

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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**Regina Indian Residential School  
IAP School Narrative**

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

Regina

**OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)**

1891 to 1910 Regina Industrial School [RIS-000327, pg. 11; RIS-000335, pg. 5; RIS-000646, pg. 4]

**LOCATION**

The Regina IRS was situated on the banks of the Wascana Creek, four miles northwest of the city of Regina, Saskatchewan. The IRS was not situated on a reserve [RIS-000641, pg. 4].

**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.

April 15, 1891 to March 31, 1910

**OPERATING DATES CONTEXT**

The Regina IRS opened April 15, 1891 [RIS-000057, pg. 2]. In 1909 some of the out buildings at the IRS were in dire need of repair [RIS-000630]. The IRS closed on March 31, 1910 [RIS-000098].

**RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**

Presbyterian Church

1891 to 1910 Foreign Mission Committee, Presbyterian Church in Canada [RIS-000464; RIS-000630]

**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**

Date	Event	Document Reference
April 15, 1891	The Regina IRS was opened by the federal government under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church. Until the 1893/94 school year, the federal government paid for all of the expenses at the IRS.	RIS-000057, pg. 2
1893	Beginning with the 1893/94 school year, the IRS was funded on a per-capita basis.	RIS-000057, pg. 3

1904	The federal government agreed to upgrade the existing IRS buildings and to provide per-capita grants for pupils for 1904/05 and for ensuing years at the IRS.	RIS-000297 RIS-000290
March 31, 1910	The IRS closed.	RIS-000098

**EDUCATION OF STUDENTS**

**Grades taught at the Indian residential school**

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1890/91	No information found	
1891/92	1 to 4	RIS-000329, pg. 13
1892/93 to 1893/94	1 to 5	RIS-000330, pg. 6 RIS-000331, pg. 11
1894/95 to 1897/98	1 to 6	RIS-000332, pg. 12 RIS-000333, pg. 11 RIS-000334, pg. 11 RIS-000335, pg. 9
1898/99 to 1901/02	1 to 5	RIS-000336, pg. 8 RIS-000337, pg. 16 RIS-000637, pg. 13 RIS-000640, pg. 11
1902/03 to 1909/10	1 to 6	RIS-000638, pg. 13 RIS-000639, pg. 7-8 RIS-000641, pg. 4 RIS-000642, pg. 4-5 RIS-000643, pg. 4-5 RIS-000644, pg. 4 RIS-000645, pg. 8 RIS-000646, pg. 4

**Other Schools Attended by Residents**

No information was found to indicate that residents attended other school.

**GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME**

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1890/91	32	No information found	RIS-000327, pg. 5
1891/92	93	No information found	RIS-000329, pg. 10
1892/93	96	No information found	RIS-000330, pg. 4
1893/94	118	No information found	RIS-000331, pg. 11
1894/95	137	No information found	RIS-000332, pg. 12
1895/96	155	No information found	RIS-000333, pg. 11
1896/97	154	No information found	RIS-000334, pg. 11
1897/98	139	No information found	RIS-000335, pg. 9
1898/99	122	No information found	RIS-000336, pg. 8
1899/00	135	No information found	RIS-000337, pg. 16
1900/01	120	No information found	RIS-000637, pg. 13
1901/02	115	No information found	RIS-000638, pg. 4
1902/03	113	No information found	RIS-000638, pg. 4
1903/04	111	No information found	RIS-000639, pg. 4
1904/05	87	No information found	RIS-000641, pg. 4
1905/06	60	No information found	RIS-000642, pg. 4-5

1906/07	64	No information found	RIS-000643, pg. 9
1907/08	64	No information found	RIS-000644, pg. 7
1908/09	79	No information found	RIS-000645, pg. 8
1909/10	77	No information found	RIS-000646, pg. 4

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1891	Boys at the IRS were taught carpentry and agriculture, and the girls were instructed in laundry and kitchen duties.	RIS-000327, pg. 5-6
1897	IRS students were taught carpentry and cabinet-making, shoe and harness making, printing and farming, as well as general house work.	RIS-000446, pg. 9
1897/98	Extracurricular activities at the IRS included football and a brass band.	RIS-000335, pg. 7

### INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
1892	The main building at the Regina IRS was solid brick, with stone foundations and an extension. The ground floor contained a sewing room, classroom, a reception room, office, Principal's parlour, and a boys' classroom measuring 50' X 33'. On the second floor were the dormitories, bathrooms, bedrooms for staff and clothing storage rooms. The dining room, kitchen, private dining room, laundry, scullery and pantry were located in the extension of the main IRS building.	RIS-000329, pg. 7-8
1897	The two classrooms at the IRS were in use during the winter term.	RIS-000334, pg. 8
1897/98	The Regina IRS could accommodate 150 residents. A cottage hospital measuring 28' X 32' with a kitchen measuring 12' X 14' was constructed at the IRS during the year. An ice house and a piggery were also built.	RIS-000335, pg. 5-6
1899	The buildings on the IRS grounds included the main IRS building, a Principal's residence, a large frame building used for workshops, a cottage for the carpenter instructor, a laundry, a bake-house, a root-house, an implement shed, two stables, and some smaller buildings such as a well-house and a garden-house.	RIS-000336, pg. 4
1901	On the first floor of the main IRS building was an assembly room sometimes used as a classroom, a reception room, an office, the dispensary and photographer's dark room, a senior classroom, a dormitory for little boys, a pupil dining room, a staff dining room, the kitchen, the sewing room, the scullery, a pantry and kitchen storeroom. On the second floor were two large dormitories, a dormitory for little girls, washrooms, two clothing store rooms and ten private rooms for teachers.	RIS-000637, pg. 4-5
1902	The main IRS building had two classrooms. The assembly room was sometimes used as a classroom and recreation room. Outbuildings at the IRS included a farming instructor's cottage, a trades building	RIS-000640, pg. 5

	(containing a paint shop, shoe shop, hardware storeroom, printing office, and carpenter shop), hen house, bake shop, blacksmith shop, granary, tool house, lumber house, grain crusher house, two outdoor water closets, a band stand, and a toboggan slide.	
1904	The federal government agreed to upgrade the existing IRS buildings.	RIS-000297
1904	A cement engine house at the IRS was built entirely by the boys of the IRS.	RIS-000639, pg. 7-8
1909/10	Though some of the outbuildings at the IRS were collapsing and in need of repair, the federal government would not undertake expenditures for repairs until a decision was made about continuing operations at the IRS. The IRS closed on March 31, 1910.	RIS-000628 RIS-000630 RIS-000098

## PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

The following diagrams from 1886 depict a proposed Long Lake Industrial School that was instead later built as the Regina IRS.

Date	Description	Document Reference
1886	Diagram of the front elevation.	RIS-000101
1886	Diagram of the side elevation.	RIS-000102
1886	Diagram of the attic.	RIS-000103
1886	Diagram of the roof.	RIS-000104
1886	Diagram of the work shop and stables.	RIS-000105
1886	Diagram of the Sheds and staff accommodation.	RIS-000106

## DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the Regina 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 government officials and all available information regarding the follow-up and outcome.

### Incidents (Sexual)

No information found.

### Incidents (Physical)

1903 A letter noted that a girl sent to the IRS ran away but was brought back and shut in a room by herself where she attempted to commit suicide by hanging. The staff member who found the girl in time “pulled out a revolver and giving it to the girl told her to shoot herself.” The girl took the revolver and shot twice but it was empty. The letter also mentioned that a runaway boy who was found by a staff member had his hands tied behind his back and was taken back to the IRS “in the manner of an animal” [RIS-000171].

### Incidents (Student on Student)

1903 In a letter the Foreign Mission Committee, a Missionary reported the rape of two girls by two boys in the IRS basement. The author claimed that a staff member threatened the boys and the girls “with a terrible punishment” if they spoke to one another or to their parents of the

incident. The author also noted that a girl told her mother that she had been abused by the boys in the IRS [RIS-000184].

In another letter to the Foreign Mission Committee, the Missionary stated that nothing would be gained by investigating statements he had made in previous letters regarding the Regina IRS. The Missionary decided to resign from Mission work, foreseeing “friction and opposition between” a staff member at the Regina IRS and himself in the future [RIS-000168; RIS-000170; RIS-000175].

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 1891 The Principal noted that some pupils had run away from the IRS though the pupils were brought back in every case [RIS-000327, pg. 5-6].
- 1897 Up to June 1897, 48 pupils died at the IRS [RIS-000341].
- 1900/01 One pupil died from consumption. The general health of the pupils was good during the year, and scrofulous cases had greatly decreased under proper treatment [RIS-000637, pg. 7].
- 1903 The federal government approved the Indian Commissioner’s suggestion to send home the children suffering from scrofula. IRS staff had been keeping a number of students suffering from scrofula in tents in the summer months, claiming that the open air treatment had a beneficial result. No inspection had been made of the Regina IRS for over a year and a half [RIS-000034; RIS-000047].
- 1903 By December, the IRS was in quarantine because of small pox [RIS-000131].
- 1908 An inspector reported that the boys’ dormitory at the Regina IRS was locked with a padlock from the outside. The federal government recommended discontinuing this practice, and suggested that a staff member sleep adjacent to the dormitory to prevent boys from leaving it at night, if this was the reason for the door being locked [RIS-000577].

### **PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Tenure Dates</b>
Reverend A. J. McLeod	Principal	1891 to 1900
Reverend J.A. Sinclair	Principal	1901 to 1904
Reverend R.B. Heron	Acting Principal/Principal	1905 to 1910

Narrative Completed: March 28, 2012  
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### **EXTERNAL CONTEXT**

During the summer of 1896, about 40 IRS residents worked in the home of non-Indian families in Regina [RIS-000446, pg. 9-10].

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



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