

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.

## **PELICAN LAKE (SIOUX LOOKOUT) 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**

Sioux Lookout Indian Residential School  
Sioux Lookout Anglican Indian Residential School  
Anglican Indian Residential School  
Pelican Lake Indian Residential School  
Pelican Lake Student Residence

#### **CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY**

##### OPENING DATE(S):

Pelican Lake Student Residences was opened in the fall of 1927 following a campaign around 1910 by Bishop Lofthouse, the Bishop of Keewatin, to establish a boarding school in the Lac Seul District. The Government was in favour of the project and a site was selected but before construction could begin, First World War was declared and the project was put on hold. In 1922, Reverend Dewdney, the new Bishop of Keewatin, put forward a proposal to build a residential school in the Lac Seul District and his recommendations were approved by the Department [PLK-0001, PLK-0003, PLK-0008, PLK-0011, PLK-0014, PLK-0017, PLK-0017a, PLK-0301].

##### CLOSING DATE(S):

Since it was not economically feasible to carry out any further renovations at the residence, the Government decided to discontinue using the student residence at the end of June, 1978 [PLK-310a, PLK-0311, PLK-313, PLK-314]. With the exception of two buildings on the school site, Pelican Lake Student Residence was considered surplus and was razed in 1979 [PLK-0311, PLK-0312, PLK-0315, PLK-0315a, PLK-0315b, PLK-0316, PLK-0317, PLK-0318, PLK-0322].

#### **MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL**

##### Dates managed by Church

The Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada managed the residence from its establishment in 1927 until 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1969 [PLK-0014, PLK-0068]. The 1962 Operational Agreement states: "The Management shall be responsible to the Minister for the operation and management of the school." [PLK-0224].

### Dates managed by Government

On 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1969, the Department assumed full responsibility for operating Indian student residences. When the changeover took place, Pelican Student Residence was operated under Federal authority. The Government obtained Treasury Board authority to enter into a contract with the Anglican Church of Canada for advisory and liaison services and chaplaincy services in regards to student residences of Anglican affiliation.

### Dates taken over by province

Not applicable

### Dates managed by Band or other aboriginal group

Not applicable

## **SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

### DATES OWNED BY CHURCH:

Not Applicable

### DATES OWNED BY GOVERNMENT:

From its inception until its closure, Pelican Lake Student Residence had always been owned by the Government [PLK-0068, PLK-0193, PLK-0208].

### DATES TURNED OVER TO BAND:

Not Applicable

## **LAND**

### LOCATION:

Pelican Lake Student Residence is situated on the shore of Pelican Lake, in the Township of Drayton, District of Sioux Lookout and a few miles from the Town of Sioux Lookout. The school property, located on Crown Land, is comprised of Part Lot 26, Concession B - 68 acres, Part Lot 26, Concession C - 14 acres, Part Lot 27, Concession B - 93 acres and Part Lot 28, Concession B - 107 [PLK-0015, PLK-0042, PLK-0302, PLK-0279, PLK-0299].

DATES OWNED BY CHURCH:

Not Applicable

DATES OWNED BY GOVERNMENT:

In 1925, the Government purchased 282 acres from the Department of Lands and Forests for the sum of \$2,820.00 for the use of the Sioux Lookout Indian Residential School [PLK-0029, PLK-0031, PLK-0035].

DATES TURNED OVER TO BAND:

Not Applicable

**PHOTOS, PLANS and OTHER MEDIA**

<b>Documentation</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
PLK-0013a	Unknown	Map of the area between Grassy Narrows and Lac Seul
PLK-0022a	Unknown	Diagram of the area south of Pelican Lake
PLK-0025a	Unknown	Plan showing portions of lots which DIAND is able to secure
PLK-0026a	Unknown	Plan of lots reserved for the school
PLK-0027a	Unknown	Plan showing selected site for the school
PLK-0083a	Unknown	Plan of part of lots in the Township of Drayton
PLK-0210b	Unknown	Diagram showing the proposed road
PLK-0362b	Unknown	Building plan of the first floor of the school
PLK-0430a	Unknown	Map shows location of proposed school building
PLK-0872a	Unknown	Diagram showing acres for reforestation
PLK-0004a	February 10, 1910	Plan of the Township of Wabigoon, District of Kenora, Ontario
PLK-1002	May 1925	Front and right side elevation plans for Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-1002a	May 1925	Left side and rear elevation plans for Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-1002b	May 1925	Basement floor plan for Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-1002c	May 1925	Ground-floor and cross-section plans for Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-1002d	May 1925	First-floor plans for Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools

<b>Documentation</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
PLK-1002e	May 1925	Second-floor plans for Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-1002f	May 1925	Detail plans of wardrobes, lockers, tables and benches for Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-1002g	May 1925	Heating plans for basement of Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-1002h	May 1925	Heating plans for ground-floor of Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-1002i	May 1925	Heating plans for first-floor of Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-1002j	May 1925	Heating plans for second-floor of Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-1002k	May 1925	Proposed layout of tubular fire-escapes for Sioux Lookout and Cecilia Jeffries Residential Schools
PLK-0031a	September 1925	Shows the lots Department of Lands and Forests South of Pelican Lake
PLK-1006	February 23, 1926	Plan of Parts of lots in the Township of Drayton purchased by the Department
PLK-1007	circa. 1934	Survey map of Lots 26, 27 and 28 in the Township of Drayton, Ontario
PLK-0147a	circa. 1944	Plan of proposed road.
PLK-0999	June 5, 1945	Plan of proposed railway crossing
PLK-1001	December 18, 1959	Plan of the township of Drayton.
PLK-1000	May 1961	Plan of buildings at Sioux Lookout IRS.
PLK-0807b	circa. 1962	Diagram of dishwashing room, and kitchen at Sioux Lookout IRS.
PLK-1003	June 4, 1962	Plan of alterations to Sioux Lookout IRS.
PLK-1004	February 1964	Plan of alterations for Sioux Lookout IRS.
PLK-1005	March 1964	Plan of alterations for Sioux Lookout IRS.
PLK-0308a	circa. 1969	Diagram indicating where day schools could be constructed.
PLK-1008	August 9, 1993	Plan of Lots and concessions Band C in the township of Drayton, Ontario.

## **RELIGIOUS GROUPS**

Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada

## **WRITTEN AGREEMENTS**

- 1962 Operational agreement between the Government and the Anglican Church [PLK-0224].
- 1969 Draft Copy of Contract between the Government and the various Anglican Church agencies to carry on advisory and liaison duties in connection with Indian student residences [PLK-0867a]
- 1969 Contract to provide chaplaincy services to students at Pelican Lake IRS [PLK-0868a].
- 1971 Contract regarding authority to carry on advisory and liaison duties [PLK-0870].
- 1973 Memorandum of agreement between the Government and the Diocese of Keewatin to provide chaplaincy services to resident students and staff of Pelican Lake IRS [PLK-0871a].

## **DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS**

### **Suggested Incidents of Physical Abuse Perpetrated by Staff:**

In his report about his conversation with the Principal on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1961, the Superintendent states that in order to deter pupils from running away, he recommended heavy strapping of offenders but this disciplinary measure was not very effective [PLK-0966].

In a memo dated 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1962, the author reports that the pupils who escaped from the school bus when it stopped at the railway crossing were punished by strapping either at the public school or at the residence [PLK-0768].

### **Suggested Incidents of Physical Abuse Perpetrated by Student:**

In his letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1961, the Principal is requesting the discharge of 4 boys due to their refusal to conform to regulations and their sadistic and brutal behaviour towards other boys. The victims were subject to heavy beatings, whipping, gagging, mutilation, etc. This constant abuse forced some of the boys to run away or request to be sent home. The Principal stated that if the bullies are not discharged, the children's life may be at risk [PLK-0774].

In her letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1961, a teacher reports that early in the fall of 1960, the

attitude of the older pupils, particularly the boys, changed drastically. They resorted to terrorizing the other children, destroying school property, petty theft, etc. This fundamental change in behaviour is due to the freedom and privileges that the integration programme gave to the pupils, the rapid turnover of the supervising staff, the transfer to Shingwauk of Grade 7 pupils who were considered well behaved and the promotion of Grade 6 pupils who were suspected by staff of being ringleaders and responsible of disrupting the peace at the school [PLK-0768a].

## **CONVICTIONS**

According to the *Anglican Journal*, there has been one conviction for abuse in the 1990's related to events that took place at Pelican Lake IRS in the 1960's.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In his letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1955, Mr. Swartman reports on the riot that occurred at the Sioux Lookout Indian Residential School on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1955. Several senior girls had been stealing school supplies and hiding them in their suitcases. On instructions from the principal, the girls' supervisor unlocked and searched all the suitcases. As punishment for this misdemeanour, the girls were sent to bed early. The girls were upset about their personal belongings being searched and barricaded themselves in their room. The door had to be forced open and the girls could not be brought under control until the principal turned the hose on them. The three ringleaders and instigators were sent to a local juvenile detention home while awaiting to appear before the Juvenile Court Judge. During their stay at the detention home, one of the girls stole money and jewellery. She was sent to the School for Girls at Galt, Ontario and the other two girls were suspended and returned to their home [PLK-0764, PLK-0765, PLK-0766].

## **PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

### **PRINCIPALS/ACTING PRINCIPALS:**

1926-1940	Reverend J.F.J. Marshall	[PLK-0301]
1927-?	Mr. Campbell - Acting Principal	[PLK-0067]
1936-1938	Mr. F.A. Mayo and Mr. Sivier- Acting Principals	[PLK-0123, PLK-0147]
1941-?	Mr. Geo. L. Marshall - Acting Principal	[PLK-0165a, PLK-0170a]
1941-1946	Reverend A.B. Cheales	[PLK-0301]
1946-1947	Reverend G.W. Fisher	[PLK-0301]
1947-1948	Reverend D.C. Wickenden	[PLK-0301]
1948-1949	Reverend J. Evans	[PLK-0301]
1949-?	Reverend D.C. Wickenden - Acting Principal	[PLK-0301]
1949-1954	Reverend J.S. Wilson	[PLK-0301]
1954-1956	Mr. E.S. Salmon	[PLK-0301]
1956-1961*	Mr. E. Barrington	[PLK-0301]
1959 -1960	Reverend John Morris Bonnard - Acting Principal	[PLK-000963, PLK-000860]
1961-1963	Mr. J.F. Orman	[PLK-0712, PLK-0718]
1963-?	Miss A.E. Kingston - Acting Principal	[PLK-0719]
1963-1965	Reverend Dr. Ahab Spence	[PLK-0720, PLK-0729, PLK-0865]
1965-?	Miss A.E. Kingston - Acting Principal	[PLK-0725, PLK-0730]
1965-1970	Mr. D. Shepherd Principal/Administrator	[PLK-0865, PLK-0731]

\*Note: Barrington left the school in August 1959 and returned to resume his duties in early April 1960.

### **ADMINISTRATORS:**

1970-1973?	Mr. D. Mills	[PLK-0750, PLK-0757, PLK-0871]
1974?-1978?	Mr. R.K. Graham	[PLK-0758, PLK-0763]

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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  
Truth and Reconciliation  

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