

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.

Norway House (U.C.) IRS
School Narrative
[June 2, 2006]

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

NAME OF SCHOOL and VARIANTS

1899-1925	Norway House Boarding School	[NHU-0001]
1925-1967	Norway House Indian Residential School	[NHU-0117]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

Opening Date(s):

1899	The Boarding school opened in 1899 . [NHU-001871]
1914	A new boarding school was formally opened on the 15 th of October, 1914. [NHU-050055]
1954	The third Boarding school opened in September 1954. [NHU-0920]

Day Schools:

1957	As of September 1, 1957, the Residential School Management (Norway House IRS) assumed responsibility for Rossville Day School [NHU-0932].
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Closing Date(s):

1946	The school was destroyed by fire May 29, 1946 and remained closed until September 1954. [NHU-0117, 0920]
1967	The residence was closed on June 30 th , 1967 [NHU-0475] and the building was converted into classroom space for the Day School Programme at Norway House. [NHU-0945]

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

- 1899-1925 Methodist Missionary Society of Canada. [NHU-0328, 0328a]
1925-1967 United Church of Canada, Board of Home Missions [NHU-0828]

Dates managed by Federal Government

- 1967 The Board of Home Mission resolved to pass control of the school to the Federal Government. [NHU-000945]

Dates taken over by province

- 1969 The Federal Government took care of administration in the interim between the Church passing over control, and until the Manitoba Dept of Education took over in July 1969 [NHU-0604].

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Dates Owned by Federal Government:

- 1899-1968 The Federal Government built the school in 1899 and maintained it until it was transferred in 1968 to the Government of Manitoba as part of the Joint School Agreement. [NHU-0896a]

LAND

Location:

The site is located at the Rossville Village, about 25 mi. down the Nelson River from the foot of Lake Winnipeg, in the territory of Keewatin [NHU-050043].

An agreement signed Dec 29, 1922 altered the boundaries of the school property [NHU-0039].

Dates Owned by Federal Government:

- 1923 Order in Council dated May 18th, 1923 (P.C.863) reserving during pleasure for the purposes of the Federal Government for the use of the Indian Boarding

School at Norway House certain portions of Hope Island (total area 571.2 acres) situated in Little Playgreen Lake. [NHU-0063a, NHU-0063b]

Dates transferred to the Province:

1968 Crown-owned property was transferred to the Province of Manitoba in an Agreement dated the 30th of August, 1968 [NHU-0896a].

PHOTOS, PLANS and OTHER MEDIA

- 1922 Sketch of school property. [NHU-0039a]
- 1923 Plan of Hope Island. [NHU-0063b]
- 1924 Sketch showing school property outline at Rossville point, Norway House. [NHU-000069a]
- 1948 Sketch plan of water and sewer outlets at Norway House Indian Reservation. Includes hospital and school buildings. [NHU-0154a]

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

1955 Prince Albert could not accommodate all of the Anglican children and some of them were directed to attend Norway House U.C. [NHU-0502, 0503].

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

- Methodist Missionary Society of Canada. [NHU-00328, NHU-0328a]
- United Church of Canada, Board of Home Missions. [NHU-0828]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

1911 There is an Agreement signed between the Methodist Missionary Society and the Federal Government on April 1, 1911. This Agreement was for the purpose of support, maintaining and educating fifty pupils. [NHU-328a]

- 1922 Agreement between Norway House Band of Indians, the Federal Government Indian Agent, and the Principal of Norway House Indian Boarding School to alter the boundaries of the school property as described therein. Junior classroom and School Engineers' House from reserve property to School property. [NHU-000039]
- 1924 Outlines the agreement for land use by Norway House with Indian band, including a request for property limits. [NHU-000069]
- 1968 A Joint School Agreement between the Governments of Canada and Manitoba, signed the 13th August 1968, set out the terms and conditions of a provincially-run school with partial federal funding at Norway House. [NHU-0896a]

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

Incidents (Physical)

- 1907 A student was strapped for wetting his bed. It was also alleged that he had stolen clothing, which he denied. The student ran away in the night, but returned the next day with both feet frozen. He lost most of his toes and became crippled [NHU-0308; NHU-001876; NHU-001876a; NHU-001876b; NHU-001877a].
- 1930 A male student claimed that a staff member struck him in the head with his fist, knocked him down, kicked him and dragged him to another room where he was strapped. Other students witnessed the event. Charges were laid, but dismissed with a warning to the staff member that he should punish only with a strap [NHU-0444a].
- 1939 A boy reported to the Agent's office and complained that he had been beaten by a member of the school staff. Although the Agent felt that the story was "greatly exaggerated", he recommended that all forms of punishment be administered either by the principal or by the matron [NHU-0094].

Convictions

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Norway House (U.C.) IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Health:

- 1907 The Inspector's Report for the month of March indicated that "the health of the pupils has not been uniformly good. One epidemic after another has visited the school... the sanitary conditions are not good". [NHU-1221]
- 1918 The Agent's Reports for this year provided several accounts of sickness and hospitalization. Two deaths were recorded, but no reasons were provided. [NHU-1203, 1204]
- A number of children were admitted to Residential School after being orphaned due to an Influenza epidemic. [NHU-1195]
- 1931 The principal commented on the "Tuberculosis tendencies" in some children and wrote of a little girl who was hospitalized. [NHU-0446]
- 1935 An outbreak of chicken pox forces the school to close and remain under quarantine [NHU-0085].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

E.F. Hardiman /Principal/ 1899-1903
Rev. J.A. Lousley /Principal/ 1903-1916
Rev. George Denyes /Principal/ 1916-1922
J.T. Blackford /Principal/1922-1930
Rev. W.W. Shoup /Principal/1930-1934
Rev. R.T. Chapin /Principal/1934-1941
A.E. Caldwell /Principal/1941-1944
Rev. Joseph Jones /Principal/1944-1946
Rev. Kenneth McLeod /Principal/1954-1956
John Dennis /Dennys/Principal/1956-1958
Bernard S. Lee /Principal/1958-1967

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



National Centre for
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UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA