

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.

**Sechelt IRS
School Narrative
[07 19 2004]**

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

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

Sechelt Boarding School [Item# 00315, 00385 and 11301] Sechelt Indian Boarding School [Item# 00427 and 01524]	1908 - 1923
Sechelt Industrial School [Item# 01557]	1922 - 1924
Sechelt Indian School [Item# 01527 and 01549] Indian Residential School, Sechelt [Item# 00890]	1923 - 1967
Sechelt Indian Residential School/ Sechelt Indian Res. School [Item# 00882, 01191 and 04938] Sechelt Residential School [Item# 00836 and 01139]	1923 - 1975
Sechelt Indian Student Residence [Item# 01676] Sechelt Student Residence [Item# 04665 and 09617]	1968 - 1975

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- 1899 Request that an Industrial School be established at Sechelt for school aged children on the surrounding reserves is refused [Item# 00267 and 00270].
- 1901 Complaint is made by “Indians” regarding “... their neglect by the Government in not providing them with a school for the education of their children” [Item# 00281 and 00283]. The government replies that, at present, no action can be taken [Item# 00286].
- 1903 Chief Julius of the Sechelt Tribe requests that the government provide a boarding school for their children as previously promised [Item# 00287]. He is informed that, at present, no action can be taken [Item# 00289].
- Sechelt tribe begins to build their own school house with room for fifty boys and girls. They petition (apply) the government to help with the completion of the school, its furnishing and a grant for boarding the children [Item# 00299].
- 1904 In a letter dated January 19, 1905, it is reported that the Sechelt Boarding School was opened in July last [Item# 00315].

- 1905 A grant is provided by the government for the purpose of defraying a portion of the cost of the new Indian Boarding School at Sechelt [Item# 11361]. Also, a per capita grant is provided to the institution [Item# 00323].
- 1914 In a letter dated June 11, 1914, the Principal states "... that from the beginning of the School, the boys have done all of the work in our two orchards." In 1906, 78 fruit trees were planted, and for the past four years boys at the school have been receiving lessons from an "expert fruit grower." In the spring, the boys planted an acre with trees sent by the government [Item# 00385].
- 1917 The Sechelt Boarding School was destroyed by fire on May 29 [Item# 03478].
- In a letter from the Indian Agent, dated January 16, 1918, it was stated that the school reopened on December the 8th [Item# 00398].
- 1922 In a letter from the Principal, dated April 20, 1922, she states that "... the New School built by the Government at Sechelt, B.C. is completed ..." [Item# 01523].
- The principal of the Sechelt Indian Boarding School advises that the school will be opened on June the 15th [Item# 01524]. In a letter dated July 7, 1922, the Chief Inspector of Indian Agencies writes "... that on the 15th ultimo [last month], I attended the opening of the Sechelt Indian School ..." [Item# 01527].
- 1948 Children are attending the local high school [Item# 00882 and 01724].
- 1950 Grade ten students started the term at the Sechelt High School but were recalled. It is suggested that the five grade ten students register full time in correspondence [Item# 00890 and 00891].
- 1953 Day School had recently opened adjacent to the residential school [Item# 06909A].
- 1954 There is no farm being operated in connection with the school but approximately one acre is being used for a kitchen garden [Item# 08627].
- 1955 Due to the "perished soil," the kitchen garden has been abandoned at the school [Item# 08621].
- 1957 It is noted that "... students from the adjacent day school attend some classes at the residential school, and resident students attend some classes at the day school" [Item# 10710].
- 1967 Plans to integrate grade one pupils is accepted; students will attend Sechelt Provincial School but continue to live in residence [Item# 03307, 03308, 03450, 04866, 04868 and 05520].

Joint School Submission is made on July 13, 1967, for the enrolment of 170 pupils to allow for the "... growth and final phasing out of classes at Sechelt Residential School in [a] three-year period" [Item# 03451A].

A Memorandum of Agreement "... between the Department and School District No. 46 (Sechelt) states that space will be provided for 170 native pupils" (the physical agreement has not been located to date) [Item# 03455].

1968 As of June 1968, there are 165 native pupils in various schools in the District [Item# 03455].

Joint School Submission is made on August 14, 1968, for the enrolment of 80 additional pupils to allow for the "... growth and phasing out of classes at Sechelt Residential School in [a] three year period" [Item# 05511].

Memorandum of Agreement, between Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and The Board of School Trustees, School District No. 46, Sechelt, states that 80 additional spaces will be provided in various schools operated by the Board [Item# 05508].

Grades 1, 8 and 9 go to school in Roberts Creek, Grades 5 to 8 go to school in Sechelt and Grades 3 and 4 have their classes in the school [Item# 01200, p. 1].

1969 It is anticipated that "... residential schools will become 'child care' institutions with no formal educational facilities by September, 1969" [Item# 04264].

1971 The day school building is being turned over to the band effective April 1, 1971; however, there is a Memorandum of Agreement for the residence to still use the day school as a study hall at a rate of \$50.00 per month [Item# 08522 and 08522B].

1972 The Sechelt Indian Band gives notice that the classrooms in the day school will not be available for study starting the next school term [Item# 04665].

1975 Residence is being closed on June 30, 1975, and the buildings and land are to be transferred to the Sechelt Indian Band [Item# 01297 and 01407A].

Authorization has been provided for the demolition of the Sechelt Student Residence [Item# 02328A].

Residential School is "gutted" by fire as an act of arson on October 9, 1975 [Item# 04920 and 04921].

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

From its inception in 1904 until 1924, The Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus were responsible for the management of the school [Item# 00308, p. 2 and 00464, 00473, p. 2]. The Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus continued to be present at the school in various positions including: teacher, matron, supervisor, child care worker and assistant administrator up to and including 1975 [Item# 01139].

From 1924 until 1969, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate assumed responsibility for the management of the school [Item# 01506, 01221 and 02071]. After 1969, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate continued to be present at the school in various positions including: supervisor, child care worker and administrator up to and including 1975.

Dates managed by Government

In 1954, the government took over the employment of teachers at Sechelt Indian Residential School [Item# 01237, 08621C and 08627C].

In 1958, under the new system of operating government-owned residential schools on a controlled cost basis, the government allowed for all operating costs in regard to the operation of Sechelt. Allowance for food and clothing; however, varied in proportion to enrolment [Item# 01191].

Prior to April 1, 1969, all non-teaching staff remained the responsibility of the religious entities that operated and managed Sechelt Indian Residential School. On April 1, 1969, all non-teaching staff became employees of the Public Service of Canada. However, Residence Administrators and Child Care Workers remained exempt from the hiring provisions of the Public Service Employment Act until April 1, 1974 and continued to be nominated by the respective church authorities during that period.

From April 1, 1969 until its closure on June 30, 1975, the government assumed responsibility for the management of the school [Item# 09097A].

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- 1904 In a letter dated January 19, 1905, it is reported that the Sechelt Boarding School was opened in July last [Item# 00315].
- 1917 The Sechelt Boarding School was destroyed by fire on May 29 [Item# 03478]. The school reopened on December the 8th in temporary buildings erected for the boys and girls as well as a cottage built for the staff and sick children [Item# 00398, 00473 and 00474].

- 1922 In a letter from the Principal, dated April 20, 1922, she states that "... the New School built by the Government at Sechelt, B.C. is completed ..." [Item# 01523]. The principal of the Sechelt Indian Boarding School advises that the school will be opened on June the 15th [Item# 01524]. In a letter dated July 7, 1922, the Chief Inspector of Indian Agencies writes "... that on the 15th ultimo [last month], I attended the opening of the Sechelt Indian School ..." [Item# 01527].
- 1924 Building of a barn and storehouse may be undertaken if the Principal is willing to erect them [Item# 01544 and 01548]. It is not clear when the barn was built; however, the completed barn is next mentioned in an extract of an inspection dated in April of 1932 [Item# 01589, p. 1].
- 1925 Request to erect a small boat-house on a portion of the waterfront at Sechelt Indian Reserve No. 2 [Item# 01552]. It is not clear when the boat house was completed; however, in a letter dated May 7, 1934, there is mention of a boat house that was built in 1925 [Item# 00767, p. 2].
- 1931 New chicken house is required since the old ones are old and considered to be full of disease [Item# 00860].
Pipe line for Sechelt Indian Residential School connected to Union Estates Limited at an annual charge of \$100 for water [Item# 10920, 10938 and 10948].
- 1932 Building of a manual training shop at the school to be completed [Item# 00757 and 01589, p. 1]. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Recommended that material be provided for the construction of a modern chicken house [Item# 01589, p. 2]. The previous requisition for a new chicken house is cancelled; the chickens will be moved to the barn since cows are not being kept [Item# 01593].
- 1939 Upper portion of barn being used for sports [Item# 01618 and 01633].
School, staff houses and gymnasium re-wired and connected to the Columbia Power Company's light and power system [Item# 01633].
- 1945 Construction of a building suitable for slaughtering has begun; \$50.00 is requested to assist in the building's erection [Item# 01678]. Slaughtering is taking place in the barn and a request for a building is made [Item# 01673, p. 5]. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Construction of a woodshed has commenced but is not completed [Item# 01673, p. 5]. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
The room in the school is being used as a dairy; a separate building is required [Item# 01673, p. 5]. It is not clear if a dairy was ever constructed from the documentation that is available.
The Poultry house should be torn down and replaced [Item# 01673, p. 2]. Later,

vouchers were submitted covering the purchase of material and labour in connection with the extension of the poultry house [Item# 01679]. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.

- 1949 Barn is converted into a gymnasium and concert auditorium [Item# 08641, p. 2-3].
- 1950 Alterations made to domestic hot and cold water and heating system [Item# 01727 and 01730].
Manual training building rewired [Item# 06865 and 06873]. Authority for rewiring was provided on November 21, 1950. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
- 1951 Repairs to the heating system [Item# 06874 and 06879]. Approval for repairs was provided on November 13, 1951. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
- 1953 Construction of a two-room Day School and teacherage completed [Item# 09429 and 09463].
Portions of Sechelt Residential School repaired, waterproofed and painted [Item# 06899 and 06908]. These projects were approved on March 4, 1953 and July 31, 1953. The completion dates for these projects is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Due to the recent opening of a day school, a classroom at the residence is converted into a dormitory [Item# 06909A]. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
- 1954 Interior painting and waterproofing of Sechelt Indian Residential School [Item# 06923 and 06927]. Authority for the project was provided on August 11, 1954. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
- 1955 General repairs to the school include: floors, roof and a new bell tower [Item# 06930, 06935 and 06938].
- 1956 Construction of a temporary classroom in the basement of the 2 room former day school building [Item# 06953 and 06981]. Authority for construction was provided on September 4, 1956. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
- 1957 Electrical alterations are completed at the residence [Item# 07019 and 07019B]. Interior painting of the residence [Item# 07033 and 07047]. Authority for the project was provided on August 19, 1957. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Repairs to the heating boilers and installation of a new stoker [Item# 06993, 07054A and 07054B]. The completion date for this project is not clear from the

documentation that is available.

- 1958 Erection of a chain link fence around the residence [Item# 07218]. Approval for the project was provided on December 9, 1958. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Installation of floor coverings in the residence [Item# 06581 and 07101]. Authority for the project was provided on May 21, 1958. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Portion of one of the dormitories is partitioned off [Item# 07082 and 07084]. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
- 1959 Construction of an additional classroom in the basement [Item# 06606, 06672 and 06715]. Approval for the project was provided on August 6, 1959. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Replacement of the main heating boiler [Item# 06702 and 06704]. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Alterations to the sewage system completed [Item# 02575 and 06613].
Exterior painting of the residence [Item# 06675]. Authority for the project was provided on July 7, 1959. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Installation of new laundry equipment [Item# 06685, 06706 and 06725]. Approval for the project was provided on September 10, 1959. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Installation of Floor Coverings completed [Item# 07233 and 07266].
Repairs to the roof of the residence [Item# 06674]. Authority for the project was provided on July 17, 1959. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Replacement of the domestic hot water heating facilities completed [Item# 06707, 07161 and 07216].
- 1960 Installation of new floor coverings [Item# 06749 and 06771]. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
Interior Decoration of the Sechelt Indian Residential School [Item# 04362, 06797 and 06807]. Approval for the project was provided on December 16, 1960. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
- 1961 Installation of new fire escapes completed [Item# 04361D and 06834].
- 1962 Renovations to the boys' and girls' bathrooms completed [Item# 02660 and 04396A].
Addition to the school ground fencing [Item# 04397 and 04397B]. Approval for the project was provided on March 9, 1962. The completion date for this project is

not clear from the documentation that is available.

- 1964 The principal demolished the old workshop and wishes to construct another building [Item# 02600]. It is not clear when a new workshop was built; however, the new workshop is next mentioned in an extract of a Fire Protection Engineering Survey dated February 1967 [Item# 04862, p. 2].
- 1965 Heating system installed at the gymnasium [Item# 03312].
- 1968 Fire alarm system and emergency lighting installed at the residence and day school [Item# 04425 and 03214D].
Installation of oil-burning equipment and minor repairs to residence and day school to be completed by August 31, 1968 [Item# 05061 and 03259]. The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
- 1971 Installation of kitchen equipment and minor renovations [Item# 09003 and 09007].
The completion date for this project is not clear from the documentation that is available.
The day school building is being turned over to the band effective April 1, 1971 [Item# 08522B and 08522].
- 1975 Residence is being closed on June 30, 1975, and the buildings and land are to be transferred to the Sechelt Indian Band [Item# 01297 and 01407A].
Authorization has been provided for the demolition of the Sechelt Student Residence [Item# 02328A].
Residential School is "gutted" by fire as an act of arson on October 9, 1975 [Item# 04920 and 04921].

LAND

- 1915 Members of the Sechelt Band of Indians agree on February 17, 1915 that an additional fifteen acres of land, aside from the four to five acres that is occupied or connected to the school, should be appropriated for the use of the Sechelt Boarding School [Item# 01299].
- 1942 Principal took over a Japanese dairy ranch near the school [Item# 01651].
- 1945 Principal is renting a former Japanese dairy to keep stock in order to supply the school with beef and pork [Item# 01677]. Later that year the Principal writes that he has no pasture for the cows since the Japanese farm that they had for two years was taken over by a returned man [Item# 00601].
- 1952 An area of one acre in Sechelt I.R. No. 2 is being allotted for the new Indian Day School [Item# 02693].

- 1960 In a Band Council Resolution dated March 23, 1960, the Sechelt Band of Indians resolve that the area opposite the Sechelt Indian Residential School, comprising 10.6 acres and set aside for school purposes, be dedicated as a hospital site [Item# 04661].
- 1964 Band surrenders subdivision 52039 CLSR (part of lot 74) for leasing. The school site is located within the subdivision [Item# 02311, 08491, 08491A, 08491B, 08491C, 08491D, 08491E and 08491F].
- 1975 The Sechelt Residential School is located on Sechelt Indian Reserve No. 2 about ¼ mile from the commercial centre of Sechelt, B.C. and some 35 miles north-westerly from Vancouver. Travelling time of about 2½ hours from Sechelt to downtown Vancouver, includes a ferry crossing time of less than one hour [Item# 04912, p. 3-4].
Band Council Resolution requests that the Sechelt Student Residence site comprising 4.6 acres and all improvements thereon be re-transferred to the Band [Item# 04923].
To transfer property that has been surrendered for leasing the Band has to either a) de-surrender the property, or b) the government provides the funds to demolish the school buildings and the land is transferred when the Band has decided what they want to do with the land [Item# 02325].

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Document Date	Item#	Document Description
February 27, 1926	08517	Survey of lot A of the Sechelt Indian Reserve No. 2 (B.C. 315)
July 26, 1929	08502	Survey of the a portion of the Sechelt Indian Reserve (B.C. 645)
1944 (circa)	01674	Photographs of the chicken house, manual training shop, priest's residence, barn and Indian Residential School at Sechelt
June 26, 1958	02670C	Extract of a drawn site plan for sewage disposal at Sechelt Residential School
1959 (circa)	07272	Floor plan of the existing laundry room in the Indian Residential School
1959 (circa)	07273	Floor plan of the proposed laundry room in the Indian Residential School
1960 (circa)	06730	Floor plan of the basement of the Indian Residential School (including the cobbler and laundry room)
1960 (circa)	06767	Floor plan of the first floor of the Indian Residential School (including verandas)
1960 (circa)	06769	Floor plan of the first floor of the Indian Residential School (including verandas)

Document Date	Item#	Document Description
1960 (circa)	11696	Floor plan of the basement of Sechelt Residential School
March 12, 1960	11698	Floor plan of the second floor of Sechelt Residential School
April 12, 1960	11695	Elevation of the Sechelt Residential School
April 12, 1960	11697	Floor plan of the first floor of Sechelt Residential School
1961 (circa)	00921	Floor plan of a portion of the basement of Sechelt Residential School
1963 (circa)	09497B	Rough sketch of the floor plan for the principal's residence at Sechelt Residential School
1968 (circa)	03223	Floor plan of a portion of the basement of Sechelt Indian Res. School (furnace room and bakery)
November 4, 1969	01380	Floor plan of the basement, first floor and second floor of the Indian Residential School and Site Plan
1975 (circa)	04912	Photographs of the bus shelters and two small sheds
1975 (circa)	04913	Photographs of the main building and day school
1975 (circa)	04914	Photographs of the separate residence, gymnasium, carpenter shop and root cellar
1975 (circa)	04920	Newspaper article regarding a fire at the Sechelt Residential School.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
1905	46 pupils enrolled	1955	138 pupils in residence
1919	55 children attending school	1956	153 pupils in residence
1922	80 pupils attending school	1957	134 pupils in residence
1935	Average attendance of 82 pupils	1958	140 pupils in residence
1936	Average attendance of 84.75 pupils	1959	116 presently enrolled in residential school
1938	Average attendance of 80	1960	131 presently enrolled in residential school
1939	Average attendance of 79	1961	126 presently enrolled in residential school
1941	94 students in residence	1962	126 presently enrolled in residential school
1942	106 students in residence	1963	124 presently enrolled in residential school
1943	97 students in residence	1964	109 presently enrolled in residential school
1944	106 students in residence	1965	118 presently enrolled in residential school
1945	112 students in residence	1966	125 presently enrolled in residential school
1946	116 students in residence	1967	120 presently enrolled in residential school
1947	102 students in residence	1968	123 presently enrolled in residential school
1948	104 students in residence	1969	104 presently enrolled in residential school
1949	99 students in residence	1970	100 presently enrolled in residential school
1950	104 students in residence	1971	100 presently enrolled in residential school
1951	93 pupils in residence	1972	104 presently enrolled in residential school

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
1952	97 pupils in residence	1973	76 presently enrolled in residential school
1953	56 boys and 52 girls enrolled	1974	75 presently enrolled in residential school
1954	58 boys and 54 girls enrolled	1975	81 presently enrolled in residential school

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students from at least the following bands attending Sechelt Indian Residential School:

Port Alberni, Squamish, Sechelt, Sliammon, Homalco, Tsawassen, Klahoose, Nanaimo, Musqueam, Katsie, Hesquith, Coquitlam, Seabird Island, Katz, Chehalis, Cheam, Spuzzum, Alert Bay, Chilliwack, Skway, Kwawkwelth, Burrard, Semiahmoo, O'Hawel, Kitamat, Pemberton, Bella Coola, Scowlitz, Anderson Lake, Comox, Skwah, Union Bar, Cowichan, Mount Currie, Oweekano, Skeah, High Bar, Samaliquam, Coldwater, Lakahahem, Tanakteuk, Adams Lake, Fountain, Cowessess, Tsawout, Nimkish, Shawahlook, Chemanius, Tsaw, Port Douglas, Ashcroft.

There may be alternate ways of spelling these band names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

From its inception in 1904 until 1975, The Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus were present at the school.

The Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Vancouver signed the 1911 and 1916 agreements for the management of the Sechelt Boarding School [Item# 11301 and 00225].

From 1924 until 1975, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate were present at the school [Item# 01506]. However, prior to 1924, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate appear to have been present as Missionaries.

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

- 1911 Agreement to manage the Sechelt Boarding School, between His Majesty the King, represented by the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs of Canada and the Most Reverend Neil McNeil, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. April 1, 1911 [Item# 11301]
- 1916 Agreement to manage the Sechelt Boarding School, between His Majesty the King, represented by the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs of Canada and the Most Reverend Timothy Casey, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. April 1, 1916 [Item# 00225]
- 1962 Agreement for the Operation of Sechelt Indian Residential School, between Her Majesty the Queen in the Right of Canada and INDIANESCOM (a company

controlled by the Oblate Order). September 25, 1962 [Item# 00227]

- 1968 Memorandum of Agreement, between Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and The Board of School Trustees, School District No. 46, Sechelt, for the provision of 80 additional spaces in schools operated by the Board. Previously, an agreement had been made on September 13, 1967 for the purchase of 170 pupil spaces in various schools operated by the Board (this Memorandum of Agreement has not been located). October 24, 1968 [Item# 05508]
- 1970 Chaplaincy Agreement between Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and John W. Hennessy, O.M.I., Provincial, to provide chaplaincy services from September 1, 1970 to August 31, 1971 for the resident students and staff of Sechelt Student Residence. November 5, 1970 [Item# 01417 and 01417A]

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

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

Incidents (Sexual)

- In 1940, a complaint was made regarding a 13 year old girl with child that was "... corrupting other small pupils." After being examined by a medical officer, the girl was returned to her reserve. The girl states "... she was raped by an Indian last summer ..."
- [Item# 00573].

An extract of meeting minutes of the Sechelt Indian Council, dated January 9, 1940, also refers to the incident. The girl states that her first cousin had "... raped her, but changed the story later, now saying it was one of the school boys, but it took place on the reserve during the summer holidays" [Item# 00576].

- In 1954, a girl who had transferred from Sechelt Indian Residential School in the fall to High School at St. Mary's Indian Residential School was found to be pregnant. It was recommended she be removed from the school [Item# 02715].
- In 1956, a girl was returned home after it was discovered that she was pregnant [Item# 11563 and 11558].
- In 1961, a girl returning to Sechelt Residential School told the Principal that she had been raped during the summer. The Principal recommended that the girl not return to the school "... since she caused some supervisory problems at the school the previous year when the girl thought she was pregnant" [Item# 04220J].

In 1962, the Principal of Henry Hudson School stated that the girl had attended only 13 of 30 days and refused to attend school. He advised that the girl was pregnant [Item# 04220B and 04220C].

- In 1970, a complaint was made that band members attending the Sechelt Indian Student Residence had been mistreated by the “Red Power Organization” [Item# 03101]. In a newspaper article from the Peninsula Times entitled, “U.S.A. trouble makers join with local group” it is alleged that a young girl is “rape[d]” during a “night-long orgy” [Item# 02217, p. 2, 02217A and 03100].

Incidents (Physical)

- Several documents from 1923 refer to the “Over-punishment” and “disciplining [of] the pupils” by the Mother Superior and the Sisters at the school, which include: being slapped on the nose with a book or with a closed hand on the back of the head [Item# 00453, p. 3, 00448, p. 2-3 and 5-6, and 00452, p. 2-3].
- Several documents from 1936 refer to physical drills that were conducted as punishment by A staff member, an “uneducated, inexperienced, and harsh” person and another former staff member [Item# 00545, 00544, 00541 and 00540, p. 2-3 and 5].

Later, two documents refer to a pupil that died of tuberculosis shortly after being forced to perform drills and allegedly being slapped [Item# 00551 and 00913].

- An extract of minutes for a 1940 Sechelt Indian Council meeting contains complaints regarding the treatment of children at the School by the school disciplinarian and teachers [Item# 00576].
- In 1943, there was “... a complaint made about a girl being injred [sic.] in the kidneys by corporal punishment at Sechelt Residential School ...” [Item# 00595]. The report concludes, that “upon investigation, it [the incident] turned to be much different in fact. The child’s mother had struck the girl. However, the doctors say it is a tubercular condition with no sign of injury.”
- Several documents from 1959 refer to a complaint from the “Chief Councillor, Councillors and Band Members of the Sechelt Tribe.” A petition demands that one of the staff members “be more careful in handling the children. Less severe punishments” [Item# 04960C and 05428]. After an investigation into the complaints, it was noted that “Last Fall he did administer one indiscreet punishment” [Item# 04960A and 04960B, p. 3].
- Minutes of a 1973 Advisory Board meeting record an incident of physical punishment at the residence in connection with two fires that were started by students. “Fr. Fitzgerald reported that he had reprimanded the girls and had strapped the boys and that the four children had been charged by the R.C.M.P. with arson” [Item# 01410A, p. 4].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Petitions

- In August of 1923, a petition was sent by the Sechelt Band stating that they were dissatisfied with the education at the school and required a change in principal and teachers [Item# 00432]. As a majority of the pupils did not return at the beginning of that school year, an investigation was held [Item# 00441]. During the investigation members of the band gave statements regarding the treatment of the pupils at the school, which included complaints of “poor food,” “poor education,” “Over-punishment” and “disciplining [of] the pupils” [Item# 00448]. As a result, a male principal was appointed and the school received a larger per capita grant [Item# 00464].
- In July of 1959, a petition was sent by the chief and councillors of the Sechelt Indian Band stating that entrance to the residential school should be opened to all parents as a way to combat juvenile delinquency [Item# 01205]. A letter was received in response stating that “The Department believes that whenever possible children should not be removed from their home and placed in institutions where they cannot receive the care and affection which only parents can give” [Item# 01209].
- In February of 1959, a petition was sent from the “Chief Councillor, Councillors and Band Members of the Sechelt Tribe” demanding that “a qualified School Principal” take charge of the school and that “Day Scholars be granted the same privileges as the Residential Students” [Item# 05428 and 04960C]. The District School Superintendent of Indian Schools investigated the complaints and wrote a report addressing each of the concerns laid out in the petition [Item# 04960A and 04960B].

Health at the school

Epidemics

- In a letter from the Principal, she states that “... at the beginning of 1922, they [a majority of the present school children] were sick with the flu for nearly three months, after which they were left weak and languid, consequently unable to do much work in the class rooms” [Item# 00427].
- In 1931, an outbreak of typhoid fever occurred at the school [Item# 01576]. The Indian Agent states that “... the School authorities are of the opinion that effluvia from these lavatories caused the typhoid, but medical opinion does not support such contention” [Item# 01579 and 01580].
- In 1937, an outbreak of measles occurred [Item# 00909A].
- In 1948, an army message is sent notifying the Director of Indian Health Services that “Thirty-five light cases of measles reported to date at Sechelt School” [Item# 00611].

Deaths

- In 1935, an inquiry was held into the death of a student who died following an operation in St. Paul's Hospital. It is stated that the immediate cause of death was an Intestinal Obstruction [Item# 00899, 00900, 00901, 00901A, 00901B, 00901C, 00905, 00551 and 00913].
- In 1936, an inquiry was held into the death of a student who had died at Sechelt Residential School on Sunday, March 29, 1936 [Item# 00897]. It is stated that the immediate cause of death was Hemorrhagic Measles [Item# 00898, 00909, 00909A, 00909B and 00909C]. Also, in a letter dated May 15, 1936, "... the unfortunate coincidence of death from natural causes of three pupils in succession..." was noted [Item# 00540, p. 5].
- A report for January 1937 refers to the death of a pupil at Sechelt Residential School on the 20th of the month. An inquiry held into the death of the student recorded the immediate cause of death as Phthisis [Item# 00893, 00893A, 00893B and 00893C]. In addition, it is stated that the "school was operated for several years without a death, but there have been five since an entirely new staff was placed there two years ago" [Item# 00915 and 00914].

Vocational Training and Extracurricular Activities at the school

Manual Training

- As early as 1922, manual training has been taught to the male students which over time included: carpentry work, boat building and repairs to the school buildings [Item# 00423, 00758, 00759 and 00768].

Leather Craft

- As early as the 1948-49 school year, instruction had been given in leather craft [Item# 00836 and 00835].

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

- In 1944, a troop of Boy Scouts had been organized. A year later, the school requested funds in order to form a troop of Girl Guides [Item# 00878]. An expenditure of \$250 was approved to start the troop [Item# 00881].

Band

- As early as 1939, a band was operating at the school [Item# 00875 and 00877]. In 1968, more than one half of the 127 native students were part of the school band [Item# 05522].

- In 1975, the Sechelt Student Residence Drum and Bugle Band was leaving June 18th for a tour of Disneyland. The students went to Disneyland “to perform indian dances and music, and to present their culture in costumes” [Item# 10916 and 10917].

PRINCIPAL/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure
Reverend Sister Theresine	Principal	03/1908; 04/1914; 1917 – 04/1918
Sister Victoria	Acting Principal	07/1911
Reverend Sister Mary Gabriel	Principal	09/1921 – 12/1923
Reverend Father Anthony J. Swenceski, O.M.I.	Principal	01/1924 – 08/1926
Reverend John Duplanil, O.M.I.	Principal	08/1926 – 11/1927
Reverend Henry Barney, O.M.I.	Principal	11/1927 – 03/1928
Reverend James McCaffrey, O.M.I.	Principal	03/1928 – 12/1930
Reverend Edmond Maillard, O.M.I.	Principal	12/1930 – 03/1934
Reverend Father Theophile J. Falhmann, O.M.I.	Principal	01/1935 – 09/1937
Reverend Father Edmond J. Cornell, O.M.I.	Principal	09/1937 – 07/1940
Father James M. McGrath, O.M.I.	Principal	07/1940 – 08/1942
Father Herbert Francis Dunlop, O.M.I.	Principal	08/1942 – 07/1949
Father Louis Vincent Viney, O.M.I.	Principal	07/1949 – 02/1953
Father Dennis J. Shea, O.M.I.	Principal	02/1953 – 07/1953
Father Thomas Francis Nolan, O.M.I.	Principal	07/1953 – 08/1957
Reverend William Edward Bernardo, O.M.I.	Principal	08/1957 – 08/1964
Father Gerald Patrick Dunlop, O.M.I.	Principal	08/1964 – 08/1967
Father Francis Myles Power, O.M.I.	Principal	08/1967 – 05/1970
Father Herbert Francis Dunlop, O.M.I.	Principal	05/1970 – 08/1972
Father John Gerald Fitzgerald, O.M.I.	Principal	08/1972 – 06/1975

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Document Separator



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



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