had leveled remaining graves in 1944.	MDD-006177-0002
January 1993	A fire occurred in two dormitories occupied by Intermediate Girls. There were no injuries.	MDD-007244-0002
1993 to 1994	During the 1993/94 fiscal year, plans were made to relocate five staff residences located on the site of an unmarked graveyard, as well as to construct a temporary portable classroom.	MDD-006177-0002
February 1995	A fire in the main IRS building occurred on February 20; the fire was started by a group of girls who were igniting hair spray with a lighter.	MDD-007272-0002

### PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
Undated	Land survey of Muskowekwan Reserve No. 85 and adjacent Oblate land	MDD-000965
Undated	Blueprint of the IRS	MDD-000966
Undated	Lists of rooms and diagrams for the IRS building.	MDD-006180
Undated	Blueprint of the IRS right side and front plan.	MDD-007090-0000
Undated	Blueprint of the IRS basement plan.	MDD-007090-0001
December 1956	Blueprint of the IRS first floor plan.	MDD-007090-0002
December 1956	Blueprint of the IRS second floor plan.	MDD-007090-0003
Undated	Blueprint of the IRS.	MDD-007090-0004



Undated	Blueprint of the IRS main stairway.	MDD-007090-0005
Undated	Blueprint of the IRS section of double hung windows.	MDD-007090-0006
Undated	Blueprint of the IRS site plan.	MDD-007090-0007
Undated	Diagram of location of the IRS.	MDD-000739-0001
Undated	Diagram of land purchased by Oblate Fathers for IRS use.	MDD-000739-0002
1895	Blueprint of proposed IRS building.	MDD-000748-0001
1914	Blueprint of land surveyed at the Muskowekwan Reserve.	MDD-006761-0001
1925	Preliminary sketch for additions and alterations proposed at the IRS	MDD-006781-0001
1940	Blueprints, based on original building plans showing possible location of new windows in junior classroom	MDD-006090-0002
1948	Diagrams of carpenter shop, shoe shop, school shop and root house	MDD-006131-0001 MDD-006131-0002
June 1953	Sketch showing proposed addition	MDD-006729-0003
1963	Diagrams of dwellings and data on same	MDD-006163-0000 MDD-006163-0001 MDD-006163-0002 MDD-006163-0003 MDD-006163-0004
1968	Floor plan for staff residence	MDD-006309-0000 MDD-006309-0002
November 1991	Site plan of the proposed sewage system	MDD-007232-0007
December 1991	Proposed sewer system: collection system, alternate site	MDD-000895-0002
December 1991	Site sketch of unmarked graveyard	MDD-000895-0003
Undated	Proposed collection system: revised route	MDD-000895-0004
March 1992	Site plan indicating graveyard	MDD-000895-0005
October 1990	Identification of buildings at Muskowekwan Education Centre (M.E.C)	MDD-000895-0006
November 1991	Site plan: proposed area for relocation of residences	MDD-000895-0007
October 1990	Muskowekwan Education Centre Site plan	MDD-006177-0002, pg. 10-13
ca. 1993	Muskowekwan Education Centre Site plan	MDD-006177-0004
April 1993	Blueprint of basement, main, second and third floors, Muskowekwan Education Centre.	MDD-006181
October 1993	Diagram of Muskowekwan Education Centre.	MDD-004119
November 1994	Diagrams and corresponding room descriptions of Muskowekwan Education Centre.	MDD-003936

**DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS**

Last updated August 22, 2012

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

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

#### Incidents (Sexual)

1924 A girl complained that “improper proposals were made to her” by the Principal while she was working in his office at the school [MDD-000904-0001; MDD-000906].

1985 Muskowekwan Education Centre Board of Directors meeting notes addressed complaints by two former female students alleging “child abuse” by the IRS Administrator. At the same meeting it was also noted that a female student claimed to have been impregnated while babysitting for the Head Child Care Worker [MDD-007125, pg. 1, 4-5; MDD-007127; MDD-007128].

1992A staff member was reprimanded verbally and in writing, and eventually was suspended for maintaining a relationship with a senior girl. He was asked to resign or face dismissal [MDD-003978; MDD-007236-0002; MDD-007237-0001, pg. 3-4; MDD-007237-0002].

#### Incidents (Physical)

1979 During a Muskowekwan Advisory Board meeting it was mentioned that a Child Care Worker “hit a guy in the jaw” and “used a belt to stop the little boys” [MDD-000933, pg. 3].

1984 Many parents complained about “physical enforcement” at the IRS. The Muskowekwan Education Centre Board of Directors member who received the complaints did not investigate them and noted that “some of these children had to be straightened out” [MDD-007106-0001, pg. 7].

1985A Child Care Worker was reprimanded for leaving a boy outside the dormitory at night [MDD-007244-0001, pg. 4].

1988 to 1989

There were several incidents involving a Child Care Worker who was suspended and eventually dismissed for using “questionable” discipline methods and was accused of physically striking students [MDD-007190-0006; MDD-007191, pg. 3-6; MDD-007270-0000, pg. 3-5; MDD-007270-0004; MDD-007196-0000, pg. 4; MDD-007196-0001; MDD-007197-0000, pg. 5-7; MDD-007197-0002].

A Child Care Worker was given a verbal reprimand after putting Tabasco sauce on the tongue of a student as punishment for swearing [MDD-007196-0000, pg. 4; MDD-007196-0001; MDD-007196-0002].

1993 A Child Care Worker was accused of slapping a student in the back of the head after verbally reprimanding him for tardiness, and then of “roughing up” another student. Notice was sent to the Child Care Worker regarding the incident by the Head Child Care Worker [MDD-000902; MDD-004398; MDD-007255-0001].

1997 Two boys alleged that a Child Care Worker had hit them with a hockey stick; one said that he had been hit on the buttocks and the back. One boy claimed that the Child Care Worker “always hits us with a hocky [sic] stick” [MDD-007297-0012].

#### Incidents (Student on Student)

1987 A female student alleged that she had been assaulted by four boys. The case was handed over to the RCMP [MDD-007229-0000, pg. 5].

1989 Two male students were caught causing several burns to the arms of another male student with a lighter. The students were discharged [MDD-007193-0000, pg. 5-6; MDD-007194; MDD-007195, pg. 1].

Two male students committed an assault with sexual overtones on a female student; the parents of the students were informed and came in for an interview, a report was given to the RCMP for evaluation and the two boys were suspended. However, after meeting with the parents, administration, Chairman of the Board, and with Child Care Staff, the boys were reinstated. The girl was taken to the doctor by the nurse and mother [MDD-007196-0000, pg. 3; MDD-007196-0002].

1990 A student's mother phoned the Muskowekwan Education Centre and informed staff that her son complained that other "students were beating him up and Child Care Worker's were abusing him" [MDD-003519].

1992 Two male students were caught beating up a third, apparently as an intimidation tactic in advance of a track meet [MDD-008565].

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

1930s or 1940s

An undated report indicates that the Muscovequan IRS was not inspected because it was quarantined for smallpox [MDD-000964].

1933 On June 9, 1933, former pupils from the Poorman Band signed a petition, complaining that the Principal and the "black nuns" were not allowing children to use the toilet or get a drink of water during the night; moreover they punished or scolded children if they went to the washroom, got a drink of water or dirtied their beds during the night. The petition noted that other complaints had been made to the Principal and nuns, but these had been ignored. A federal Indian Agent investigated, and found that pupils were instructed to go to the bathroom before going to bed, but they were still permitted to use the bedroom toilets. The Agent indicated that the discipline was not excessive [MDD-002609-0000; MDD-002609-0001; MDD-006400].

1957 There had been an outbreak of influenza at the IRS in late 1957 [MDD-006627].

1981 A fifteen-year-old student committed suicide at the IRS in the spring of 1981, and an additional five or six girls aged 8 to 10 years old attempted suicide. There were complaints that there was a lack of supervision in the boys' dorm and that students were underfed [MDD-000600].

During a Muscovequan IRS staff meeting on June 25, 1981, the federal District Superintendent of Education met with staff in response to complaints about the operation of the IRS. He noted that he had received several anonymous complaints about conditions at the IRS [MDD-000909].

1984 On August 2, an incident involving firearms occurred at the Muskowekwan Band Office between the Muskowekwan Education Centre Coordinator, another staff member, and the Chief. Criminal charges were laid against the Coordinator [MDD-006175-0001].

1991 Minutes of a meeting dated January 31, 1991, Child Care Worker's were instructed that they were not to take students home, especially for babysitting purposes. Only parents were permitted to sign out their children for weekends [MDD-003531-0000].

### **PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Tenure Dates</b>
Fred Dennehy	Principal	1889 to 1897

Father Philippe Valès	Principal	1897 to 1898
Father Siméon Perreault, OMI	Principal	1898 to 1901
Father Irenée Jacob, OMI	Principal	1901 to 1902
Father Joseph E.S. Thibaudeau, OMI	Principal	1902 to 1903
Father Joseph A. Magnan, OMI	Principal	1903 to 1907
Father Joseph E.S. Thibaudeau, OMI	Principal	1908 to 1910
Father Édouard Planet, OMI	Principal	1910 to 1911
Father Alphonse Dugas, OMI	Principal	1911 to 1917
Father Joseph Carrière, OMI	Principal	1918 to 1920
Father J.E. Baillargeon	Principal	1921 to March 1922
Father Joseph-Élie-Conrad Brouillet, OMI	Principal	1922
Father Phillip Geelen, OMI	Principal	1923
Father Joseph Poulet, OMI	Principal	November 1923 to 1932
Father Georges Jeannotte, OMI	Principal	June 1932 to March 1944
Father Omer Robidoux, OMI	Principal (Temporary/Assistant/vice)	March 1944 to October 1947
Father V. de Varennes, OMI	Principal	August 1944 to September 1947
Father Omer Robidoux, OMI	Principal	October 9, 1947 to August 1951
Father Paul-Emile Tetreault, OMI	Principal	September 1951 to April 1953
Father Fernand Delaye, OMI	Principal	August 1953 to August 1961
Father Isidore Joyal, OMI	Principal	July 1961 to April 1969
	Administrator	April 1969 to August 1971
Father André Levasseur, OMI	Administrator	August 1971 to July 1976
Joseph Armedius Desjarlais	Administrator Trainee	October 1975 to July 1976
	Acting Administrator	July 1976 to June 1977
Joseph A. Desjarlais	Administrator	October 1978 to March 1985
Chief Roland Desjarlais	Acting Administrator	1984
Orval Haviland	Acting Administrator	1984, 1985
Melvin Robert Desnomie	Administrator	April 1985 to June 1986
Orval Haviland	Acting Administrator	1986
Albert Joseph Pinacie	Acting Administrator	June 1986 to August 1986
Vince Bellegarde	Administrator	1986 to 1987
Albert Joseph Pinacie	Acting Administrator	May 1987
Harvey Desjarlais	Acting Administrator	1987
Susan Marie Start	Administrator	1987 to 1990
Harry A. Broudy	Administrator	1990
Sheila Roszell	Acting Administrator	1990 to 1991
Susan Marie Start	Administrator	1991 to 1997

## EXTERNAL CONTEXT

### Wesley M. School, 1991 to 1997

The Wesley M. School operated on the IRS grounds, then known as the Muskowekwan Education Centre, from 1991 to 1997. The Wesley M. School was formed during the 1991/92 school year by amalgamating the IRS Resource Room Special Education Program and the Muskowekwan Band's kindergarten/nursery and retrieval programs.

Last updated August 22, 2012

The Wesley M. School was operated by the Muskowekwan Band Education Committee, responsible to the Muscowequan Band Council. The Education Committee's membership consisted of Band Council members, parents, a bus driver, a Band elder, a representative from the IRS, the Wesley M. Principal, and a Guidance Counselor. The IRS, on the other hand, was operated by the Muskowekwan Education Centre Board of Directors, made up of members of seven local Bands [MDD-003844, pg. 9-11; MDD-000911; MDD-000644-0001; MDD-000887-0000].

The main Wesley M. School had operated at two different locations on the IRS grounds from 1991 to 1997, having moved during the 1992/93 school year [MDD-006177-0002, pg. 11; MDD-004119]. While both main Wesley M. School buildings were separate and detached from the main IRS building, they are referred to as "outlying facilities" of the IRS site [MDD-006177-0002, pg. 3].

During this period (1991-1997), the Wesley M. School also used classroom, office, and dining space in the main IRS building. As of fall 1991, the Resource Room located on the main floor of the IRS became part of the Wesley M. School and jurisdiction over the Room was transferred to the Muskowekwan Band. Also, Resource Room staff would work under the supervision of the Wesley M. Principal [MDD-007227-0002, pg. 2-3; MDD-003986; MDD-003585; MDD-003943, pg. 2].

In 1994, there was a Wesley M. Dining Room and a Wesley M. Office in the main IRS building [MDD-003936, pg. 1-4]. During the 1995/96 school year, the Study Hall on the main floor of the IRS was converted into a kindergarten classroom for Wesley M. School [MDD-007276-0001, pg. 2; MDD-007277-0001, pg. 4; MDD-007279-0001, pg. 2; MDD-007291-0001, pg. 4]. In May 1996, the Wesley M. School requested use of the Intermediate Girls lounge on the main floor of the IRS for classroom space until a new facility was built. While documents indicate that the IRS Board of Directors decided to renovate the lounge for use by Wesley M. School, no information was found concerning when these renovations took place [MDD-007290-0001, pg. 4].

From September 1992 to at least 1996, a lunch program for Wesley M. students was provided in part of the staff dining room of the main IRS building, and these students were supervised by their teachers during lunch [MDD-003586, pg. 2; MDD-003588, pg. 2; MDD-007240-0002, pg. 2-3; MDD-007293-0001, pg. 3].

Narrative Completed: December 29, 2011  
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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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