

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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Round Lake IRS  
School Narrative  
[07 21 2004]

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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

Round Lake Indian Residential School [RLS-001166; RLS-001073]

Round Lake Indian Boarding School [RLS-000171; RLS-001074; RLS-000049]

Round Lake Indian Industrial Institution [RLS-000007a]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

The school opened in 1884 under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church [RLS-000001; RLS-000001a; RLS-000018]. The school closed on September 1, 1950 [RLS-000553].

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

1884-1912: Presbyterian Church, Foreign Mission Committee, Western Division [RLS-000001a; RLS-001074]

1913-1926: Presbyterian Church, Board of Home Missions, Western Division [RLS-000049; RLS-000105]

1926-1950: United Church of Canada, Board of Home Missions and Social Services [RLS-001002, RLS-000290; RLS-000290a]

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- Originally built in 1884, a small, one-room log shanty with an upstairs and a kitchen attached [RLS-000007a].
- 1885-1888: Additions, extensions and alterations were made [RLS-000007a; RLS-001254].
- 1897: School consisted of two separate buildings of wood and stone; one contained the school room, classrooms, boys' sleeping rooms and teacher's room, and the other building contained the principal's room, kitchen, parlor, dining rooms, girls' dormitories and storeroom [RLS-000018].
- 1908: School consisted of a main building with reception-room, parlor, dining rooms, kitchen, laundry, rooms for four members of staff, girls' bedrooms, store rooms, cellars and boy's and girls' waiting rooms; a school house with a school room, 2 classrooms, boy's bedrooms, teacher's room and farmer's room; a bank barn with stables underneath [RLS-000022].
- 1918: The Church built a 40 x 40 foot addition and incorporated the remodeled south wing of the old building into the new building [RLS-000104; RLS-000105].
- 1923: Fire destroyed the two new classrooms; new portion for the main building was remodeled [RLS-000196; RLS-000196a; RLS-000213].
- 1943: School building noted as old and had to be added to repeatedly [RLS-000435].

- 1950: School closed due to poor and unsafe building conditions. The building at Round Lake was condemned on May 23, 1950 [RLS-000547; RLS-000552].
- Dates owned by Church: 1884-1923 [RLS-000181; RLS-000213].
- Dates owned by Crown: 1923-1950:
- 1923: the Crown purchased from a Reverend and his wife 406 acres of land, mostly in the Qu'Appelle Valley, along with the 10-year-old, two-story dwelling, a stable and other small out buildings on the land, for \$15,000 [RLS-000171; RLS-000199].
- 1924: The Crown purchased from the Presbyterian Church the residential school, stable, outbuildings and approximately 22 acres of land on which the school stood for \$8000 [RLS-000181; RLS-000213].

## LAND

- The Round Lake IRS was situated at the East end of Round Lake, on the North side of the Qu'Appelle River, in the Qu'Appelle Valley, 70 miles East of Fort Qu'Appelle, in the Crooked Lake Agency, Treaty Number 4 [RLS-000018].
- The land occupied and used by the Round Lake IRS was comprised of three parcels. The first was a 22 acre lot on which the school buildings stood; the second parcel was approximately 298 acres and was used by the school for agricultural and farming purposes; the third 406-acre parcel included a dwelling and outbuildings.
- Round Lake was situated about 15 miles further down the Qu'Appelle River than the Crooked Lake Agency [RLS-000018], close to Cross Lake reserves in Qu'Appelle Valley including Kahkewistahaw, Sakimay and Cowessess, and near to the town of Broadview [RLS-001076; RLS-001071a].
- Dates owned by Church: 1884-1914 [RLS-000181; RLS-000213].
- Dates of changes of ownership: 1899: Department of Indian Affairs negotiated, over a period of 11 years, with the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. the acquisition of 298 acres of land (South half of Section 23, Township 18, Range 3, West of the 2nd Meridian) in exchange for a portion of land of like value to be used for agricultural and farming purposes by the Round Lake Indian Boarding School [RLS-000018; RLS-000016].
- Dates owned by Crown: 1923-1950. In 1923, the Crown purchased from a Reverend and his wife 406 acres of land, mostly in the Qu'Appelle Valley [RLS-000194; RLS-00171].
- Final disposition of school land: the land was to be leased to the highest bidder in 1951 [RLS-001124; RLS-001125]

## PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

- RLS-001071a, 1890. Sketch shows Cowessess, Sakimay and Kahkewistahaw regions, the Canadian Pacific Railway line and the Town of Broadview.
- RLS-001071b, 1895. Sketch shows location of Round Lake in relation to surrounding lake
- RLS-001072a, 1898. Sketch showing the land surrounding Round Lake IRS.
- RLS-000016, 1899. Plan of Township 18, Range 3, West of the Second Meridian.
- RLS-001044a, 1941. Sketch plan of sewage disposal system.
- RLS-001061b, 1948. Diagram of the location of buildings at Round Lake IRS, including the school residence, classroom, chicken house, piggery and barn.

- RLS-001061c, 1948. Photographs include a side view of the building and laundry, the classroom, and the pump house.
- RLS-0000494a, 1949. Diagram of the Kahkewistahaw and Ochapowace Reserves.

#### GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

1884: 10 pupils; 1911: 33 pupils; 1915: 45 pupils; 1922: 62 pupils; 1930: 73 pupils; 1942: 77 pupils; 1946: 71 pupils; 1950: 62 pupils

#### STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Kahkewistahaw, White Bear, Carry the Kettle, Sakimay, Ochapowace and Cowessess

#### RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Presbyterian Church, Foreign Mission Committee, Western Division [RLS-00001a; RLS-001074]

Presbyterian Church, Board of Home Missions, Western Division [RLS-000049; RLS-000105]

Presbyterian Church, Women's Missionary Society [RLS-000124]

United Church of Canada, Board of Home Missions and Social Service [RLS-001002, RLS-000290; RLS-000290a]

United Church of Canada, Women's Missionary Society [RLS-000544; RLS-000547]

#### WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

1911 agreement between the Foreign Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Federal Government for the operation and management of the School [RLS-0001074]. Although the United Church took over the administration of the school in 1926, no agreement between the United Church of Canada and the Department of Indian Affairs was found.

#### 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:

##### Incidents (Physical)

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|------|---|
| 1943 | Complaint by a student's mother that a staff member had given her child a strapping which cut the child's arm. This incident was investigated by the Indian Agent and found to be in accordance with regulation. [RLS-000429, RLS-000429a, RLS-000429b] |
| 1949 | A petition was signed by many of the parents from two bands in protest against a school teacher for abusing the children too much [RLS-000512, RLS-000512a, RLS-000512b].   |

#### CONVICTIONS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Round Lake IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1949: School barn, blacksmith shop, two granaries near the barn, and one granary in the field were totally destroyed by a fire on May 11, 1949 along with equipment and livestock [RLS-000493].
- 1950: New school barn was scorched by a fire but sustained minimal damage; loss of livestock [RLS-000531; RLS-000531a].

#### PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Rev. Hugh McKay/Principal/1884-1921

Mr. R.P. Heron/Acting Principal/1910

Mr. Ledingham/Acting Principal/1912

Rev. W. J. Cookson/Assistant Principal/1921

Rev. James Greer/Principal/1921-1922

Rev. R.J. Ross/Principal/1922-1939

Rev. A.C. Huston/Principal/1939-1944

Rev. W. McWhinney/Acting Principal/1945

Rev. James A. Card/Principal/1945-1950

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

