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.

Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home) IAP School Narrative September 7, 2010

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

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

Crosby's home - a home/shelter opened for Indian girls [ABR-000462]¹ Crosby Girls' Home [UCB-006173]² Port Simpson (Girls) Industrial School [PSM-200016]³ Port Simpson Indian Girls Home [AEMR-010005]⁴ Port Simpson Girls' Industrial Home [AEMR-010007] Port Simpson Girls Residential School [AEMR-010035] Crosby Girls' Home/Indian Residential School [PSM-200642-0000] Port Simpson United Church Residential School [PSM-200554] Port Simpson Indian Residential School [PSM-200643]

Crosby Girls Home started out as a "Home" for students and the name "Crosby Girls' Home" was used throughout the operation of the IRS. Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home) was a girls-only IRS. Boys may have been present at the IRS, but we cannot confirm if this was in association with the residence or the day school that operated at the home [UCB-006173; ABR-000462].

YEARS DURING WHICH THE SCHOOL WAS OPERATED SOLELY OR IN PART BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS A RESIDENCE FOR SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS

At least 1888 to June 30, 1948 Temporary Closure: January 1921 – May 1923

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1881/82Most of the children living at Crosby's Home were older students.
The home operated and was known as an orphanage, boarding
school and a refuge for teenagers [ABR-000462].

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1892	A per capita grant for 20 pupils was made, likely by the federal government, and was paid yearly thereafter [PSM-200597].
1894	Port Simpson Girls' Home is described as an Industrial school by the Federal Government [AEMR-010653].
1900/01	Pupils were arranged in sets, and passed through different departments of study in a weekly system [AEMR-010012].
1901	The number of resident pupils increased to 44. Another per capita grant from the federal government was given for 50 pupils [PSM-200597].
1904/05	Grades one through six were taught at the IRS [AEMR-010016].
1921	January 1: The Crosby Girls' Home was destroyed by fire. While the IRS was being rebuilt, some students stayed in Port Simpson in their own homes or in foster homes and attended the day school, and a few girls were sent to "Coqualeetza Institute" to complete their education. While a new home was built, the staff was cut to two [PSM-200026-0001; ABR-000462].
	All of the Woman's Auxillary records for Crosby Girls Home were destroyed by the fire [PSM-800000].
1921/22	The Port Simpson Girls' Home was officially closed after it had "been burnt and not yet rebuilt" [AEMR-010033].
1923	The new Indian Girls' Home opens at Port Simpson, replacing the IRS buildings destroyed by the 1921 fire [PSM-200838]. The home was open only for May-June in the 1922/23 school year [PSM-200147].
1930's	IRS curriculum included grade eight [ABR-000462].
1946	The Indian Agent visited the IRS frequently, and reported that the conditions at the Crosby Girls' Home had not been satisfactory throughout the year. A member of the Women's Missionary Society for BC visited the IRS and stated that the whole staff at Crosby would be changed in September [PSM-200562-0000].

	November: A Night Watchman was hired for the Crosby Girls' Home (at least for the winter months [PSM-200564].
1947	October: The IRS opened late, as repairs to the roof and dormitories were necessary before the students could be housed. It was a suggested that if the IRS did not reopen it could be used as a T.B. Preventorium [PSM-200700; PSM-200566-0001].
1947/48	Due to a decrease in admissions, a new policy was developed for the IRS where the girls to be chosen for admission would be orphans or girls under age 13. The number of students would not exceed 20. As long as space was available, they would attend Indian Day School in the village. The staff would be reduced to three. Twelve girls who were in residence were attending the Day School [UCB-005195].
1948	June 30: Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home) closed [RCB-010287-0002]. ⁵

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

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Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home) was managed by the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church/United Church throughout its operation.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1879	An annex was added to the Crosby's home for 12 girls. A day school was also set up [ABR-000462].
1883	A new mission house was built. The former Crosby house was used as girls' home [UCB-006173].
1891/92	A new Home capable of accommodating 45-50 girls was built. Classes were held in the home instead of the day school [UCB-006173; PSM-200597].
1895-1899	Port Simpson Girls' Industrial Home consisted of three and a half stories including the basement, with two wings. Rooms included a play-room, school room, work room, and dormitories [AEMR-010007; AEMR-010008; AEMR-010010].

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1923	New Indian Girls' Home opens at Port Simpson, replacing the IRS buildings destroyed by the 1921 fire [PSM-200838].
1928	Crosby Girls' Home is a modern building built by the Women's Missionary Society as a temporary measure until a Residential School could be built [UCB-005107].
1930s	A classroom addition and a playroom were built. Staff increased to include a music teacher and an additional academic teacher [ABR-000462].
1932-1933	A new classroom and dormitory were built [ABR-000462; UCB-005115].
1935/36	Pipes burst as a result of freezing and in the spring part of the dam was destroyed by spring flooding [PSM-200055-0001].
1937	May: Fire inspection reports notes that fire drills are not likely held regularly, as there are fine wire mesh screens nailed outside the windows leading from the dormitories to the escapes. The water supply source is a muskeg which is insufficient to fight a fire [PSM-200643; PSM-200553].
1938	Window screens previously restricting access from the dormitories to the fire escapes have been made to open easily. Two senior girls sleep in each of the dormitories, and would take charge of the smaller children in the event of a fire. The fire exit windows are within a few feet of the ground [PSM-200555].
1938/39	A combined school and teacher's residence was erected at Port Simpson [ABR-018001]. ⁶
1946	The Indian Agent's inspection report of Crosby Girls Home found that "the plumbing and sanitary conditions in the school were in a frightful state". The lighting plant was also in poor condition, and the lights in the

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school were very dim. Expenses were authorized to repair the plumbing, and recommended to purchase a new lighting plant [PSM-200565].

The building was considered a fire hazard [PSM-200564].

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The wiring of the Crosby Girls' Home was determined to be unsafe for use. It was recommended that the IRS be rewired, or that use of the lighting plant be discontinued and the IRS revert to lamps due to the risk of fire [PSM-200566-0001].

LAND

Port Simpson Girls' Industrial Home was located on two acres of land owned by the Woman's Missionary Society, near the Tsimpshean Reserve in the Nass Agency. The land was technically known as section 4, township 1, range 5, Coast District [AEMR-010007; AEMR-010026; AEMR-010012]. This land was swampy and in rough condition, requiring thorough draining [AEMR-010012].

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Item #	Date	Description
ABR-800002	00/00/0000	Photo of Port Simpson Crosby Girls' Home 1888- 1893
AEMR-010015	00/00/1905	Photo of Port Simpson Girls' Home

GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

Year	Number of	Year	Number of Residential
	Residential Students⁷		Students
1879	12	1917/18	31-44
1886	14 girls, 1 boy	1918/19	33-40
1887	20	1919/20	35-43
1888/89-1890/91	Not available	1920/21	29-40
1891/92	29 girls	1921/22	IRS closed due to fire
1892/93	26-36	1922/23	9- IRS reopened May 1923

⁷ A day school was in operation at the school from 1879. We cannot confirm that the statistics below refer to the IRS rather than to the day school. Numbers are approximations and are sometimes based on averages.

1893/94	Not available	1923/24	14-17
1894/95	17-32	1924/25	14-18
1895/96	15-25	1925/26	18
1896/97	24-32	1926/27	17-19
1897/98	35	1927/28	16-19
1898/99	33-43	1928/29	16-19
1899/1900	36-43	1929/30	16-18
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1901/02	36-43	1931/32	17-18
1902/03	39-41	1932/33	16-25
1903/04	43-47	1933/34	23-28
1904/05	43-48	1934/35	27-28
1905/06	39-50	1935/36	26-29
1906/07	44-47	1936/37	29-30
1907/08	41-50	1937/38	28-30
1908/09	41-48	1938/39	26-28
1909/10	39-44	1939/40	26-29
1910/11	37-49	1940/41	26-29
1911/12	38-45	1941/42	25-30
1912/13	31-40	1942/43	28-30
1913/14	22-32	1943/44	30
1914/15	22-27	1945/46	26-29
1915/16	31-40	1947/48	8-17
1916/17	39-43		

DAY SCHOOLS

Port Simpson Indian Day School operated separately from the Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home) and was not located on the same property as the IRS. The Indian Day School was located with Port Simpson Boys School on the Indian Reserve (in the Indian village).⁸ Port Simpson Indian Day School and Port Simpson Boys School are not eligible under the Settlement Agreement.

There was a day school in operation at Port Simpson IRS from 1897 [AEMR-010008]. Documents suggest that by 1924, students attended Port Simpson Indian Day School rather than the day school within Port Simpson IRS [PSM-200151; PSM-200153].

⁸ The Port Simpson Boys Home was in operation from at least 1902/03 until it closed on October 31, 1914 [AEMR-010014; AEMR-010026]. The Port Simpson Day School operated on the reserve from at least 1894/95 [AEMR-010006].

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students from at least the following bands attended Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home):

Aiyansh, Bella Coola, Gitikshan, Gitlakdamix, Greenville, Hazelton, Kincolith, Kinisquit, Kitikshan, Kitkatla, Kitsegucla, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, Lakgulzap, Metlakatla, Nishgah, Tsimpsean, Port Simpson.

There may be alternate ways of spelling these band names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

From 1874 to June 10, 1925, the Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home) was operated by the Woman's Missionary Society. In June 1925 the Society amalgamated with the United Church of Canada. The IRS was run the by United Church under the Board of Home Missions until its closure in June 1948 [AEMR-200432; ABR-000462].

The specific religious societies listed below have been named in association with the Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home) throughout its history; they were all part of the United Church/Methodist Church.

Methodist Missionary Society Women's Auxiliary, Methodist Church [AEMR-120140] Women's Missionary Society, Methodist Church [AEMR-120297] Women's Missionary Society, Board of Home Missions, United Church [UCB-006173]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

1911 Agreement between the Methodist Missionary Society and the Government [Unnumbered]. This agreement provided that the Methodist Missionary Society would support, maintain, and educate no more than 45 pupils at Port Simpson (Crosby) Girl's Home.

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

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.

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse by an adult at Port Simpson IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the IRS.

Incidents (Physical)

1895-1897 Punishments at the Crosby Girls' Home included "public and private reproof", corporal punishment, whipping, and solitary confinement [AEMR-010007; AEMR-010008].

Incidents (Sexual)

- 1941 On the evening of January 31, 1941, five boys were found on the fire escape outside the dormitory at Port Simpson IRS. The principal believed that the boys, age 16 to 19, were only on the fire escape, and did not enter the dormitory. Two of these boys and one other returned to visit the dormitory a few days later. On the evening of February 3, 1941, three boys entered dormitory number three at Port Simpson IRS by way of the fire escape and window, and slept in the beds of some of the girls. Statements from the girls indicate that there was sexual activity between them and the accused boys. A series of crime reports state that these boys were charged with committing acts "producing, promoting or contributing to (several girls) under the age of 18 becoming juvenile delinquents..." Five boys were charged with contributing to juvenile delinquency. Two of the boys who were in the girls' beds were sentenced to two months in prison. The others were given two weeks in jail. Another boy was waiting to be tried. The two oldest girls were suspended for one month [PSM-200647; PSM-200648-0000 to PSM-200648-0004].
- 1942 Parents in the town of Port Simpson were concerned about the behavior of several girls at the residence. One parent wrote a letter to the Director of Indian Affairs, accusing the girls of enticing boys up to the residence, as well as sneaking out at night and prowling around the town until day break [PSM-200649-0003].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<u>Truancy</u>

1946 December: Five girls left the Crosby Home to attend a carnival, and three of the girls left a few days later to visit a family member of one of the students, both times without permission. On their return, the principal sent the three "second offenders" to a detention room in the basement, intending to leave them there until she received a response to her letter to the Indian Agent [PSM-200683-0002].

December 22: The Indian Agent visited Crosby Girls' Home at the request of the principal to investigate the truancy of five girls. One student was suspended for her role as "the instigator" in several truancy incidents. The Indian Agent noted that the most recent episode was "just one of a series extending over a period of years at this school", which was caused by the children being "too severely confined in the school", not having enough opportunity for "normal contact of the

outside youngsters", and that there was "a serious restlessness in the school pupilage caused in part by inadequate food...by insufficient exercise and programme activation". In order to address these issues, he suggested that the residential school pupils be "co-educated" in the Port Simpson Indian Day School [PSM-200683-0001].

<u>Health</u>

1896	March-April: Epidemic of "La Grippe"; deaths of two girls [AEMR-010007].
1898/99	The IRS suffered three epidemics: measles, German measles, and grippe; the majority of pupils were affected but recovered [AEMR-010010].
1905/06	There was an epidemic of whooping cough; patients were isolated [AEMR-010017].
1908	March: Epidemic of la grippe [AEMR-010019].
1910	Autumn: Epidemic of tonsillitis [AEMR-010021].
1924	Spring: The Girls' Home is quarantined during a measles epidemic in the village; students from the Home do not attend classes at the day school. All pupils escaped infection [PSM-200151].
1938	There were reports of children having tuberculosis at the IRS [PSM-200275].

Curriculum and School Activities

1907	Physical education and basketball added to the curriculum. The girls in Crosby Home took music lessons [ABR-000462].
1911/12	The older girls at the home had an "organized mission band" which met weekly [AEMR-010023].
1927/28	All the girls are members of the Crosby Girls' Mission Band [UCB-005102].
1938/39	"Canadian Girl in Training Group" started in Port Simpson IRS circa 1939 [PSM-800007].
1942/43	Junior Red Cross was active at the school. They met ever Friday afternoon [PSM-800007].

Summer Holidays

Summer holidays would begin when the children's parents returned to the villages from working at the canneries. Thus, summer camps were held for the girls. Students from remote villages were transported home by freighter or steamship [ABR-000462].

Name	Position ⁹	Tenure Dates
Mrs. Crosby	Matron	1874 to 1880/81
Miss Hendrie	Matron	1881/82
Miss Sarah Hart	Principal/Matron	1888 to 1893
Unknown		1894
Mrs. J. Redner	Principal	1895/96 to 1897
Miss Lavinia Clarke	Principal	1897 to 1900/01
Miss Hannah M. Paul	Principal	1901/02 to 1908/09
Miss Carroll	Matron	To November 1904
Miss Ida M. Clarke	Matron	November 1904 to February 1909
Miss Frances E. Hudson	Matron	February 1909
Miss Frances E. Hudson	Principal/Matron	1909/10 to 1912/13
Miss Lottie M. Deacon	Principal/Matron	1913/14 to 1928/29
Miss A.S. Myles	Principal	1929/30
Miss Lottie M. Deacon	Principal/Matron	1930/31 to June 1938
Miss Bessie French	Principal/Matron	1938 to 1943/44
Miss Vera Simmons (Simons) (Simonds)	Principal/Matron	1943/44 to November 1944
Miss Fulton	Matron	1945/46
Miss Helen Lawson	Principal	1946/47
Miss Moats	Principal/Matron	1947/48

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Narrative Completed: September 7, 2010

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1911/12	38-45	1941/42	25-30
1912/13	31-40	1942/43	28-30
1913/14	22-32	1943/44	30
1914/15	22-27	1945/46	26-29
1915/16	31-40	1947/48	8-17
1916/17	39-43		

DAY SCHOOLS

Port Simpson Indian Day School operated separately from the Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home) and was not located on the same property as the IRS. The Indian Day School was located with Port Simpson Boys School on the Indian Reserve (in the Indian village).⁸ Port Simpson Indian Day School and Port Simpson Boys School are not eligible under the Settlement Agreement.

There was a day school in operation at Port Simpson IRS from 1897 [AEMR-010008]. Documents suggest that by 1924, students attended Port Simpson Indian Day School rather than the day school within Port Simpson IRS [PSM-200151; PSM-200153].

⁸ The Port Simpson Boys Home was in operation from at least 1902/03 until it closed on October 31, 1914 [AEMR-010014; AEMR-010026]. The Port Simpson Day School operated on the reserve from at least 1894/95 [AEMR-010006].

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students from at least the following bands attended Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home):

Aiyansh, Bella Coola, Gitikshan, Gitlakdamix, Greenville, Hazelton, Kincolith, Kinisquit, Kitikshan, Kitkatla, Kitsegucla, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, Lakgulzap, Metlakatla, Nishgah, Tsimpsean, Port Simpson.

There may be alternate ways of spelling these band names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

From 1874 to June 10, 1925, the Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home) was operated by the Woman's Missionary Society. In June 1925 the Society amalgamated with the United Church of Canada. The IRS was run the by United Church under the Board of Home Missions until its closure in June 1948 [AEMR-200432; ABR-000462].

The specific religious societies listed below have been named in association with the Port Simpson IRS (Crosby Girls' Home) throughout its history; they were all part of the United Church/Methodist Church.

Methodist Missionary Society Women's Auxiliary, Methodist Church [AEMR-120140] Women's Missionary Society, Methodist Church [AEMR-120297] Women's Missionary Society, Board of Home Missions, United Church [UCB-006173]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

1911 Agreement between the Methodist Missionary Society and the Government [Unnumbered]. This agreement provided that the Methodist Missionary Society would support, maintain, and educate no more than 45 pupils at Port Simpson (Crosby) Girl's Home.

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

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.

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse by an adult at Port Simpson IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the IRS.

Incidents (Physical)

1895-1897 Punishments at the Crosby Girls' Home included "public and private reproof", corporal punishment, whipping, and solitary confinement [AEMR-010007; AEMR-010008].

Incidents (Sexual)

- 1941 On the evening of January 31, 1941, five boys were found on the fire escape outside the dormitory at Port Simpson IRS. The principal believed that the boys, age 16 to 19, were only on the fire escape, and did not enter the dormitory. Two of these boys and one other returned to visit the dormitory a few days later. On the evening of February 3, 1941, three boys entered dormitory number three at Port Simpson IRS by way of the fire escape and window, and slept in the beds of some of the girls. Statements from the girls indicate that there was sexual activity between them and the accused boys. A series of crime reports state that these boys were charged with committing acts "producing, promoting or contributing to (several girls) under the age of 18 becoming juvenile delinquents..." Five boys were charged with contributing to juvenile delinquency. Two of the boys who were in the girls' beds were sentenced to two months in prison. The others were given two weeks in jail. Another boy was waiting to be tried. The two oldest girls were suspended for one month [PSM-200647; PSM-200648-0000 to PSM-200648-0004].
- 1942 Parents in the town of Port Simpson were concerned about the behavior of several girls at the residence. One parent wrote a letter to the Director of Indian Affairs, accusing the girls of enticing boys up to the residence, as well as sneaking out at night and prowling around the town until day break [PSM-200649-0003].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<u>Truancy</u>

1946 December: Five girls left the Crosby Home to attend a carnival, and three of the girls left a few days later to visit a family member of one of the students, both times without permission. On their return, the principal sent the three "second offenders" to a detention room in the basement, intending to leave them there until she received a response to her letter to the Indian Agent [PSM-200683-0002].

December 22: The Indian Agent visited Crosby Girls' Home at the request of the principal to investigate the truancy of five girls. One student was suspended for her role as "the instigator" in several truancy incidents. The Indian Agent noted that the most recent episode was "just one of a series extending over a period of years at this school", which was caused by the children being "too severely confined in the school", not having enough opportunity for "normal contact of the

outside youngsters", and that there was "a serious restlessness in the school pupilage caused in part by inadequate food...by insufficient exercise and programme activation". In order to address these issues, he suggested that the residential school pupils be "co-educated" in the Port Simpson Indian Day School [PSM-200683-0001].

<u>Health</u>

1896	March-April: Epidemic of "La Grippe"; deaths of two girls [AEMR-010007].
1898/99	The IRS suffered three epidemics: measles, German measles, and grippe; the majority of pupils were affected but recovered [AEMR-010010].
1905/06	There was an epidemic of whooping cough; patients were isolated [AEMR-010017].
1908	March: Epidemic of la grippe [AEMR-010019].
1910	Autumn: Epidemic of tonsillitis [AEMR-010021].
1924	Spring: The Girls' Home is quarantined during a measles epidemic in the village; students from the Home do not attend classes at the day school. All pupils escaped infection [PSM-200151].
1938	There were reports of children having tuberculosis at the IRS [PSM-200275].

Curriculum and School Activities

1907	Physical education and basketball added to the curriculum. The girls in Crosby Home took music lessons [ABR-000462].
1911/12	The older girls at the home had an "organized mission band" which met weekly [AEMR-010023].
1927/28	All the girls are members of the Crosby Girls' Mission Band [UCB-005102].
1938/39	"Canadian Girl in Training Group" started in Port Simpson IRS circa 1939 [PSM-800007].
1942/43	Junior Red Cross was active at the school. They met ever Friday afternoon [PSM-800007].

Summer Holidays

Summer holidays would begin when the children's parents returned to the villages from working at the canneries. Thus, summer camps were held for the girls. Students from remote villages were transported home by freighter or steamship [ABR-000462].

Name	Position ⁹	Tenure Dates
Mrs. Crosby	Matron	1874 to 1880/81
Miss Hendrie	Matron	1881/82
Miss Sarah Hart	Principal/Matron	1888 to 1893
Unknown		1894
Mrs. J. Redner	Principal	1895/96 to 1897
Miss Lavinia Clarke	Principal	1897 to 1900/01
Miss Hannah M. Paul	Principal	1901/02 to 1908/09
Miss Carroll	Matron	To November 1904
Miss Ida M. Clarke	Matron	November 1904 to February 1909
Miss Frances E. Hudson	Matron	February 1909
Miss Frances E. Hudson	Principal/Matron	1909/10 to 1912/13
Miss Lottie M. Deacon	Principal/Matron	1913/14 to 1928/29
Miss A.S. Myles	Principal	1929/30
Miss Lottie M. Deacon	Principal/Matron	1930/31 to June 1938
Miss Bessie French	Principal/Matron	1938 to 1943/44
Miss Vera Simmons (Simons) (Simonds)	Principal/Matron	1943/44 to November 1944
Miss Fulton	Matron	1945/46
Miss Helen Lawson	Principal	1946/47
Miss Moats	Principal/Matron	1947/48

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Narrative Completed: September 7, 2010

⁹ Matron and principal appear to be used interchangeably at Port Simpson IRS.

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

