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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OLD SUN IRS School NarrativeOctober 14, 2004

This School Narrative provides an over-view of the history and administration of the school.

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

School Name and Variant	Dates
Old Sun Boarding School [Item # 08148A, Item # 04173]	c. 1886
White Eagle Boarding School [Item # 08148A, Item # 08161]	c. 1889-1901
Old Sun Boarding School [Item # 08161]	1901-1908
Blackfoot (Old Suns) Church of England Boarding School [Item # 08157]	1911
Old Sun's Indian Boarding School [Item # 00451]	c. 1921
Old Sun School [Item # 00474]	c. 1921
Old Sun's Boarding School [Item # 08071]	1895-1925
Old Sun Indian Residential School [Item # 07622]	1926-1968
Old Sun Student Residence [Item # 00060]	1968-

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

c. 1886	The Anglican Mission established the Old Sun Boarding School for male and female pupils in the North Camp, located 4 miles from Gleichen, Alberta. Document #08161 indicates that the Old Sun Boarding School was built in 1891/1892. [Item # 08148A, 04173]
c. 1889	A day school was temporarily closed by the Anglican Mission. [Item # 08050]
1893/1894	A residential school for boys was instituted, located south of the Old Sun Boarding School (known as White Eagle Boarding School). [Item # 08148A, Item # 08161]
c. 1897	A day school operated in conjunction with the boarding school. [Item # 08050]
c. 1900	The day school is reopened, after being temporarily closed. [Item # 08053]
1901	Amalgamation of Old Sun Boarding School with White Eagle Boarding School. It appears that all pupils were brought to the original Old Sun Boarding School building, located on the northern side, on the understanding that the White Eagle

undertaken [Item # 08083, 08090, 08148A, 08160]. Following the amalgamation of these two schools, the Old Sun IRS housed both male and female students. Document Item # 08083, dated 08/19/1901 (prior to the amalgamation of White Eagle and Old Sun Boarding Schools), indicates that Old Sun was a 'girls only" school. After the amalgamation, male pupils previously attending White Eagle school began attending Old Sun boarding school [Item # 08148A] July 1907 The Old Sun Boarding School was closed by the Government due to unsanitary conditions and related health concerns. [Item # 08135, 08134, 08137, 08136, 08138, 08139, 08147, 08160] 1907/1908 The Old Sun Boarding School was reopened in October, after being temporarily closed in July due to inadequate and unsanitary conditions. [Item # 08147, 08158, 08160] The Old Sun Boarding School was again closed by the Government due to unsanitary conditions and related health concerns. [Item # 08158, 08160] July 1909 The Old Sun Boarding School was converted into a day school [Item # 08172], under the auspices of the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada [Item # 08180], although a noon meal was still provided to pupils. It appears that the boarding school format was still in operation until July [Item # 00270, 08288, 08163] Dec. 1911 The Old Sun day school was closed at the end of the year. [Item # 08304] Following the closure of the Old Sun Boarding School in 1908 [Item # 08158], a new Old Sun Boarding school building was erected. This building was opened and occupied in July. [Item # 00280] January 1922 With the cooperation of the missionary and school staff, Old Sun School began to offer night classes for ex-pupils. [Item # 00464] The Government implemented plans for the reconstructing of some of the Old Sun School buildings. Later in the year the school closed and students were sent home for the fall semester because the reconstruction of the building took longer than expected. [Item # 00458] Following a temporary closure due to alterations to the school, the Old Sun Boarding School was reopened to pupils in early 1923. [Item # 00458, 00413] June 1928 The Old Sun IRS was destroyed by fire [Item # 00303, 00312], however it appears that all the other buildings on the site (including the Principal's house) were saved from the fire. After a fire destroyed the Old Sun Boarding School, two day schools were opened on the school grounds for the students, while the new Old Sun IRS was being

1908

1912

1922

1923

1928

school would be renovated, however it does not seem that this work was ever

built. [Item # 00305, 01775, 06134, 07792].

February 1931 The new Old Sun Indian Residential School was built by the Government for the Anglicans to administer near the old school and officially opened on February 17th, 1931. [Item # 00852, 00849] 1950 It appears as though the Government established courses in Farm and Home Mechanics for the pupils at Old Sun School. Farm instruction was offered to the male pupils, and home mechanics was provided to the female pupils. [Item # 00777, 01013] It appears that the senior girls had already been receiving training in general "housekeeping and cooking." [Item # 00776] 1951 The first day pupils mentioned on an Old Sun Quarterly Return are found on the return ending September 1951. [Item # 00049] However, it appears some students were attending Old Sun as day pupils before the Day School had opened in June of 1952. [Item # 02091, 00997, 00980, 01488, 00982, 00983] June 1952 A separate day school was constructed and opened adjacent to the Old Sun Residential School. [Item # 01669, 01000, 03026] 1950 - 1954 The Bow Valley School Division provided a part-time Home Economics, Farm, and Industrial Arts instructor to Old Sun IRS students. The Government shared some of the operation costs related to this instruction. [Item # 00777, 01513, 01514] This vocational training project was a joint enterprise between the Federal and Provincial Governments. [Item # 01029, 01013] 1959-1961 Pupils attending Grades 9-12 at Old Sun IRS are transferred to local Provincial High Schools. [Item # 02083] Other pupils are gradually integrated into Provincial Schools. [Item # 08549, 08549A] 1962 Some students from Old Sun IRS were transferred to integrated schools close to the Blackfoot Reserve, but continued to live in the Old Sun residence. A study program (with a Teacher-Counselor position) was in place at Old Sun IRS for those students who attended integrated schools, but who lived in residence. [Item # 07284] 1965 Suggestions are brought forward for the Province to completely take-over the responsibility of educating the students who would attend Old Sun IRS for the 1966-67 school year, with the exception of the kindergarten programs. [Item # 073221 1966 Students from the Old Sun School were, with the exception of kindergarten and new Grade I students, integrated with provincial authorities. [Item # 07321, 08580] January 1967 Only two classroom teachers remained at Old Sun school [Item # 01151] 1967 By October of 1967 it appears that only a kindergarten class and playroom were in operation at Old Sun IRS [Item # 01191, 03459]

- There is discussion regarding the closing of the Old Sun School as early as 1968. The school was to be closed at the end of the 68/69 school year, however, the closing was delayed. It appears that there was some confusion among Government staff regarding whether the Old Sun school itself, or the Old Sun Residence were to be closed. Documentation from this time period suggests that students of school age that were living in residence at this time were already being bussed to local public schools. [Item # 01804, 01210, 01304, 01190, 03459D, 09715, 09716, 07595, 09501, 09597, 08567, 09595, 08568]. A newspaper article from 1971 concerning use of the Old Sun Campus for the Mount Royal College notes that "[t]he Old Sun school . . . was closed in 1968 when it was decided by Government officials that children would be better prepared to achieve their full potential as independent members of society if they attended ordinary schools nearby, rather than special institutions." [Revised Item #07520D]
- 1968/1969 Correspondence begins regarding turning Old Sun IRS into an ecumenical institution with both Protestant and Catholic students attending. [Item # 01136, 01054, 01052, 09598, 09597A] It does not appear that this suggestion was ever brought into effect.
- Arrangements are made to establish home economics courses at Old Sun IRS, as well as for the establishment of an Adult Education Centre at the school. [Item # 07519, 07519A, 09577]
- The Old Sun School came under the control of the Federal Government, which entered into service contracts with the Anglican Church to recruit Student Residence Administrators and Child Care Workers. The Anglican Church stopped operating the residence as of April 1, 1969. [Item # 01210, 02287, 02286, 03459B, 03459D]
- By this point the former Old Sun Indian Residential School operated only as a kindergarten (alternatively referred to as a nursery) [Item # 01184, 01634]. Mount Royal College took over the school as an adult education centre [Item # 01039, 02284, 09542, 09557, 09544, 09553A].
- Sept.1971 The Old Sun IRS building was used by Mount Royal College as a Native Learning Centre (vocational studies) for adult education. [Item # 01039, 02284, 09542, 04220].
- June 1972 Old Sun is officially recognized as a "Native Cultural/Education Centre." [Item # 09561]
- The Government was prepared to transfer two houses, along with other remaining outbuildings, staff accommodations and facilities located on the Old Sun school property, over to the Blackfoot Band upon the receipt of a Band council Resolution. [Item # 01592]

- The Old Sun Kindergarten remained in operation until at least June 30, 1981.

 [Item # 01107] The Government continued to provided funding for supplies used at Old Sun Kindergarten until at least May 1981. [Item # 01108]
- It appears that some of the buildings associated with the Old Sun IRS continued to be used by the Band. [Item # 01668]

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by the Church

- 1891 c.1960 The Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada managed the educational and boarding services at Old Sun IRS. [Item # 00543, 01339, 00364, 00338, 00158, 00881, 08107].
- The M.S.C.C. and the Government entered into an Agreement for the Operation of the Old Sun Indian Residential School. The Agreement enabled the M.S.C.C. to nominate and appoint the principal and/or administrator of the school, however, all appointments required the prior approval of the Government. [Item # 01262]

Dates managed by the Government

- April 1, 1969 Employees of Old Sun Student Residence came under the Public Service Employment Act. [Item # 03459B, 08594] Staff at Old Sun IRS and other Indian Student Residences, including Administrators and Child Care Workers, became federal civil servants and the Government took over management and operation of student residences. The M.S.C.C. continued to be involved in nominating Administrators and Child Care Workers, by entering into service contracts with the Government. [Item # 01210, 02287, 01039, 02286]
- The Blackfoot Band has a "working arrangement with Mount Royal College" to administer Old Sun. [Item # 09561]
- The Government continued to provided funding for supplies used at Old Sun Kindergarten until at least May 1981. [Item # 01108]

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1907 Work on new school is stalled, due to lack of funds. The Government authorizes the expenditure of \$4,000 towards the building of a new school, however the project was estimated to cost \$12,000. The Church authorities claim they have no funds to contribute towards the project. [Item # 08130]

- Due to the poor condition of some of the Old Sun school buildings, the Government implemented plans for the reconstructing of some of the School buildings on the site. [Item # 00431, 00458]
- After a fire destroyed the Old Sun School, two day schools were opened for the students. One school was located within a church building on the West side of the Reserve, and the other in the church at Gleichen (on the grounds where the old school used to be) [Item # 01775, 07218].
- 1951 Construction of the Old Sun Day School begins. [Item # 01669, 02963, 02968, 03050]

Dates Owned by the Church:

- c. 1886 The Anglican Mission established the Old Sun Boarding School in the North Camp, located 4 miles from Gleichen, Alberta. [Item # 08148A, 04173]
- c. 1886 1962 The Old Sun IRS appears to be owned by the Anglican Church of Canada. [Item # 08148A, 09547, 03424, 08055, 08111, 03459D]

Dates Owned by the Government:

- Recommendation is made that the hospital on school grounds, erected by the Government, be utilized as a residence for school staff and pupils [Item # 08148A]
- The 1912 Old Sun IRS was built by the Government, and an Agreement was signed between the Government and the Right Reverend Cyprian Pinkham, Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary, regarding the operation of the school. A Letter dated March 1,1913 indicates that Old Sun IRS is a government-owned school, and that the 1911 Agreement provides for the maintenance of the building and premises by the Government. [Item # 01339, 00535]
- A new Old Sun School was constructed by the Government at a cost of \$155,000. The Band lent the Government \$80,000 from their interest account to construct the school. [Item # 05856A, 05854]
- March, 1962 The Government purchased Old Sun IRS and surrounding buildings from the Anglican Church of Canada. [Item # 09547, 03424, 08055, 08111, 03459D]
- The Old Sun School building was turned over to Mount Royal College [Item # 01184] "Mount Royal College is now financing Old Sun Campus from its operating funds." [Item # 09544]
- The Government was prepared to transfer two houses, along with other remaining outbuildings and facilities located on the Old Sun school property, over to the Blackfoot Band upon the receipt of a Band council Resolution. [Item # 01592]

Dates Owned by the Blackfoot Band:

1972	Correspondence regarding transfer of Old Sun Campus to Blackfoot Band [Item # 01180, 02284]
1971/1972	The Blackfoot Band has a "working arrangement with Mount Royal College" to administer Old Sun. [Item # 09561] It appears that by September of 1972 the Old Sun Campus was being operated by the band. [Item # 09566]

LAND

Old Sun IRS was located on Blackfoot Band land within the Treaty area 7 [Item # 09547].

The Anglican Mission established the Old Sun Boarding School in the North		
Camp on the Blackfoot Reserve, located 4 miles from Gleichen, Alberta. [Item #		
08148A, 08091]		

Old Sun Indian Residential School was situated on the North East of Section 1, Township 22, Range 23, West of the 4th M. [Item # 03424]

PHOTOS, PLANS, AND OTHER MEDIA

Item # 01368	00/00/0000	Sketch of the interior of a building at the school.
Item # 04000	00/00/0000	Sketch of the interior of a building at the school.
Item # 07791	00/00/0000	A sketch of the school.
Item # 08084	00/00/0000	Map.
Item # 09800	00/00/0000	Photographs, map, aerial picture.
Item # 08202A	11/23/1893	Elevation, proposed hospital cottage.
Item # 08098A	05/23/1902	Sketch of the area where the proposed school site would be.
Item # 08117A	04/17/1905	Picture of the outside of the building.
Item # 08117B	04/17/1905	Sketch of the dormitory.
Item # 02387A	08/03/1943	Pictures highlighting the conditions of the roof and buildings at Old Sun IRS.
Item # 02414A	12/17/1943	Photographs took in connection with the laying of a new bonded roof at the school.
Item # 03986A-B	10/18/1949	Sketch, Old Sun IRS boiler room.

Item # 05864A	05/15/1952	Sketch of a pressure tank.
Item # 02682	04/10/1950	Plan of the proposed new wing at Old Sun IRS.
Item # 02927A	08/29/1951	Sketch, electrical plan.
Item # 07142A	02/13/1959	Photograph; appears to be an aerial photo of the area around the school and town of Gleichen.
Item # 04077B	02/08/1960	Plan, proposed residence.
Item # 04079B	02/23/1960	Plan of the school.
Item # 06113B	11/02/1962	Sketch of a water plant.
Item # 06113C	11/02/1962	Boiler room's floor plan.
Item # 04278B	06/13/1966	Plan of school and surrounding area.
Item # 03451A	09/06/1984	Map of the Old Sun Indian Residential School and of the adjacent area.

General Enrollment Statistics

1899	12 female pupils attending Old Sun Boarding School, 30 male pupils attending
	White Eagle school
1907	18 boys, 15 girls attending Old Sun Boarding School
1909	Average June attendance of 17 pupils at Old Suns Boarding school
1909/10	Attendance at Old Sun Day School declines dramatically
1912	30 pupils in residence at Old Sun Boarding School during the quarter ending
	December 31. Authorized enrollment is 40 pupils.
1913	40 pupils attending Old Sun Boarding School Authorized enrollment was 50.
1917	15 boys, 23 girls
1918	16 boys, 20 girls
1920	50 pupils
1921	50 pupils
1923	33 boys, 26 girls: 59 pupils. Authorized enrollment is 60 pupils
1924	19 boys, 12 girls: 31 pupils
1925	35 boys, 34 girls: 69 pupils in residence
1926	43 boys, 35 girls: 78 pupils in residence
1927	76 pupils in residence
1928	43 boys, 35 girls: 78 pupils in residence (April 1928)
1929	46 boys, 38 girls: 82 pupils in residence
1930	35 boys, 41 girls: 76 pupils in residence
1931	72 pupils in residence
1932	84 pupils

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1933
              88 pupils
1934
              93 pupils
1935
              95 pupils
1936
              45 boys, 35 girls: 80 pupils in residence
1937
              48 boys, 37 girls: 85 pupils in residence
1938
              54 boys, 35 girls: 89 pupils in residence
1939
              55 boys, 39 girls: 94 pupils
1940
              53 boys, 36 girls: 89 pupils
              55 boys, 42 girls: 97 pupils
1941
              53 boys, 39 girls: 92 pupils
1942
1943
              54 boys, 38 girls: 92 pupils
1944
              51 boys, 46 girls: 97 pupils
1945
              98 pupils
1946
              48 boys,52 girls: 100 pupils
              46 boys, 55 girls: 111 pupils
1947
1948
              53 girls, 64 boys: 117 pupil. Authorized enrollment was 110.
1949
              66 girls, 69 boys: 155 pupils
1950
              73 boys, 73 girls: 146 pupils
              73 boys, 73 girls: 146 pupils
1951
              137 pupils in residence. 2 day pupils in attendance.
1952
1953
              57 boys, 69 girls: 126 pupils
1954
              139 pupils
1955
              142 pupils]
1956
              52 boys, 65 girls: 117 pupils in residence
1957
              68 boys, 67 girls: 137 pupils in residence
1958
              64 boys, 68 girls: 132 pupils in residence
1959
              82 boys, 79 girls: 106 pupils in residence
1960
              101 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 142.
1961
              96 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 142.
1962
              64 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 142.
              94 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 142.
1963
              73 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 142.
1964
1965
              89 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 142.
1966
              104 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 142.
              81 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 140.
1967
1968
              76 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 100.
1969
              54 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 57.
1970
              53 pupils. Authorized enrollment was 75. The Government purposely reduces
              enrolment at Old Sun IRS to accommodate Mount Royal College.
1971^{1}
              72 pupils
              67 pupils
1972
              50 pupils
1973
1974
              55 pupils
1975
              84 pupils
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¹The 1971 - 1975 enrollment figures represent the number of students attending the Old Sun Kindergarten, which operated as a day school during this time. These figures reflect then number of pupils attending the school, and not necessarily the residence.

Day School

We have found information concerning a day school associated with Old Sun IRS during the following years:

c. 1897, 1890, 1909 - 1912, 1928 - 1930, 1948 - 1981.² [Item # 00301, 00744, 01108, 04669, 08050, 08053, 08172, 08304]

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

From 1956-1962, students from the following bands attended Old Sun IRS: students the Blood Band, the Peigan Band, and from the Crowfoot Reserve

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

The Synod of the Diocese of Calgary (Anglican) Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada (renamed in 1956 as: the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada)

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

WKILLENA	IGREEMENIS
1911	Agreement between His Majesty the King and Rt. Rev. Cyprian Pinkham, D.D.,
	D.C.L. Bishop of Calgary. [Item # 01339]
1962	Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen and the Missionary Society of the
	Anglican Church of Canada. [Item # 01262]
1970	Chaplaincy Agreement between M.G. Jutras, A/Regional Director, Department of
	Indian Affairs and Morse L. Goodman, for the Diocese of Calgary of the
	Anglican Church of Canada. [Item # 10027]
1971	Operating agreement between the Government and Mount Royal College,
	providing for the operation of an adult learning centre in the Old Sun Residence.
	While documents concerning the use of Old Sun Campus by Mount Royal
	College are plentiful, it is uncertain whether the buildings and the land of Old Sun

Campus were actually legally transferred. [Item # 09553A]

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

Convictions

William Peniston Starr, Physical Training Instructor at Old Sun IRS between January 1950 and February 1956, was convicted, in 1992, of 13 counts of sexual and indecent assault of children at Gordon's IRS in Saskatchewan between the years 1968 and 1983. [Indictment and Judgment of the Court] William Starr was transferred to another school from Old Sun IRS because of "trouble" that had developed between Mr. Starr and the gymnasium tumbling team he had been training. [Item # 01533, 02274, 02275, 07152]

²From 1971 to c. 1981, Old Sun Day School was known as Old Sun Kindergarten.

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):

See information on the conviction of William Starr. No other information has been found relating to Sexual Incidents at Old Sun IRS.

Incidents (Physical)

- Documentation concerns complaints regarding of a staff member of Old Sun IRS while employed at a former school. A student attending the Victoria Home School complained that he was whipped and struck in the head by this staff member who was then employed at Old Sun [Item # 00449, 00453], resulting in bleeding and markings on his back. Upon receiving word of these complaints, the Commissioner recommended that the employee be immediately relieved of his duties at Old Sun.[Item # 00433, 00494] An investigation was launched and the Commissioner again suggested that the employee should be relieved of his duties. [Item # 00433, 00438, 00439, 00440, 00442, 00443, 00444, 00445, 00450]
- The Government received complaints from councillors and parents of physical and psychological abuse by a staff member, against female students at Old Sun IRS. It was reported that a staff member administered frequent "slappings" and "strappings" against the girls. [Item # 01017, 01021, 01022, 01026, 01027, 01028] After conducting an investigation into the complaints, the Government determined that the reports were founded on "general gossip" and considered the matter closed [Item # 01020].
- The Regional Inspector of School reported that a staff member at Old Sun IRS, was "often inclined to be overbearing and boisterous" with the pupils and staff. The Inspector further reported that there was evidence to indicate that the staff member resorted to quite severe corporal punishment [Item # 00880, 00889, 00881, 01797]. The staff member in question left the school and the investigation was never completed [Item # 00879, 00888, 00885]

Unspecified Incident:

A complaint was made by two female students who ran away from Old Sun IRS property without permission and sought shelter in the home of an individual who lived off the school grounds. The girls accused the individual with whom they stayed of assault. Although the details of the complaints were not specified, they were described as "so serious a nature" that the Principal suggested a charge be laid against the individual. The police took statements of the girls and gathered evidence. However, the charges were dismissed following the ensuing investigation. [Item # 00512, 00515]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Health

Documents describe buildings within the Old Sun School variously as "very

poorly lighted," "[b]oards of broken floors, no ventilation," and "decayed," etc. [Item # 08148A, 08124, 08128, 08133]. Following the amalgamation of Old Sun Boarding School with the White Eagle Boarding School problems emerged with the sanitary condition of the Old Sun School location. Built only five feet above the high water mark of the Bow River, the school had a problem with drainage, and there was an abnormally high rate of infectious diseases among the pupils,

resulting in many deaths between 1901 and 1905 [Item # 08128]

Letter from H.W. Gibbon Stocken, arguing that Old Sun should not be closed, as

health situation is not as bad as Dr. Laffarty reports [Item # 08154].

The reports of unsanitary and unhealthy conditions at Old Sun school from 1901,

were refuted by the Archdeacon of Macleod (Indian Missions) in a report

presented to the Diocesan Synod in August 1908 [Item # 08159].

Fires

The Old Sun IRS was destroyed by a fire, and a new building was constructed and

opened in February, 1931 [Item # 00303, 00312]

List of Principals/Administrators:

Rev. Principal Tims - 1895 -

Rev. H.W. Gibbon Stocken - 1898 - 1910; 1916 - 1918 (Acting Principal)

Rev. M.C. Gandier - 1911 - 1916

P.H. Gentleman - 1919 - 1922

James Stone - 1922 (Acting Principal)

Rev. F.M. Ross Gibney - 1922 - 1930

Rev. John W. House - 1930 - 1947

Rev. E.S.W. Cole - 1948 - 1954

Canon Cook - 01/1955 (Acting Principal)

Rev, R.J. Crocker - 02/1955 - 08/1956

Rev. Harry B. Miller - 09/1956 - 1959

Mr. Noel Goater - 1959 - 1962

Mr. Alan Wheatley - 1962 - 1967

Rev. W.E. Bramwell - 1967 - 1968

Mrs. Lucill Morrison - 09/1968 - 06/1971

Narrative Completed: October 14, 2004

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